



SEA-EU International Week

SEA-EU Workshop: Marine Buoy Sensor Systems

Join us for an engaging international week exploring sensor systems and data applications, centred on the University of Malta's "BLUE" buoy and open to SEA-EU academics, researchers, and students.

29 September -
1 October 2026



Co-funded by
the European Union



L-Università
ta' Malta

SEA-EU International Week on University of Malta

General Information

Hosting Institution	University of Malta (Location: Valletta Campus)
International Week Title	SEA-EU International Week on Ocean Observation and Environmental Monitoring
Abstract	<p>Marine buoys and autonomous sensor platforms are becoming essential tools for continuous ocean observation. They monitor water conditions, track environmental change, and generate the time-series data that underpin both fundamental research and environmental management.</p> <p>The SEA-EU International Week on Ocean Observation and Environmental Monitoring will bring together academics, researchers and students from across the SEA-EU Alliance and beyond to explore current developments in marine observation technologies and their applications. Through a combination of expert presentations, technical sessions, demonstrations, networking activities and collaborative discussions, participants will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and foster new partnerships across disciplines.</p> <p>A central feature of the International Week will be the University of Malta's Multiparametric Buoy "BLUE" which serves as a real-world testbed and a shared point of reference for participants. Sessions will cover sensor development and integration, in-situ measurement techniques, system deployment, data transmission, and scientific studies based on observation infrastructure data.</p> <p>The workshop is jointly organised by the University of Malta and Kiel University. Travel grants are available for early-career researchers from Kiel University and SEA-EU partner institutions. All researchers interested in the field are welcome to apply (priority on participation will be given to SEA-EU partners).</p>
Application details and deadline	<p>To be considered for a talk and a travel grant, please submit a short workshop paper (2-5 pages) by 15 July 2026 using the template provided here: Abstract submission, Authors will be notified of acceptance and travel grant decisions by <u>end of July 2026</u>.</p> <p>Please register by 28th August 2026 Registration form</p>
Dates of the international week	29th September - 1st October 2026
Number of participants	Maximum 30
Mobility costs	Early-career researchers (Master's students, doctoral researchers, and postdoctoral researchers) may apply for travel grants by Kiel University: 5 x 500 EUR travel grants for Kiel University early-career researchers

	<p>5 x 500 EUR travel grants for SEA-EU partner early-career researchers (maximum one grant per partner except for lower number of applications). Kindly contact mge@tf.uni-kiel.de for mobilities funded through Kiel University</p> <p>Participation is free of charge. Travel expenses and accommodation can be covered through the ERASMUS+ Staff Mobility or project budget. Kindly contact your respective SEA-EU offices for further information.</p>
Contacts	<p>sea-eu@um.edu.mt for organisational queries mge@tf.uni-kiel.de for mobilities funded through Kiel University</p>

Programme

Target Group / Expected profile of participants	<p>The following groups are invited to attend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers at all career stages (Master's students, doctoral researchers, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty) working in fields related to marine sensor systems, ocean observation, and environmental monitoring, including engineering, chemistry, physics, and marine/environmental sciences • Researchers who develop, deploy, or work with sensor technology on buoy platforms or research vessels • Researchers who use data from ocean observation infrastructures in their scientific work
Requirements	<p>The workshop will be conducted in English.</p> <p>Participants wishing to deliver a presentation must submit a short workshop paper (2–5 pages) by 15 July 2026 using the template provided here: Abstract submission. Early-career researchers applying for a travel grant must also indicate this in their submission. Authors will be notified of acceptance and travel grant decisions by end of July 2026.</p> <p>Attendance without a presentation is also welcome, please register via the registration form by 28 August 2026.</p>
Agenda	<p>Preliminary Agenda</p> <p>Day 1 09:30 – 10:00 Registration 10:00 – 10:15 Welcome Address 10:15 – 10:30 Agenda and Goals of the Workshop, Alan Deidun and Martina Gerken</p> <p>10:30 – 13:00 Session 1: From buoys to air monitors - overview of monitoring activities conducted by the Geosciences Department, University of Malta Buoy Infrastructure and System Design Chairs: Alan Deidun, Sebastiano D'Amico, Adam Gauci, Alfred Micallef <i>Example of featured presentation:</i> <i>"Design and Operation of the Monitoring Buoy Systems BLUE", Adam Gauci, University of Malta (invited talk)</i> <i>Additional talks follow</i></p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</p> <p>14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Miniaturised and Lab-on-Chip Sensor Technologies</p>

Example of featured presentation: "Assay-based lab-on-chip sensors for automated nutrient time-series capture", Martina Gerken, Kiel University (invited talk)
Additional talks follow

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Networking Workshop on Regional Marine Challenges & Solutions

Day 2

09:00 – 10:00 **Language Café (Valletta Campus)**

10:00 – 10:30 Walk to Marsamxett for Sliema Ferry

10:30 – 12:00 Harbour Cruise

12:00 – 12:30 Stop at Rinella and travel to Marsaxlokk

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Transport to San Lucjan - Tour

15:00 – 16:00 Back to Valletta

Day 3

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 3: Sensor Integration, Deployment, and Future Applications**

Chair: Prof. Martina Gerken

Example of featured presentation: "Drone-based water sampling for environmental analysis", Jannika Rolfs, Kiel University (invited talk)

Additional talks follow

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 **Session 4: Chemical and Biological Sensing in Marine Environments**

Chairs: Prof. Alfred J Vella, Prof. Emmanuel Sinagra

Example of featured presentation: "Chemical Perspectives on Marine Environmental Monitoring", Alfred J. Vella, University of Malta (invited talk)

Additional talks follow

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 5: The integration of information technology within the field of micro-electronics**

Chair: Prof. Edward Gatt

Talks follow

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 Closing Discussion: Future Collaborations and Joint Proposals

Note: Session lengths and the detailed agenda including speaker order and contributed talk titles will be finalised after the contribution selection process.

Accommodation	Welcome Pack
Venue	University of Malta, Valletta Campus ,

