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supporting future focused higher education



# OSEAN

Outermost Regions Sustainable Ecosystem  
for **Entrepreneurship** and **Innovation**

## Meeting of Minds

## University of Madeira

An Initiative under the Horizon Europe,  
ACCELERATE Program (Grant Agreement  
ID: 101095083)

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# 01

## Introduction



# 01 | Introduction

The Meeting of Minds is an exclusive, high-level event designed to bring together international experts, esteemed academics, renowned editors, policymakers, and industry leaders. Its primary goal is to foster in-depth reflections and actionable strategies on major contemporary challenges, including:

- The future of higher education and innovation.
- The sustainability transition and blue economy.
- Decarbonization and green transformation.
- Employability and digital transformation.

The event aligns with the objectives of Horizon Europe's ACCELERATE Program (Grant ID: 101095083), supporting the transformation of universities into innovation-driven, entrepreneurial institutions.

Over the course of three days, participants will engage in structured discussions, collaborative exchanges, and public debates, culminating in actionable recommendations to shape future academic and policy initiatives.





02

## Event Objectives



## 02 | Event Objectives

1. **Strategic Reflection:** Facilitate high-level discussions on the intersection of innovation, sustainability, blue and green economy, decarbonization, and employability in the digital age.
2. **Expanding International Collaboration:** Strengthen the University of Madeira (UMa) and OSEAN's role as global hubs for innovation, sustainability, and higher education transformation.
3. **Leveraging Funding Opportunities:** Explore new avenues for research funding in key areas such as green and blue economy, digital transformation, and sustainable innovation.
4. **Dissemination of Key Insights:** Present research-backed recommendations through a public conference, ensuring engagement with academia, industry, and government stakeholders.



03

Event Structure



## 03 | Event Structure

### February 18—Day 1 (Invitees Only—Strategic Focus Group)

- Objective: Identify challenges, generate strategic insights, and formulate policy recommendations.
- Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Qz4yUmzuJkTVLnox9>
- Zoom Link: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/94359272158?pwd=Y6dDxt8ZytBIXNiQ2mP9VbOKGbnlis.1>

### 09:30–10:00: Welcome Session

- Sílvio Fernandes, Ph.D. (Rector of the University of Madeira).
- Eduardo Leite, Ph.D. (University of Madeira, ACCELERATE & OSEAN Coordinator).

### 10:00–11:00: Panel 1—Blue Economy and Climate Resilience

- Moderator: Ricardo Gouveia, Ph.D. (University of Madeira).
- Keynote Speaker: Magdalena Strachinescu, MSc (European Commission) (in person).
- Discussion: Strategies for sustainable development and climate resilience in island regions.

### 11:00–11:15: Coffee Break

### 11:15–12:30: Thematic Session—Governance and International Cooperation

- Graça Enes, Ph.D. (University of Porto) (online).

### 13:00–15:00: Networking Lunch—Tipografia Restaurant







## 03 | Event Structure

### February 18—Day 1 (Invitees Only—Strategic Focus Group)

#### 15:00–16:00: Panel 2—Higher Education and Skills for the Digital Economy and Support Funds for Cooperation, Projects, Innovation, and Startups

- Moderator: Eduardo Leite (University of Madeira).
- Keynote Speakers:
  - David Audretsch, Ph.D. (Indiana University) (online).
  - Christina Theoradaki, Ph.D. (Aix-Marseille University, IAE, CERGAM) (online).
  - Elsa Fernandes, Ph.D. (University of Madeira) (in person).
  - Pedro Quelhas, MBA (Portugal Ventures) (in person).
- Discussion: The impact of AI and the digital economy on skill development and employability.
- Zoom Link: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/98701689909?pwd=cgnUwFjOVx3S1BoRgunQcZ1Xs4LbC4.1>

#### 16:15–17:00: Workshop—Challenges and Recommendations for Public Policies

- Format: Small group discussions with reporting (online and in person).
- Objective: Define concrete proposals for the European Commission in each thematic area.

#### 20:00: Social Dinner—Tipografia Restaurant





## 03 | Event Structure

### February 19—Day 2 (Invitees Only—Strategic Focus Group)

- Objective: Present conclusions, foster debates, and propose concrete solutions.
- Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Qz4yUmzuJkTVLnox9>
- Zoom Link: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/92186692395?pwd=EHJRHvUAzUAVD9c99qZp1p2wu0kgq6.1>

### 09:30–10:30: Panel 3—Digital Innovation and Decarbonization

- Moderator: Alexandra Moritz, Ph.D. (Koblenz University) (in person).
- Presentation: Delia Dimitriu, Ph.D. (Smarter Mobility Solutions Ltd/UK & GEOSTUD) (in person).
- Discussion: The role of AI and emerging technologies in achieving a sustainable, carbon-neutral economy.

