

BCThubs: Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States

Project Data:

Call: WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04-01: "Excellence Hubs"

Duration: 1/1/2023 – 31/12/2026 (4 years)

Budget: 4.997.562 €

Partners & Countries involved: 15 partners from Greece, Malta, Bulgaria and Italy



BCThubs will establish in Greece, Bulgaria and Malta, Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs, as permanent structures supporting with new innovative solutions and products, the sustainable protection, restoration, valorisation, management, accessibility and promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UWCH).

Although the new Hubs will be scoped regionally, they will be interconnected and oriented towards national & international synergies pursuing cross-border collaborations on common strategic goals and alongside value adding chains.

Each Excellence Hub will bring together all regional/national actors related to Blue Culture and UWCH, including research/academia, businesses, public sector, and societal actors, which will mutually reinforce their capacities and effectiveness, towards raising innovation excellence in sustainable Blue Economy/Culture in respective regions.

Current Status

High costs UW research



High time and costs of diving missions / preservation

No UWCH monitoring

Low UW divers' safety



Difficult accessibility of UWCH

No protection of UWCH

No accessibility to public



BCT hubs technologies

UW research services

- Modelling & reconstruction of opto-acoustic seafloor
- High resolution Electro-resistivity
- Shallow water sediment coring

Remote accessibility services

- VR / AR technologies

UWCH assets' safeguarding services

- 4D modeling
- AI-based analysis for UWCH assets' safeguarding

UW health & safety services

- Divers' physiological monitoring
- BLE multi-point communication

BTChubs Vision

Cost-effective UW research

Reduced time and costs of diving missions

Cost-effective and dual use solutions for preservation

Continuous UWCH monitoring and data collection



Increased safety at UW missions



Easy deployable and cost-effective technological solutions

DIY UW documentation and sensing

UWCH assets' protection/safeguarding

Promotion and public accessibility of UWCH



The Excellence Hubs will:

- a) provide access to excellence for R&I actors (e.g. technology scouting and trend watching, technology uptaking, value-chain reinforcement);
- b) support knowledge transfer (e.g. training, secondments) and enable the development of entrepreneurial skills (e.g. new competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in Blue Culture R&I, business opportunities for SMEs);
- c) develop a joint R&I Strategy and Action Plan, coupled with an Investment Strategy to ensure the durability of the Hubs and their long-lasting impact;
- d) implement specific R&I prototype solutions, critical for UWCH in the Hub's regions; and plan for future pilots and demonstrations;
- e) offer a paradigm of new European strategic value chain in the domain of Blue Culture Technologies (BCT) within the Blue Economy.

For more information visit our website: www.bcthubs.eu

Greek BCT Excellence Hub:



Maltese BCT Excellence Hub:



Bulgarian BCT Excellence Hub:



Horizontal Partners:



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