

# Widening Impacts

## Spring 2025 Webinar Series



## INNO2MARE's Story

### From Idea Conception to Post-Project Ambitions and Vision

**Date:** Friday, 14 Mar. 2025

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 CET

**Presenter:** dr. Marko Simic

**Registration:** [Link](#)

**Abstract:** *INNO2MARE: Strengthening the capacity for excellence of Slovenian and Croatian innovation ecosystems to support the digital and green transitions of maritime regions* is a European Union Excellence Hubs (EH) project funded under the Horizon WIDERA call. The objectives for this webinar are to:

- Support the formation of an EH Community;
- Increase awareness of and support for INNO2MARE specifically, and EH projects and the Widening Programme more generally;
- Catalyze new collaborations;
- Disseminate best-practices and lessons-learned from elaborating the INNO2MARE proposal and executing the INNO2MARE project.

The primary target audiences are:

- Other EH projects and their external stakeholders;
- Stakeholders involved in the digital, green and blue transitions;
- Stakeholders for the EU Widening Program, including those with interests / activities in writing EU proposals and executing EU projects.

The webinar will begin with the proposal background that led to the INNO2MARE concept and consortium creation, cover the development of the proposal and execution of the project to date, and conclude with the post-project ambitions and vision. The webinar will include key characteristics of the project including lessons-learned and how the consortium will convert the challenges into solutions. The webinar is intended to consist of a ~35 min. presentation and ~15 min. of Q&A and open discussion.



INNO2MARE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101087348. Views and opinions expressed are those of the project only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## About INNO2MARE

**Keywords:** Innovation ecosystems; Western Slovenia; Adriatic Croatia; Maritime; Digital & Green.

**Summary:** INNO2MARE targets Big digital and green transitions for two of Europe's smaller countries. Croatia and Slovenia are neighbours and among Europe's smaller countries. They are also united along the Adriatic. In this context, the EU-funded INNO2MARE project will boost maritime and connected industries. Specifically, it will support the digital and green transitions in western Slovenian and Adriatic Croatian innovation ecosystems. Implementing three pilot projects, INNO2MARE will address some of the key challenges related to maritime education and training, security and safety in marine traffic as well as energy conversion and management systems' efficiency. In addition to supporting the engagement of citizens in the innovation process and smart skills training, the project will reduce the innovation divide by connecting the innovation actors within the ecosystems.

**Objectives:** The main goal of INNO2MARE is to strengthen the capacity for excellence of Western Slovenian and Adriatic Croatian innovation ecosystems through a set of jointly designed and implemented actions that will support the digital and green transitions of the maritime and connected industries. Based on an in-depth mapping of the ecosystems and needs & gaps analysis, the consortium will formulate a long-term R&I strategy aligned with regional, national and EU strategies, as a visionary framework, and a joint action & investment plan, with concrete steps for building coordinated, resilient, attractive and sustainable maritime innovation ecosystems. To support the joint strategy and provide a model for the future collaborative R&I of the ecosystems' actors, the project will implement three R&I pilot projects that address some of the key challenges related to maritime education and training, security & safety in marine traffic as well as energy conversion and management systems efficiency. These pilots will be the basis for further development, scale-up and translation of the generated research results into innovative business opportunities through the coordinated mobilisation of public and private funding. The consortium will also implement innovative programmes that will support the engagement of citizens in the innovation processes, knowledge transfer for mutual learning, entrepreneurship & smart skills training and attraction of best talents, involving more than 1 000 participants across the Quadruple Helix. In all the project activities, the two ecosystems will strongly benefit from the sharing of best practices of the Flemish ecosystem, one of the most developed maritime innovation ecosystems globally. The project will contribute to reducing the innovation divide in Europe by systematically connecting the innovation actors within and between the ecosystems and creating synergies in R&I investments planning and execution, thus developing a true innovation culture.

### Follow, More Information, and Contact:

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/inno2mare/>

**Project Website:** <https://www.inno2mare.eu/>

**EU Cordis Website:** <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101087348>

**Contact:** [info@inno2mare.eu](mailto:info@inno2mare.eu)

## About the Widening Impacts Spring 2025 Webinar Series

**Background:** The Widening Impacts Spring 2025 Webinar Series was seeded by the SolarHub Excellence Hubs project with an overall aim to increase the impacts of EU Widening Projects by creating a platform for Widening Projects to showcase their capacities, activities, and impacts to a large and diverse set of key stakeholders for the EU's Widening Program. The webinar series' specific objectives are to

- Catalyze inter-project collaborations;
- Create new opportunities by reaching new audiences;
- Increase ecosystem and hub knowledgeability;
- Gain competitive advantage by sharing knowledge & best-practices;
- Better exploit project results and improve project impacts;
- Achieve critical mass when engaging with key funding and policy decision makers at institutional, regional, and national levels.

