



2nd Virtual International Conference on the
Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites
DIVE IN BLUE GROWTH
May 12-14, 2021



Under the Auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture & Sports

SPECIAL ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENT

Special Issue: Dive in Blue Growth – Protection and Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites

The Special Issue “*Dive in Blue Growth – Protection and Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites*” is dedicated to the theme of Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and all the related research topics, which are generally linked with archaeology, history, marine sciences, remote sensing, digital technologies, robotics and sustainable tourism. Since 2012, the European *Blue Growth Strategy*, as well as the related policies, strategies and resources brought into play for its implementation, supports the sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. So, on the one hand, the underwater cultural and natural heritage should create benefits; on the other hand, such benefits should preserve and not create any damage to the marine ecosystem, also including UCH lying there.

This Special Issue is open to all potential authors and encourages the submission of contributions presented at the 2nd International Conference “*Dive in Blue Growth*” on the Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites, to be held virtually on 12th – 14th May 2021. *Dive in Blue Growth* is organised in the framework of MeDryDive (<https://medrydive.eu/>), an EU project co-financed under the COSME Programme that is developing various digital content to promote the sustainable tourism in the Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites of the Mediterranean Sea.

This Special Issue intends to collect original and high-quality research devoted to the knowledge of UCH sites, by promoting innovative researches and practices and improving the development of emerging solutions on all the related subjects.

Contributions are welcome to provide the research community with a multidisciplinary forum in the themes related to underwater studies, involving the large community of experts from around the globe working in the specific field and also drawing attention to the operation of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites (AUCHS) and their promotion as a means for their sustainable protection. The Special Issue also encourages studies related to innovative solutions and best practices developed and adopted by local, regional, national or transnational actors on their respective regulatory frameworks and concerning the protection of UCH, including the ratification of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

This is a Special Issue of *Heritage* (ISSN 2571-9408), an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal of cultural and natural heritage science published quarterly by MDPI. All papers (from January 2018) published in *Heritage* will be indexed by Scopus. The indexing procedure will start from October 2021.

Through the link below you can find more information about the Special Issue, the topics, and the paper submission guidelines.

<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/heritage/special-issues/dive-in-blue-growth>

Contributions are invited on the following topics:

- Technologies and approaches for the in-situ promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites (AUCHS);
- Dry dive technologies: dematerializing Underwater Cultural Heritage to make them accessible to everybody;
- Best Practices and Strategies for the promotion and protection of AUCHS;
- The response of the public to the opening of the AUCHS;
- New technologies, tools, and advanced materials to protect underwater cultural sites;
- Characterization and diagnostics of underwater sites and materials;
- Blue growth and sustainable underwater tourism;
- Surveying solutions for UCH;
- Evaluation and Management of UCH.

Guest Editors:

Prof. Fabio Bruno

Associate Professor at the Department of Mechanical, Energy, and Management Engineering, University of Calabria, Italy

Interests: 3D recording; underwater technologies; virtual reality; augmented reality

Dr. Barbara Davidde

Superintendent of the National Superintendence for Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, Italy

Interests: archaeology; underwater restoration; policies

Dr. Pari Kalamara

Director of the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, Greece

Interests: protection and promotion of cultural heritage; history; archaeology

Dr. Dimitris Kourkoumelis, Underwater Archaeologist, Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, Greece.

Interests: protection and promotion of cultural heritage; history; archaeology

Mr. Angelos Manglis, Founder of Atlantis Research, Thessaloniki, Greece

Interests: Policies and Strategies; Management models for AUCHS

Dr. Michela Ricca

Researcher at the Department of Biology, Ecology and Earth Science, University of Calabria, Italy

Interests: Characterization and diagnostics of underwater sites and materials