

## GlobalSeaweedSTAR Capacity Building Fund Completion Report

### Awardee Details

<b>Grant reference ID</b>	GSS/CBF/022
<b>Full name/title</b>	Dr Leila Ktari
<b>Position held</b>	Researcher
<b>Organisation</b>	National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM)



### Details of Capacity-Building Activity

<b>Name of activity</b>	The 7th Conference of the International Society for Applied Phycology
<b>Date held</b>	15 May 2021 to 13 August 2021
<b>Organiser/provider</b>	ISAP

### Biography

I hold a PhD in Marine Biotechnology from University of Pierre et Marie Curie (France). I am specialized in seaweed biotechnology and I'm currently a researcher at the laboratory of Blue Biotechnology and Aquatic Bioproducts (B3Aqua) of the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies (INSTM). My expertise concerns the extraction of bioactive substances with high added value with particular interest for antioxidant and antifouling secondary metabolites. I also do research on seaweed associated bacteria in collaboration with microbiology specialist. I have been council member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Applied

Phycology (2017-2021) and as such participated in several actions undertaken by ISAP such as organizing training course in Tunisia (2018) and be in charge of the young career Forum. I also, have been member of the Cost Actions FA1406 PHYCOMORPH on “advancing knowledge on seaweed growth and development” ended in 2019 and I am member of the running action CA18238 Ocean4Biotech “European transdisciplinary networking platform for marine biotechnology”.

## **Report on Capacity-Building Activity**

Thanks to the GSSTAR grant, that allowed me to attend the ISAP conference, I presented a Poster entitled: “Antimicrobial and antioxidant potential of the alien red alga *Asparagopsis taxiformis* and associated bacteria isolation”.

In this congress, I was also co-author of two other poster communications that have been presented: “Seaweed-based bioplastic films” (by Amel Ismail, first author) and “*Ulva* surface-associated bacteria: Molecular identification and enzyme production” (by Imen Hmani, first author). The virtual conference has been the meeting place for a large community of scientists and stakeholders in the field of applied phycology. By attending this online conference of high scientific level, I gathered an important amount of information of the latest advances in the field, in addition to varieties of new techniques that can be applied to solve particular points in the extraction of bioactive compounds from seaweeds but also on seaweed cultivation which is a bottle neck in the development of seaweed industry in our country.

As part of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Applied Phycology, I was in charge of the organisation of the young career Forum. This special event was characterised in two online sessions where algae specialists have presented their career paths to young next generation of phycologists. Chairing this event (in collaboration with Japanese organizer) was a great opportunity for me to meet eminent specialists in the field of micro and macro algal biotechnology. But also, it was the occasion to have fruitful discussions with young phycologists and exchange with them about their research subjects, their motivation but also difficulties that they can encounter while doing their research. I was also part of the student reviewers of oral communications for best oral presentation, and part of the ISAP GA where I presented the activities of the association concerning its support for the next generation of applied phycologists.

I am grateful to GSSTAR for allowing me to attend this virtual event. I gained several memorable experiences in this conference, particularly with the Career Forum Event but also by attending specialised session such as “Algae-Based Bioplastics” and “Seaweed Biosecurity”.