



Joint Report: I Regional Seminar (2024)

Introduction

The SEALabHaus project, funded under the Interreg Atlantic Area 2021-27 framework, aims to create the New European Atlantic Laboratory for Architecture, Art & Culture, Training & Professionalization, Sustainability, and Blue Tourism, following the principles of the New European Bauhaus. The project is led by the University of La Coruña (UDC) and includes partners from Ireland, France, Galicia, Portugal, and the Canary Islands.

Atlantic Community

A Regional Action Group has been created in each of the project regions (IE/FR/GAL/PT/CAN), made up of 20-25 socioinstitutional agents from the region, identified as potential stakeholders or final beneficiaries of the project, so that at least one agent represents each thematic area. These agents have a specific role to play in terms of the perception of current or potential actions.

The Atlantic Community integrates a maximum of one hundred actors, members of the five Regional Action Groups, together with the partners of the project. Joining the Atlantic Community means committing to participate in an experimental space for blue tourism initiatives and cultural industries linked to the sea.

Regional Seminars

An Annual Regional Seminar is planned to be held in each region each year to bring together each Regional Action Group and create a space for:

- Dissemination of the state of development of the SEALabHaus project and promotion of maritime culture and sustainable tourism to potential beneficiaries or interested parties from all regions.
- Gathering relevant information for the development of the project. In 2024 the focus was: Activity 2.1 (Compilation of good practices of innovative blue tourism and creative and cultural industry projects based on the New European Bauhaus) and Activity 3.1 (Creation of a SEALab Landing Page and its services).

Summary of 2024 Annual Regional Seminars

/ Regional Seminar in Galicia (XUNTA)

- **Date:** September 19, 2024
- **Location:** EGAP Exhibition Hall, Xunta de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela
- **Key Activities:**
 - Presentation of the SEALabHaus project and the Atlantic Community.
 - Presentation of good practices in architecture, art and culture, professionalization and training, sustainability, and blue tourism.
 - Debate on future problems and needs, focusing on issues such as built heritage, space usage, visibility of women, fish consumption, and environmental awareness.
- **Examples of Good Practices:**
 - **Architecture:** XIII DOCOMOMO Iberian Congress, good practices of architecture on the coast (Port edge in Porto do Son; Esplanada do horizonte in O Rosal; Que faena(r) TAC instalation in Vigo), Maritime heritage census of PCUMA.
 - **Art and Culture:** "Camiño por mar" project and other sea-related temporary exhibitions (Sea Museum of Galicia); canning museum heritage knowledge register (Museum of the Galician People); sustainability of traditional boat building (Agalcari); Anfaco Museum of Canning Industry; "Sereas" women of the sea (Fundamar & Funpromar); traditional boats meeting (Culturmar), Rede Rema Passport.
 - **Professionalization and Training:** Conxemar events.
 - **Sustainability:** Ecotours (UVigo), training local communities.
 - **Blue Tourism:** Lighthouse Hotels , nautical tourism.



/ Regional Seminar in Portugal (ADELO)

- **Date:** September 20, 2024
- **Location:** Cabedelo, Figueira da Foz
- **Key Activities:**
 - Presentation of the Sea Laboratory, SEALab.
 - Presentation of good practices by members of the Regional Action Group (RAG).
 - Debate on challenges, future needs, and decision-making on the objectives of the SeaLab.
- **Examples of Good Practices:**
 - CATRAIA - Community-based tourism initiatives.
 - SERRANAS DO MONDEGO - Sustainable rural tourism.
 - TURISMO DE SURF - Surf tourism development.
 - SALINAS DA FIGUEIRA DA FOZ - Salt production and tourism.
 - GLIDING BARNACLES - Festival celebrating the sea
 - O MAR É A NOSSA TERRA - Marine conservation projects
 - ANGEIRAS - Coastal community projects
 - ENTRE O MAR E A TERRA - Integration of land and sea activities
 - RIO DE MIGRAÇÃO DE PEIXES NO DIQUE AFSLUITDIJK - Fish migration projects
 - ROTA DO POLVO E ROTA DO ATUM - Octopus and tuna routes.

The presentation developed the link between each of the good practices presented and the five thematic areas of the project: architecture, art and culture, professionalization and training, sustainability, blue tourism.



/ Regional Seminar in France (BREST)

- **Date:** October 10, 2024
- **Location:** Les Ateliers des Capucins, Brest
- **Key Activities:**
 - Presentation of Brest Métropole's tourism strategy and the SEALabHaus project.
 - Inventory and classification of partners' best practices.
 - Group activities to identify and implement good practices by RAG members.
- **Examples of Good Practices:**
 - Resources & Biodiversity. Consultant seas, plastic pollution awareness; Le Febvre Prestations Maritimes, floating waste collection; Preventing Plastic Pollution project; communication campaigns; Etre Daou Vor, raising awareness about the natural heritage.
 - Mobility & tourism flows. Brest city pass, electric shuttle service, bicycle facilities.
 - Inclusion & Community. Youth hostel, training for students, promoting local know-how.



