

Throughout the UNITED project, the consortium organises a series of five training workshops. Workshops are addressing current and most pressing topics in the field of ocean multi-use activities. By examining diverse potential multi-use concepts from economical, environmental, legal, social and technical perspectives, these events offer a platform to bring together stakeholders from different ocean sectors, research community as well as the representatives of public administration and society.

During the workshops there will always be the opportunity for discussion, exchange of views and critical debates about national and international opportunities, obstacles and potentials of the blue economy. The outcomes of such discussions will be reflected in project deliverables and reports. The participants of the training workshops will receive briefing material before the event and a certificate following their involvement.

Wednesday 26 January
2022 from 9.00 CET

WORKSHOP 1

Offshore Platform Operation, Safety and Logistics within the context of Multi-Use

online

Safety is key to develop multi-use at sea. The workshop aims to improve knowledge transfer of health and safety standards for offshore platform operations and multi-use logistics, addressing questions such as safety requirements of multi-use systems. But multi-use is also new and assessing risks is yet a difficult exercise. An important way forward is to gain joint experiences and develop a common way of looking at risks, from multiple points of view. The workshop consists of two parts:

1. Hands-on project experience related to safety of multi-use offshore platforms, related logistics and risks will be communicated. Discussing the question about whether operations and maintenance activities can be combined (e.g. spare parts logistics, handling of harvest, storage and distribution) and to share insights into the risks of multi-use at sea. Further, challenges such as proper planning and flexible alternative scheduling for operational modes as well as the current occupational health and safety best practices across the sectors of the maritime industry (health and safety standards for offshore platform operation and related EU legislation) and seamanship will be addressed, and how to work with a framework for risk assessment in multi-use will be explained.
2. An interactive part that will allow for the exchange of lessons learned and knowledge across different case studies to learn from experiences in various regions to deal with the risks, under conditions of uncertainty and ambiguity and UNITED pilots.

Ultimately, this training workshop raises awareness and imparts knowledge about multi-use for those working in the offshore industry construction, renewable energy production, aquaculture, logistics. The audience of this workshop includes practitioners, policy-makers and stakeholders from NGO's and local communities.

Feb/April 2022

WORKSHOP 2

Aquaculture Multi-Use Offshore: Environment and Biology

Preferred in person, depending on COVID19 situation hybrid

Given the fact that offshore aquaculture and associated value chain is still a relatively 'young sector' in the EU, the workshop focuses on the following topics:

- Environment: identification and impact assessment of the regulations on aquaculture activities in a multi-use context.
- Biology: Presenting basic knowledge of the target species used and impact of offshore conditions on performance.

The workshop aims to improve capacities and knowledge of aquaculture related businesses. It consists of two modules:

1. In three pilots (German, Dutch and Belgian), biological and environmental parameters (light penetration depth, light intensity, temperature, salinity and nutrient concentrations) of seaweed, mussel and oyster aquaculture will be collected. This module will present the tools and methods used to measure the different parameters in the pilots. The goal is to synthesize lessons learned for streamlining data collection on biological and environmental parameters of seaweed, mussel and oyster production for future multi-use projects involving aquaculture. Based on these measurements, promising cultivation species and optimum depth of growth can be determined.
2. An environmental assessment framework is developed to investigate the environmental impacts of different activities (including tourism) occurring in all five UNITED pilots.

Ultimately, the workshop raises awareness and imparts knowledge about multi-use for those working in the aquaculture sector. Furthermore, the identification of relevant environmental data for the application of the assessment approach will be determined. The workshop will present and discuss experiences and lessons learned from the application of the environmental assessment framework and can give advice for its future application in multi-use projects.



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WORKSHOP 3

May/June 2022

Multi-Use Offshore: Technology

Preferred in person, depending on COVID19 situation hybrid

The workshop aims to improve capacities and knowledge of aquaculture related businesses in the context of technology, addressing on technical challenges in multi-use offshore systems (e.g. aquaculture farming and renewable energy production). The workshop focuses on relevant actors and topics, consisting of two parts:

1. The interactive part will allow for the exchange of lessons learned across pilots in the sphere of aquaculture encouraging cross-pilot learning;
2. Communicating and discussing the project findings in the sphere of aquaculture, and demonstrate work conducted at one of the pilot sites (i.e. field trip).

Participants acquire knowledge about selected subject areas of offshore aquaculture and methods for designing a "multi-use co-location" facility, including the introduction to different offshore aquaculture facility types. Furthermore, the technical context of a multi-use facility and evaluation of impacts is provided.

WORKSHOP 4

Sept/Oct 2022

Multi-Use Business Cases and Economics

Preferred in person, depending on COVID19 situation hybrid

The workshop discusses UNITED business cases with potential users and stakeholders to generate ideas and maximise socio-economic benefits of multi-use solutions. The following questions will be addressed:

- How to market and exploit multi-use products and create added benefits for sectors involved and local communities?
- What are transferable benefit sharing models that can be applied in the context of multi-use (i.e. cooperative ownership)?
- How to create the market pull/push for different multi-use solutions present in UNITED pilots?
- How to derive benefits for involved sectors and encourage multi-use?

Moreover, the workshop will encourage the exchange of lessons learned across pilots with special engagement of marketing and business experts, while project findings related to business opportunities and exploitation of multi-use products and services is communicated (e.g., multi-use certification, shared ownership structures). The objective of this workshop is to ensure legacy of the project by informing professionals about how to compile and adapt business models for ocean multi-use considering its socio-economic components. This will also help communities, local and regional planners, and decision makers to understand how their area could benefit from multi-use.

WORKSHOP 5

Nov/Dec 2022

Politics and Regulations affecting Multi-use

Preferred in person, depending on COVID19 situation hybrid

The objective of this workshop is to share the legal and insurance experiences of multi-use of the UNITED pilots, discuss lessons learned and best multi-use legal practices. The workshop focuses on legal aspects, focuses on the legal aspects actors will have to deal with, when engaging in multi-use activities:

- What type of policy support is needed to encourage multi-use?
- What regulatory framework can support multi-use?
- What kind of information is needed in order to become more confident about multi-use and start engaging in new projects?
- How can maritime spatial planning consider multi-use in future development plans (e.g. multiple-use zones)?
- How can the ownership of multi-use systems be regulated for the space plot and produced goods?