

## Pitch sessions

Time	Organiser	Title	Details
<b>24 May 2023</b>			
12.00-12.30	CINEA/EISMEA	Funding opportunities for Blue SMEs, highly innovative & breakthrough technologies	<p>This session will inform stakeholders about advisory services, investment, and funding opportunities of interest for SMEs and for breakthrough technologies in the blue economy sectors.</p> <p>It will include the BLUEINVEST platform, the GREEN ASSIST advisory services, the Innovation Fund and European Innovation Council Accelerator and Transition schemes.</p> <p>The Green Advisory Service for Sustainable Investments Support (Green Assist) is a new advisory initiative under InvestEU, funded from the LIFE programme. It aims at building up a pipeline for green investment projects that have a high impact.</p> <p>The Innovation Fund focuses on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects within Europe that can bring on significant emission reductions. It is about sharing the risk with project promoters to help with the demonstration of first-of-a-kind highly innovative projects.</p> <p>BlueInvest is a platform and accelerator to foster innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy. It provides investment readiness support and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs, and scale-ups. More information on funding opportunities will be available at the EU stand on the exhibition.</p>
12.45-13.15	Anna Marino, Youth Environment Europe (YEE), Youth4Ocean Forum	Blue skills for youth: developing transgenerational ocean literacy projects	Organized by the youth networks this pitch session will explore how transgenerational ocean literacy projects can support developing specific Blue Skills by bringing together EMD experts and youth from different youth networks (Youth4Ocean and others) to discuss the needs, opportunities, synergies and concrete ideas for projects that can be developed in the year of the Blue Skills. This action oriented session will engage all participants in a very interactive format
13.30-14.00	DG MARE	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
14.30-15.00	DG AMPA - FR	The French decarbonization road map	<i>tbc</i>

16.30-17.00	CINEA	EU funding opportunities for a sustainable blue economy	This pitching session will provide a snapshot of available funding opportunities from different EU programmes such as Horizon Europe, EMFAF, Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), LIFE, targeted to the maritime stakeholders. More information on funding opportunities will be available at the EU stand on the exhibition.
17.00-17.30	FR	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
<b>25 May 2023</b>			
10.30-11.00	DG MARE	Winners EMODnet Open Sea Lab III Hackathon and of Hack4Ocean student innovation event (part 1)	15': "GreenWave Navigator by The Carbon Games of Maritime Team: Making the blue economy carbon-neutral and circular" – 1st Winning team of EMODnet Open Sea Lab Hackathon  15': "Wildlife hotspots and Earth Observation for Marine Spatial Planning by the Wildlife Tracker EO - Protecting and restoring marine & freshwater biodiversity" – 2nd Winning team of EMODnet Open Sea Lab Hackathon
11.15-11.45	DG MARE	Winners EMODnet Open Sea Lab III Hackathon and of Hack4Ocean student innovation event (Part 2)	15': "What's happening in my back yard by the Hot Steel Team - Empowering social innovation" – 3rd Winning team of EMODnet Open Sea Lab Hackathon  10': "SEA YOU" - accelerating and scaling up creation of solutions for ecosystem protection and restoration, by putting researchers in contract with industry actors to develop synergies and collaborations – Winning team of Hack4Oceans Youth innovation event
12.00-12.30	DG MARE	<i>Tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
12.45-13.15	Pierre Strosser, ACTeon, EU4Ocean Coalition	EU4Ocean's Thematic challenge of the year: developing collective action projects on Ocean Literacy	This pitch session will present the EU4Ocean coalition and its First Thematic Challenge of the Year. The speakers will explain what it means in reality: why this challenge, what is the process of the project submission, criteria for selection, and expected outputs/impacts. The session will actively engage the audience with experts from EU4Ocean communities in questions/answers and discussion on collective action in ocean literacy.
13.45-14.15	Evy Copejans, EMSEA, Network of EU Blue Schools	Blue Schools in Europe: from local implementation to a European movement	The Network of EU Blue Schools will host this pitch session together with several of their associates to highlight the potential of Blue Schools for enhancing ocean literacy and creating awareness about a sustainable blue economy and blue careers at a local level. They will discuss how to move from successful individual school projects to a more dedicated movement of Blue Schools in Europe.
14.30-15.00	FR	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
15.15-15.45	DG MARE and CINEA	Advancing gender equality in the blue economy	It will feature the new 2 EMFAF funded projects on women in the blue economy: WINBIG and WINBLUE, and discuss with experts burning questions on how to further advance gender equality in the blue economy.

