

AMU - UNESCO Chair International Conference 2026

New challenges for UW nature and cultural heritage tourism during the Ocean

Decade 29 January – 01 February 2026

THE CUBE | Aix-Marseille Université - Aix-en-Provence

Thursday 29-01-2026

10:00 - 11:00	Arrival and Registration
Opening. UNESCO priorities and EU Policies during the Ocean Decade Chairing: Kalliopi Baika, Franca Cibecchini	
11:00 - 11:15	<u>Maryline Crivello</u> , Vice-Présidente d'Aix-Marseille Université <u>Jean-Christophe Sourisseau</u> , UNESCO Chair holder in Maritime and Coastal archaeology of AMU, Director of ARKAIA Institute
11:15 - 11:30	Arnaud Schaumasse, Director of the Département des Recherches Archéologiques Subaquatiques et Sous-Marines (DRASSM), French Ministry of Culture and <u>Franca Cibecchini</u> (DRASSM) <u>Giulia Boetto</u> , Director of Centre Camille Jullian (CNRS-AMU); <u>Raphaël Orgelet</u> , Director of the Master of Archaeology, AMU
11:30 - 11:50	<u>Edouard Planche</u> , Head of Unit for Underwater Cultural Heritage and Secretariat of the 2001 Convention at UNESCO Headquarters and <u>Alison Faynot</u> , UNESCO Secretariat.
11.50 - 12.00	<u>Claudia Pierdominici</u> (CINEA, European Commission), The European Ocean Pact, blue skills and future funding opportunities
12.00 - 12:25	<u>Kalliopi Baika</u> , Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Jafar Anbar (CCJ, AMU), The uBlueTec project: green, blue and digital upskilling for facing the challenges of the UN Ocean Decade
12:25 - 12:40	<u>Jafar Anbar</u> , <u>Kalliopi Baika</u> , Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Christophe Morhange, Anne Cadoret (AMU): uBlueTec Underwater Technologies Hub: Empowering the next generation of blue economy
12:40 - 13:40	Lunch
Special session: The uBlueTec project Chairing: Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Jennifer McKinnon, Marie Janot	
13:40 - 14:00	<u>Đula Nađ</u> , <u>Fausto Ferreira</u> , <u>Nadir Kapetanović</u> , <u>Matko Batoš</u> , <u>Matej Čosić</u> (UZG, Croatia): Using marine robotics to upskill students and professionals
14:00 - 14:20	<u>Loris Barbieri</u> , Antonio Lagudi, Carlotta Sacco Perasso, Michela Ricca, Mauro Francesco La Russa, Fabio Bruno (UOC, Italy): Innovative digital technologies for the documentation and valorisation of the underwater Cultural Heritage
14:20 - 14:40	<u>Marcel Rieck</u> , Benjamin Emde, Jörg Hermsdorf (Germany): Overview of Underwater LIBS: Opportunities and Challenges for In-situ Monitoring of Submerged Cultural Heritage
14:40 - 15:00	<u>Cátia Nunes</u> , Madalena Lopes (WWF, Portugal): uBlueTec MOOC: Developing Green Skills for Underwater Careers
15:00 - 15:20	<u>Afonso Dinis</u> (Portugal): How to build a nature positive business culture through green skills
15:20 - 15:40	Coffee break
Capacity building in UW technologies and contributions to the Blue Economy Chairing: Fausto Ferreira, Loris Barbieri, Judith Montague	
15:40 - 16:00	<u>Jennifer McKinnon</u> (USA): From Underwater Heritage Trails to Blue Economy: Understanding the Multiple Values of Submerged WWII Heritage in the Pacific
16:00 - 16:20	<u>Touatia Amraoui</u> (CCJ), <u>Donia Bourai</u> (Algeria): The ARCHEoPHY Project (2022-2024): Training and upskilling for Algerian Underwater Archaeologists, from learning to practical application
16:20 - 16:40	<u>Zhelyazkov Zhelyazko</u> , <u>Prahov Nayden</u> , <u>Velkovsky Kiril</u> , <u>Georgiev Ivan</u> , <u>Raykovska Miglena</u> , <u>Georgiev Pavel Y.</u> , <u>Bruno Fabio</u> , <u>Cozza Marco</u> , <u>Buffone Francesco</u> , <u>Krinidis Stelios</u> , <u>Dimara Asimina</u> , <u>Figurella Fabio</u> , <u>Pieri Massimo</u> , <u>Boujmil Ines</u> , <u>Paolacci Simona</u> : Enabling Research and Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage with BCThubs Blue Technologies
16:40 - 17:00	<u>Matthew Harpster</u> (Turkey): Building Future Policymakers: Sustainable Ocean Management Program
17:00 - 17:20	<u>Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes</u> (Philippines): The Role of Filipino Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs): Challenges and Opportunities in the Philippine Domestic Shipping Decarbonization
17:20 - 18:00	Closing
18:00 - 19:30	Ice breaker cocktail – The CUBE



