

# Education, Youth and Business Support for the European Algae Sector

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**THEME: Upskilling the blue bioeconomy**

# ABOUT EU4ALGAE

EU4Algae Forum is the platform that enables **algae-interested parties**, from all relevant public and private organizations, **to jointly implement the EU Algae Initiative**, while offering the forum to openly speak and discuss market-driven breakthroughs for the sector.

The tender consortium is directly connected to the **main European algae initiatives from over 43 countries**.

The ultimate objective is to accelerate the scale-up of a regenerative, resilient, fair and climate-friendly algae industry in Europe.



# Overview of Education, Youth & Business Support for the European **Algae Sector**



EU4Algae  
Summary Report  
October 2023

- Identify and communicate barriers and enablers
- Short term (e.g. events, business matchmaking)
- Long term (e.g. school curricula integration)
- 26 recommendations

“To accelerate the upscaling of the European algae industry, access to information, training, technology and bioresources must be **democratised.**”

Ranking poll

How do you rank the key takeaways?

0 5 6

- 1. Practical skills 3.66
- 2. School 2.59
- 3. Micro-learning 2.20

Ranking poll

Rank the following priority actions for the EU algae sector: (2/2)

0 3 8

- 4. TARGETS: Include algae in Green Deal targets 3.61
- 6. EDUCATION: Develop algae-specific education & skills programs 2.97
- 7. SPATIAL PLANNING: Designate (marine) space at national levels 2.71
- 8. TARGETS: Set national biomass targets 2.18
- 9. I have another suggestion... 0.63

Ranking poll

Which mechanisms are the most feasible in the next 1.5 years?

0 3 7

- 1. Events (hackathons, matchmaking, prizes, challenges & awards) 3.35
- 2. Develop algae business trainings 2.32

Ranking poll

Rank the following priority actions for the EU algae sector: (1/2)

0 3 8

- 1. LONG TERM FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Subsidise direct payments to algae farmers and long-term multi-use and/or infrastructure projects 5.21
- 2. REGULATION: Regulatory reform (contaminant levels, novel food) 4.82
- 3. PUBLIC AWARENESS: Run EU + national public awareness & consumer acceptance campaigns 4.13
- 4. COMMUNICATION CAPACITIES: Facilitate meetings between (trans)national authorities & regulators to co-develop common EU licensing & monitoring frameworks for low trophic aquaculture 3.61

# Algae Career pathway

Primary



Secondary



Tertiary



Vocational,  
Entrepreneurial  
& Professional



Incubators &  
Accelerators



Start -ups



Small or Medium  
Enterprise



Large Enterprises



# Business pathway

# Where are you on your algae journey?

Depending on where you are on your algae journey, you will need a different type of support. This section divides algae support tools and resources into different stages: learning, networking, business planning, collaborating, buying and selling. Each stage includes a brief overview of the types of support available, with a link to a support database.

## 3 - Business Planning

Support for planning your business can be provided by university incubators and business accelerators, as well as tools to understand funding, spatial planning and markets trends.

## 2 - Networking

Another great way to learn about algae, find employment or connect with business partners is through networking. Europe is home to a host of conferences and events, business matchmaking platforms as well as youth, startup and industry networks and associations.

## 5 - Buying & Selling

There are a number of market platforms emerging for European algae, as well as industry-related media outlets for product promotion and industry news.

## 4 - Collaborating

Collaboration is key to the growth of the European algae industry. Support for collaboration can be found through projects, networks, working groups, conferences and events. These are crucial to the formation of Producer Organisations, distribution networks and for vertical integration.

## 1 - Learning

There are myriad ways to learn about algae. Educational resources such as webinars, handbooks, scientific publications, projects, online courses, toolkits and databases, volunteering internships and study opportunities. These types of learning resources are also useful for educators, regulators and policymakers.

Access the EU4Algae support database:



# Gap Analysis Results

## • Business support

- Lack of business training in academic studies
- Lack of accelerator capacities
- Lack of subsidies (uncompetitive)
- High CAPEX/OPEX (high barrier; high risk)
- Lack of market entry points (biorefineries & product developers)
- Market entry too expensive (claim substantiation, regulation)
- Lack of consumer pull (e.g. “contains algae” label)

## • Youth support

- Events and courses are not affordable for target groups
- Few seafood start-ups
- Generally masters level or above (high barrier)
- Lack of informal & vocational training opportunities
- Lack of industry placement opportunities
- Teaching materials and resources not readily available