/ Regional Seminar in Canary Islands (ULPGC)

- **Date:** October 16, 2024
- **Location:** Cartography Laboratory, School of Architecture, ULPGC
- **Key Activities:**
 - Presentation of the SEALabHaus laboratory.
 - Presentation of good practices provided by participating institutions.
 - Debate about problems and needs, focusing on issues such as human resources, funding, dissemination of themes, and management of coastal spaces.
- **Examples of Good Practices:**
 - Arquitectura ANCA: project for the Playa de Charcos de Valleseco beach in Tenerife
 - University Library: hosting of the exhibition 'Marine Litter' and dissemination of news, activities and articles on the marine environment
 - FEMEPA - Provincial Federation of Metal and New Technologies SME of Las Palmas: participation in the Feria Internacional del Mar (International Sea Fair)
 - FEMEPA - Professional Area of Recreational Boating: internationalization of companies in the nautical sector to France
 - MARCA PÚRPURA: network of feminist town planners promoted by the entity
 - UNESCO Chair: Chair of the Sea, on the sea and sustainable tourism; mentioning studies on the impact of radars on cetaceans and a study on the willingness of tourists to offset CO2 emissions and the profiles of tourists most willing to do so



/ Regional Seminar in Ireland (MCC)

- **Date:** October 21, 2024
- **Location:** Royal Dublin Society
- **Key Activities:**
 - Presentation of the SeaLabHaus project.
 - Presentation of good practices by formal RAG members.
 - Documentation and review of additional good practices.
 - Debate on future problems and needs.
- **Examples of Good Practices:**
 - Wild Atlantic Way, promoting Ireland's culture, history and natural coastal beauty.
 - Sólas na Mára, family run spa using locally harvested seaweed.
 - Killala Bay, artificial reef created in a sunken ship.
 - Skelling Michael, island used as a case study on the impact of climate change on cultural heritage.
 - During the meeting, attendees identified and discussed over 30 potential good practices: Sea Connect Donegal - Community engagement in marine activities; Maritime Festivals - Celebrating maritime heritage; Ocean Academy - Educational programs on marine science; Heritage Council - Preservation of maritime heritage; Sea Louth Food Trail - Promoting local seafood; Ireland ways - Coastal walking routes; Marino Community projects - Community-led marine conservation; Sea Safaris - Eco-tourism initiatives; Wind, Ogham & Monastic settlements - Integrating cultural heritage with tourism; Path projects - Developing sustainable tourism paths; Ireland Wales Caminos - Cross-border tourism initiatives; Lighthouse Beacons - Promoting lighthouse tourism; Saltee Island - Conservation and tourism; Opportunities for offshore wind ecosystems - Renewable energy projects; Lighthouse Passports - Encouraging visits to lighthouses; Sea visits to Skellig - Promoting eco-tourism; Blueway Wexford - Developing blue tourism routes; Carrick Blue Way - Promoting sustainable tourism; Waterford regeneration - Urban renewal projects; Shifting tides - Addressing climate change impacts.



Participation

The regional seminars saw active participation from a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from cultural bodies, creative industries, citizen science organizers, chambers of commerce, technical universities, tourism bodies, local authorities, institutes of technology, and business development agencies. Each seminar had an average of 20-30 participants. These participants brought valuable insights into preserving and promoting maritime heritage, innovative approaches to integrating art and culture with blue tourism, community engagement and participatory research perspectives, economic potential of blue tourism, expertise in research and development of sustainable practices, governance and policy-making perspectives, technical knowledge and innovation, and opportunities for economic growth and development.

Insights

The key aspects of good practices identified across the seminars include:

- **Innovation and Sustainability:** Emphasis on innovative approaches to blue tourism and sustainable practices.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Preservation and promotion of maritime and cultural heritage.
- **Community Engagement:** Active involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
- **Education and Training:** Focus on professionalization and training to enhance skills and knowledge.
- **Collaboration:** Strong emphasis on collaboration between public and private sectors, and among different regions.

Key Challenges Identified

The seminars highlighted several common challenges:

- **Regulatory and Administrative Barriers:** Need for comprehensive and updated regulations to support maritime and cultural heritage.
- **Funding and Resources:** Lack of human resources and funding in cultural institutions.
- **Awareness and Dissemination:** Difficulties in disseminating and popularizing themes such as gender, architecture, and maritime culture.
- **Coordination and Management:** Challenges in managing and maintaining coastal spaces and ensuring effective coordination between different administrations.
- **Environmental and Social Impact:** Addressing the social and environmental impacts of tourism on coastal communities.

Conclusions

The Regional Seminars have successfully achieved their objectives of disseminating the current state of the SEALabHaus project and promoting maritime culture and sustainable tourism in the Atlantic regions, as well as gathering valuable information and examples of good practice that will contribute to the development of Activity 2.1 and Activity 3.1.

The active participation and cooperation of the Regional Action Groups has been instrumental in fostering an Atlantic Community that promotes the exchange of experiences and good practices among its members. It is important to emphasise the importance of integrating the perspectives of different stakeholders, including local communities, cultural institutions and the private sector, in the development and implementation of the SEALabHaus project.

In addition, common challenges and needs across different regions have been identified, such as the need for comprehensive regulations, improved coordination between administrations, and better dissemination of maritime culture and sustainable tourism practices.

In the future, the project will continue to build on the insights and contributions gathered during these seminars to achieve its goals of innovation, sustainability and cultural enrichment in the Atlantic coastal regions.

Looking ahead, future seminars will focus on further strategic developments:

- 2025: The theme will be the "Strategic Plan for Maritime Culture and Blue Tourism", with the aim of creating a comprehensive plan in line with the project's objectives and regional needs.
- 2026: The focus will shift to the "Volunteer Network", emphasising the creation and strengthening of volunteer networks to support maritime culture and blue tourism initiatives.

These future seminars will build on the foundations laid by the initial regional seminars, ensuring continued collaboration, innovation and sustainable development within the Atlantic community.