

OPENING OF THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Piran, 1 June 2022

The Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) has been awarded a prestigious Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Blue Economy by the European Commission for the period 2022-2025.

On 1 June 2022, a brief welcoming ceremony was held to open the Centre at the headquarters of the EMUNI University. The Centre will be hosted in a new space on the ground floor of the Trevisini palace at Kidričevo nabrežje 2.

The Centre of Excellence will foster interactions in the knowledge triangle, related to the theme of blue economy, with a focus on the Mediterranean as a region. The Centre is expected to act as a focal point of competence and knowledge at the intersection of sustainability and blue economy. The key activities of the Centre will be research, education (with a focus on capacity building of mid-career professionals) and engagement with policy-makers and citizens. The Centre builds on the collaborative, inter-institutional and region-wide approach that is ingrained in the nature of the EMUNI University.

The speakers at the welcoming ceremony involved Prof. Abdelhamid El Zoheiry, the president of the EMUNI University, Ms Petra Kežman from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Lenča Humerca Šolar from the Slovenian Ministry of Environment, Dr Peter Volasko from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Dr Jerneja Penca, the Director of the Centre. All the team members were present either in Piran either physically or remotely.

All speakers expressed the conviction that the efforts for developing sustainable use and conservation of the seas are timely, both from the Mediterranean regional and the EU perspective, but also from the perspective of Slovenia. They wished the Centre will present a real boost to the efforts in this domain.

