

PARTICIPATION

287
In person

739
Livestream views

51
Speakers

3
Pitch categories

PROFILES

122 Projects, start-ups, and SMEs

55 Investors

104 Stakeholders

2 Mid-cap or large corporation

COUNTRY DISTRIBUTION

30 countries

Among which 21 EU Member States



FEATURES

INVESTOR REPORT UPDATE LAUNCHED



KEY FINDINGS

- Ocean innovation investments tripled in the last decade, exceeding **€13 billion** in the past five years, signaling a significant surge in demand.
- Aquaculture stands out with **€930 million** in disclosed investments from 2018 to 2023, attracting attention for its potential to offer **sustainable food solutions** with lower environmental impact.
- **Over 30 private equity** and **venture capital** funds now specialise in the blue economy, a substantial increase from just a few years ago, indicating **growing confidence and opportunities** in the blue economy sectors.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

THE FUTURE OF OCEAN TECH IN EUROPE: HOW TO NURTURE AND SCALE UP BLUE CHAMPIONS

- Europe is in a leading position in **ocean technology innovation**, with several EU countries at the forefront, demonstrating significant potential for growth and the scaling up of companies. In particular, Europe needs to build on advancements in state-of-the-art maritime and underwater capabilities and technologies. **Therefore, continued investment in ocean innovation and related EU capabilities is critical to maintaining European leadership and competitiveness and also crucial for its security and strategic autonomy.**
- **Collaboration, standardisation and market take-up** are essential for accelerating the ecosystem's development, requiring efforts across Europe to establish common standards, share data, and bridge gaps between research and market application, including through further regulation and public procurement.
- **Ocean innovation projects** are often characterised by long and capital-intensive development phases. **Mobilising more private capital and co-investment strategies is crucial**, necessitating tailored approaches to attract different investor groups, such as venture capitalists for startups and institutional investors for asset classes like blue bonds, while addressing regulatory and language barriers to engage institutional investors.



THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY: NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR INVESTORS

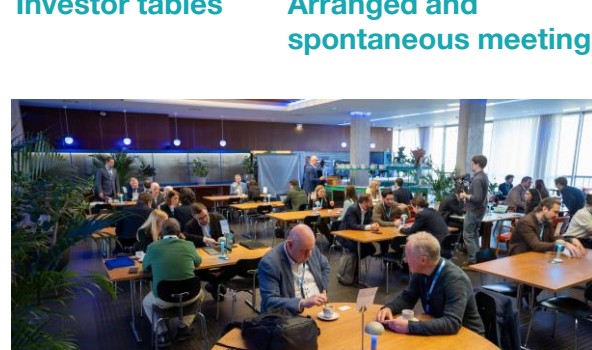
- **Investor interest has increased** in the blue economy compared to a decade ago, yet the sector remains underinvested. **Challenges persist in raising funds and mobilising the liquidity available**, in particular from large institutional investors such as pension funds, to help European industry grow and scale-up, given the capital-intensive nature of many of the innovations.
- More specialised capital is needed to **de-risk business models and attract larger capital providers**. A **venture-debt attitude** should be considered to realise Europe's vision for 2050.

- With the BlueInvest mandate, the European Investment Fund (EIF) embarked on building the **investor ecosystem** from the ground up and ensuring capital availability in the market. So far, the EIF has signed 10 funds, **5 of them fully dedicated to investing in the Blue Economy, representing 200 million euros**. Together with private investment, there will be at **least 500 million** flowing to beneficiaries to support innovation and growth.
- Given the industry's transformational requirements and the inertia of established sectors, **embracing disruption is imperative**. **Fostering partnerships to introduce innovations and new systems** will enhance industry performance and sustainability, thereby increasing the value of businesses. This presents a significant opportunity to facilitate industry transformation.
- Mobilising investors requires increased **education on the sector's potential and fostering partnerships** within the different sub-sectors to strengthen the uptake of technologies. Further **streamlining markets through public policy and regulations** is also crucial to enhance returns and attract further pools of capital, so is that companies build robust marketing and sales strategies and operational excellence.
- While the current outlook is optimistic, the investor report reveals **uneven coverage across sectors and stages of development**, highlighting acute financing needs across the board. However, there is optimism for the future, with a growing pipeline of funds suggesting potential for further growth.

INVESTOR CAFÉ

28
Investor tables

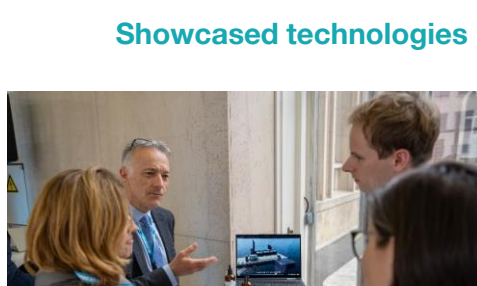
105
Arranged and spontaneous meetings



NETWORKING & SHOWCASE OF TECHNOLOGIES

180+ minutes
Dedicated networking time

14
Showcased technologies



BLUEINVEST AWARDS 2024

15 innovative companies presented their products and solutions to the investor jury panel in **3 categories**.

Net Zero, Ocean Pollution and Water Management Solutions	Sustainable Food and Feed from the Ocean	Blue Deep Tech and Ocean Observation



AWARDS WINNERS

Net Zero, Ocean Pollution and Water Management Solutions Efficient CO2 capture technology for the production of e-methanol, used for shipping	Sustainable Food and Feed from the Ocean Production of sustainable proteins from algae waste
Blue Deep Tech and Ocean Observation Smart Ocean: Development of a multiuse GPS buoy	People's Choice Fully automated, scalable and sustainable Recirculating Aquaculture Systems