

NEWSLETTER

ESG

— LAB —



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ABOUT ESG LAB

Welcome to the 1st edition of the ESG Lab Newsletter, your go-to source for updates, insights, and opportunities related to the ESG Lab Project.

The project is dedicated to empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Blue Economy to adopt effective Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. Through structured learning programs, a collaborative digital platform, and the creation of an ESG Community of Practice (CoP), the initiative supports SMEs in reducing their environmental impact, improving social outcomes, and enhancing governance practices.

In this newsletter, you will find a snapshot of the project's activities, the organization of its 1st kick-off meeting and insights into the Blue Economy in the partners' countries. Stay connected as we work together to create a more sustainable and responsible future for the Blue Economy.

FOLLOW US



<https://www.facebook.com/esglabproject>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/esg-lab-project/>



<https://www.esglab-project.eu>

Snapshot of the ESG LAB Project

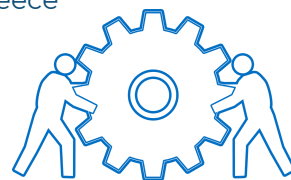
- 24-month project: End date 30/09/2026
- Budget: €60.000
- Countries: Cyprus, Portugal, Greece



ESG Lab's
Content &
Learning
Material



ESG Lab's e-
community
of Practice



Pilot testing
phase
mentoring of
SMEs

PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATOR



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

1ST KICK OFF MEETING

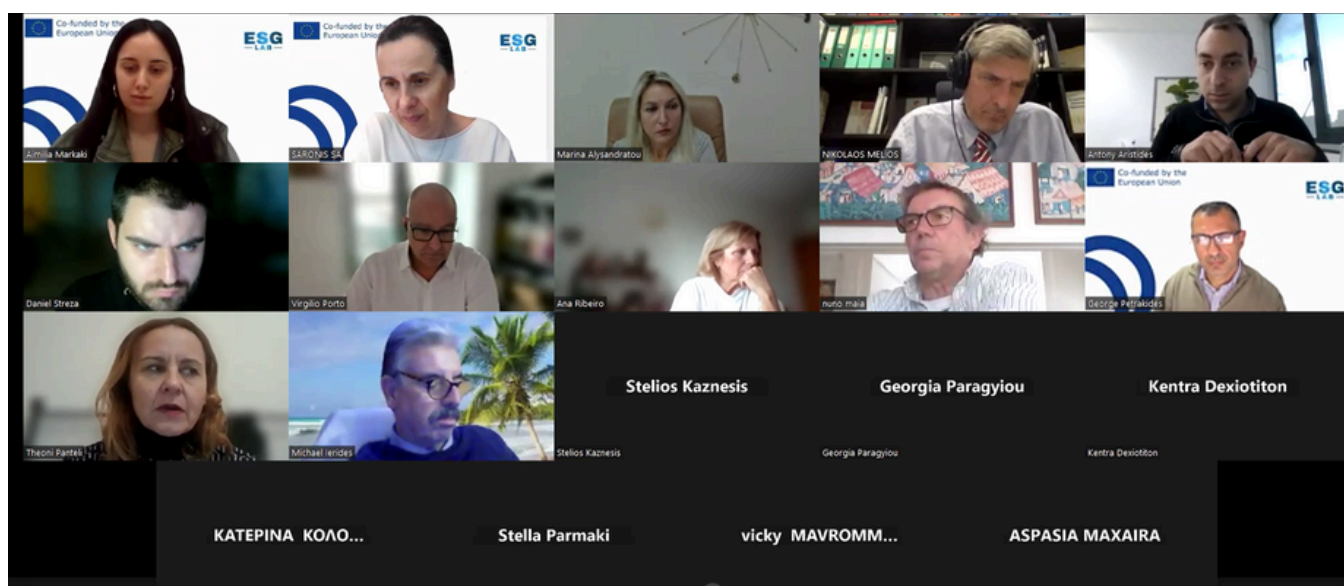
We are excited to announce the successful completion of the 1st Kick-Off Meeting of the ESG LAB project organized on **December 2, 2024** by SARONIS and its partners! More than 22 participants attended the event, during which the project's objectives and the key activities were presented. This was the first open event introducing the project to a wider audience.

