



## Project description

Cluster ACT – “*Aggregation and Collaboration Tools to Enhance Cluster Network in the Maritime Sector of the MED Area*” is a three-year project financed under the EASME European Maritime Fisheries Fund focusing on enhancing networking and collaboration in innovation and investment related activities in the maritime sector at Mediterranean level. The project partnership spreads in five important countries with strong and diversified tradition and competences in the blue economy, and includes the [Maritime Technology Cluster FVG](#) and the [Italian Business Angels Network Association](#) from Italy, the [Maritime Cluster of Andalusia](#) from Spain, the [Centre for Research and Technology Hellas - Hellenic Institute of Transport](#) from Greece, the [International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems](#) based in Croatia, and the [Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport](#) from Egypt.

The project targets the most promising maritime sectors in the sea basin, in particular nautical (yachting), cruising, and ports and marinas activities together with complementary value chains operating horizontally and including ship/boat building and repairing and coastal tourism and maritime transport. Concrete measures are foreseen to promote networking and support innovation and business development in those sectors within the Mediterranean area and give an answer to a real shortage of relevant investments in the maritime sector.

In the early stage, Cluster ACT will analyze the main features and characteristics of the targeted blue sectors and local investment scenarios, and will assess stakeholders’ profiles and skills and competences through targeted questionnaires. The outputs collected will help to plan and define a networking and matchmaking mechanism that will bring together SMEs and investors establishing in that way a better understanding of respective practices. The latter will be supported with dedicated 3 “Ready to Invest” and 6 “Investment Readiness Program” webinars that will prepare both groups of those actors to join matchmaking events and access main insights from market and technology scenarios and investment and business opportunities. 6 matchmaking events will be organized within the project, one per each country, grouping together the most promising and competent enterprises and designed to stimulate participation and involvement of targeted players at territory level. An international and final matchmaking event will be organized in Italy in 2021 and will bring together innovative enterprises and investors from all countries involved in a logic of networking and business development perspective.

Simultaneously, actions will be implemented to set up a framework to support aggregation among investors in the aforementioned maritime sectors, through the creation of networks and clubs, and the preparation of roadmaps to implement specific funds. Specific provisions are foreseen to address and promote cluster activities and strategies, which will be deepened through tailored capacity building and training actions covering issues related to cluster characteristics, linked policies and tools to support funding and investment opportunities in the maritime sector.