

A BlueBoard Webinar: How Can We Achieve Our Vision for Blue Education?

4 June, 14:30h – 15:30h CET



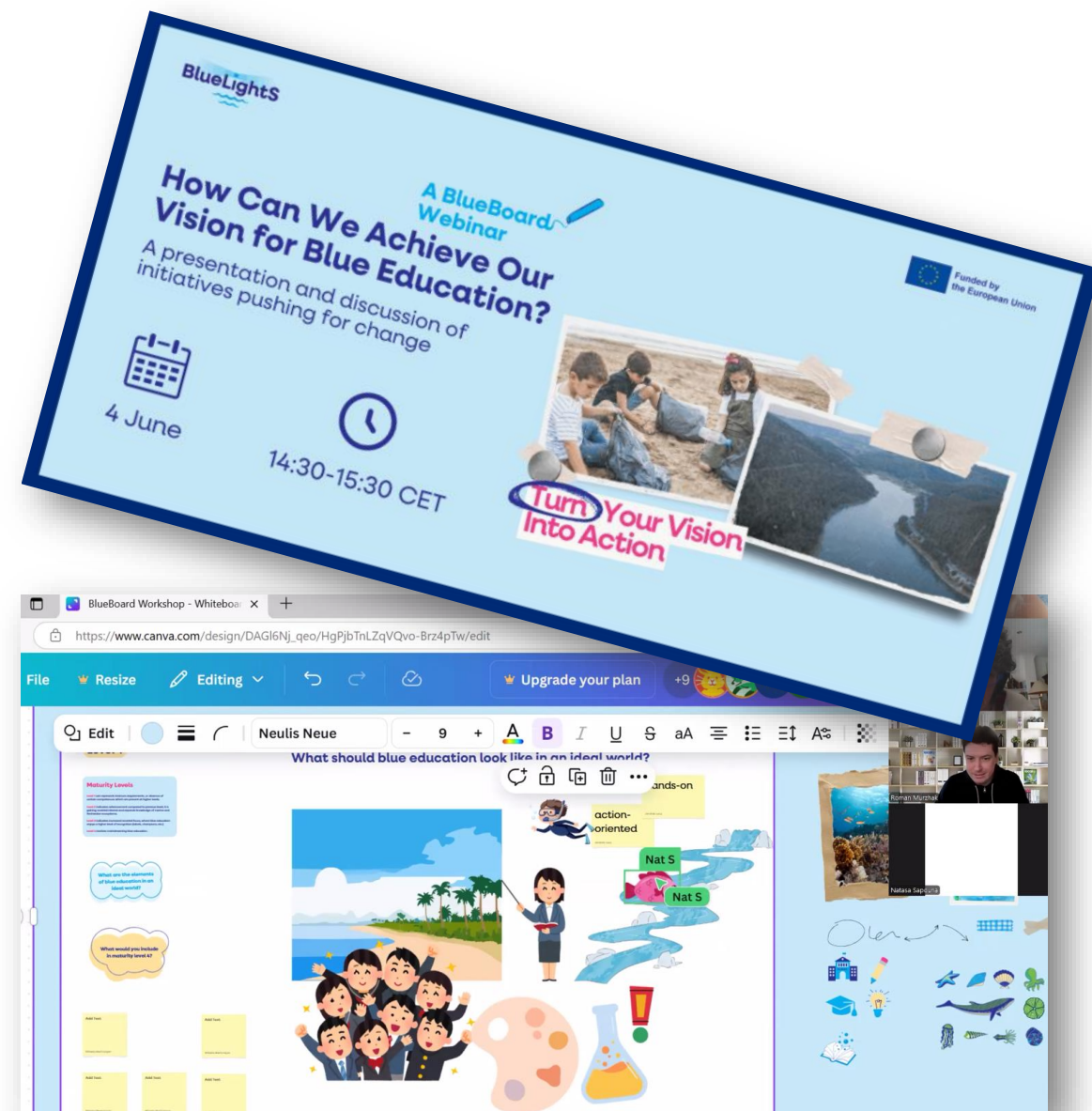
Agenda

- **Welcome & introduction**
- Reflecting on the outcomes of the previous workshop
- Tools & Resources to Bring the Vision to Life
 - Upcoming e-training opportunity
 - Insights from sister projects: ProBleu & SHORE
 - Network of European Blue Schools & resource sharing (EMSEA)
 - Role of water sports in advancing blue education (project OSES)
- Q&A and Discussion
- Closing remarks