During this event, SARONIS showcased the benefits SMEs can achieve by participating in the ESG Lab, including:

- Access to specialized **training and mentoring** on sustainability and ESG topics.
- A pioneering **digital learning platform** offering user-friendly educational resources.
- Membership in a vibrant **Community of Practice (CoP)** for networking and shared learning.

More than **6 stakeholders**, representing municipalities, chambers and NGOs discussed what ESG could offer to Blue SMEs such as reduce environmental footprint and promote sustainability, strengthen social equality and community impact, foster innovation and resilience for long-term success and thus gain a competitive advantage to Blue Economy.

ESG LAB project is shaping a sustainable future for SMEs in the Blue Economy, equipping them with the tools and strategies needed to thrive in an ESG-driven world.



PARTNERSHIP



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR: GR, CY & PT

The Blue Economy represents a vital component of sustainable development, encompassing economic activities tied to oceans, seas, and coastal areas. For countries like Greece, Cyprus, and Portugal, with a rich maritime traditions, the Blue Economy holds immense potential for fostering innovation, creating jobs, and driving growth while ensuring the health of marine ecosystems. These three nations, united in the ESG LAB project consortium, are leveraging their unique geographic and cultural attributes to advance sustainable practices in sectors such as shipping, tourism, aquaculture, and marine energy.

A Shared Vision with Unique Strengths

