

# 18<sup>th</sup> European INORE Symposium

(Nocera Umbra, ITALY)

## THEME: Bursting the bubble!

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Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) is a uniquely diverse and complex area, having utility scale energy provision as its ultimate goal. Within it, early-stage researchers typically maintain a relatively focused view, centring their activity on some specific technical topic bounded by the constraints of their academic research programmes or institutions. While this focus is essential for the timely completion of a project, it can also make it easier to lose sight of its applied implications.

The primary objective of *this INORE symposium* is to address the disconnect that can exist between researchers and relevant industrial contexts. We aim to enable participants to gain *additional* and *new perspectives* within the ORE landscape; a more complete picture is not only necessary for the successful *development* of technologies and devices, but also – and crucially – to ultimately lead to their successful *implementation, deployment* and *commercialisation*.

From a European and global point of view, the Blue Economy – involving the sustainable growth of existing ocean uses and the emergence of associated novel economic opportunities – is increasingly recognised as fundamental to societal progress and includes ORE at its heart. Thus, the pressure to develop it is growing, and requires renewable energy devices to progress from the lab to the ocean. For researchers, a key element of this transition is a well-rounded awareness and appreciation of: (i) ongoing academic and industrial research throughout Europe and beyond; (ii) past and present implementation realities with their associated political, social, environmental, and financial dimensions.

Recognising the above needs, this INORE symposium aims to strengthen the bridge between (academic) development and (industrial) deployment, by enabling:

- The *promotion* of academic-industrial connections and collaborations;
- The *application* of knowledge, including the sharing of both ‘failures’ and lessons learnt;
- The *sharing* of insights relating to what, outside of specific technology, is practically needed to transition from lab models to at-sea devices – e.g. grid requirements, policy considerations, environmental implications, community interactions, and wider shareholder involvement.

These will be delivered by exploiting the experience of, among others:

- Wave4Energy srl, who have successfully deployed the ISWEC wave energy converter in open water and tested the full scale device in 2015;
- UmbraGroup Spa, who build and sell devices (including power-take-off systems) for ORE applications;
- The port of Civitavecchia, where ORE devices are built and tested at sea, the latest of which is REWEC3.