### 10:30–11:15: Roundtable—Interregional Cooperation and Innovation

- Moderator: Mara Franco, Ph.D. (University of Madeira).
- Presentation: Luz Paramio, Ph.D. (Regional Fund for Science and Technology, Azores) (online).
- Discussion: The role of regional cooperation in addressing common challenges and promoting sustainable innovation.

### 11:15–11:30: Coffee Break

### 11:30–12:30: Roundtable—Local Collaboration and the Quintuple Helix

- Presentation: ARDITI – Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology, and Innovation.
- Discussion with Stakeholders: Opportunities and challenges for the sustainable growth of the blue economy (hosted by ARDITI).

### 12:45–14:00: Lunch—Monte Tea House





## 03 | Event Structure

### February 19—Day 2 (Invitees Only—Strategic Focus Group)

#### 14:00–15:30: Panel 4—Employability and Innovation in Remote Regions

- Moderator: Carmen Freitas, Ph.D. (University of Madeira).
- Discussion: Digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and opportunities in peripheral territories.

#### 15:30–16:00: Coffee Break

#### 16:00–17:00: Conclusions Session and Presentation of Recommendations (Open Session)

- Presentation: Panel moderators with a synthesis of results.
- Overall Synthesis: Eduardo Leite, Ph.D. (University of Madeira).

#### 17:00: Official Closing and Publication of the Final Report

- The report will be available on the OSEAN portal and the Horizon Europe ACCELERATE Program portal.

#### 20:00: Closing Dinner—Monte Tea House

### Reports and Expected Outcomes:

- Executive Report: Recommendations for the European Commission.
- Policy Briefs: Thematic synthesis produced with the experts.
- Digital Publication: Available on the ACCELERATE and University of Madeira portals.
- Partnership Plans: Proposals for future interregional collaborations.



# 04

## Key Highlights & Enhancements



## 04 | Key Highlights & Enhancements

- Integration with Horizon Europe—ACCELERATE (ID: 101095083): Aligning discussions with EU-funded strategies for transforming universities into innovation-driven institutions.
- High-impact networking opportunities with global thought leaders.
- Transdisciplinary approach: Addressing innovation at the nexus of law, technology, and sustainability.



05

Expected Impact



## 05 | Expected Impact

The Meeting of Minds will:

- Position UMa and OSEAN as global leaders in sustainability, innovation, and higher education transformation.
- Strengthen international collaborations with top universities, research centers, and policymakers.
- Attract funding for cutting-edge research aligned with the Horizon Europe, Green Deal, and EIT initiatives.
- Produce policy recommendations to guide academia and industry towards a more resilient and sustainable future.



06

**Funding & Strategic  
Partnerships**





## 06 | Funding & Strategic Partnerships

- Targeted Funding Initiatives: The event serves as a platform to discuss and strategize for major funding applications, particularly in sustainability, decarbonization, and digital transformation.
- Sessions with Investors & Policymakers: Engagements with European Commission representatives, Green Deal funders, and Horizon Europe delegates.
- Showcasing Innovation: Presentation of ongoing projects seeking investors and institutional partners.



07

**Distinguished Guest  
Speakers & Experts**



## 07 | Distinguished Guest Speakers & Experts

- European Public Policy & Sustainability Strategies
  - Magdalena Strachinescu, MSc.
- Management, Entrepreneurship & Higher Education
  - David Audretsch, Ph.D.
  - Christina Theoradaki, Ph.D.
  - Alexandra Moritz, Ph.D.
- International Perspectives
  - Graça Enes, Ph.D.
- Innovation, Sustainability & Decarbonization
  - Delia Dimitriu, Ph.D.
- Funding and Venture Capital
  - Pedro Quelhas, MBA.
- Science and Regional Cooperation
  - Luz Paramio, Ph.D.



08

Conclusion



## 08 | Conclusion

The Meeting of Minds is a transformational initiative that brings together leading minds in academia, industry, and policy to craft innovative, actionable strategies for sustainability and digital transformation.

By fostering high-level knowledge exchange and strategic collaborations, the event will serve as a catalyst for future funding opportunities, impactful research, and policy innovation.