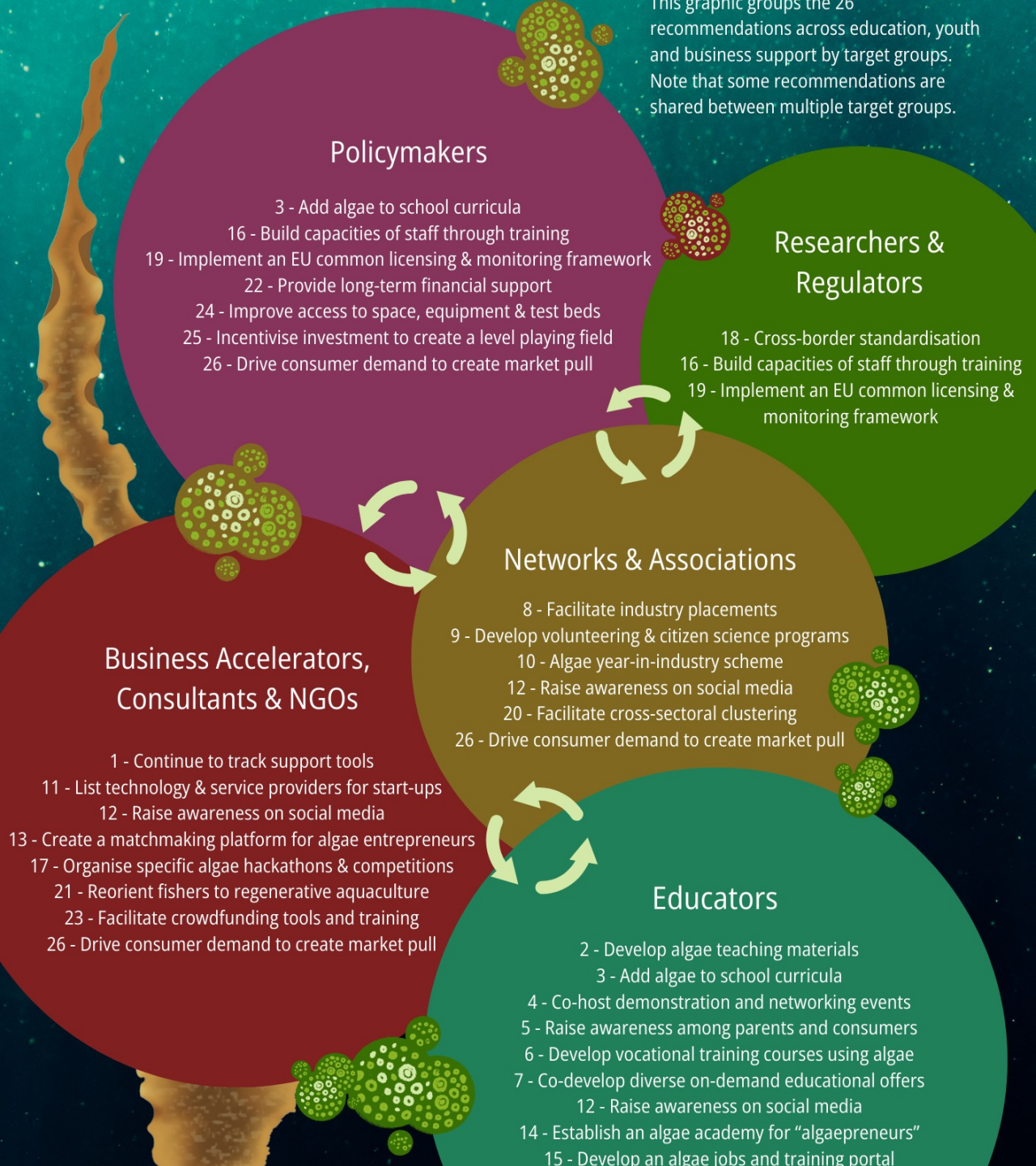
# Recommendations for Education and Youth

1. Continue to track & consolidate new support tools & resources
2. Develop teaching and demonstration material
3. Add algae to the national school curricula
4. Co-host demonstration and networking events
5. Raise awareness among parents and consumers
6. Develop vocational training courses
7. Co-develop diverse on-demand educational offers
8. Facilitate industry placement
9. Develop volunteering & citizen science programs
10. Algae year-in-industry scheme
11. List technology & service providers for start-ups
12. Raise awareness on social media
13. Create a matchmaking platform for algae entrepreneurs to team up
14. Establish an algae academy for “algaepreneurs”
15. Develop an algae jobs and training portal
16. Build staff capacity through training

# Recommendations for Business support

17. Organize specific algae hackathons & competitions
18. Cross-border standardisation
19. Implement an EU common licensing & monitoring framework for member states
20. Facilitate cross-sectoral clustering
21. Reorient fishers to regenerative aquaculture and low-impact fishing
22. Provide long-term financial support
23. Facilitate crowdfunding tools and train for grassroots initiatives
24. Improve access to space, equipment & test beds
25. Incentivise investments to create a level playing field
26. Drive consumer demand to create market pull





# Who should put these recommendations into practice?

# Key Takeaways

EDUCATION

BUSINESS

## 1. SCHOOLS

**Put algae on the curriculum**

*Get algae on the syllabus in schools to promote early positive exposure*

## 2. MICROLEARNING

**Develop dynamic e-learning offers**

*Let people choose when and how they learn with accredited courses*

## 3. PRACTICAL SKILLS

**Facilitate practical placements**

*Incentivise connections between learners and businesses*

## 4. BUILD CAPACITIES

**Educate regulators, governments & professionals**

*Develop educational courses specifically for civil servants, government officials*

## 5. TESTBEDS

**Create space for experimentation & demonstration**

*Facilitate test beds for low-risk development of business ideas*

## 6. INCENTIVE INVESTMENT

**Create a level playing field**

*Creating business certainty and investor confidence through subsidies, compensation schemes*

## 7. DRIVE CONSUMER DEMAND

**Create market pull**

*Run an EU-wide public awareness campaign to promote the health*



# Thank you!

Kim Anderle

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