Cooperation & Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Mainline summary of the 27th EEAC Annual Conference

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EEAC Network

The Network

The European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) is a network of advisory bodies established by national or regional governments. EEAC members offer independent advice to their respective national or regional governments and parliaments related to the environment and sustainable development.

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Montenegro	National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management
The Netherlands	Council for the Environment and Infrastructure
Portugal	National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development

Preface

Dear conference participants,

On behalf of the Portuguese Council on the Environment and for Sustainable Development, and the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC Network), we are pleased to share the Mainline Summary of the 27th EEAC Annual Conference with you.

The conference gathered a rich diversity of experts from policy, society, science and the private sector to discuss *Cooperation and Partnerships for Sustainable Development*. In this preface, we briefly introduce some of the prerequisites for successful partnerships that were discussed during the conference.

We invite you to use the links in this preface to find more detailed information about the prerequisites and characteristics of partnerships to enhance clean and sufficient water for all; partnerships to strengthen the energy transition and for partnerships to strengthen the sustainable use of our oceans, seas and marine resources.

Introduction

The ambition to live well within the limits of our planet is an increasingly deep-seated desire among a growing number of Europeans. This societal support should be leveraged to create new partnerships and alliances.

Through partnerships, we achieve more: more impact, greater sustainability, increased value to all. This is why, at the 27th Annual Conference of the EEAC Network, partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) were the main lens through which we engaged with challenges such as the energy transition, fresh water availability and quality, and the preservation and sustainable use of our seas and oceans.

❖ **Partnerships: A process rather than an institution**

By offering a unique pool of diverse resources and shared learning, shared ideas can flourish through partnerships. However, vital prerequisites for successful partnerships should be respected. Shared goals and visions; transparency and trust as well as equal benefits for all involved need to be ensured if partnerships are going to work. This requires time and effort. Hence, partnerships are a skill that needs to be nurtured, making it a process rather than an institution.

❖ **The Need for Powerful Visions and Clearly Defined Goals**

Bold and leading shared visions help to make partnerships a success. The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine demonstrated that the success of partnerships can be boosted by bold and powerful visions. Besides a clear vision, it is also of major importance to have clearly defined goals from the earliest stage of a partnership. This should ensure that all involved know what will be achieved through a particular partnership and, equally importantly,

what will not be. The German Coal Commission demonstrated the importance of this prerequisite in practise.

❖ **Equal benefits for all involved**

It is important to build bridges through partnerships to find win-wins. In this context, interesting lessons can be learned from the Dutch Energy Agreement. In situations of unequal or fragmented benefits, fair and timely transition paths are required. Frequently, substantial financial resources will be needed to support such transition paths. These insights became apparent from the lessons learned by introducing partnerships in European water policies.

❖ **Political courage and enforcement**

Conditions for effective enforcement of partnership agreements need to be guaranteed. This requires political courage and fit-for-purpose legislation. A sufficiently strong regulatory framework opens the door to forming credible partnerships that deliver. The example of the transition process towards successful fresh water policies in Portugal clearly demonstrated the importance of these prerequisites.

❖ **Transparency, Legitimacy and Trust**

A good governance infrastructure that includes transparency and accountability mechanisms is vital for partnerships. This conclusion is based on nearly all contributions presented at the 27th EEAC Annual Conference. Interesting examples to enhance legitimacy of partnerships came from the Irish Citizens' Assembly, which introduced input-throughput and output legitimacy thinking. In addition, the need for respect for different positions and interests within partnerships was often highlighted.

❖ **The science-policy interface is critical for effective decision making**

Scientific insights and information help to create baselines, inform about both problems and progress, and are the basis for informed and integrated policy approaches. Enhanced roles of science-policy partnerships are therefore essential. This was demonstrated by the *Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.* Furthermore, enhanced partnerships between stakeholders can ensure that the best available solutions are presented to enhance compatibility between potentially competing subjects. For example, partnership coalitions including scientist, innovators and entrepreneurs should produce the best available solutions to balance conflicting ambitions between the concept of the *blue economy* and the *2030 Agenda*.

