

Workshop - from offer and needs to Proof of Concept: co-creating the future of blue technologies

Date: March 26, 2026

Venue: **Hotel Ramada, Lesendro hall**, Blv. Save Kovačevića 74, Podgorica, Montenegro

Working language: English

Organised by projects: INNOVABLUE and ROBONETCBC

This joint INNOVABLUE–ROBONETCBC workshop is designed to **connect scientific knowledge, technological capacity and real user needs** into a coherent pathway toward practical solutions. The event represents a concrete step from analysis to action, focusing on translating ecosystem and **technology insights into user-driven demand**, identifying priority challenges, and co-designing early Proofs of Concept (PoCs) for innovative blue technologies.

The workshop aims to actively **involve key stakeholders** in shaping future technological solutions. Through structured discussions and **thematic working groups**, potential users of blue technologies will articulate their needs, validate challenges, and contribute directly to the development of PoC concepts that can be further refined and tested.

Discussions are grounded in two core ROBONETCBC deliverables. **The Report on Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems Status in Three Countries** that provides a comprehensive overview of environmental health, pollution pressures and biodiversity, and identifies at least six priority hotspots with strong potential for joint action. Complementing this, the **Technological Insight Report analyses existing monitoring systems, equipment and data exchange practices**, identifies outdated technologies, and highlights opportunities for innovation based on stakeholder input.

By bringing **together project partners, public authorities, NGOs, academic institutions, technology providers and other potential users**, the workshop creates a shared space for aligning ecosystem challenges with technological solutions. The user-centred approach, moving from needs identification and challenge prioritisation to PoC co-design, ensures that proposed innovations are relevant, feasible and **oriented toward real-world implementation**.

Through the combined strengths of INNOVABLUE and ROBONETCBC, the workshop supports **cross-border cooperation** and contributes to the development, adoption and uptake of innovative blue technologies that respond to environmental and societal needs in the region.

Workshop agenda

9:00 – 9:30	<p>Registration <i>Participant registration and networking</i></p>
9:30 – 9:45	<p>INTRODUCTION Welcome address by executive director of Montenegro Innovation Fund <i>Mrs. Katarina Lalović</i></p> <p>The agenda and goals of the workshop <i>Saša Ivanović, The Innovation Fund of Montenegro</i></p>
9:45 - 10:05	<p>SESSION 1: INNOVABLUE – about the project and workshop expectations Overview of aim and results of the project. <i>Moderated by: Snežana Šćepanović, The Innovation Fund of Montenegro</i></p>
10:05 - 10:25	<p>SESSION 2: ROBONETCBC – project presentation Overview of the ecosystem status and technology insight results. <i>Moderated by: Dora Crmarić, Ruđer Bošković Institute</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p>SESSION 3: Connecting technology & users Use-case showcase: Interreg Italy-Croatia project DIH InnovaMare project result - videos of successful blue-tech applications. <i>Moderated by: Željka Rajković, DIH Innovamare</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:00 - 12:00	<p>SESSION 4: Joint Panel - from reports to PoC: validating obstacles, demand and next steps Aligning findings from INNOVABLUE and ROBONETCBC with real-world demand and PoC development. <i>Moderated by: Nuša Cukrov, Ruđer Bošković Institute</i></p>
12:00-13:30	<p>Networking lunch</p>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>SESSION 5: Co-creation in action: thematic working groups “From challenge to PoC in 75 minutes” Participants split into thematic groups, each focused on one or two priority hotspots or thematic challenge areas and co-develop early PoC concepts. <i>Moderated by: Domagoj Šarić, Croatian Chamber of Economy and Ivana Kostić, Innovation Center of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Belgrade</i></p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>SESSION 6: PoC pitch & closing remarks Results pitch</p> <p>Closing remarks <i>Snežana Šćepanović, The Innovation Fund of Montenegro</i></p>