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Friday 30-01-2026

09:00 - 09:30	Arrival
Special session ecoRoute. Chairing: José Bettencourt, Judith Gatt, Valerio Marcone	
09:30 - 09:50	<u>Polyvios Raxis</u> , Anastasia Fourkiotou, Elena Tilegrafou, Kalliopi Baika, José Bettencourt, Patricia Carvalho, Carla Dâmaso, Catarina Fazenda, Pedro Rosa, Beatriz Mano, Alexandre Brazão, Marco Freitas, Jean-Sébastien Guibert, Nicolas Prieur, Apostolos Vlachos: Eco-innovation for Smart Underwater Cultural and Nature Tourism: The ecoRoute paradigm in Europe's Outermost Regions
09:50 - 10:10	<u>Carla Dâmaso</u> , Catarina Fazenda, Pedro Rosa, Beatriz Mano, José Bettencourt, Patrícia Carvalho (Azores, Portugal): ecoRoute Azores – Linking Underwater Heritage, Science and Community for Regenerative Tourism
10:10 - 10:30	<u>Marco Freitas</u> , Alexandre Brazão, Luís Nóbrega (Madeira, Portugal): ecoRoute in Madeira – A Holistic Approach to the Symbiosis of Underwater Heritage in Funchal
10:30 - 10:50	<u>Jafar Anbar</u> , Kalliopi Baika, Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Christophe Morhange (France), The BluePEF calculator: An innovative application for assessing the environmental impact of diving activities
10:50 - 11:10	Coffee break
Ocean Decade Legal frameworks	
Chairing: Edouard Planche, Rosabelle Boswell, Paul Hennechart	
11:10 - 11:30	<u>Beatriz Mano</u> , Pedro Rosa (Azores, Portugal): Roadmap for the Uptake of ecoRoute Outputs: Advancing Sustainable Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Tourism during the Ocean Decade
11:30 - 11:50	<u>Athena Trakadas</u> , Georgia Holly, Arturo Rey da Silva, Jon Henderson (Denmark – UK): Ensuring Continuity of Ocean Heritage in Future Governance Frameworks
11:50 - 12:10	<u>Garry Momber MIFA FSUT FSA (UK)</u> : Accredited NGOs – linking the UCH and the Oceans
12:10 - 12:30	<u>Anna Vahan Martikyan (Armenia)</u> : Underwater Cultural Heritage Research and the Prospects of Sustainable Underwater Tourism in Armenia: The Case of Lake Sevan
12:10 - 12:30	Lunch
Sustainable UW cultural tourism and Open-accessibility - Chairing: Garry Momber, Athena Trakadas, Alison Fayot	
13:30 - 13:50	<u>Mónica Grosso</u> , Julieta Frère, Guillermo Gutiérrez, Cristian Murray, Dolores Elkin (Argentina): Challenges and Opportunities for Underwater Cultural Tourism in Patagonia, Argentina
13:50 - 14:10	<u>Carlota Pérez-Reverte (Spain)</u> : Blue Tourism Beyond Access: Cultural Literacy, Shared Responsibility and the Fragility of Underwater Heritage
14:10 - 14:30	<u>Zornitza Grekova</u> : Navigating Disputed Waters: Comparative Analysis of Maritime Sovereignty Challenges, Borders, and Joint Initiatives in Underwater Cultural Heritage Tourism – Black Sea vs. Maritime Southeast Asia
14:30 - 14:50	<u>Rosabelle Boswell (South Africa)</u> : Thanotourism or Restoration? Leveraging European Underwater Cultural Heritage for Tourism in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region
14:50 - 15:10	Coffee break
Impacts of climate change in UW and costal CH - Chairing: Jafar Anbar, Jordy Moies, Mathilde France	
15:10 - 15:30	<u>Nayden Prahov</u> , Ivelina Petkova, Zhelyazko Zhelyazkov (Bulgaria): The negative impact of human activities and climate change on underwater cultural heritage: case studies from the Bulgarian black sea littoral
15:30 - 15:50	<u>Sirine Saad El-Dine Ghiye (Lebanon)</u> : Monitoring Climate-Driven Changes in the Mediterranean Sea Using Satellite Imagery: Implications for Lebanon's Coastal and Underwater Heritage
Acknowledgement and Interpretation centres – The Cave Cosquer full-scale reconstruction	
15:50 - 16:10	Director of Cosquer Méditerranée : The implementation of Cosquer Méditerranée project and the Interpretation Center
16:10 - 16:30	<u>Jean-Pierre Bracco</u> : Cosquer, Lascaux, Altamira and others! Why did prehistoric humans venture deep into caves to create images?
16:30 - 18:00	Surprise art and tea-time!



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Saturday 31-01-2026

Special session: Horizon Europe TOURAL / Chairing: Polyvios Raxis, Patricia Carvalho, Tecla Zucchi	
09:30 - 09:50	<u>Vasiliki Drouga</u> , Evdoxia Eirini Lithoxidou, Eleni Tsompanidou, Polyvios Raxis, Dimosthenis Ioannidis: <i>The TOURAL UCCST Approach to Sustainable Development of Tourism Destinations</i>
09:50 - 10:10	<u>Marija Dušević</u> ; Marina Dujmović Vuković (Croatia): <i>Communicating Sustainable Growth: The Role of EU-Funded Projects in Fostering Innovation and Stakeholder Engagement in Underwater Heritage Tourism: Example of the TOURAL Project</i>
10:10 - 10:30	<u>Georgia Chantzi</u> , Elpida Besi (Greece): <i>TOURAL Living Labs (TLL)</i>
10:30 - 10:50	<u>Llora Fuentes</u> , Lucía Pérez, Enrique Meléndez, Ángel Antonio Rodríguez (Spain): <i>Touching the Land: Rural Craft as a Tool for Deep Experiential Tourism</i>
10:50 - 11:10	<u>Antonella Fresa</u> (Italy): <i>Sustainable, engaging and creative tourism as a driver for a better future in rural and remote areas</i>
11:10 - 11:30	Coffee break
UW parks, sustainable nature and cultural heritage tourism and Marine Protected Areas - Lessons learnt (France, Italy, Malta) Chairing: Pari Kalamara, Dimitris Kourkoumelis, Arnaud Schaumasse, John Jude	
11:30 - 11:50	<u>Magali Veyrat</u> (France): <i>Reconciling the preservation, knowledge, and promotion of underwater cultural heritage within France's highest level of protection: the example of the Calanques National Park</i>
11:50 - 12:10	<u>Cristina Canoro</u> , Campi Flegrei Diving Center, Post-doc Research Fellow in Organization Studies, Scuola Superiore Meridionale (Italy): <i>Underwater Digital Parks in Italy: Business models for underwater cultural heritage tourism in the organizational perspective</i>
12:10 - 12:30	<u>Rita Auriemma</u> , Cristiano Alfonso, Antonella Antonazzo, Francesco Baratti, Mikhail Bardashov, Mino Buccolieri, Sofia Caramia, Angelo Colucci, Luigi Coluccia, Marco Dadamo, Sergey Khokhlov, Giovanna Maggiulli, Michela Rugge (Italy): <i>Sustainable underwater tourism and wider accessibility to the submerged heritage: the Apulia projects 'Porto Cesareo Coastal and Underwater Park' and 'Sailing the Sea'</i>
12:10 - 12:30	<u>Timmy Gambin</u> , Maja Pace Sausmekat (Malta): <i>The Xlendi Underwater Archaeological Park: The setting up of the world's first deep-water archaeological park</i>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
UW parks, sustainable nature and cultural heritage tourism and Marine Protected Areas. Lessons Learnt (Greece) / Chairing: Souen Fontaine, Magali Veyrat, Timmy Gambin, Andriani Karletti	
13:50 - 14:10	<u>Dimitris Kourkoumelis-Rodostamos</u> , Helena Bonelou (Greece): <i>Approaching the underwater cultural heritage. The experience of the accessible underwater sites among Greece</i>
14:10 - 14:30	<u>Pari Kalamara</u> (Greece): <i>The underwater cultural tourism in Greece: lessons learnt and challenges for the future</i>
14:30 - 14:50	<u>Despina Koutsoumpa</u> (Greece): <i>Community Engagement and Awareness as Key Factors for Protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage: The Case of Pavlopetri, Elafonissos, Greece</i>
14:50 - 15:10	<u>Manglis Angelos</u> , Anastasia Fourkiotou, Elena Tilegrafou (Greece): <i>Better Practices for the Protection and Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage: Lessons Learned and Policy Challenges from Greece</i>
15:10 - 15:30	Coffee break
Social engagement, public accessibility and dissemination strategies for the promotion of UW nature and cultural heritage Chairing: Rita Auriemma, Despina Koutsoumpa, Pierre-Kilian Guerard	
15:30 - 15:50	<u>Sabrina Marlier</u> : <i>Promotion of underwater cultural heritage through public accessibility: the case of the Arles-Rhône 3 project, from the river to the museum</i>
15:50 - 16:10	<u>Patricia Carvalho</u> , José Bettencourt, Carla Dâmaso: <i>Promotion of underwater cultural heritage and social engagement: the experience of CONCHA project</i>
16:10 - 16:30	<u>Maja Pace Sausmekat</u> , Timmy Gambin, Ella Zahra: <i>WreckLife</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Closing
19:30	Gala dinner