To conclude

Following the rich diversity of insights and lessons learned, the EEAC Network and CNADS embrace the idea of furthering capacity-building and strengthening of partnerships for sustainable development. Partnerships in their many shapes and forms can help introduce new narratives into sustainable development discussions, connect people's hearts and minds, and

bring life to the 2030 Agenda. We sincerely hope that this summary proves useful towards achieving these goals.

Sincerely Yours,

Arnau Queralt-Bassa

Chair of the EEAC Network

Filipe Duarte Santos

Chair of the CNADS

Content

1. Opening

The ambition to live well within the limits of our planet is an increasingly deep-seated desire among a growing number of Europeans. Thousands of students are dedicating themselves to expressing serious concerns about the ecological crisis and climate change, and these concerns are clearly shared broadly by other participants in society. And concerned citizens are not alone. Their outcry is publicly supported by a vast group of scientists from across the globe. The support of citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs and organized civil society will be essential for embarking on the unprecedented journey of systemic transformation that the European Union must undertake in order to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

A conclusion of the 27th conference of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC Network) was that this societal support should be leveraged to create new partnerships and alliances. By offering a unique pool of diverse resources and shared learning through partnerships, common ideas can flourish. Furthermore, partnerships are important mechanisms to enhance and support multi-layered decision making, multilevel coordination and cooperation among a multitude of stakeholders. Hence, partnerships enhance legitimacy, a matter of utmost importance given the magnitude of the challenges we all face.

Several vital prerequisites for successful partnerships were introduced in the opening remarks by Lotta Tähtinen (Chief of Outreach and Partnerships Branch at UN DESA Division for SDGs). First of all, there need to be shared goals and visions within a partnership and that all partners equally benefit. Furthermore, the need for transparency and trust should not be underestimated, Lotta Tähtinen stated. These important prerequisites will take time and effort. Hence, partnerships are a skill that needs to be nurtured, making it a process rather than an institution.

Taking the importance of partnerships into account, the diversity scientific and stakeholder councils met in Lisbon in dialogue with high-level experts from academia, society and the body politic on how partnerships can enhance fresh water policies, push the energy transition and support the preservation and sustainable use of our seas and oceans.

2. Partnerships to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all

The goal of providing clean and sufficient fresh water for all (SDG6) addresses an issue that is crucial to achieving well-being and economic prosperity for all EU citizens. However, reaching SDG6 has become more challenging than ever within Europe. The impacts of climate change, for example water scarcity and/or flooding, add to the complexity of managing our fresh water resources. During the 27th EEAC Annual Conference, an expert panel shared their views and practices on how partnerships can enhance the provision of clean and sufficient water for all.

2.1. European Fresh Water Policies

Partnerships played and play an important role in the formation of European fresh water policies. Although partnerships in some fields are still in their infancy[1], success stories from past decades are easy to find. Examples include transboundary partner- ships in river basin management. In his speech, Peter Gameltoft (OECD Water Governance Initiative) highlighted that such partnerships should ensure that their method of cooperation includes river basin-wide planning and co-operation with stakeholders that transcend beyond the sum of individual national plans and ambitions. This approach – the that the whole is more than the sum of its parts – could very well suffer from two types of tensions: tensions between territorial entities (that are not necessarily defined in function of water management) and tensions between stakeholder groups and the sectoral 'silos' that represent them.

With the introduction of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals, the role of enhanced partnerships became even more apparent in European fresh water polices. First of all, the fact that the SDGs apply across all territorial borders requires cooperation and partnerships across those boundaries (urban/rural, regional/national/international). Further, the indivisible nature of the SDGs requires a balanced approach; no SDG can trump another. To conclude, Peter Gameltoft stated that the requirement for trans-parency and multi-sectoral participation and co-operation influences the role of partner-ships in water policies

2.2. Transboundary partnerships: the case of the ICPR

Transboundary cooperation is vital for water. An example which was at center stage at the 27th EEAC Annual Conference was the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR).

[1] Partnerships in Land Use, Hydromorphology and Aquatic Habitat Restoration, for example, can be considered to be in their infancy.

Established in the period after World War II, the Commission faced a tremendous and immediate challenge. Prompted by the magnitude of the crises the River Rhine had been facing and political willingness among several European countries to cooperate, the ICPR set a common and ambitious goal: bringing the salmon back to the Rhine.

