

MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGIES

How to develop the Marine Biotechnology sector as a source of local and sustainable economy in Cyprus?



MARINA Project

21st February 2018 - Local Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Workshop

Water Museum – Water Board of Nicosia, Cyprus

Organisers: XPRO Consulting Limited & Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute (CNTI)

Marine Biotechnology

On all Cypriot beaches after a storm, we see piles and piles of “fikia” the generic Greek word for seaweeds. *Posidonia oceanica* is the most common type. Are you aware that research is being conducted on its antidiabetic, antioxidant and vasoprotective properties? According to the WHO (2014), 422 million people suffer from diabetes in the world. Imagine if we could treat them with “fikia”! The research field that could make this happen is Marine Biotechnology.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss how we can define a national strategy for developing the field of marine biotechnology sustainably in Cyprus. Eight participants from different stakeholder groups expressed their opinion in this participative workshop:

Citizens



Business representatives



Researchers



Responsible Research and Innovation

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) engages and brings together all stakeholders, creates dialogue and facilitates knowledge-sharing. It ensures the sustainable use of natural resources and makes sure that the needs of citizens and society are integrated into research and innovation. Participants put forth proposals of collective solutions based on the six RRI dimensions:



Fig. 1 – RRI dimensions (Pictograms courtesy of RRI Tools - <https://www.rri-tools.eu/>)

Workshop Outcomes

The participants defined 3 main groups of actions. Each group requires the combined actions of all four target groups, which confirms the need for collaboration among stakeholders.

Each action was linked to several RRI dimensions, and **Open Access** to information and **Science Education** were the most important dimensions in this workshop.

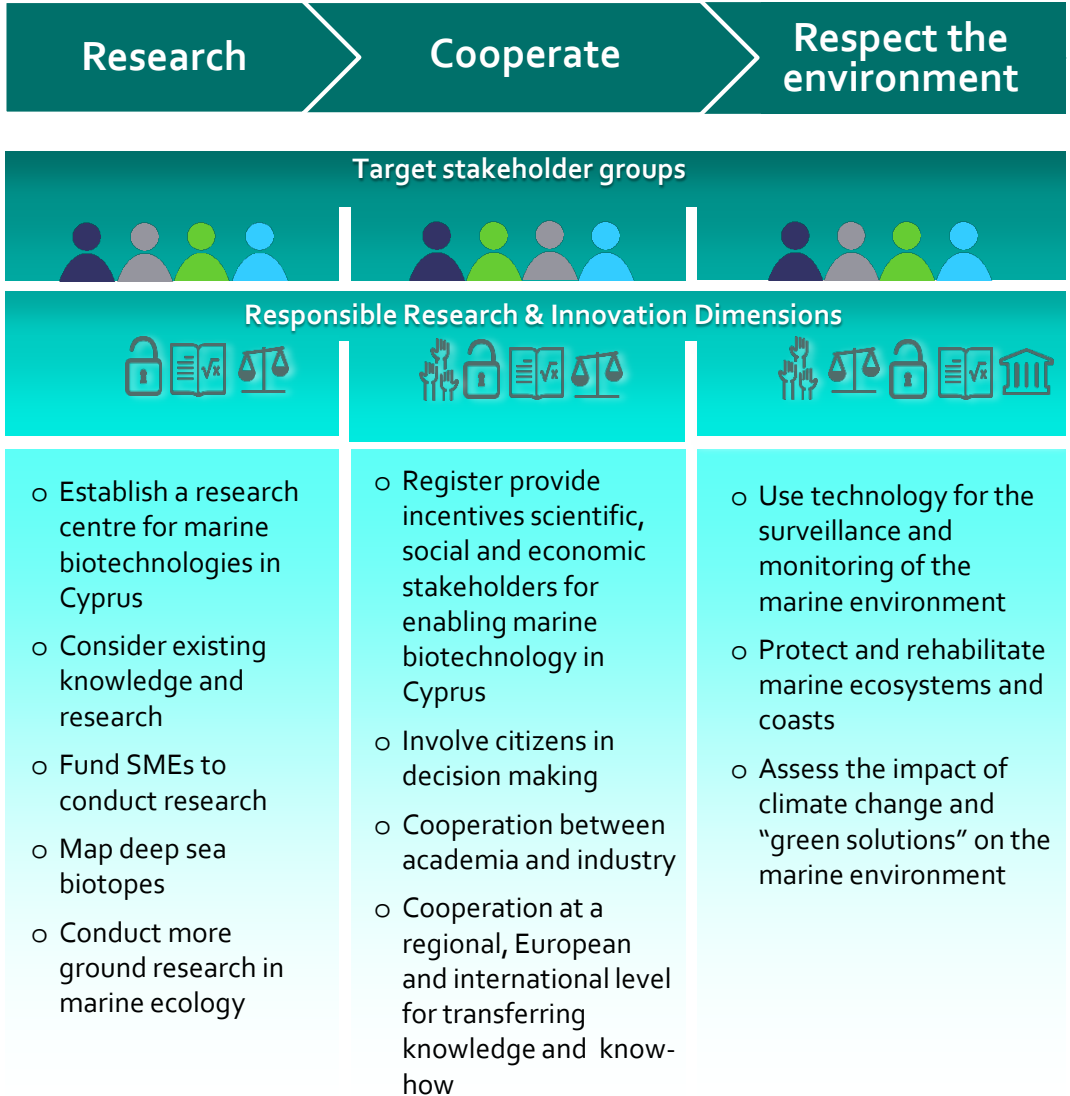


Fig. 2 – Actions suggested by the participants

The MARINA Project is funded by the EU Programme Horizon 2020. 14 partners across Europe are joining forces for a period of 36 months to bring together stakeholders around marine issues and societal challenges and propose RRI driven roadmaps of actions to respond to them.

45 workshops on marine issues in the European Union



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