



ATLANTIC SMART PORTS
BLUE ACCELERATION NETWORK

D2.3 Workshop Report

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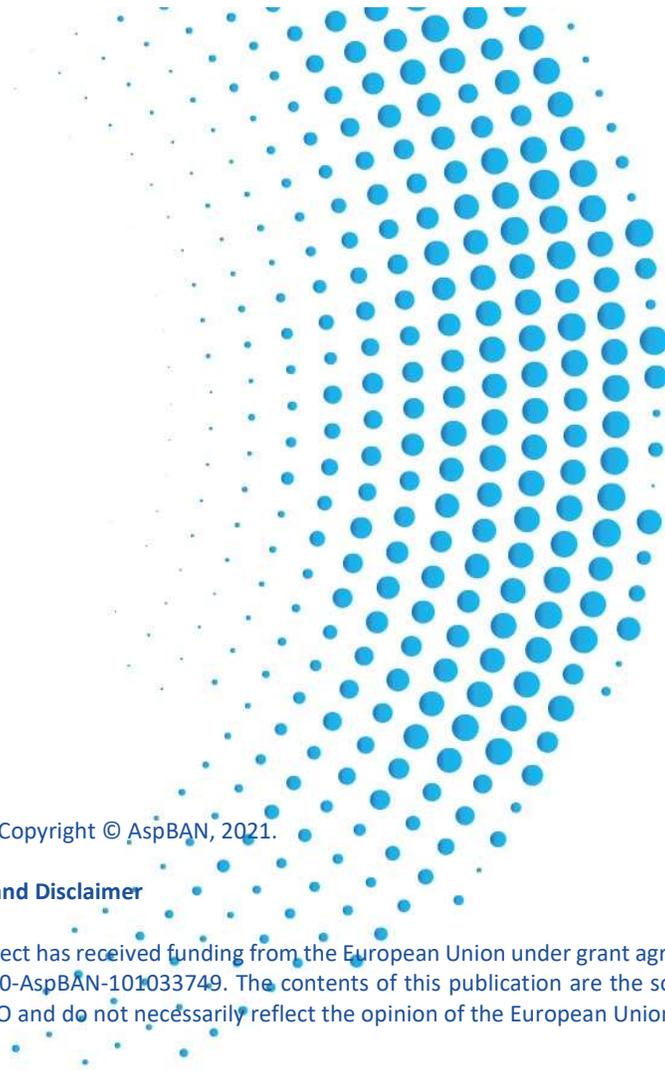
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WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

As part of the AspBAN project (WP2), the Irish Maritime Development Office undertook a number of research activities to greater understand the current level of demand amongst European Ports for business Accelerator programs. This research also focussed on the current state of play regarding European Accelerators capacity and appetite to support Port and Blue Economy related innovation, and the general level of accelerator activity that currently exists across the region.

The primary element of the research was a series of surveys that were distributed across the wide range of Port and Accelerator contacts available to the AspBAN consortium. In all, surveys were sent to over 100 ports and over 150 accelerator programs.

The WP2 Workshop was conducted via Zoom, with 24 AspBAN partners participating in the event. See 'Annex A' for the Workshop agenda. Firstly, the results of the IMDO's research were presented to all partners. The research was divided into 3 sections:

- Findings of IMDO Desk-based Research
- Results of the IMDO Ports Survey
- Results of the IMDO Accelerators Survey

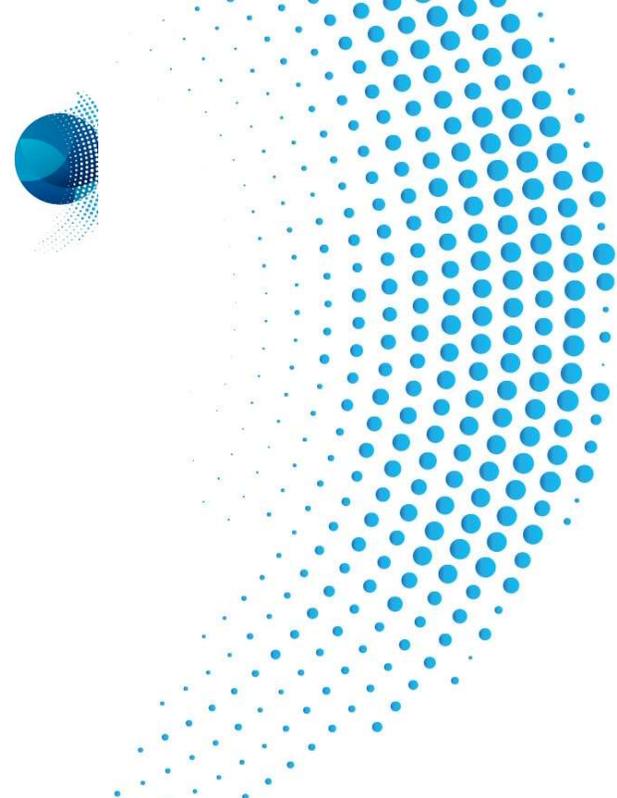
Following these presentations, the partners were divided into 3 breakout rooms which were moderated by Dr. Paul Brewster, Dr. Edel O'Connor and Darragh Treacy of the IMDO. The research and survey results were discussed in greater detail in the breakout rooms, with participants using 'mentimeter' to provide their insights and feedback in relation to each segment outlined above.

Finally, all partners regathered to discuss the key points made in each 'room' during the breakout session.



OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The main objective of the WP2 workshop was to gather all AspBAN partners together to present the results of the IMDO's research into Ports innovation needs and Accelerators activity and capacity to cater for these needs, across Europe. Secondly, the workshop provided an opportunity for the IMDO to receive comment from partners regarding the completeness of the research and capture feedback of where more research should be conducted. This included partners highlighting where the results of the surveys were surprising or unexpected and providing feedback about other information which the research didn't uncover.



DISCUSSION

The breakout session proved to be a useful mechanism to obtain further qualitative insights and feedback in relation to each area of the research.

[On the findings of the IMDO's Desk Based Research:](#)

Surprises in results:

- No major surprises were noted in the information presented during the Desk-based research segment.

General Comments:

- It was noted that the 'SPEED' program and the EU Blue Economy Annual Report be reviewed as more useful information may be identified here.
- In terms of financial instruments to support Port development – look at the EU Next Generation (resilience and recovery fund)
- In relation to Policy Support for Port development – look at the EU Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Platform, ESME Port Reception Facilities Directive and the EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy

[On the results of the IMDO's Ports Survey Results:](#)

Surprises in results:

- Omission of Fisheries and Aquaculture activities from Ports responses to key priorities. Similarly, surprised that there appeared to be a level of caution around focussing efforts on facilitating emerging sectors (Offshore-wind, Alternative Fuels etc). Also, no mention of shipbuilding or naval architecture

- Could this be because Ports perceive these sectors as outdated and irrelevant?
- The lack of responses from French ports.
- No mention of Ports collaborating with regional authorities or seeking assistance from EU agencies/through EU funding mechanisms when looking to develop.
- Other areas such as Climate Change, Deep Sea Exploration and Hydrogen development not prominent in responses.

General Comments:

- Feeling that ‘Maritime Clusters’ being developed in Port areas could be hugely valuable in supporting overall Blue economy growth.
- Lack of innovation culture within ports is certainly a challenge but not applicable to all Ports. Some are open to change and seek out opportunities whilst others are determined to maintain the ‘status quo’. Based on the results of the survey – this is an area where Ports can do better.
- Interesting to note the barriers that exist behind barriers – even if there was money and government support, would that solve the issues with Port development? Results of the survey point to deeper issues than just these two conditions.
- There is a clear gap between Ports, Accelerators, Universities and Technology Providers – bridging these gaps is an area that AspBAN can do significant work on.
- Do Ports regularly engage with innovation networks? It doesn’t appear to be the case – lack of resources/capacity/time to be able to engage with early stage companies. Opportunity cost exists – ensure current offerings are supplied as needed vs. investing time in research and identifying new opportunities and innovations.
- Varying results from different Ports highlights the individuality of the sector – unaware of symbiosis that may exist amongst them and working independently on needs. Creation of clusters and increased cooperation/specialisation amongst Ports may be an effective way to resolve many issues – AspBAN can play a huge role in facilitating this and in providing ports with a global perspective.

[On the results of the IMDO’s Accelerators Survey:](#)

Surprises in Results:

- Poor response level from Accelerators – there is certainly more activity in this area than was reflected in the results. Is the lack of responses in itself, an indication of how Accelerator programs view the Blue Economy?



- Low engagement with Port Innovations from those that did respond, particularly surprised that safety wasn't a key area supported.

General Comments:

- Might be worth speaking to Venture Capitalists who have previously invested in Blue Economy related innovations to gain more insights
- More responses are needed to develop a clear picture of the gaps that exist between the innovation needs of Ports and what is currently being offered by Accelerator programs. This needs to be identified both in start-up solutions and in efforts from the Accelerators to enable ecosystem change in this area.
- General perception is that the Accelerator market is crowded and dynamic and so low response rate may give false findings.

Actions resulting from the AspBAN WP2 Workshop:

- Examine the difference in Port survey responses based on both size and the geography of Ports.
- Investigate why sub-sectors such as Aquaculture and Shipbuilding were not mentioned in Port survey responses.
- Obtain more insights from Accelerator Programs – GAN and WOC to assist in leading consultations with Accelerator network to establish why there were so few responses to the Accelerator survey and identify what level of port related activities they have been involved in supporting.
- Pass on results of the research to groups such as ESPO, IAPH and ports associations that are partners of the AspBAN project etc.
- Reach out to French Ports to gather further insights into their innovation needs.
- Produce a map which shows the location of Ports that did respond to the AspBAN ports survey.



ANNEX A: WORKSHOP AGENDA





Wednesday 30 June 2021 10.00 – 12.00 (BST)

10.00 Welcome and introduction

10.05 Warm-up exercises

10.30 Summary of Preliminary Results – with Q&A

11.00 Breakout rooms:

Table-1	Table-2	Table-3
Moderator: Edel O'Connor	Moderator: Darragh Treacy	Moderator: Paul Brewster
Fernando Gago (Kaleido Logistics)	Karolina Iwanowicz (Kaleido Logistics)	Gonçalo Faria (Beta-i)
Bastien Farges (Eurotran)	Frederico Ferreira (Forum Oceano)	Delphine Kaczorowski (CRPM)
Ruben Eiras (Forum Oceano)	Kai Stoltz (GCO Ocean)	Jessy Lee Kemmers (Port XL)
Karlanne Kojen Andersen (GCE Ocean)	Justine Brossard (CRPM)	Frédéric Degret (Noah)
Elise Watterlot (CRPM)	Joana Dias (Magellan)	Hugo Serra (Magellan)
Ana Pinela (Beta-i)	Evie Ham (Port XL)	Carmen Muñoz (Canary Islands)
João Miranda (Beta-i)	Thomas Parker (Beta-I)	Corrinke Boon (Beta-i)

11.40 Plenary session to share discussion results

11.55 Closing remarks

12.00 Meeting ends.