The success of this transboundary partnership was built on several foundations, like transparency and binding arrangements among partners – which in this case helped to bring the necessary financial resources to the table. In addition, the argument of the cost of inaction and the efforts of organized civil society helped to forge new (and sometimes unprecedented) partnerships. The truly transboundary nature, the common vision and the mandate to enforce the agreed actions, ensured more impact, greater sustainability and increased value to all.

*For more information about the ICPR, please visit their **website***

Another conclusion from the conference session was that partnerships are needed to accelerate measures to meet the targets of the EU WFD and the cross-sectoral SDGs. In addition, partnerships are needed to tackle the impacts of climate change on water security, water-related risks and ecosystem services. Partnerships should also ensure rapid identification and implementation of cost-effective solutions by mobilizing multi-sectorial expertise.

However, when deliberating enhanced partnerships for improved fresh water policy, some challenges became apparent as well. Breaking *the silos* is one of the most fundamental challenges. It includes difficulties with regard to 1) effective implementation across political boundaries; 2) multi-sectoral approaches, and 3) the need to change business models to ensure adaptation to SDGs. Especially this last issue is a matter that will require a well-balanced but timely transition. This process needs to be supported through substantial invest-ments in both sectoral change and infrastructure. Although investments can drive the change of business models, the issue of fragmented benefits should be well-considered in this context.

2.3. Multi-stakeholder inclusion: Experiences from Portugal

Portugal set ambitious targets to improve water quality and enhance the efficiency of water use. Supported by on the one hand partnerships and on the other strong and credible regulatory frameworks, Portugal was able to achieve these targets.

The Portuguese government ensured public participation in the run up to developing the legal framework. First of all, the challenges with regard to these issues were identified through public engagement, enhancing ownership and shared vision among the stakeholders. Secondly, debates were organized to inventory possible solutions and interventions.

Following these processes as prelude to policy making, new institutional partnerships were created. These partnerships were well-monitored to generate data to enhance governance interventions. To ensure long-lasting trust, Portugal established credible regulatory frameworks intended to ensure that the policies developed in the institutional partnerships were to be implemented.

From the debate in the 27th EEAC Annual Conference, it became apparent that there is a serious need for more/better partner-ships with regard to fresh water, but important challenges call for immediate action. First of all, incentives are needed for stakeholder participation in cross-sectoral partnerships for enhanced fresh water policies. In addition, matters such as transparency, trust and shared visions should be ensured through good governance mechanisms. Secondly, conditions for effective enforcement of partnership agreements need to be guaranteed, because these partnerships are part of the measures to meet public policy targets for the environment and sustain-ability. This requires political courage and fit-for-purpose legislation. Thirdly, part of the solution needs to be financial investments in environment and sustain-ability, especially where there is no clearly identifiable beneficiary. At the EU level, these matters could benefit greatly from the *European Green Deal,* and should therefore be made part of it

3. Partnerships to strengthen the energy transition

We need systemic transformation in order to achieve both the goals of the Paris Agreement and the EU energy and climate targets. The chair of the EEAC Working Group on Energy and Climate Change, Mr Folmer de Haan, stated that besides the importance of targets, technologies and technical innovations the role of inclusion and partnerships is of the utmost importance. The support of citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, organized civil society and governments at all levels will be essential for embarking on an unpriced-ented journey of systemic transformation.

Although the importance of partnerships and inclusion for a successful energy transition is broadly recognized, EU Member States often struggle to implement the structures required to ensure inclusive partnerships. For example. almost all drafts of the National Energy Climate Plans (NECPs) leave something to be desired with regard to partnerships and stakeholder inclusion. During the 27th EEAC Annual Conference, interesting examples of part-nerships that have enhanced and could further enhance stakeholder inclusion in the energy transition were showcased.

3.1. The case of the Dutch Energy Agreement

After an eight-month negotiation process, forty-seven organisations signed the *Agreement on Energy for Sustainable Growth*. Hard work went into a comprehensive governance and implementation strategy set up for the Agreement, and partnerships played a pivotal role in them, Mr Weterings (Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands) explained.

