

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Blue Economy Initiative



Blue BioTech Pathway

Blue BioTech Champion



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Overview & Highlights



What is Blue Biotechnology?

It consists of the use of marine bioresources: algae, microorganisms, and marine compounds. Used to create high-value products: medicines, cosmetics, food, and new materials.

Portugal can lead Blue BioTech

- **Global Market:** Estimated at €200 billion by 2030.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone:** The 3rd largest in the EU.
- **National Priority:** Blue Bioeconomy Pact.

Highlights

Main Strengths



Elite Research and Education

We offer world-class marine research and education, with strong international recognition.



Exceptional Natural Assets

Unique natural resources including one of the EU's largest exclusive economic zones.



Connected Ecosystem

Strengthened synergies through the BlueBio Alliance and the Blue Bioeconomy Pact.



Active Innovation

Real projects already underway in areas such as algae, aquaponics, and marine compounds.

Challenges

- **Talent Retention:** Precarious careers based on short-term grants and non-competitive salaries contribute to brain drain.
- **Opportunities:** Lack of early outreach to young people to encourage them to pursue these jobs
- **Bureaucracy:** Slow processes that delay overall progress.
- **Scalability:** Difficulty for companies to grow due to limited investment and a small domestic market.

Emerging Trends

Signs of Progress in Blue Biotech

- **European Collaboration:** Cooperation at the European level is rapidly expanding.
- **Resource Appreciation:** The strategic value of our natural resources is finally being acknowledged.
- **Investment Ecosystem:** The investment environment reaching new level of maturity.

Job Projections



Job Growth: Continuous growth of qualified blue jobs up to 30%, until 2030

Salary expectation: Objective to have the mean salary 8% above the national average

New profiles: Focus on engineers of bioprocesses, bioinformatics, wet lab scientists (mainly on algae and other resources).



Recommendations

Key Strategic Actions

- 1. Cut the Red Tape:** Simplify administrative processes to accelerate progress.
- 2. Retain Young Talent:** Move beyond grants to offer stable, competitive career paths.
- 3. Consistent Research Funding:** Ensure reliable support as the foundation for all innovation.
- 4. Entrepreneurial Mindset:** Support start-ups not just in creation, but in sustainable growth.

Our Interviewees



Elisabete da Costa, BlueBio Alliance



Pedro Leão, Ciimar



João Cotter, Aquaponicsiberia



Luz Paramio, FRCT-Azores



Celso Alves, Politécnico de Leiria

A CALL TO ACTION

BlueBio Tech is a €200 Billion Industry

We have the talent, training, and funding.

What's Missing?

Communication