The Madeira Archipelago has recently hosted a landmark event titled “Entrepreneurship in Madeira’s Maritime Ecosystem,” which took place on March 19, 2024. The seminar, meticulously planned by the Outermost Regions Sustainable Ecosystem for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (OSEAN) and INOVA+, brought together distinguished guests including Magdalena Andreea Strachinescu Olteanu, from the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), and Dr. Delia Dimitriu, a world-renowned expert on decarbonizing transport and mobility.

The scope of the event was expansive, covering topics such as funding opportunities for maritime entrepreneurs and the promotion of networking and collaboration within the maritime sector. The seminar’s main sessions were complemented by a robust question-and-answer segment, moderated by Prof. Dr. Eduardo Leite, OSEAN’s Coordinator.

Dr. Eduardo Leite, from the University of Madeira, expressed his gratitude for the contributions and indicated the university’s openness to facilitate such events that underscore the potential and future of maritime development in the region.

Participants at the seminar were provided with insights into various funding sources, including grants, venture capital investments, and government support programs. The importance of eligibility criteria, application processes, and tips for securing these funds were also discussed. This information is vital for empowering maritime entrepreneurs with knowledge about funding opportunities and industry trends.

A networking session concluded the seminar, allowing attendees to engage informally and exchange contacts, paving the way for potential partnerships and collaborations. Such interactions are essential for driving growth and innovation in Madeira’s maritime entrepreneurship.

The event was a resounding success, marked by the participation of the Vice-Rector, Prof. Dr. Elsa Fernandes, who introduced the guests and outlined the day’s discussions. The presence of prominent figures from the rectorate and stakeholders underscored the importance of the seminar in meeting the expectations of DG MARE and ensuring that the event was not only informative and inspiring but also practically beneficial for all participants.

The seminar has set the stage for increased future participation of local stakeholders in regional, national, and European funding programs. It has stimulated the development of new

ideas and entrepreneurial initiatives in the maritime sector, reinforcing Madeira’s standing as a hub of maritime innovation.

In conclusion, the seminar “Entrepreneurship in Madeira’s Maritime Ecosystem” stands as a testament to the collaborative spirit of the Madeiran maritime community and its steadfast commitment to embracing innovation and sustainability for a prosperous future.