Considering the magnitude of the transition required to achieve energy for sustainable growth, an approach in which all relevant stakeholders[2] would take responsibility was considered appropriate in the Netherlands. To achieve this, forty-seven parties, from a variety of backgrounds, were brought to the table. This diversity was intended to produce a balanced approach towards environmental and climate related object-ives on the one hand, and economic challenges and opportunities presented by the transition on the other. The need for such a broad coalition of stakeholders was dictated by the assumption that government policy alone would not bring about a transition of this magnitude. The approach also took into account the fundamental interdependence between government, industry and NGOs as well as the notion that a transition of this magnitude demands societal support and stable policies.

Against a framework of twelve domains, one hundred and seventy-five actions were identified by all stakeholders during the negotiations as a prelude to the Agreement. To ensure solid and transparent implementation of the Agreement and its actions, a permanent standing committee with full participation of all forty-seven parties involved was set up. While all parties were individually responsible for imple-mentting the actions assigned to them, the parties were made jointly responsible for successfully implementing the Energy Agreement as a whole. This approach ensured inclusion and equal benefits for all involved or the sake of transparency and accountability, the standing committee monitors progress and will, when necessary, amend measures to achieve the targets of the Agreement. Since transparency and trust are so important, permanent dialogue between partners within the framework of the committee is required.

At this point, acceleration of the energy transition is becoming visible in the Netherlands, for example, in increasing savings and renewable energy production rates. Overall, the Netherlands seems to be moving away from the reputation of being a 'climate laggard'. In that sense the Agreement seems to have been a success. There are several reasons for the success of the Agreement, Mr. Rob Weterings explained. First of all, the sense of urgency in society and in the political domain gave impetus to the transition and enhanced the willingness to engage in partnerships. Also the notion of '*cost of inaction*' pushed the stakeholders towards cooperation. Furthermore, well-organised interest grou-ps and legitimate representatives helped by ensuring a professional and well-balanced approach and a positive perception of the partnerships formed. To conclude, the experiences in the Netherlands made it apparent that ensuring respect for different positions and interests and utilizing both personal relations and formalized structures for building mutual trust is vitally important.

[2] local governments, employers' associations and unions, environmental organizations etc.

3.2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships: Keep the dialogue going

The Portuguese Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS) is a good example of a wide-ranging partnership. Set up in 1998, it currently numbers 33 members, mostly nominated by national stakeholder organizations: local institutions, business, labour, the scientific community, NGOs.

The Council works as a consultative body to the government. Although discussions can get heated, so far all CNADS's official positions have been approved by consensus — not just for the sake of compromise, but often based on creative solutions reached by mutual and improved understanding of complex problems. Sometimes (not as often as we would like) the government has even listened to CNADS's opinions.

One of the most successful of CNADS's recent projects was a position paper on the National Energy and Climate Plan, much of which was taken from the preliminary version and incorporated into the public consultation version.

3.3. The case of the Irish Citizens' Assembly

Another rather different approach to utilize partnerships to enhance the energy and climate transition is the Irish Citizens' Assembly. This Assembly was established in 2016. It ran for two years and deliberated on five topics. These topics included the constitutional ban on abortion, same sex marriage and climate change. Laura Devany of Dublin City University explained in her contribution that these issues were deeply controversial in Irish politics and society, and as such the Assembly was created as a mechanism to deal with these controversial issues.

Ninety-nine citizens, from all walks of life, were chosen by random, representative selection to take part in the Citizens' Assembly. This selection process was essential to ensure a diversity of voices and allow citizens to challenge and debate potentially competing viewpoints in a respectful manner. Furthermore, this approach helped to ensure that selected individuals were representative of the wider population, so a variety of opinions, experience, priorities and values would be contributed, enhancing legitimacy of the Assembly and its participants.

Following the careful preparatory process, an interesting four-step approach to strengthening the Assembly's functioning was introduced. Firstly, citizens were exposed to a series of expert presentations on each topic in order to create a common narrative. Secondly, the Assembly facilitated deliberation in groups and gave the opportunity to question the expert speakers, to build an environment for informed and respectful debate. Thirdly, citizens voted on a set of proposed recommendations on the final day of deliberations, to ensure a democratic process towards validated outcomes. The fourth element encompassed an invitation for wider public submissions as part of the Assembly process. This setup was important to ensure an inclusive approach.

