This workshop will focus on how collaborations can be developed between Regions, the European Investment Bank and the European Commission to support maritime projects via financial instruments and provide an opportunity to follow up on the conclusions of the meeting organised by the CPMR and DG MARE in July 2017.

It will specifically focus on the idea of setting up a blue invest platform which would work in synergy with the new EU Invest fund that that European Commission has proposed to establish. EU Invest would pool all centrally managed financial instruments in a single, flexible, multi-policy guarantee instrument at the EU level.

13.30 Arrival and welcome coffee

14.00 Welcome and tour de table

14.15 Session I – Latest developments in EU instruments
  - Damien Perisse, CPMR Director for Maritime Affairs – summary of issues to be discussed from the perspective of the Regions
  - Bernhard Friess, Director, DG MARE, European Commission – presentation on Blue Investment

  Discussion
14.45 Session II – Understanding Region’s initiatives

Short presentations by Regions. Presentations will comment on the following questions:
- How are Regions planning to support maritime projects via financial instruments in the coming years? How is the EMFF being used for this?
- How can the EC and the EIB provide the best support for initiatives supported by the Regions?

First round
• Presentations by Regions:
  - Agathe Fournier, Officer in charge of the CLIPPER project, yachting and maritime bodies, Directorate for enterprises and innovation, Region Pays de la Loire
  - Marijn Rabaut, Flanders’ Blue Cluster

Discussion

Second round
• Presentations by Regions:
  - Juha Valtanen, Senior Adviser, Turku University of Applied Science
  - Rosario Allué, Responsible for Marine Resources, Generalitat de Catalonia

Discussion

• Third round
  o Presentations by Regions:
    - Jessica Herpe Johansson, Senior Maritime Expert, Region Västra-Götaland
    - Petros Kokkalis, Executive Councillor for Local Economic Growth & Entrepreneurship, Municipality of Piraeus
    - Marie Vaugeois, Policy Officer in charge of Blue Growth, Occitanie Europe

Discussion

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-17.45 Session III – How to create synergies between Regions and the EU to support blue growth?

• First question: Investment needs and project pipelines – where are common areas for innovation and investment?

• Second question: Bankability of blue economy ventures – what could be synergies for support and due diligence?

• Third question: Co-funding – (i) how could the EU support regional financial instruments? (ii) how could investable SMEs/business ventures benefit both from regional and EU level financing sources (e.g. blending)?

17.45-18.00 Conclusions and next steps