While Greece, Cyprus, and Portugal share common goals for sustainability, each country contributes distinct strengths to the Blue Economy:

- Greece: A global leader in shipping, Greece boasts a robust maritime sector complemented by its flourishing coastal tourism industry and emerging interest in renewable marine energy.
- Cyprus: Strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, Cyprus is a hub for maritime trade and a growing center for innovation in aquaculture and sustainable coastal tourism.
- Portugal: With its expansive Atlantic coastline, Portugal is pioneering marine energy technologies, sustainable fisheries, and eco-tourism, positioning itself as a global leader in Blue Economy research and innovation.

The Importance of ESG Integration

To sustain and enhance the benefits of the Blue Economy, integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices is essential. By reducing environmental impacts, fostering social equity, and improving governance standards, Greece, Cyprus, and Portugal can ensure their maritime sectors remain resilient and competitive in a rapidly evolving global economy. The ESG LAB project supports this transition by empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to adopt ESG criteria, aligning their business strategies with sustainable development goals.

https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/index_en

PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATOR



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

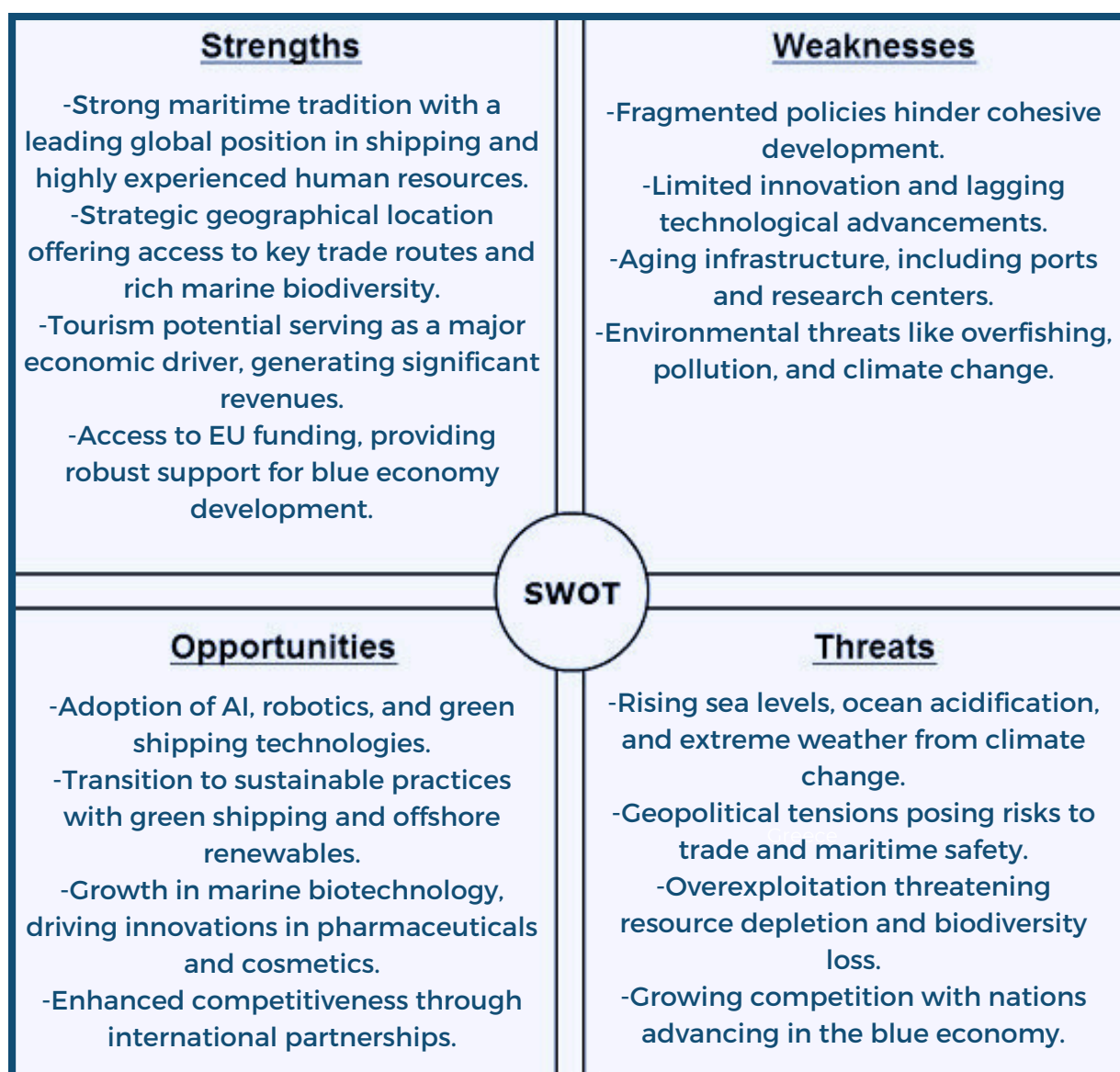
BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR: GREECE

