

LOGISTIC INFORMATION

Crete Workshop - Building the future INNOVABLE Community for the sustainable Blue Economy

October 23rd, 2025

Heraklion, Greece

Workshop Agenda

October 23rd, 2025

Heraklion, Crete

Venue: Tbc

Working language: English

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and welcome coffee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant registration and networking
9:30 – 9:45	INTRODUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address by : George Alexakis, Vice Governor of Region of Crete on European & International Affairs Manolis Koutoulakis, Secretary General, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy
9:45 – 10:30	SESSION 1: INNOVATIVE MARINE TECHNOLOGIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY <i>Presentations and video demonstrations of successful technology solutions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pantelis Katharios, Research Director, Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) <i>“Tailored Vaccines for Sustainable Aquaculture: The Aquatic Biologicals Approach”</i> Manolis Mandalakis, Principal Researcher Marine Biotechnology, HCMR <i>“Innovative biotechnological approaches for the valorization and toxicity assessment of the invasive pufferfish <i>Lagocephalus sceleratus</i>”.</i> <p><u>Discussion with Innovablue partners and Stakeholders</u></p>
10:30 – 11:15	SESSION 2: DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB and INNOVATION BUSINESS OBSERVATORY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimitrios Plexousakis, Professor of Computer Science Department, University of Crete, Affiliated Researcher to Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research & Technology Hellas (FORTH) Presentation of <i>Digital Innovation Hub for Smart Health</i>, FORTH Introduction to PHAROS AI project

INNOVABLUE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katerina Rousaki, Head of Innovation Business Observatory (IBO), Regional Economy Development and Openness Directorate, Region of Crete <i>Activities of the Innovation Business Observatory - Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3)</i> <p><u>Discussion with Innovablue partners and Stakeholders</u></p>
11:15 – 11:45	<p>SESSION 3: APPLICATIONS, SYSTEMS & SERVICES TOWARDS THE BLUE ECONOMY_ field TESTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikolaos Kampanis, Research Director, Head of Coastal & Marine Research Lab, FORTH <i>Forecasting waves & currents, marine pollution, hydrodynamics & morphodynamics of coastal areas, operational oceanography</i> Nasos Argyriou, Assistant Researcher, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH, Laboratory of Geophysical-Satellite Remote Sensing and Archaeo-environment <i>Remote sensing approaches in shallow water environment and marine habitat mapping</i>
11:45-13:00	Coffee break and testing on the field
13:00 – 13:15	Key note speech (tbc)
13:15 – 14:00	<p>SESSION 4: CO-CREATION WORKSHOP: SHAPING FUTURE SERVICES FOR THE INNOVABLUE COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive session with stakeholders Summary and closing remarks
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
FREE TIME IN HERAKLION CITY	
20:00	We will have an organized dinner at: exact location will be confirmed

SC Meeting

October 24th, 2025

Heraklion, Crete

Venue: Region of Crete, Eleftherias (Liberty) Square

INNOVABLUE

Accessibility

The workshop venue will be located in Heraklion, which is the capital of Crete and the largest city on the island. There are two main ways to travel to Heraklion: by plane or by ferry.



Arriving by plane

Heraklion International Airport “Nikos Kazantzakis” (HER) is the main gateway to Crete, near city center and one of the busiest airports in Greece. It offers direct connections to various international destinations as well as frequent domestic flights.

If a direct flight is not available from your city, the recommended alternative is to travel via Athens, with a flight time of only 40 minutes. Heraklion International Airport is strongly recommended as the preferred point of arrival. As an alternative, you may land at Chania International Airport and continue to Heraklion by bus or car. The distance is approximately 142 km, with a travel time of about 2.5 hours by road.

Arriving by boat

Heraklion has daily ferry connections with the port of Piraeus (near Athens). This can be considered as an alternative travel option; however, the journey takes 9 hours. You could arrive in Athens, use the public transport to reach Piraeus port and then continue by ship directly to Heraklion. The port of Heraklion is conveniently located close to the city center.

Additional information and ticket reservations are available at: anek.gr and minoan.gr.

Transportation

Bus service

Bus lines connect the airport and port directly to Heraklion city center. For further information and timetables you can visit: <https://astiko-irakleiou.gr>

INNOVABLUE

Taxi service

You can contact the taxi service at the following telephone numbers:

- **Knossos Taxi:** +30 2810211212, (<https://cretataxi.com>)
- **Candia Taxi:** +30 2810 361362, (<https://candiataxi.gr>)

Accommodation

Heraklion is a popular tourist destination with a wide range of choices for accommodation (hotels, rooms, airbnb). Recommended hotels in the city center are listed below.

- Aquila Atlantis Hotel (<https://hotelatlantis.com>) - 6 min walk from Eleftherias Square (city center)



- IBIS Styles Heraklion Central (<https://centralhotelheraklion.com>) - 7 min walk from Eleftherias Square (city center)



- Olive Green Hotel (<https://www.olivegreenhotel.com>) - 6 min walk from Eleftherias Square (city center)



INNOVABLUE

Nearby location of interest

With the workshop located in Heraklion, you will have the opportunity to combine your scientific program with cultural exploration. Heraklion is rich in history, reflecting influences from the Minoan civilization, as well as Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman periods. Key sites include the **Heraklion Archaeological Museum** and the **Historical Museum of Crete**, both highly recommended for those staying in the city for a few days.



Additionally, the renowned **Knossos Palace**, located a short drive from the city center, offers a glimpse into the island's ancient past and is often regarded as the birthplace of modern European civilization.



For those interested in wildlife and marine environment, the **Natural History Museum** and the **Aquarium** are also highly recommended.

Contact details

Christina Malefaki, christimalef@gmail.com

Aliki Karousou, akarousou@crete.gov.gr