

M6 – Completed first cycle of WP6 programmes

Milestone #6 has been successfully achieved. The INNO2MARE project partners have successfully organized the first full cycle of programs and events within the scope of **Work Package 6 (WP6)**. These activities have had a significant impact on both the Croatian and Slovenian innovation ecosystems, fostering education, knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship, and talent development.

Key Activities and Achievements:

- **T6.1 – Educational Workshops for Youth**
Partners organized a series of workshops aimed at engaging young people in innovation and maritime topics. These workshops were implemented in both the Croatian and Slovenian ecosystems. In addition, a public event was held alongside the consortium meeting in Rijeka, providing an opportunity for civic participation and discussion on the ongoing development of the two innovation ecosystems. This event allowed local communities to connect with the project's goals, creating greater awareness and encouraging youth involvement in innovative initiatives.
- **T6.2 – Demand-Driven Knowledge Transfer Training**
Tailored training sessions for innovation actors were delivered in the Croatian ecosystem, focusing on practical knowledge and technology transfer. These sessions were designed to respond to real needs of businesses, researchers, and innovation actors. Similar training sessions are planned for the Slovenian ecosystem in 2024. Beyond training, project partners provided advisory services, offering guidance and support for successful knowledge and technology transfer between research institutions and industry.
- **T6.3 – Entrepreneurship Skills Development**
Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurial capacity for innovation ecosystems, partners organized a series of trainings to enhance entrepreneurship skills. These trainings were held in both Croatian and Slovenian ecosystems, targeting researchers, innovators, and industry partners. The sessions focused on business planning, innovation management, market strategies, and other key entrepreneurial competencies necessary to drive growth and innovation in the maritime and blue economy sectors.
- **T6.4 – Talent Attraction and Retention Brainstorming**
A dedicated brainstorming session was held involving members of the Innovation Council. The session focused on strategies for attracting and retaining talented individuals within the ecosystems. Participants discussed challenges, opportunities, and actionable solutions to strengthen human capital in the Adriatic innovation environment, ensuring sustainable growth and competitiveness.

Impact and Outlook:

The activities carried out under Milestone 6 demonstrate INNO2MARE's commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange across the Adriatic region. By combining youth education, knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship development, and talent

management, the project is creating strong foundations for sustainable and resilient innovation ecosystems in both Croatia and Slovenia.

The next steps will focus on building upon these achievements, expanding knowledge transfer activities, and further strengthening the collaboration between researchers, industry partners, and innovation actors in the region.