

BLUE GATES DEMO DAYS

23–24 April 2026 Odesa, Ukraine

Blue Economy · Smart Ports · Sustainability · Innovation

Hosted under the Blue Gates Project

Working language: English/Ukrainian

ONLINE ACCESS — ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting — Blue Gates Demo Days, 23–24 April 2026

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89483292959?pwd=WY9f9e1b2RMKcUTpev01QbDoxuJ5eX.1>

Meeting ID: **894 8329 2959** · Passcode: **513575**

DAY 1 | 23 April 2026

Blue Economy and Sustainable Blue Growth

Conference Hall Bristol · 15 Italiyska Street, Odesa 65026

09:00–09:30

Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:30–09:45

Opening Ceremony

Welcome remarks and introduction to the objectives of the Blue Gates project and the Demo Days programme.

SESSION 1

Blue Economy for Regional Cohesion and Resilience

Sustainable growth, regional integration and economic resilience in the Black Sea region

09:45–10:45

- ▶ **Artur Lupashko** — *Founder & CEO, Ribas Hotels Group; PhD Student*
Sustainable Development of Hotel Infrastructure within the Black Sea Blue Economy System

NEXT Black Sea Basin

- ▶ **Natalia Khotyeyeva** — *Associate Professor*
Development of the Blue Port as a Driver of Post-War Recovery and Employment in the Odesa Region
- ▶ **Andriy Sokolov** — *PhD Student*
Global Trends in Maritime Logistics under the Influence of the Blue Economy
- ▶ **Oleksandr Stovpets** — *Professor*
A Socio-Philosophical Vision of the Main Challenges for the Black Sea Region in the Context of the Blue Gates Project and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

SESSION 2

Maritime Logistics and Sustainable Value Chains

Efficiency, digital coordination and resilience across blue logistics systems

10:45–11:45

- ▶ **Maryna Matviienko** — *Associate Professor*
Bridging the Competence Gap in the Black Sea Blue Economy through AI and Digital-Twin Innovations
- ▶ **Vladyslav Tsurkan** — *PhD Student*
The Role of Maritime Logistics in Ensuring Food Security within the Black Sea Blue Economy
- ▶ **Dmytro Iakymenkov** — *Digital Transport & Trade Facilitation Expert; Member, EU Digital Transport and Logistics Forum*
Defining Data-Model Requirements for Maritime Logistics as a Semantic Graph
- ▶ **Yuliia Navrozova** — *Associate Professor*
Development of an optimized model of passenger service on cruise yachts in the context of sustainable development

11:45–12:00

Coffee Break

SESSION 3

Environmental Sustainability, Maritime Law and Ecological Awareness

Protecting marine ecosystems through legal frameworks, technology and education

12:00–13:00

- ▶ **Oleksandr Balobanov** — *Professor*

NEXT Black Sea Basin

Legal Frameworks for Environmental Safety in Ukrainian Seaports under International Standards and EU Integration Commitments

▶ **Oleksandr Kanifolskii**— *Professor*

Auxiliary Propulsion and Reduced Water Resistance: A Technical Pathway to Cleaner Marine Operations

▶ **Grygorii Moshak**—*Professor*

Legal Perspectives on the Internet and Digital Technologies in Inland Navigation (delivered in German)

▶ **Vyacheslav Rubskyi**—*Professor*

Shaping Environmental Awareness among Youth: Cognitive, Emotional and Behavioural Dimensions

13:00–14:00

Lunch Break

SESSION 4**Digital Innovation, Smart Systems and Engineering Diagnostics**

From decision-support platforms to digital twins and advanced diagnostics for blue transport

14:00–15:30

▶ **Anatoliy Labin** — *CEO, Portus Libera Group*

Digitalisation as a Strategic Tool for Developing Ukraine's Blue Economy

▶ **Mykola Malaksiano**—*Professor*

Designing Decision-Support Systems for Blue Maritime Transport Infrastructure

▶ **Dmytro Minchev**—*Professor*

Configuring a Digital Twin for Marine Diesel Engines

▶ **Leonid Oberto Santana** — *PhD Student*

Navigational Methods for Improving Ship Energy Efficiency

▶ **Roman Varbanets**—*Professor*

Diagnostics of a High-Power Wind-Turbine Gearbox

▶ **Vitalii Zalozh** — *Associate Professor*

Real-Time Diagnostics of Marine Diesel Engines Based on Working-Process Parameters

15:30–16:00

Q&A and Open Discussion



Cross-session discussion with speakers and the audience.

