

Are you an early-career Blue Economy researcher?

Apply for the **FREE** EMPORIA4KT training and mentoring programme to improve your skills in **INNOVATION** and **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**!

Organised by the EU-funded **EMPORIA4KT** project, the *"Blue Economy Technology Transfer Programme"* will be implemented in France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the UK. The mentoring programme will provide training to equip early-stage researchers working in these countries with vital Knowledge Transfer (KT) skills for their future careers in Blue Economy innovation. The programme will also provide valuable networking opportunities.

Call for Researchers

Participants will learn how to direct Research and Development towards market, industry, and private and public investment. They will also explore how to de-risk the Early Stage Technology (EST) development process and how to make EST more attractive to investment at an early stage of development.

The programme will be divided into two phases. The first phase will consist of 3 to 5 days of **online workshops** (March 2021) when researchers will receive training in skills related to innovation and technology transfer activities. The second phase consists of a **9-month mentoring programme** (April – December 2021), during which participants will meet at three face to face events in each participating country, in addition to regular online meetings via virtual collaboration tools. Within national-based teams of four people, participants will determine the best commercialisation routes for real case studies of Early Stage Technologies in the Blue Economy. Each team will receive support from experienced **EMPORIA4KT** project partners and mentors in relevant academic and industry fields of the Blue Economy.



Three teams in each participating country will present at a national level, and the team with the best performance will represent their country in the **EMPORIA4KT** final international event in Brussels. At this final event, the five nationally selected teams will pitch their commercialisation plan for their Early Stage Technology, to an audience of industry, public bodies, private investors and peers. The EST pitch will be followed by a brokerage event, providing the opportunity for networking and KT collaborations. The remaining national ESTs will be presented by poster at this international event.

The **EMPORIA4KT** project plans to raise additional funding for proof-of-concept studies for the winning EST.

The **EMPORIA4KT Blue Economy Technology Transfer Programme** will accept 12 **Blue Economy** researchers per country.

Call for Technologies

A **Call for Technologies** has been launched where researchers have been invited to submit Early Stage Technologies (TRL 1-4) related to the Blue Economy. Selected ESTs (15 in total, 3 per country) will be taken forward by the national teams in the **Blue Economy Technology Transfer Programme**. Anyone can submit a technology for consideration regardless of whether they have applied or are selected for the Call for Researchers.

For more information on submitting your Technology please visit www.emporia4kt.com/ttprogramme

Requirements

Language requirements: Applicants will require a good level of written and spoken English. All materials (e.g. presentations, exercises) provided in Phase 1 will be written in English. In Phase 2, online meetings will also be in English.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Current PhD student or recent PhD graduate (3 years or less);
- Early-stage career researcher working at a Higher Education Institution or Research Centre in Ireland;

- Research activities that are related, or can be applied, to the following fields:

- Marine Aquaculture
- Tourism and Leisure in Marine and Coastal Areas
- Sea Fisheries and Seafood Processing
- Seaweed Harvesting
- Marine ICT & Biotechnology
- Maritime Commerce & Innovation
- Marine and Ocean Renewable Energy
- Maritime Knowledge, Spatial Planning and Integrated Surveillance
- Marine Manufacturing, Construction and Engineering

Preferred skills, knowledge and abilities:

- Interested in innovation and knowledge transfer activities
- Involved in research activities and development of Early Stage Technologies

Costs: There are no fees for the mentoring programme or the Phase 1 online workshop. Travel costs for attending the three national events that will take place during the 9-month mentoring programme in Phase 2 will be covered by **EMPORIA4KT**. Accommodation will also be covered if necessary. All other meetings and collaborations will be conducted online. Travel costs for the teams selected to attend the international event will also be covered by **EMPORIA4KT**.

Time commitment: Attendance at the Phase 1 online workshops and the Phase 2 three national events is essential. Travel to the **EMPORIA4KT** final international event will be essential if you are part of the team selected to represent your country. Participants will also have approximately two meetings per month with their group and will have follow-up tasks to complete in relation to these meetings. It is expected the time commitment for meetings and follow-up work will be 10 to 15 hours per month for each researcher. Candidate interviews (if necessary) are expected to be conducted from October 21st to October 23rd 2020.

How to apply? To find out more, or to apply for a place on the **EMPORIA4KT** programme, please visit: www.emporia4kt.com/ttprogramme

Applications open: 1st September 2020

Deadline for applications: 16th October 2020

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