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The BlueLightS project:

- European collaboration between **16 partners**
- Expand and broaden **ocean and water literacy programs** for primary, secondary and VET schools within the European Union and in the Associated Countries
- Increase the number of **blue schools & create school projects**
- Provide **funding** for school projects
- **Bring together** stakeholders, actors in blue education
- **Create synergies** with sister projects: Probleu and SHORE



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The Blue Education Platform

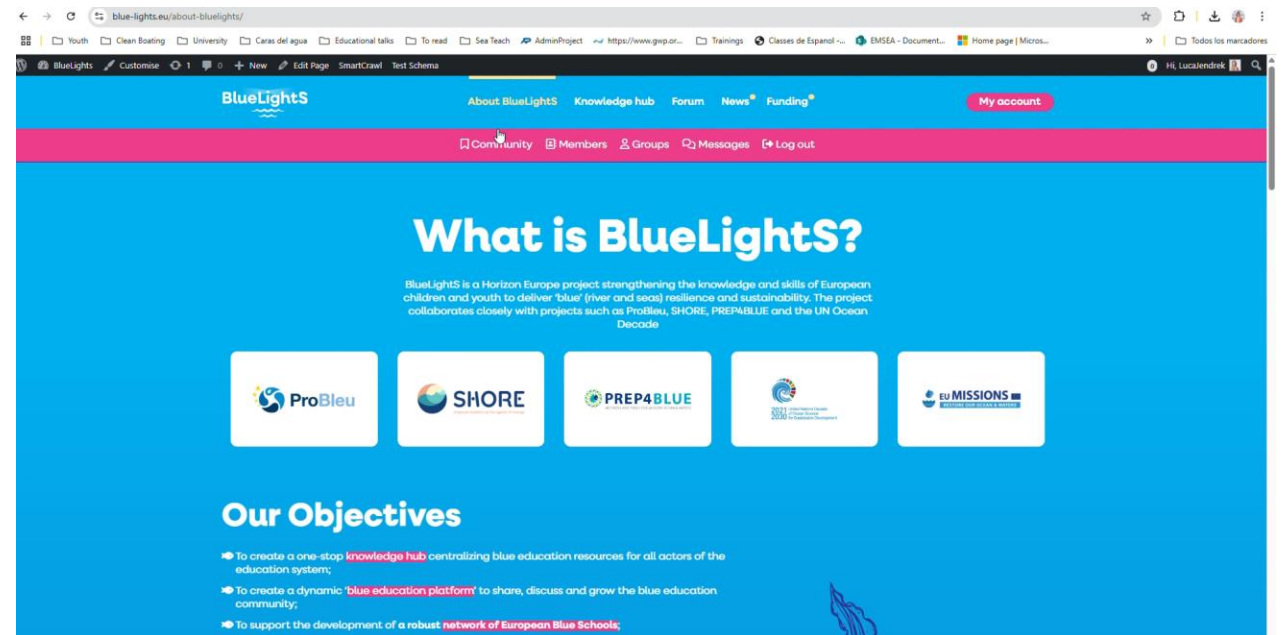
Still growing!

- Diverse, user-friendly, engaging & active
- **Knowledge Hub** to learn and share
- **Forum** to discuss and exchange
- **Members wall & messaging** for networking
- **News & Events** to keep you updated
- **Funding page**: BlueLightS, Probleu, SHORE



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www.blue-lights.eu



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BlueLights

Previously...