Greece's Blue Economy is essential to its national economy, generating €6.5 billion in GVA (4.1% of GDP) and employing 446,000 people (11.4% of the workforce). Coastal tourism dominates, contributing 67% of the sector's GVA. However, the sector faces challenges such as overreliance on seasonal tourism, environmental degradation, outdated infrastructure, and fragmented policies.

Future growth relies on diversifying activities, enhancing sustainability, and adopting innovative technologies. Public-private partnerships, improved regulations, and EU funding are critical for fostering modernization and resilience in the sector.

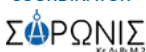
Key Sectors :

- **Tourism:** is the Largest contributor (67% of GVA), but faces seasonality challenges.
- **Shipping:** Global leader in merchant fleets; needs green technology upgrades.
- **Fisheries:** Key for food security, threatened by overfishing and climate change.
- **Port activities:** Crucial for trade and tourism, requires sustainability practices.
- **Shipbuilding:** Significant sector, calls for advanced technology and skilled workforce.



PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATOR



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

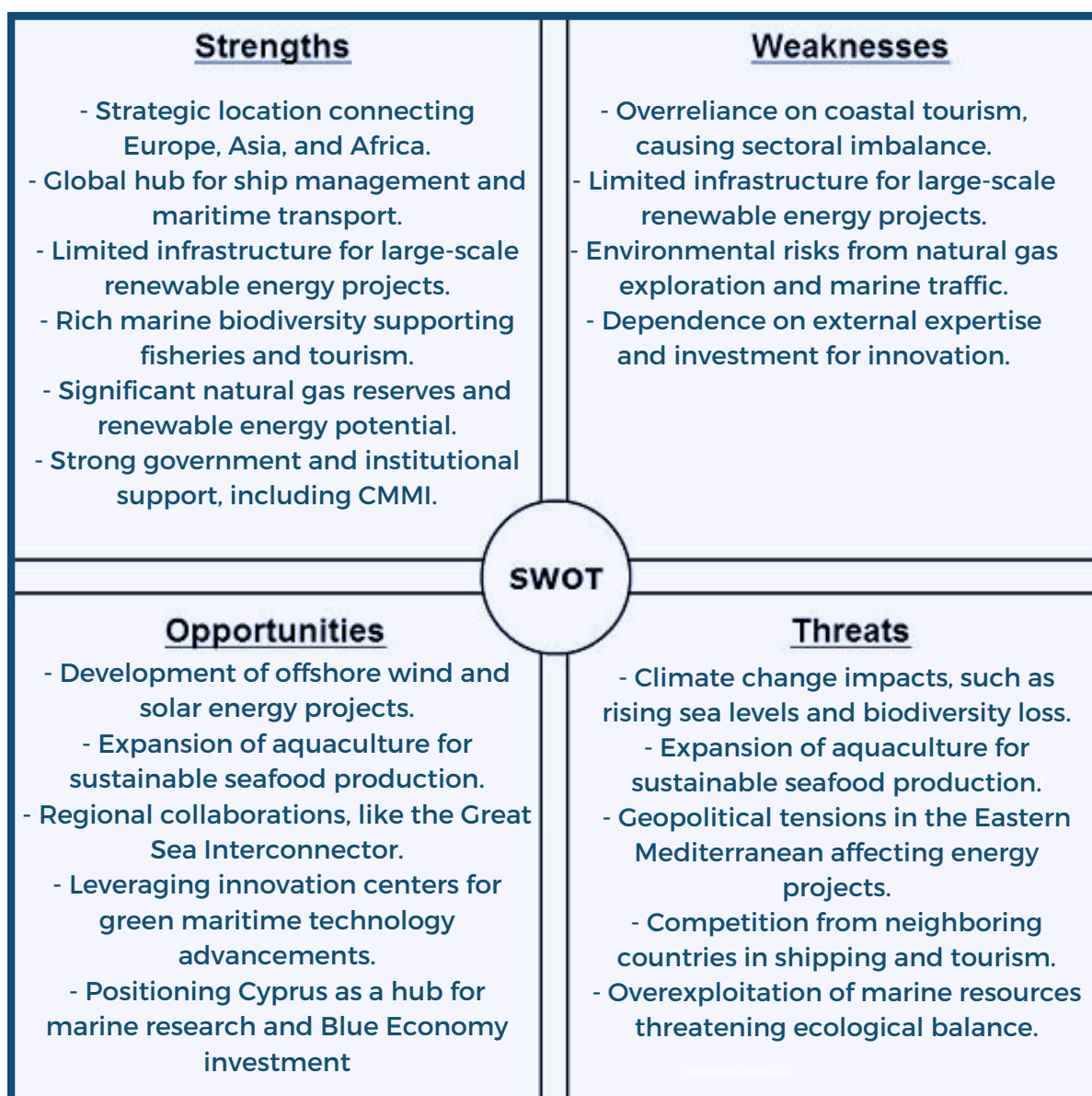
https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/country-profiles/greece_en

BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR: CYPRUS

Cyprus's Blue Economy is vital to its economic and sustainable growth, leveraging its strategic location and marine resources. It spans sectors like maritime transport, tourism, fisheries, renewable energy, and natural gas exploration.

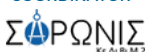
Key Sectors

- **Maritime Transport & Shipping:** Shipbuilding, repairs, and logistics contribute significantly to GDP.
- **Coastal Tourism:** Resorts, cruises, and water activities dominate the economy.
- **Fisheries & Aquaculture:** Sustainable seafood production is expanding.
- **Renewable Energy:** Offshore wind, solar, and wave energy projects drive energy transition.
- **Oil & Gas:** Natural gas exploration strengthens Cyprus's energy role.
- **Marine Living Resources:** Marine biodiversity used for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.
- **Innovation & Research:** Advances in environmental monitoring and green technology.



PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATOR



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

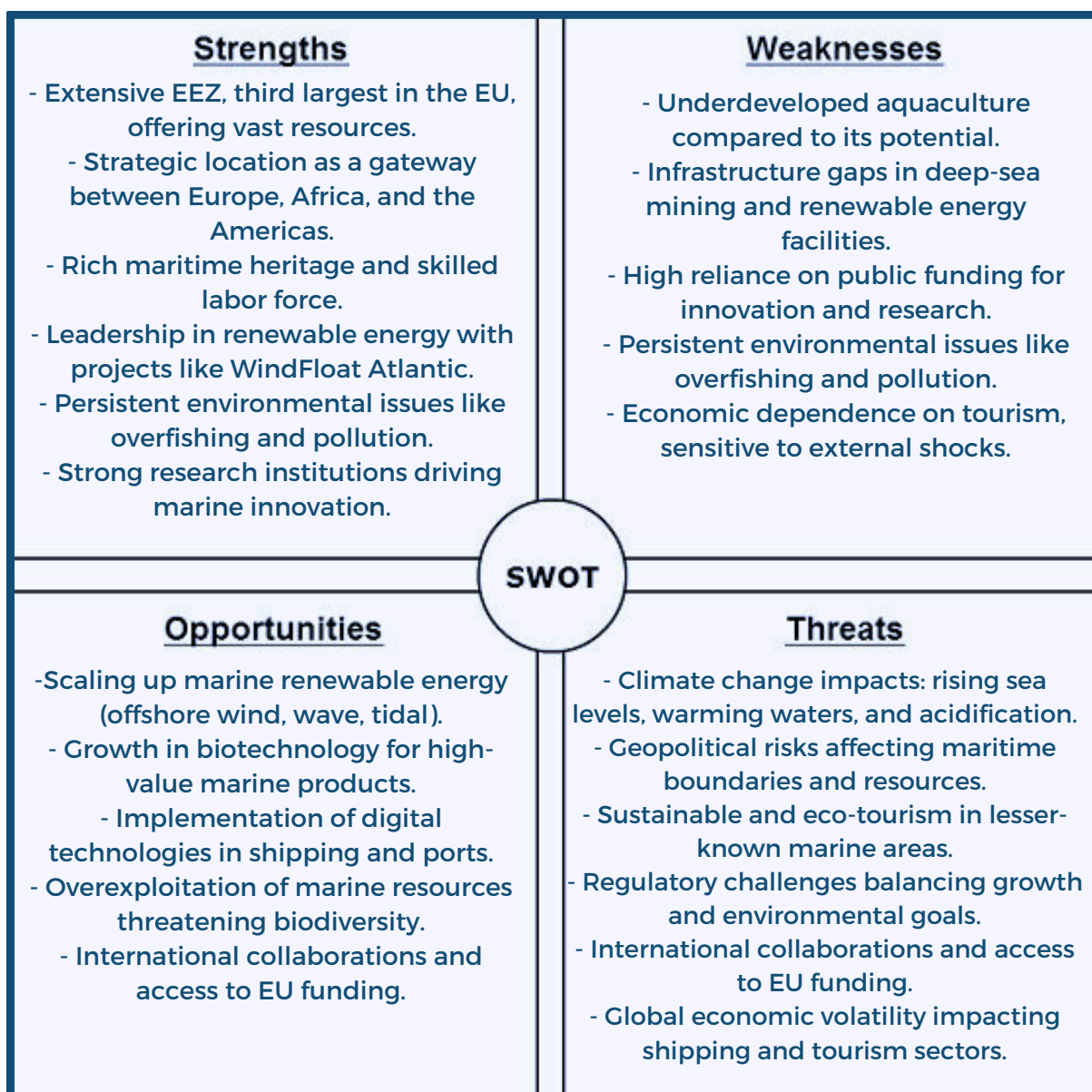
https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/country-profiles/cyprus_en

BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR: PORTUGAL

Portugal, with its extensive coastline (1,794 km), vast EEZ (1.7 million km²), and strategic Atlantic position, has immense potential in the Blue Economy. Its rich maritime tradition and emerging focus on sustainability and innovation make it a key player in global ocean governance.

Key Sectors :

- **Fisheries & Aquaculture:** Traditional fishing and growing potential in sustainable aquaculture.
- **Maritime Transport & Ports:** Strategic hubs like Sines and Lisbon support global trade and logistics.
- **Tourism & Coastal Activities:** Major driver with surfing, diving, and boating boosting local economies.
- **Renewable Energy:** Offshore wind and wave projects like WindFloat Atlantic leading innovation.
- **Marine Biotechnology:** Emerging field for pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food.
- **Research & Innovation:** Institutions advancing marine technology and climate adaptation.
- **Deep-Sea Resources:** Potential for mining rare minerals, with a focus on sustainability.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Eco-tourism in lesser-known areas to balance conservation and growth.
- **Ports & Logistics:** Modernized infrastructure to support trade, energy, and logistics.



PARTNERSHIP

COORDINATOR



SARONIS



Ethos Lab PC



CIBIT LTD



Dialogue diversity

https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/country-profiles/portugal_en

FIND MORE ABOUT

COORDINATOR:



WEBSITE:



PARTNERS:



WEBSITE:



FACEBOOK:



Dialogue diversity

WEBSITE:



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein