

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 for Blue Economy during the Ocean Decade Chairing: Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Kalliopi Baika, Arnaud Schaumasse, Franca Cibecchini	
11:00 - 11:15	Maryline Crivello , Vice-Présidente d'Aix-Marseille Université Jean-Christophe Sourisseau , 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 Franca Cibecchini (DRASSM) Giulia Boetto , Director of Centre Camille Jullian (CNRS-AMU); Raphaël Orgeolet , Director of the Master of Archaeology, AMU
11:30 - 11:35	Richard Sempéré , CNRS, Director of OCEAN Institute, Aix-Marseille Université
11:35 - 11:50	Edouard Planche , Head of Unit for Underwater Cultural Heritage and Secretariat of the 2001 Convention at UNESCO Headquarters and Alison Faynot , UNESCO Secretariat.
11:50 - 12:00	Claudia Pierdominici (CINEA, European Commission) The European Ocean Pact, blue skills and future funding opportunities
12:00 - 12:25	Kalliopi Baika , 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	Jafar Anbar , Kalliopi Baika, 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: Arnaud Schaumasse, Jean-Christophe Sourisseau, Jennifer McKinnon, Marie Janot	
13:40 - 14:00	Đula Nađ , Fausto Ferreira , Nadir Kapetanović , Matko Batoš , Matej Ćosić (UZG, Croatia): Using marine robotics to upskill students and professionals
14:00 - 14:20	Loris Barbieri , Antonio Lagudi, Carlotta Sacco Perasso, Michela Ricca, Mauro Francesco La Russa, Fabio Bruno (UNICAL, Italy): Innovative digital technologies for the documentation and valorisation of the underwater Cultural Heritage
14:20 - 14:40	Marcel Rieck , Benjamin Emde, Jörg Hermsdorf (Germany): Overview of Underwater LIBS: Opportunities and Challenges for In-situ Monitoring of Submerged Cultural Heritage
14:40 - 15:00	Cátia Nunes , Madalena Lopes (WWF, Portugal): uBlueTec MOOC: Developing Green Skills for Underwater Careers
15:00 - 15:20	Afonso Dinis (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	Jennifer McKinnon (USA): From Underwater Heritage Trails to Blue Economy: Understanding the Multiple Values of Submerged WWII Heritage in the Pacific
16:00 - 16:20	Touatia Amraoui (CCJ), Donia Bourai (Algeria): The ARCHEoPHY Project (2022-2024): Training and upskilling for Algerian Underwater Archaeologists, from learning to practical application
16:20 - 16:40	Zhelyazkov Zhelyazko , Prahov Nayden, Velkovsky Kiril, Georgiev Ivan, Raykovska Miglena, Georgiev Pavel Y., Bruno Fabio, Cozza Marco, Buffone Francesco, Krinidis Stelios, Dimara Asimina, Figurella Fabio, Pieri Massimo, Boujmil Ines, Paolacci Simona: Enabling Research and Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage with BCThubs Blue Technologies
16:40 - 17:00	Matthew Harpster (Turkey): Building Future Policymakers: Sustainable Ocean Management Program
17:00 - 17:20	Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes (Philippines): The Role of Filipino Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs): Challenges and Opportunities in the Philippine Domestic Shipping Decarbonization
17:20 - 18:00	Closing remarks and discussion
18:00 - 19:30	Ice breaker cocktail – Offered by Centre Camille Jullian (CNRS-AMU) – The CUBE

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Friday 30-01-2026	
09:00 - 09:30	Arrival & Registration
Special session ecoRoute. Chairing: Patrícia Carvalho, Judith Gatt, Valerio Marcone	
09:30 - 09:50	<u>Polyvios Raxis</u> , <u>Anastasia Fourkiotou</u> , <u>Elena Tilegrafou</u> , <u>Kalliopi Baika</u> , <u>José Bettencourt</u> , <u>Patricia Carvalho</u> , <u>Carla Dâmaso</u> , <u>Catarina Fazenda</u> , <u>Pedro Rosa</u> , <u>Beatriz Mano</u> , <u>Alexandre Brazão</u> , <u>Marco Freitas</u> , <u>Jean-Sébastien Guibert</u> , <u>Nicolas Prieur</u> , <u>Apostolos Vlachos</u> : <i>Eco-innovation for Smart Underwater Cultural and Nature Tourism: The ecoRoute paradigm in Europe's Outermost Regions</i>
09:50 - 10:10	<u>Carla Dâmaso</u> , <u>Catarina Fazenda</u> , <u>Pedro Rosa</u> , <u>Beatriz Mano</u> , <u>José Bettencourt</u> , <u>Patrícia Carvalho</u> (Azores, Portugal): <i>ecoRoute Azores – Linking Underwater Heritage, Science and Community for Regenerative Tourism</i>
10:10 - 10:30	<u>Marco Freitas</u> , <u>Alexandre Brazão</u> , <u>Luís Nóbrega</u> (Madeira, Portugal): <i>ecoRoute in Madeira – A Holistic Approach to the Symbiosis of Underwater Heritage in Funchal</i>
10:30 - 10:50	<u>Jafar Anbar</u> , <u>Kalliopi Baika</u> , <u>Jean-Christophe Sourisseau</u> , <u>Christophe Morhange</u> (France), <u>The BluePEF calculator</u> : <i>An innovative application for assessing the environmental impact of diving activities</i>
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> , <u>Pedro Rosa</u> (Azores, Portugal): <i>Roadmap for the Uptake of ecoRoute Outputs: Advancing Sustainable Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Tourism during the Ocean Decade</i>
11:30 - 11:50	<u>Athena Trakadas</u> , <u>Georgia Holly</u> , <u>Arturo Rey da Silva</u> , <u>Jon Henderson</u> (Denmark – UK): <i>Ensuring Continuity of Ocean Heritage in Future Governance Frameworks</i>
11:50 - 12:10	<u>Garry Momber</u> (UK): <i>Accredited NGOs – linking the UCH and the Oceans</i>
12:10 - 12:30	<u>Anna Vahan Martikyan</u> (Armenia): <i>Underwater Cultural Heritage Research and the Prospects of Sustainable Underwater Tourism in Armenia: The Case of Lake Sevan</i>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
Sustainable UW cultural tourism and Open-accessibility - Chairing: Garry Momber, Athena Trakadas, Alison Fayot	
13:30 - 13:50	<u>Mónica Grosso</u> , <u>Julieta Frère</u> , <u>Guillermo Gutiérrez</u> , <u>Cristian Murray</u> , <u>Dolores Elkin</u> (Argentina): <i>Challenges and Opportunities for Underwater Cultural Tourism in Patagonia, Argentina</i>
13:50 - 14:10	<u>Carlota Pérez-Reverte</u> (Spain): <i>Blue Tourism Beyond Access: Cultural Literacy, Shared Responsibility and the Fragility of Underwater Heritage</i>
14:10 - 14:30	<u>Zornitza Grekova</u> (Bulgaria): <i>Navigating Disputed Waters: Comparative Analysis of Maritime Sovereignty Challenges, Borders, and Joint Initiatives in Underwater Cultural Heritage Tourism – Black Sea vs. Maritime Southeast Asia</i>
14:30 - 14:50	<u>Rosabelle Boswell</u> (South Africa): <i>Thanotourism or Restoration? Leveraging European Underwater Cultural Heritage for Tourism in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region</i>
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> , <u>Ivelina Petkova</u> , <u>Zhelyazko Zhelyazkov</u> (Bulgaria): <i>The negative impact of human activities and climate change on underwater cultural heritage: case studies from the Bulgarian black sea littoral</i>
15:30 - 15:50	<u>Sirine Saad El-Dine Ghiye</u> (Lebanon): <i>Monitoring Climate-Driven Changes in the Mediterranean Sea Using Satellite Imagery: Implications for Lebanon's Coastal and Underwater Heritage</i>
Acknowledgement and Interpretation centres – The Cave Cosquer full-scale reconstruction	
15:50 - 16:10	<u>Jean-Pierre Bracco</u> : <i>Cosquer, Lascaux, Altamira and others! Why did prehistoric humans venture deep into caves to create images?</i>
16:10 - 16:30	<u>Sylvain Depitout</u> , <u>Directeur Adjoint - Cosquer Méditerranée</u> : <i>The implementation of Cosquer Méditerranée project and the Interpretation Center</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Surprise art and tea-time! <u>Centre d'Art Caumont</u> at Aix-en-Provence offered by AMU UNESCO Chair

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Saturday 31-01-2026	
09:00 - 09:30	Arrival & Registration
Special session: Horizon Europe TOURAL / Chairing: Polyvios Raxis, José Bettencourt, Tecla Zucchi	
09:30 - 09:50	<u>Vasiliki Drouga</u> , Evdoxia Eirini Lithoxoidou, 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>Elpida Besi</u> , Georgia Chantzi (Greece): <i>TOURAL Living Labs (TLL)</i>
10:30 - 10:50	Llara Fuentes, Ángel Antonio Rodríguez, Lucía Pérez, Enrique Meléndez, (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, 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> , Luisa Varriale, Barbara Davidde Petriaggi (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>
12:30 - 12:50	<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>
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch
UW parks, sustainable nature and cultural heritage tourism and Marine Protected Areas. Lessons Learnt (Greece) Chairing: Souen Fontaine, 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: Magali Veyrat, Despina Koutsoumpa, Pierre-Kilian Guerard	
15:30 - 15:50	<u>Sabrina Marlier</u> (France): <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>Patrícia Carvalho</u> , José Bettencourt, Carla Dâmaso (Portugal): <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 (Malta): <i>WreckLife</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Closing remarks and discussion
19:30	Gala dinner – Aix-en-Provence, Le Cintra restaurant, Click Here For Directions

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Poster session

Hannah Cocks (UK): *Towards holistic ocean stewardship: public preferences for natural and cultural marine heritage management in England*

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

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

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

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

Diana Kryszewska, Inna Tymchenko (Ukraine): *Kutsurub - from ancient history to modern technologies*

Roxana Iacob (Romania): *Ecotourism in Danube Delta Biosphere reserve*

Marija Dušević, Marina Dujmović Vuković (Croatia): *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 (Malta): *The Salina Bay Excavation. Looking towards the present and the future*

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

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

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

Samah Moustafa Abozeid (Egypt): *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*

Vasiliki Drouga, Evdoxia Eirini Lithoxoidou, Eleni Tsompanidou, Polyvios Raxis, Dimosthenis Ioannidis (Greece): *The TOURAL UCCST Approach to Sustainable Development of Tourism Destinations*

Kalliopi Baika, Despina Koutsoumpa, Paraskevi Nomikou, Pari Kalamara, J.-C. Sourisseau, Jafar Anbar, Judith Gatt (Greece): *Empowering public engagement with maritime and coastal geoheritage via state-of-art digital technologies: The LEADER Project*

Anastasia Tzigounaki (Greece): *The Minoan protohistoric coastal site at Kalo Chorafi, Mylopotamos, Crete: A proposal for a sustainable promotion model of a remote and rural archaeological site*



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Poster session

Mona Aly Moustafa Abd Elaziz (Egypt): *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 (Syria): *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 (Ecuador): *Co-designing Scientific Tourism in Galápagos: Governance and Policy Design for the Blue Economy*

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

Marie-Laure Couboulès, Daniela Peloso, Vincent Dumas, Henri Bernard Maugiron (France): *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 (Greece): *A Unified Digital Platform for Tourism Modelling, Monitoring and Planning in TOURAL project*

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

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

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

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

Solenn de Larminat, Ahmed Gaddhoum, Jamel Hajji, Yassine Lakhal, Salem Mokni, Ammar Othman, Samira Arous Ouslati, Nabil Belmabrouk, Adrien Guillot, Malek Maazoun, Hedi Megdiche, Sofiene Souissi, Aïda Zahaf (Tunisia): *Thyna: Archaeology, Environment, and Local Development – A Collaborative Approach for Shared Heritage*

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

Nayden Prahov (Bulgaria): *Submerged Nessebar, ancient Messambria (in the framework of TOURAL project).*

Cristina Cesaro, Flavia Fortin, Wendy Lenarduzzi (Italy): *From Education to Underwater Careers: Skill Development for the Blue Economy in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region of Italy within the uBlueTec Project*



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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, visit of Cosquer Méditerranée

12.00 - 18.00 After the visit, free time in Marseille

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

