



NET ZERO PORTS: Empowering the Human Capital Behind the Green Transition

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE FRAME OF POSIDONIA 2026

Wednesday 3 June 2026, 10:45 - 14:30, Posidonia Seminar Room 1A
Athens Metropolitan Expo, Athens Int. Airport "El. Venizelos", Spata, Attica

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

10:30 – 10:45 Registrations

10:45 – 11:00 Welcome addresses

- > **Evangelos Kyriazopoulos**, Secretary General of Maritime Affairs and Ports, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy
- > **Panagiotis Anastasopoulos**, President, Hellenic Ports Association (ELIME)
- > **Prof. Theocharis Tsoutsos**, Vice Chair of the Research Committee, Lab Director, Technical University of Crete
- > **Minas Papadakis**, Managing Director, Heraklion Port Authority

11:00 – 11:10 **KEY INTERVENTION**

The Ocean Pact and the Power of Blue Skills

Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit, Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

11:10 – 12:10 **Round table: Developing a Qualified Workforce for Greener Ports — Advancing Competencies and Blue Careers for a Net-Zero Port Economy**

The BLUE PORTS consortium partners discuss project outcomes, lessons learned and the added value of BLUE PORTS in strengthening skills, competencies and blue careers for net-zero energy ports.

Moderator: **Prof. Theocharis Tsoutsos**, Vice Chair of the Research Committee, Lab Director, Technical University of Crete

Panellists

- > **Minas Papadakis**, Managing Director, Heraklion Port Authority, Greece
- > **Stavroula Tournaki**, Head of Development and European Projects Dpt, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Lab, Technical University of Crete
- > **Virginios Voudouris**, Vice President, Person Certification, TÜV NORD HELLAS
- > **Carolina Navarro Correcher**, Director of Blue Economy, Fundación Valenciaport, Spain
- > **Natia Miminoshvili**, Deputy Director, Maritime Transport Agency, Georgia

Q&A: Questions from the audience

12:10 – 12:30 **Coffee break**



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12:30 – 13:20 Round table: People Powering Port Decarbonization: Experiences and Testimonials from the BLUE PORTS Certification Network

Statements and experiences from institutions and stakeholders engaged in the development and implementation of the BLUE PORTS Certification Scheme.

Moderator: Vasileios Mamalis, Executive Director, Hellenic Ports Association

- > **Vasileios Politis**, Board of Directors Member, Hellenic Chamber of Shipping
- > **Kostas Gkonias**, Director, Association of Passenger Shipping Companies (SEEN)
- > **Georgios Koutroufinis**, Federation of Port Workers of Greece (OMYLE)
- > **Georgios Papadakos**, Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE)
- > **Valeria Mangiarotti**, Board of Directors, Sustainability & Environmental Energy Policies (MedCruise), President, Cruise and Ferry Port Network - European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)
- > **Juan Manuel Diaz**, Chief Innovation officer, APV, BLUE PORTS Technical Committee, Spain

Testimonials from the BLUE PORTS sustainability personnel candidates.

13:20 – 14:20 Round table: Future Skills for Greener Ports: Scaling Up Certification and Workforce Capacity in the Blue Economy

A debate on the opportunities, challenges and future pathways for scaling up workforce competencies and the BLUE PORTS certification scheme to support the green transition of ports and the wider blue economy.

Moderator: Leonardo Manzari, Senior Expert on Blue Economy

Panellists:

- > **Theodora Riga**, President, Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports (MedCruise)
- > **Imed Zammit**, Coordinator, TG Blue Skills and Jobs, WestMED NH Tunisia
- > **Christos Trapalis**, Acting Director, Certification / Inspection / Validation & Verification Bodies Accreditation Division, Hellenic Accreditation System (ESYD)
- > **Alessia Mastromattei**, Escola Europea – Intermodal Transport
- > **Ivane Abashidze**, Director, LEPL Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia -Batumi State Maritime Academy, Georgia

Q&A: Questions from the audience

14:20 – 14:30 Conclusions and Recommendations

Prof. Theocharis Tsoutsos, Technical University of Crete
Panagiotis Anastasopoulos, ELIME

15:30 – 16:30 Official Reception and Networking session @ the Hellenic Ports Association (ELIME) Exhibition Stand, No. 4.315

Co-organised by:

BLUE PORTS Coordinator



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SYSTEMS LABORATORY



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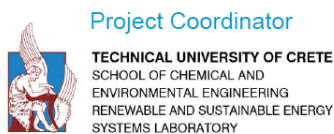
About BLUE PORTS

BLUE PORTS (BLUE CAREERS IN NET ZERO ENERGY PORTS), funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) program 2021–2027 of the European Commission, enhances the skills and capacity of the human capital within the ports' ecosystem with a view to foster their green transition. This will be achieved by developing a tailored training and certification scheme, that covers green viable solutions, the integration of eco-friendly products and services and the adoption of new methods of operation towards achieving climate neutrality.

The innovative BLUE PORTS certification scheme, focusing on small and medium ports and adhering to ISO/IEC 17024 standards, will be tested and validated in selected Mediterranean and Black Sea ports, and will be advocated for mutual recognition across Europe. Anticipated outcomes include the creation of a state-of-the-art digital training materials and tools, and a pool of over 200 skilled professionals and 150+ trained young talents in participating countries. Ultimately, the project will offer a competent workforce, competitive advantage, enhanced safety and performance as well as professional qualification, enhanced career and mobility opportunities, new, greener jobs in the port industry, contributing thus to zero carbon footprint of port activities and the overall green transformation of the maritime sector.

BLUE PORTS mobilises key stakeholders across the quadruple innovation helix, in a robust network that involves the Blue Economy industry, and more specific port authorities and port related actors, civil society, maritime training and research institutions at local, regional, national, and transnational level. The consortium, coordinated by the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Lab of the Technical University of Crete (ReSEL TUC), involves a well-balanced team that covers a wide geographical area, with eight partners from Greece, Spain, Italy, Georgia and Tunisia and 26 supporting bodies, representing port authorities, governmental bodies, social partners, academia, certification experts, and other maritime related entities.

The BLUE PORTS TEAM



Associated partners