SESSION 5

Business Forum — Education–Business Synergies for Blue Careers

A high-level panel bringing together academia, industry and public stakeholders

16:15–17:30

Panel discussion exploring cooperation mechanisms between universities and maritime business, skills development, and career pathways across the blue economy. Moderated dialogue followed by audience Q&A.

DAY 2 | 24 April 2026

Blue Ports, Innovation and Resilience*Conference Hall Marlin · 13 Polska Street, Odesa 65026*

09:00–09:30

Morning Coffee & Networking

SESSION 6

Poster Session — Emerging Research in the Blue Economy*Early-stage research, applied case studies and student contributions*

09:30–11:00

Interactive poster presentations by young researchers, postgraduates and project partners, covering the full breadth of Blue Gates themes — from port digitalisation and green transition to coastal infrastructure and maritime education.

11:00–11:15

Coffee Break

SESSION 7

Green Transition, Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency in Ports*Electrification, renewable integration and low-carbon operations across ports and shipping*

11:15–12:45

- ▶ **Oleksiy Melnyk**—*Professor*
Navigating the Blue Economy: Smart Ports, Sustainability and the Future of Seafaring
- ▶ **Sergiy Voliansky** — *Associate Professor*
Scientific and Practical Aspects of Modernising Grid-Connected Solar Power Plants
- ▶ **Iryna Goncharuk** — *Associate Professor*
Waste-Heat Recovery Systems as a Tool for Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation in Maritime and Port Operations
- ▶ **Nataliya Dolinska** — *PhD Student*

NEXT Black Sea Basin

Digital Navigation Services for Inland Waterways as a Driver of Shipping Energy Efficiency

- ▶ **Volodymyr Kucherenko** — *Senior Lecturer*

The Impact of Underwater Radiated Noise from Ships on the Marine Environment

- ▶ **Vyacheslav Sorochan** — *PhD Student*

The Impact of Decarbonisation on the Capital-Market Strategies of Shipping Companies

- ▶ **Nikos Ksandinov** — *PhD Student*

Green Port Dues as an Investment Instrument for Ecological Transport and Logistics Systems

12:45–14:00

Lunch Break

SESSION 8**Smart Ports and Data-Driven Port Management**

Digital platforms, analytics and intelligent infrastructure for the ports of tomorrow

14:00–15:00

- ▶ **Mark Budykhin** — *PhD Student, Mitridat Container Transport / Associate Professor*

Smart Ports as Drivers of the Blue Economy: Digitalisation and Sustainability

- ▶ **Anna Belous** — *Master's Student*

Data-Driven Smart Port Management in the Black Sea Blue Economy: Logistics Optimisation

- ▶ **Natalia Remzina** — *Associate Professor*

Smart Port Development in Ukraine: Challenges and Opportunities for the Black Sea Region

SESSION 9**Port Resilience, Cybersecurity and the Human Factor at Sea**

Protecting critical infrastructure, people and operations in an era of complex risk

15:00–15:45

- ▶ **Kseniia Yavorska** — *Master's Student*

Cybersecurity as an Element of Corporate Governance in Transport Companies

NEXT Black Sea Basin

- ▶ **Mykola Bulgakov** — *Associate Professor*
Seafarer Well-Being as a Prerequisite for Sustainable Maritime Shipping
- ▶ **Nadiya Vasalatiy** — *Associate Professor*
Hydrometeorological Safety of Ports as a Component of the Blue Economy

SESSION 10

Port–City Interaction and Coastal Infrastructure

Integrating port operations, urban space and coastal development

15:45–16:15

- ▶ **Alina Logosha** — *PhD Student*
Smart Solutions for Port–City Environmental Integration: Global Experience and Ukrainian Potential
- ▶ **Svitlana Bugaieva** — *Associate Professor*
Prospects for Constructing a ‘Housebot’ on a Pile Foundation under Current Conditions

SESSION 11

Scaling Up and Replicating Blue Solutions

Transferability, international cooperation and the long-term impact of the Blue Gates project

16:15–16:45

Closing-panel discussion on scaling successful Blue Gates solutions across the Black Sea basin and beyond: replication pathways, cross-border partnerships and the next stages of cooperation.

16:45–17:30

Inspiration & Engagement — University Solutions for Future Blue Careers

A forward-looking session showcasing university-born innovations and career pathways in the blue economy.

Closing Remarks