Internal newsletter no. 3 (September-December 2019) of the GRASS project

Dear Partners this is the third newsletter of the GRASS project, enjoy reading!

We are in the second project period and have successfully finished the previous period with 4 completed questionnaires (A2.1&A2.4, A3.1, A3.2, A3.4) and one survey (A4.1) in which we exchanged the knowledge among our countries around the Baltic Sea Region. Within this project period we are planning the organization of two study visits for 2020, which will take place in March 2020 and May 2020.
We are looking forward to a further common progress on advancing macroalgae production, cultivation and harvesting in the BSR!

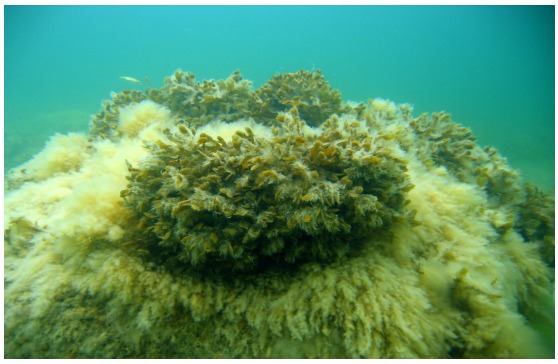
SUBMARINER Network team

Food from the sea – green algae as new sea truffles

Blue Center Gotland (BCG) who is also SUBMARINER Network member, is a research station in the Northern part of Gotland (Sweden). The center is dealing with development issues around water as a resource (on land, on the coast and in the sea). Current research includes growing of Ulva intestinalis (green algae) also known as sea lettuce. The project is led by Gunilla Rosenqvist who is also project partner in GRASS, within the project BCG is exploring the potential of algae in the food sector.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/workshop-seaweed-design-as-social-practice-7

The Critical Tide exhibition



The Critical Tide exhibition, which combines design and research, was open at the Design Museum's Gallery in Helsinki in September 2019. The exhibition brings together projects and works that explore the sea and the potential for positive impact through design. Critical Tide combines research, activism and community engagement within the exhibition space.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/workshop-seaweed-design-as-social-practice-8

Seaweed straws of B'ZEOS

The Norwegian startup B'ZEOS is developing a seaweed-based material capable of replacing plastic pellets that can be used to produce single-use plastics as straws.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/workshop-seaweed-design-as-social-practice-9

Department of Seaweed: Living Archive

Julia Lohmann founded the Department of Seaweed in 2013, which brings together experts in design, science, and craft to experiment with the fabrication processes and material properties of seaweed. The Department of Seaweed elevates the humble material to reshape our thinking about its possibilities. On view in "Nature - Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial" through January 2020.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/grass-news-ite-test

The Finnish media takes interest in edible seaweeds of the Baltic Sea

Itämeren rakkolevästä koko kansan herkkua

Suomen merialueilla kasvaa noin 500 eri levälajia. Turun yliopisto on mukana hankkeessa, jossa selvitetään, miten niitä voi hyödyntää. Rakkolevästä tiedetään jo saatavan erinomaista ruokaa.

Macroalgae are a new field of research at the Food Chemistry and Food Development unit at University of Turku. The fresh opening on sourcing Baltic Sea macroalgae for seaweed products has been well noted by the Finnish media, resulting in half a dozen presentations in local and national broadcasting news and newspapers including Kauppalehti, Auran Aallot, Tekniikka & Talous, Turun Sanomat and the national public broadcasting company YLE.

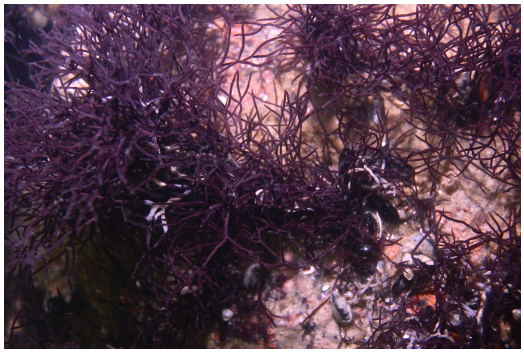
Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/the-finnish-media-takes-an-interest-in-edible-seaweeds-of-the-baltic-sea

Seaweed Farming Survey for GENIALG

The Horizon 2020 Blue Growth project GENIALG is an industry-driven project bringing together pioneering companies in large-scale integrated European biorefineries and experts in seaweed cultivation, genetics and metabolomics to boost the seaweed industry. CIIMAR, as part of the GENIALG project (GENetic diversity exploitation for Innovative Macro-ALGal biorefinery) is assessing the socio-environmental benefits of seaweed farming in part through an open survey. Applicable to anyone, this survey will help the researchers and industry partners better understand the perceptions of seaweed harvesting industries as they relate to everyday life

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/seaweed-farming-survey-for-genialg

Paper Blue Growth Potential to Mitigate Climate Change through Seaweed Offsetting



Seaweed offsetting is not the sole solution to climate change, but it provides an invaluable new tool for a more sustainable future. However, land is limiting, creating interest in a rapidly growing aquatic farming sector of seaweed aquaculture.

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/paper-blue-growth-potential-to-mitigate-climate-change-through-seaweed-offsetting

The Estonian project partners conducted the 1st stakeholder meeting within the GRASS project

Two Estonian project partners of GRASS project organized the 1st stakeholder meeting with national stakeholders. During the meeting the project GRASS and its aims were presented by University of Tartu and also another Interreg BSR project CONTRA was integrated into the stakeholder session. In total 18 stakeholder meetings are planned within the duration of the GRASS project divided by 6 countries (Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Finland and Germany).

Read more: https://www.submariner-network.eu/the-estonian-project-partners-conducted-the-1st-stakeholder-meeting-within-the-grass-project

European seaweed food market unfolded

Interreg 2 Seas Mers Zeeën ValgOrize
European Regional Development Fund

Algae will play a vital role in feeding the world by 2050. To enhance innovation in the algal sector, the European Interreg 2 seas project ValgOrize works on creating an interdisciplinary platform for a sustainable production and processing of high quality, stable, safe algae.

Read more: https://www.noordzeeboerderij.nl/en/news/191015-valgorize-market-study

CONTRA project - Conversion of a Nuisance to a Resource and Asset

Beach wrack plays an important role for beach ecosystems and coastal protection. But, when it lands in great quantities on recreational beaches it is seen as a 'dirty' nuisance which is costly to remove. To find a balance between opposing interests, CONTRA is working at 6 case study sites to conduct a fair and sound evaluation of the environmental as well as economic and social aspects.

Read more: https://www.beachwrack-contra.eu/

Event – Seaweed foresight workshop, 12-13.12.2019

EUROMARINE
EUROPEAN MARINE RESEARCH NETWORK

The workshop will bring together marine biogeochemists, macro-algae experts, modelers, engineers, architects and seaweed farmers, as well as plankton and fish ecologists and regional experts to discuss pathways towards the realization of sustainable pilot-scale trials in three sample regions, each with unique impacts and constraints. Host: GEOMAR.

Read more: http://euromarinenetwork.eu/activities/seaweed-aquaculture-promising-tool-restoration-and-sustainable-development-coastal