All in all, the use of the Citizens' Assembly partnership helped to break political deadlock and provide a voice for the ordinary citizen in important matters facing their country. Through its setup and functioning, the Assembly represents a rather unique partnership model that combines deliberative democracy ideals with elements of direct democracy. However, the balance between expert and scientific knowledge and personal testimonies and experiences could be further enhanced. The discussion of climate change regularly underscores the power of personal, emotional and creative storytelling. To conclude, Laura Devany also argued that more could be done in future Assemblies to communicate about the possibilities of submissions by the wider public as well as better embedding of submissions to the deliberative process.

3.4. Ensure policy nexuses through partnerships

The project 'Reviving Douro Basin' was set up by a platform of Universities, environmental NGOs and businesses to promote more sustainable policies for water resource management, with the Douro as the main case study.

A key issue is the energy-water nexus: one of the lines of research of the project is to develop an alternative energy strategy to ensure the energy transition in the wider framework of sustainability.

The overall project relies systematically on dialogue with stakeholders; the alternative energy strategy component alone involved over 20 major stakeholders.

3.5. The case of the German Coal Commission

Coal-fired power generation is responsible for around one-third of Germany's greenhouse gas emissions, Philipp Litz (Agora EnergyWende) stated in his opening remark. Since Germany is likely to miss its climate target for 2020 and since achieving the 2030 climate target is also not plausible on the basis of the measures adopted to date, a gradual phase-out of coal-fired power generation is necessary. However, due to a number of reasons, both economic and social, the phase-out of coal from the German energy mix has become a controversial issue.

In response to this controversy, the German Coal Commission was created. The Coal Commission was formed in June 2018 by bringing together thirty-one representatives of industry, trade unions, coal regions, environmental NGOs, research institutes and affected communities to facilitate a German coal phase-out and Just Transition Process[3]. A hard-fought compromise among the members of the German Coal Commission was reached in January 2019.

In his presentation, Philipp Litz touched on several elements that might explain the success of the Commission. First of all, creating a clear structure of the body used for partnering is helpful to gain trust from the start. Furthermore, it is also of major importance to have a clear and

[3] The plan should include a phase-out date and the necessary associated legal, economic, social, re-naturalization and structural measures. In addition, the Commission was tasked with creating concrete opportunities for new, future-proof jobs in the affected regions as well as developing a mix of instruments to bring together economic development, structural change, social compatibility, social cohesion and climate protection.

limited mandate to ensure that all involved know what will be done (and, just as important, what will not). In this context, it became apparent that no direct intervention by government was beneficial for the process. Also, a partnership tasked with overcoming controversy can only function well if participants have the ability and willingness to compromise, Philipp Litz argued. A tradition of consensus-oriented problem-solving is nearly a prerequisite for the success of a structure such as the Coal Commission. Two other prerequisites were added. Firstly, good data (information) should be made available to ensure a common narrative and informed deliberation, and secondly, sufficiently long public discussion should be facilitated to allow informed decisions to be made and create an inclusive process.

To conclude, Philipp Litz argued that – when an agreement is reached – enforcement of such an agreement needs to be guaranteed. An agreement without enforcement is just an ambition, he argued. Ensuring that enforcement is included is often rather difficult. Politicians quickly get uncom-fortable, often preferring recommend-dations, but a common effort with concrete outcomes should not be made vulnerable to immediate political change.

4. Partnerships to strengthen sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources

Our seas and oceans are an integrated part of our life support systems. Not only are the seas and oceans our global food supplier, they also constitute the largest environ-mental compartment on earth. However, in the face of climate change, maritime usage, food production, invasive species, radioactive contamination, and many other pressures, we need to step up our efforts to preserve this vital part of the global ecosystem. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does just that and tasks humanity with the preservation of the seas and oceans through a number of actions, like preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution, managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, and minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification. But these create gigantic challenges that require partnerships. The 27th EEAC Annual Conference presented several examples of existing and required partnerships to strengthen sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources.

