

PORTOS Newsletter | Oct 2021 - Mar 2022



PORTOS – Ports Towards Energy Self-Sufficiency continues to promote sustainability in the Atlantic Area through advanced research on marine renewable energy for the supply of ports. In this semester, presential events are starting to take place, although the COVID-19 sanitary restrictions still hindered some activities in the most affected countries.

By the end of September 2021 two OpenLab events took place in IHCantabria and the University of Plymouth, respectively. The open event held by IHCantabria coincided with the 2021 European Researchers' Night and it featured a visit to its facilities, including a showroom specifically put together for this purpose. The OpenLab held by the University of Plymouth coincided with the Futures Festival of Discovery, where attendees could explore cutting-edge research with stands of activities and discussions with researchers.



On another note, the course “Offshore Wind: Resource Assessment and Technologies” has taken place at the IHCantabria facilities between October 25 - 28, 2021. The objective of the course was to provide the attendees a basic training on wind dynamics and its characterization in coastal areas, a description of the available wind databases resources, and the characterization of the main wind environmental conditions. In this this course, 20 attendees coming from different Atlantic Area regions and different sectors have participated.



Some of the applications chosen by the selection panel have already been successfully tested within the framework of Work Package 4: Linking Proofs of Concepts and Society. However, the call for marine renewable energy device testing was also hampered by COVID-19 related restrictions. Therefore, the call remains open and the deadline for testing was extended until September 2022.

The PORTOS 4th Thematic seminar and 5th Coordination Meeting were held by MaREI and the University of Porto, respectively, by the end of March 2022. The Thematic Seminar was titled “Ports’ Relationship with Energy” and it allowed ports to share their challenges so as to create new suitable sustainable solutions. Six port authorities from across the Atlantic Area were invited to discuss these issues. The Coordination Meeting was held online and, as usual, advances were presented, and next steps discussed.

By the end of March, the University of Porto held an OpenLab that was split into three days to host a larger number of sessions. This was necessary because of the group size limitations due to the current COVID-19 sanitary restrictions. Attendees visited the hydraulics lab at the University of Porto, where demonstrations of different types of wave energy convertors (WECs) were performed. The showcase featured a small wave flume where several WECs were tested, namely: an overtopping device, an oscillating water column and a point absorber.



The third edition of the OpenLab celebrated by the University of Oviedo will be held between April 5 – 6. A hybrid approach will be adopted, where researchers from the University will visit several local schools to talk about marine renewable energies and how ports may benefit from them as well as the role of the PORTOS project and the Interreg Atlantic Area programme on this issue. Additionally, an online seminar on the topic will be uploaded to the PORTOS website and it will be made available to the general public. An interactive test on marine renewable energies will also be created and uploaded to the website. As usual, the winner of the test will be awarded with a thematic gift.

Finally, the course “Marine Renewable Energies and their integration in Ports”, held by the University of Porto, was announced. The dates for this event are May 18 - 20. This training course aims to introduce participants to marine renewables and their integration in seaports. It is directed to all professionals linked to the port, marine and renewable energy sectors and will cover key topics such as port energy requirements, marine energy resources and technologies and wave and tidal energy devices development methods.

To ensure the diffusion of the advances in the scope of PORTOS, 11 articles were published in several scientific journals so far. The outcomes of PORTOS were disseminated in 20 conference presentations.

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