- Outdoor & hands-on projects
- Action-oriented, non-formal learning
- “you can find everywhere a connection with the sea”
- Uniting power of blue education
- Systematic support for teachers
- Branching out to other actors
- Curriculum regularly updated & co-designed with students
- Involvement of freshwater contexts

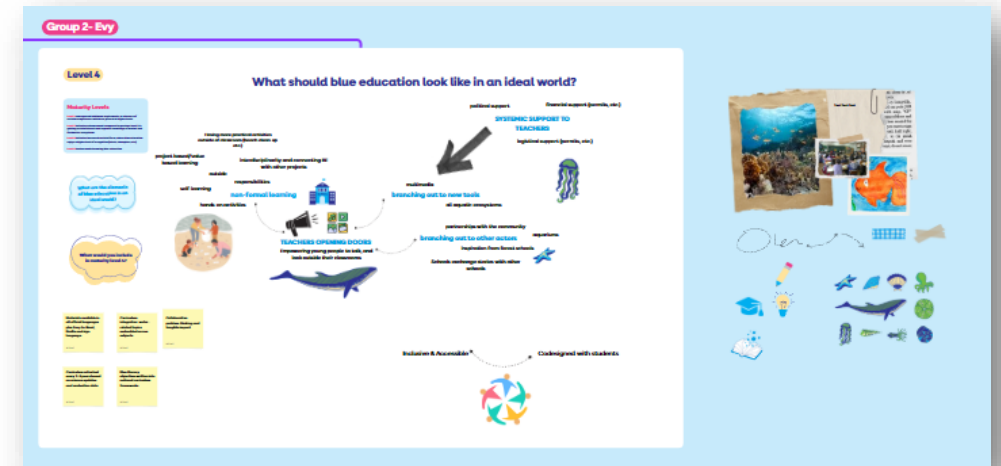
...and many more!

"What should blue education look like in an ideal world?"



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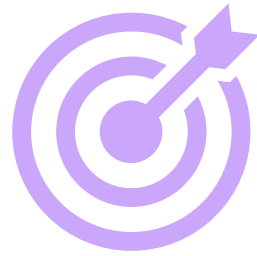


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IDEC& blue challenges for schools



Main target group



Blue Schools
(Educators & Students)

IDEC is a
**training, consulting
and high technology
company,**
founded by SME
consultants with
extensive experience in
training and industry



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IDEC & Infoday for schools

- The "Call for Blue Challenges" Info Day is scheduled for **the 8th of June 2025 at 3pm CEST**
- Link for the online event will be announced on the Blue Education Platform!
- Until then, you may find the application form as well as the relevant guidelines here <https://blue-lights.eu/grants-for-schools/>



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BlueLightS



IDEC & e-training course

Irene Gkotsi
irene@idec.gr

- A **free asynchronous** online training course
- Available **from summer 2025** initially in English and then in all partner languages
- It will go through **3 phases of pilot testing** until it is finalised in December 2026
- It will include interactive exercises and different types of evaluation of the training material
- **The big picture:** Raising awareness of the educational community on Marine & Aquatic education (sea & oceans, rivers, lakes, waterfalls etc)
- **Target group:** primary, secondary and VET teachers and education staff involved in the development and management of the Study Guides



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ProBleu

Promoting water and
ocean literacy in
school communities

**Become a
Blue School!**



Eli Bonfill



Institut
de Ciències
del Mar



EXCELENCIA
SEVERO
OCHOA



CSIC



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



Innovate
UK



Funded by
the European Union



About ProBleu



To mobilise and engage students and schools in relation to the EU mission “**Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030**”



To **enhance the sense of stewardship** towards oceans and waters among children, youth and teachers.



To **grow the Network of European Blue Schools**, bringing ocean and water literacy into the classroom.



Supporting school initiatives through **4 funding calls over three years**, offering up to €10,000 to innovative projects: +630 schools from 44 countries have applied for grants, with 79 school projects funded in 31 countries.





Get inspired by our funded projects!



<https://probleu.school/funded-schools/>

Col·legi Santa Magdalena Sofia

December 30th, 2024



Comparative Evolution of Marine Ecosystems in Biofouling Traps

Palma de Mallorca, Spain

2nd FUNDING CALL

(BIOTRAPs) project aims to integrate ocean literacy into the curriculum, educating students about the oceans' importance, biodiversity, and environmental challenges.