4.1. Enhanced science/policy interface for a better understanding of oceans & life on land

Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Regular Process to review the environment, economic and social aspects of the world's oceans was approved in in 2004. The establishment of the review process was a response to the lack of an assessment system that gave a global picture of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. At the conference, João Bebianno (Centre for Marine and Environmental Changes of the University of Algarve) explained that partnership between scientists and policymakers was formed to produce the first World Ocean Assessment.

The enhanced science/policy interface was borne from the assumption that a scientific understanding of the ocean is fundamental to effectively managing the human activities that affect the marine environment and the biota within it. Moreover, such partnership between science and policymakers was needed to: A) better understand the fact that the oceans' needs must be dealt with in an integrated, and not just sectoral, way; B) to strengthen the linkage

between oceans and social and economic development on land; and C) to make the interface between science and policymaking more effective.

As a result of the governance structures built to enhance the science/policy interface, the first integrated assessment of the marine environment, the –'Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment', was produced in December 2016.

From this assessment it became apparent that the state of the world's oceans and seas is deteriorating. Pressures like global population growth and the expected demand for products harvested from the oceans and seas has had a dramatic impact on species and fish-stocks. Furthermore, like population growth and overfishing, shipping movements have had negative effects on the state of our seas and oceans. In addition, the lasting damage that climate change is expected to inflict on the ecosystems in our seas and oceans cannot be understated. Finally, the negative impact of growing tourism, oil production, trade and spills as well as contamination of all kinds (including radioactive) of our seas and oceans and the ever-growing amount of plastic debris are all issues of concern that require decisive action.

In the wake of the first global overview, a second World Ocean Assessment is currently being drafted. This second assessment is using the Drivers – Pressures – State – Impacts – Response (DPSIR) model to enhance a sound scientific understanding of the ocean. However, even now knowledge and capacity-building limits can be identified. More needs to be done and new partnerships need to be created to enhance knowledge about many aspects, including the physical structure of the ocean, ocean biotas, and expanding knowledge about the ways in which humans interact with the ocean.

4.2. How partnerships can reconcile greater sustainability & blue economy activities

When discussing seas and oceans, it is nearly impossible not to notice the conflict between two developments that, at first glance, seem difficult to reconcile. While the 2030 Agenda sets its goals and targets to ensure sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, the push from the political and industrial sectors to promote blue economy and blue growth, inevitably generating negative impacts on marine life, seems unstoppable. In his presentation, José Guerreiro (CNADS) presented this as a matter that requires compatibilization.

The conflict between these two interests can be seen in the governance frameworks and institutional structures implemented to serve either the one (Agenda 2030) or the other (blue economy). Many states have Ministries for the Sea or Ministries for the Economy of the Sea that produce both legislative frameworks creating the instruments for regulation and planning of new blue economy activities as well as institutional networks for maritime policy and management of the marine environment. However, these efforts are not happening in an integrated way.

In a response to lack of an integrated and reconciling approach, ocean innovation partnerships have been established in some places. However, most of these partnerships are still in their infancy, many are generalist and not sea-specific, while only a view have dedicated interface mechanisms. Furthermore, even the incentives for blue entrepreneurship appear disconnected and scattered, while not always favouring solutions greater sustainability.

The important question that arose from the José Guerreiro's contribution is how partnerships can reconcile greater sustainability objectives and blue economy activities simultaneously. Here

there is a central role for partnerships between science and technology actors. These actors should both be involved in the shaping of new blue economy projects from the start. This should ensure that new blue economy projects will incorporate the best available techniques in environmental sustainability from the start, rather than only at later stages of development, when they can only serve as a method of mitigation. To achieve this goal, it is crucial to approach and structure the partnerships between Research Centres (science), blue entrepreneurship (blue economy) and innovation (technology).

It is precisely by stimulating the development of such 'innovating networks' including science and innovation, entrepreneurs and the most financially capable companies at the start, that we can contribute to sea literacy in the various sectors and, above all, to the sustainability of blue growth, with return benefits to the conservation of the marine environment, Mr. José Guerreiro concluded.

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