

‘BEING SEA-EU’ Conference

General information

The annual multidisciplinary 3-day conference on the theme ‘BEING SEA-EU’ (Coastal or Living by the Edge) aims to accept 100-150 abstracts. It is planned to have a special issue within a number of suitable peer-reviewed journals with papers originally presented at such conferences, suitably curated and guest-edited by academics from the SEA-EU Alliance. Venues will be rotating across the three SEA-EU basins (Mediterranean, Atlantic and Baltic), where the University of Malta will be hosting the 2024 conference.

Objectives

- To showcase and toast the outcomes of research conducted by academics and students based within the Alliance’s partner Universities, which promulgates the SEA-EU identity, within a kaleidoscope of different disciplines and fields;
- To promote a greater societal penetration of environmental sustainability issues, in full reflectance of the SDGs.

Publication strategy/policy

Abstracts can be submitted on any one of the following four thematic streams:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Medical/Health Sciences
- Arts, humanities, and social sciences (economics, sociology, anthropology, etc)
- Migration and human rights
- Interdisciplinary

Participants

The Conference is open to academics and students alike, currently or recently based at any of the nine (9) SEA-EU participating Universities. The Conference is also open to the SEA-EU Observatories: The [Observatory for Sustainable Blue Economy](#) (OSBE) and the [Observatory of Migration and Human Rights](#) (OMHR). The Conference is also open to associated partners that are involved in internationalisation and who will sign the Global Gateway Declaration at the [SEA-EU Congress](#). Furthermore, the Conference can also showcase students’ projects that have been implemented through SEA-EU 1.0 and/or nested projects (e.g. research-EU, SEA-EU DOC) or which will be implemented through the tasks of SEA-EU 2.0.

Publications

All accepted abstracts will be included within the Conference proceedings, which will be delivered in digital format to all participants at the start of the Conference, besides being uploaded on the SEA-EU and UM websites and possibly even being submitted to a suitable publishing house. Following the Conference, all participants will be given the opportunity to publish a full-paper version of the research outcomes presented through their abstract within special editions of a number of peer-reviewed journals, upon satisfying journal review guidelines and any requested (if any) APCs (Article Publication Fees).

Co-authoring

Participants can co-author more than one abstract but should not feature in more than three (3) abstracts, in order to support as broad a participation as possible by different academics and students. Whilst the participation of authors from outside the SEA-EU Alliance partners and associated partners is encouraged, all submitted abstracts must include at least ONE (1) co-author who is EITHER based at one of the SEA-EU Alliance partner Universities OR within one of the SEA-EU Associated Partners.

Abstract submission

The abstract submission portal will be opened from 12 January 2024 and closes on 23 February 2024 11:59 p.m., Central European Time (CET). Each abstract will be reviewed by different members of the Conference Scientific Committee and the submission of 'hybrid/joint' abstracts (featuring both senior researchers and students) is encouraged.

All participants have to fill in the provided [Abstract Template](#) and submit it via the [online registration form](#).

Conference presentation strategy/policy

Upon submitting an abstract, participants will be asked to indicate their preference in terms of the typology of presentation (i.e. physical presence = poster or oral presentation; virtual presentation), with the finite number of virtual and poster presentations availability being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. It is anticipated that the allowance for a virtual presentation will not exceed the threshold of 25% of all submitted abstracts within each thematic stream in order to encourage direct, physical participation within the Conference.

Participants opting for an oral presentation will be allocated a tentative maximum of 10 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes allocated for Q&A, subject to revision following the receipt of conference abstracts.

Funding aspects

Conference participation is free of charge but any other costs are self-funded. SEA-EU funding associated with this conference can be tapped into by each partner University. Academics are encouraged to financially support themselves and/or collaborating students and check with their SEA-EU/International Offices on any other funding support. Any adjudication of any SEA-EU mobilities will ultimately be the sole responsibility of each University. Free publication opportunities will be explored, besides ways to waive journal-associated APCs.

Conference Scientific and Organising Committees

The list of members for the Conference Scientific and Organising Committees will be provided at a later stage.

Important dates

- 12 January 2024 – Opening of the online abstract submission portal
- 23 February 2024, 11:59 p.m., Central European Time (CET) – Closure of the online abstract submission portal
- 29 March 2024 – Abstract feedback notification to authors
- 5 April 2024 – Opening of the Conference participant registrations
- 26 April 2024 – Deadline for the submission of camera-ready abstracts by authors
- 10 May 2024 – Closure of Conference participant registrations
- 3 June 2024 – Deadline to receive the copy of the presentations
- 10 June 2024 – Dispatch over email of Conference abstract booklet to all accepted participants
- 24 June 2024 – Dispatch of invitation to all abstract presenters to publish a full paper version in journal special edition

Tentative agenda

(subject to revision following receipt of the final number of Conference abstracts)

Day 1 – 10 June 2024

- 0830hrs – Physical registration of participants
- 0900hrs – Formal opening of the Conference (dignitaries) (TBC)
- 0930hrs – Keynote speeches (Plenary) (TBC)
- 1030hrs – Coffee break
- 1100hrs – Commencement of Parallel session 1 and Student Presentation session 1
- 1200hrs – Observatory presentations, Future Scenarios Workshop
- 1300hrs – Lunch break
- 1430hrs – Commencement of Poster session 1 (discussion next to Poster boards)
- 1630hrs – Interactive survey (Future scenarios)
- 1700hrs – Closure of works

Day 2 – 11 June 2024

- Guided field visit to Comino and Gozo

Day 3 – 12 June 2024

- 0900hrs – Commencement of Parallel session 2 and Student Presentation session 2
- 1030hrs – Coffee break
- 1100hrs – Observatory presentations
- 1200hrs – Commencement of Parallel session 3
- 1300hrs – Interactive survey (Future scenarios)
- 1330hrs – Lunch break
- 1430hrs – Commencement of Poster session 2 (discussion next to Poster boards)
- 1600hrs – Summary of main outcomes of Conference, of the coastal SWOT Analyses and presentation of Conference audio-visual clip.
- 1700hrs – Closure of works

Contact

For more information kindly contact sea-eu@um.edu.mt.