The BIOTRAPs project involves several key objectives:

1. **Citizen Science and Collaboration:** Students will engage in citizen science activities and collaborate with scientific entities, collecting data and contributing to ongoing research.
2. **Practical Application of Knowledge:** Students will apply theoretical knowledge through practical activities, such as creating and observing biofouling traps.
3. **Active Student Participation:** Encouraging active student involvement in creating and observing ecosystems, fostering curiosity and practical experience.
4. **Collaboration Between Educational Centers:** Collaborating with other schools, including Blue School, to compare natural and anthropogenic environments and understand human impacts on marine ecosystems.

Kalēti Music and Art School

April 3rd, 2025



Shrek kids – swamp inhabitants

Kalēti, Latvia

3rd FUNDING CALL

The "Shrek Kids – Swamp Inhabitants" project is an inspiring initiative that brings students face-to-face with the wonders of their local ecosystem, specifically the Durlikas Marsh. This year-long adventure combines scientific inquiry, hands-on environmental action, and creative expression to foster a deep understanding of wetland environments. It's a project that showcases the power of experiential learning and community engagement, and we're excited to share its journey.

Objectives: Nurturing Swamp Stewards

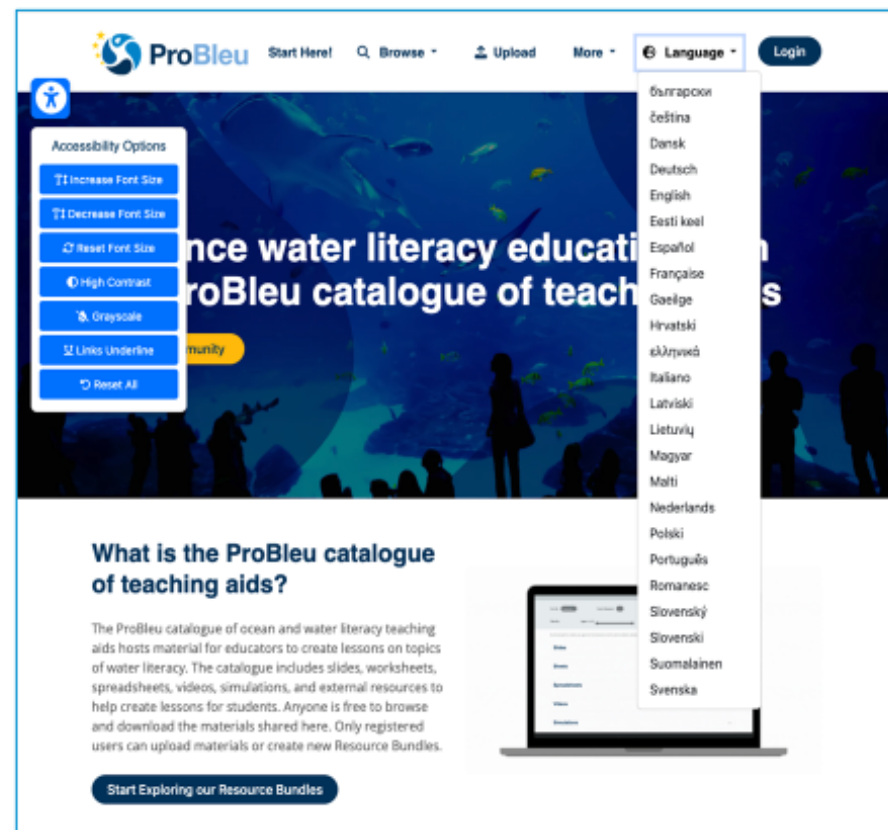
The project's objectives are designed to cultivate environmental awareness and responsibility:

- **Introduce Swamp Ecosystems:** To familiarize students with the Durlikas Marsh and its ecological significance.
- **Promote Environmental Awareness:** To educate students about their impact on nature and the importance of sustainability.
- **Utilize Experiential Learning:** To employ hands-on workshops and field studies to create a deeper understanding of natural environments.
- **Foster a Sense of Agency:** To empower students to become active protectors of local freshwater resources.



ProBleu Catalogue of Teaching Aids

- A platform to inspire and support ocean and water literacy in classrooms across Europe and beyond!
- Allows to host **editable content**: slides, spreadsheets, worksheets.
- Automatic translation into **24 official EU languages** and enhanced accessibility options.
- Includes videos, dynamic simulations and lists of external resources.
- Downloading and browsing materials: **open to all!**
- Uploading materials requires registration. Registration currently open to ProBleu funded schools. Other partners by request.