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Poster session

Hannah Cocks: *Valuing Cultural–Natural Co-Benefits of UK Ocean Heritage*

Olivia Reinhart: *A Rising Threat: Developing a Coastal Erosion Risk Model for Archaeological Sites in the Orkney and Shetland Islands*

Wafa Ben Dhia: *Marine Mollusks in Tunisian Heritage: Diversity and Preservation*

Llara Fuentes, Lucía Pérez, Enrique Meléndez, Ángel Antonio Rodríguez: *CULTURALITY: Craft-Based Approaches to Rural Resilience*

Giuliano Di Flavio, Alessandro Perfetti: *Tourism versus Tour(al)isms: A rur-agri-cultural landscape from the Sea to the Mountain Abruzzo, Italy*

Diana Krysinska, Inna Tymchenko: *Kutsurub - from ancient history to modern technologies*

Roxana Iacob: *Ecotourism in Danube Delta Biosphere reserve*

Marija Dušević, Marina Dujmović Vuković: *Pilot Location of the TOURAL Project in Croatia: Island of Pag / Village Šimuni - A Stone Island of Stormy History, Salt and Cheese*

Timmy Gambin, Alberto Bravo-Morata Rodriguez, Maja Pace Sausmekat, Judith Gatt: *The Salina Bay Excavation. Looking towards the present and the future*

Vladimir Šlošić, Matko Batoš, Đula Nađ, Fausto Ferreira, Nadir Kapetanović: *Inertial diver dead-reckoning for enabling localization in underwater museums*

Elena Saccone D'Ambrosio, Camila Gianotti García: *Underwater Cultural Heritage and Marine Protected Areas: Reflections from the Atlantic Coast of Uruguay*

Emiliano Scalercio, Alessandro Gallo, Antonio Lagudi, Maurizio Muzzupappa, Fabio Bruno, Loris Barbieri: *Novel mechatronic tools for in situ cleaning, sampling and consolidation of the underwater Cultural Heritage*

Samah Moustafa Abozeid: *Geo-archaeology of Mina Hasheesh submerged Greco-Roman Harbour for protecting Historical heritage by recent technic for in Rase Alam El Rom, NW coast of Egypt*

Mona Aly Moustafa Abd Elaziz: *Vanished Beneath the Mediterranean Waves: The Submerged Cities at the Canopic Mouth of the Nile and the Challenge of Climate Change*

Rama Abboud, Jafar Anbar: *Walking the shores of ancient Arwad: Coastal archaeological documentation and a 360° Virtual visit to the Phoenician harbour site of Arwad island.*

Rosa Campillo Garrigós, Carolina Rivas Tello, Gorki Ruíz Paspuel. GALA, Francisco Benítez Capistros, Carlota Pérez-Reverte: *Co-designing Scientific Tourism in Galápagos: Governance and Policy Design for the Blue Economy*

Timmy Gambin: *Balancing Access and Preservation: Heritage Malta's 'Dive into History 360°' and the managed system for open-access to historic wrecks*

Marie-Laure Courboulès, Daniela Peloso, Vincent Dumas, Henri Bernard Maugiron: *A new methodological approach for the conservation of ancient wooden shipwrecks in Museum exhibitions. The example of the roman barge Arles-Rhône 3 (Arles, France)*

Evdoxia Eirini Lithoxoidou, Alexis Papaioannou, Eleni Tsompanidou, Nikos Garipis, Aliko Stefanopoulou, Dimosthenis Ioannidis, Vasiliki Drouga, Polyvios Raxis: *A Unified Digital Platform for Tourism Modelling, Monitoring and Planning in TOURAL project*

Marios Sidiropoulos, Nikolaos Argyriou, Dimitrios Papadimitriou, Vasiliki Drouga: *North Sporades: A sustainable tourism modelling approach through TOURAL*

Laura James, Henrik Halkier: *Analysing Sustainability Issues in Cultural and Creative Tourism Business Models*

John Jude: *Enhancing Marine Cultural Heritage Integration in MPA's: Community Involvement and Cultural Authenticity as Tools for Managing Sustainable Tourism*

Reine-Marie Bérard, Jean-Christophe Sourriseau: *Local learned societies: a key player in the preservation of archaeological heritage at Megara Hyblaea (Sicily)*

Madalin Sillion, Lucian Luminariu, George Suci, Constanta Alexandru, Vicky Drouga: *uBlueTec - BEIA VET Training for Underwater Technologies: Digital and Green Skills for Blue Economy Employability*



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01 February 2026

Visit to Cosquer Méditerranée

09:30: Departure from Aix-en-Provence (Meeting points: La Rotonde – Cezanne Statue)

10:30: Villa Méditerranée, Cosquer Méditerranée

12.00 - 18.00 After the visit, free time in Marseille

18.00: Return to Aix-en-Provence (passing from the airport)



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