

Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference 2025

Agenda

13 November 2025

Galway, Ireland

ATLANTIC STRATEGY
Supporting the Atlantic Action Plan



*Supported
by the*



Thematic Focus of the ASPC 2025

The 12th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2025) will take place five years after the launch of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 – A New Approach to the Atlantic Maritime Strategy. The Conference will, as in previous years, provide all stakeholders of the Atlantic Community the opportunity to review the progress and achievements made so far regarding AAP 2.0 objectives and blue economy challenges in the Atlantic Sea Basin.

This year's Irish Presidency of the Atlantic Steering Committee has been focusing on four key priorities:

- Promote the Atlantic Strategy from the Regional to the International
- Seek Synergies with Other Sea Basin Initiatives
- Develop a community of practice on Maritime Spatial Planning
- Review of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0

Based on this approach, the ASPC 2025 will have dynamic sessions to promote the Atlantic Strategy, enhance cross-sea basin dialog, develop a community of practice on Marine Spatial Planning, and review the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 by fostering participation of different communities, regional and local stakeholders.

Like in 2024, the ASPC will be set in close liaison with Annual Interreg Atlantic event with a joint event series (*Atlantic Days in Galway*), illustrating the strong cooperation between ASC and the Interreg Atlantic Managing Authorities to support the AAP implementation.

It will also be an essential point of discussion and interaction between existing and new Atlantic players from different geographies (WestMED, Black and North Sea) and regions, and the place to showcase new projects and innovative ways to secure funding, work and collaborate.

This year's conference theme will be:

- **Tides of Cooperation: The Atlantic Strategy as a Catalyst for the European Ocean Pact**

The conference will underscore the significance of strengthening European cooperation and integrating maritime efforts to navigate towards a sustainable and vibrant future for the Atlantic region. Focus will be given on enhancing synergies and sustainable practices, promoting inclusivity and sustainable maritime development among Atlantic communities and through cross-sea basin dialogue. The ASPC will also delve into key AAP activities, addressing the challenges in achieving sustainable blue growth aiming to foster greater territorial cooperation and cohesion within the Atlantic region.

Draft Agenda

Atlantic days in Galway

Tides of Cooperation: The Atlantic Strategy as a Catalyst for the European Ocean Pact

The event will be held in English.

13 November 2025

09:00 – 09:30

Participants' Registration

09:40 – 10:00

Welcome Message by Timmy Dooley, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Opening of ASPC25

- **Christos Economou**, DG MARE, European Commission
- **Sandra Tavares da Silva**, Executive manager Managing Authority, CCDR-N

10:00 – 11:15

Atlantic Ports Powering the Blue Energy Transition

This session will offer a dynamic blend of policy insights and project showcases, aligning with the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0's ambition to foster innovation, sustainability, and cross-border cooperation in the Atlantic region. It will feature high-level policy speakers from EU institutions and national authorities, alongside award-winning and emerging Atlantic projects in the **Atlantic Ports and Marine Renewable Energy categories** that exemplify impactful collaboration and innovation.

To ensure meaningful engagement, the session will be fully interactive. Participants will be invited to contribute questions and insights in real time via SLI.DO app, enabling a lively exchange between speakers and the audience.

Speakers:

- **Felix Leinemann**, Head of Unit MARE.A.2 - Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG MARE, European Commission (Online)
- **Gerardo González**, Head of Projects and Works Department, Port of Vigo (Pillar I Coordinator)
- Representative from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) (Pillar III Coordinator)
- **Philippe Monbet**, SMARTDEC project representative, Atlantic Project Award winner,
- **Javier Roo Filgueira**, **AquaWind Project Coordinator**, Atlantic Project Award winner, Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Information Society (ACIISI)

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00

Resilience Through Knowledge: Strengthening Coastal Communities with Blue Skills

This session will highlight the critical role of education, training, and community engagement in building resilient coastal societies across the Atlantic. Anchored in the priorities of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0, it will **showcase award-winning and emerging projects** that empower citizens—particularly youth, educators, and local actors—with the blue skills and ocean literacy (2 of the Atlantic Award thematic categories) needed to address environmental and socio-economic challenges. Through a **dynamic mix of project presentations and interactive dialogue**, the session will emphasize how knowledge-sharing and inclusive capacity-building can drive long-term resilience, foster innovation, and ensure that all Atlantic communities—mainland and outermost—are equipped to thrive in a changing climate.

Speakers:

- **Julia Beile**, Project Adviser, Sustainable Blue Economy, CINEA
- **Céline Liret**, Scientific Director - Partnerships and International Relations at Océanopolis (Pillar II Coordinator)
- **Eduardo Silva**, Coordinator of the TEC4SEA platform at INESC TEC (Pillar IV Coordinator)
- **Dr. Hasmik Grigoryan**, WIN-BIG project representative, Atlantic Award Winner
- **Jose Luis Soengas**, MARINNONET project coordinator, Atlantic Award Winner

13:00 – 14:45

Lunch Break

14:45 – 15:45

Research and Innovation dimension of the AAP 2.0

This session will focus on research and innovation dimension of the Atlantic Strategy, in collaboration with the Mission Restore Our Oceans and the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AOORIA). The discussion will also focus on the contributions of EU projects and the private sector.

During this session, a dedicated presentation on Energy Transition in Fisheries and Aquaculture will provide a comprehensive overview of the current status of the EU roadmap. It will inform stakeholders about ongoing developments, highlight opportunities for collaboration, and invite feedback to help shape future policy and implementation strategies.

Speakers:

- **Kieran Coleman**, DG RTD representative (DG RTD)
- **Ana Peralta-Baptista**, Team Leader MARE.A.4 Economic Analysis, Markets and Impact Assessment, (Online)
- **Elise Wattrelot**, Manager of the CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission chez Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- **Laura McDonagh**, OKEANO CSA project coordinator, Atlantic Project Award Winner, Marine Institute
- **Oliver Wilson**, BlueActionAA project coordinator, Marine Institute

15:45 – 16:15

Coffee break

Interactive discussion on the future of AAP 2.0 implementation in the context of the EU Ocean Pact

Interactive session

This session will focus on the alignment of the AAP 2.0 with the European Ocean Pact with the contribution of the Atlantic National Hubs.

16:15 – 17:15

Scene Setting: **Christos Economou**, DG MARE, European Commission

Roundtable discussion:

- **Liz Gavin**, Irish NH, Nua Fund
- **Frederico Ferreira**, Portuguese NH, Forum Oceano
- **Marta Pascual**, Spanish NH
- **Frederick Herpers**, French NH

Handover of the ASC Presidency for 2026 and closing

17:15 – 17:30

- **Christos Economou**, DG MARE, European Commission
- **Rory O’Leary**, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Government of Ireland
- **Rosa Bernardo Colina**, Spanish representative of the ASC Committee

Closure of ASPC25