### Watch Completed Spring 2025 Webinars:

**Jan. 31 SolarHub's Story: From Idea Conception to Post-Project Ambitions and Vision**

[Watch](#)

SolarHub is a Greek-Turkish Solar Energy Excellence Hub to Advance the European Green Deal

**Feb. 21 FINEST Centre: From Idea Conception to Post-Project Ambitions and Vision**

[Watch](#)

FinEst Centre is a Teaming Project to Establish a Smart City Center of Excellence

**Mar. 7 COALition: From Idea Conception to Post-Project Ambitions and Vision**

[Watch](#)

Promoting Innovation Excellence in Transformation of Coal Regions to Climate-Neutral, Thriving Economies

**Scheduled Webinars for Spring 2025:** All webinars are nominally scheduled for 10-11 CET with time to be confirmed. The 1<sup>st</sup> announcement for each webinar that includes registration information will be released approximately 10 days before the webinar.

**Mar. 14 INNO2MARE:** Strengthening the capacity for excellence of Slovenian and Croatia innovation ecosystems to support the digital and green transitions of maritime regions

**Mar. 28 CARBONICA:** Carbon Initiative for Climate-resilient Agriculture

**May xx WaterWise:** An Excellence Hub on Water in the Circular Economy (*exact date To Be Determined*).

**June 13 CHAngeing:** Connected Hubs in Ageing: Healthy Living to Protect Cerebrovascular Function

**June xx METACITIES:** MetaCities Excellence Hub in South-Eastern Europe (*exact date To Be Determined*).

**Webinars To Be Scheduled:** The following projects have indicated their interest in organizing a webinar, where the dates and times for these webinars are *To Be Determined*.

**ADDIT-CE** Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostics Innovation and Translation to Clinical Practice in Central Europe

**BCThubs** Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States

**CHES** Cyber-security Excellence Hub in Estonia and South Moravia

**DxHub** Connecting Greek and Portuguese Innovation Ecosystems to Develop a Hub for Infectious Disease Diagnostic Solutions at the Point-of-Care-Tackling Cross-Border Threats

- ECHO** Energy Communities excellence Hubs: catalyzing energy innovation ecosystems
- Excel4Pro** Strengthening the Capacity of Excellence Hubs of Türkiye, Greece, and Ukraine to Support Innovation Ecosystem of Novel Foods Based on Plant Proteins
- GeneH** Excellence Hub for Innovation in Gene Therapy
- GlaCerHub** Glass ceramic innovation ecosystem for implementation of new research directions in applications
- HERIFORGE** Cultural heritage and immersive technologies for innovation forge
- LASER-PRO** Excellent laser technologies for the Sustainable Prosperity of Europe
- MarTe** Marine Technology Excellence Hub for sustainable blue economy in Baltics
- VELES** Strengthening the South-East Europe Smart Health Regional Excellence and Boosting the Innovation Potential

**Additional Webinars:** If this webinar series proves successful, it will be opened to other Widening and Widening-Relevant Projects with an ambition to *Leave No Widening Project Behind*.

**Follow, More Information, and Connect:**

**YouTube Channel:** <http://www.youtube.com/@WideningImpacts>

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/company/wideningimpacts](http://www.linkedin.com/company/wideningimpacts)

**Email List\*:** <https://groups.google.com/g/wideningimpacts>

\*At most 1 email/week using Google Groups

**Website:** <http://www.wideningimpacts.eu>

**Contact:** Derek Baker, [derek.baker@odtugunam.org](mailto:derek.baker@odtugunam.org)



**Supporting Projects:** The Widening Impacts Spring 2025 Webinar series is supported by the following cluster of Excellence Hubs (EH) projects working to create an EH Community, with all projects being funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program with GA number in parentheses: ADDIT-CE (101087124); BCThubs (101087146); CARBONICA (101087233); CHAngeing (101087071); CHESS (101087529); COALition (101087022); DxHub (101186531); ECHO (101185725); Excel4Pro (101186662); GeneH (101186939); GlaCerHub (101087154); HERIFORGE (101186573); INNO2MARE (101087348); LASER-PRO (101186838); MarTe (101186498); METACITIES (101087257); SolarHub (101086110); VELES (101087483); WaterWise (101184151).

**Privacy Statement:** All activities that are part of the Widening Impacts Spring 2025 Webinar series are committed to compliance with GDPR Regulations.

**Informed Consent:** By attending a webinar all participants consent to the webinars being recorded with the intent to make this recording publicly available using an appropriate channel such as YouTube.

**Personal Data:** Personal Data will be recorded to manage registration and participation. Participants who Opt-In may receive follow-up communications. The collected data will be used for project reporting purposes to the European Commission (EC). Any data shared outside the webinar organizers (specifically, FINEST TWINS, SolarHub and supporting EH projects) and the EC, such as for project Communication, Dissemination, or Exploitation activities, will first be anonymized by removing information that can be used to identify unique individuals (e.g., email addresses and names). The data collected will not be used for any other purposes outside those stated above.