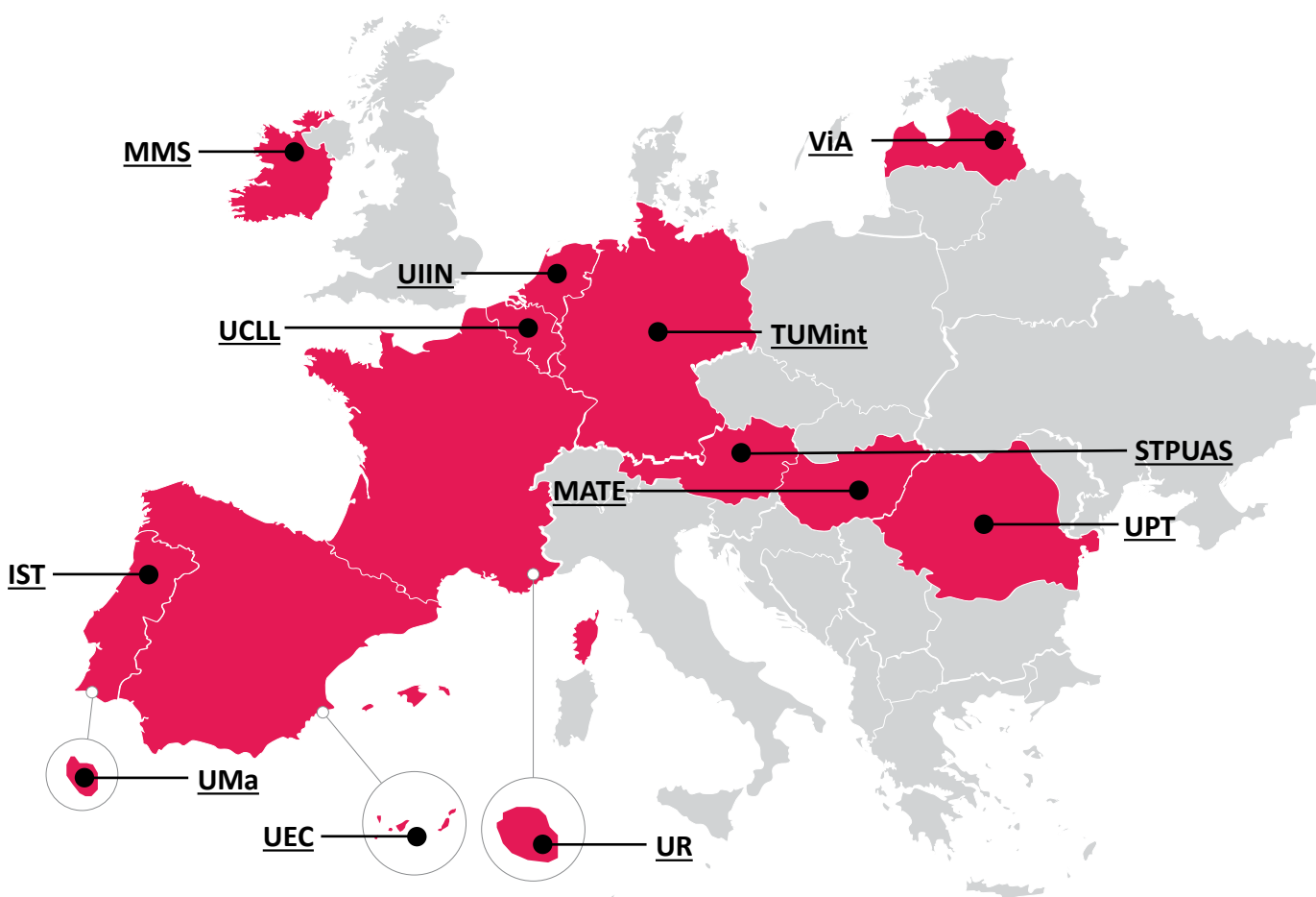
With the integration of Horizon Europe's ACCELERATE Program, the event will position UMa and OSEAN as reference institutions for sustainable innovation and higher education transformation in Europe.

We look forward to welcoming you to Madeira for this landmark event.

### Organized by:

- Eduardo Leite, Ph.D., Coordinator of ACCELERATE (Horizon Europe, Grant ID: 101095083), OSEAN, and the event.
- Ricardo Gouveia, Ph.D., Management Department.
- Mara Franco, Ph.D., President of the School of Technologies and Management, Coordinator of CiTUR.
- Carmen Freitas, Ph.D., Management Department.
- Giuseppe Abate, M.A., Executive Secretary.





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To learn more, visit the project [www.acceleratefuturehei.eu](http://www.acceleratefuturehei.eu)



**Contact Us**

**Rimante Rusaite**  
 Senior Project Officer- UIIN  
 E-mail: [rusaite@uiin.org](mailto:rusaite@uiin.org)  
 Web: <https://www.uiin.org/>