<https://probleu.pml.space>





The catalogue is for...

- ProBleu-funded schools: sharing materials from their projects
- ProBleu project team: connecting schools to real-world scientific research, data and tools
- Organisations, projects and initiatives advancing ocean and water literacy: supporting our common vision of ocean/water-literate society

Access to teaching aids on ocean and water literacy - to everyone!

The screenshot shows the ProBleu website's 'Resource Bundles' section. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the ProBleu logo, a 'Start Here!' button, and links for 'Browse', 'Upload', 'More', 'Language', and 'Login'. Below this is a blue header with the title 'Resource Bundles'. A filter section allows users to sort by 'Popularity' and filter by 'Ages' (4 to 18), with a search bar and a 'Filter' button. A 'Create a New Bundle' button is also present. The main content area displays two resource bundles: 'Citizen Science and Freshwater' and 'Measuring temperature from space'. The 'Citizen Science and Freshwater' bundle includes a diagram showing a flow from 'Science' to 'Engagement' to 'Collaboration', with a 'Conclusions' box. The 'Measuring temperature from space' bundle includes a map of the Eastern Mediterranean. Both bundles have a 'View Bundle' button.



ProBleu Catalogue of Teaching Aids

The screenshot shows the ProBleu website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the ProBleu logo, a 'Start Here!' button, a search icon, 'Browse', 'Upload', 'More', 'Language', and a 'Login' button. Below this is a large blue banner with the word 'Topics'. Underneath, it says 'Browse by Topic:' followed by a grid of eight topic cards, each with an image and text:

- Biodiversity**: Bundles: 8
- Citizen Science**: Bundles: 4
- Climate**: Bundles: 2
- Cultural Heritage**: Bundles: Coming soon...
- Deoxygenation**: Bundles: 1
- Ecosystem Services**: Bundles: Coming soon...
- Freshwater**: Bundles: 7
- Nutrient Pollution**: Bundles: 2

The screenshot shows the 'Sheets' section of the ProBleu website. It features two resource cards:

- What is Seagrass? Worksheets_0**: Includes a thumbnail image of seagrass and a magnifying glass. Text below the image says 'What is Seagrass? Worksheets_0', 'Use Count: 2', 'Uploaded By: oca-admin', and a button 'Add to Bundle'.
- Save Our Seabed Schools Resource Pack**: Includes a thumbnail image of a seabed. Text below the image says 'Save Our Seabed Schools Resource Pack', 'Use Count: 2', 'Uploaded By: oca-admin', and a button 'Add to Bundle'.

<https://probleu.pml.space>



ProBleu

www.probleu.school



ebonfill@icm.csic.es

coordination@probleu.school

<https://probleu.pml.space>





How can we achieve our vision for blue education?'

A BlueBoard Webinar

Review Meeting | Ivica ILIC (Crowdhelix)

SHORE Objectives

Empower youth to become agents of change
Expand the network of European Blue Schools;
Promote the EU's Mission Ocean objectives
Promote open schooling methodologies
Implement the blue curricula internationally
Train professional educators on blue education.



SHORE Objectives

Promote ocean and water literacy

- 230 educational resources across 5 themes
- 91 community events, 8,200+ participants
- "DeepBlue Knowledge Challenge" and "AquaQuest" games
- Water Literacy Action Center established at YTU
- inter-institutional cooperation



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Scope and Focus of Mission Waters and Ocean sister projects

- **SHORE:**
 - Primarily focuses on promoting marine literacy and sustainability in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Danube River, and Rhine River areas.
 - Targets primary and secondary schools, aiming to engage students and educators in blue economy topics through educational activities.
- **PROBLUE:**
 - it supports projects related to marine and freshwater sustainability.
 - Focuses on integrating ocean literacy and freshwater conservation into the school curriculum, involving schools and multiple stakeholders (teachers, parents, researchers, NGOs).
 - It emphasizes the involvement of students, teachers, and community members in collaborative, sustainability-driven projects.
- **BLUELIGHT:**
 - Focuses on supporting schools in blue challenges within EU-27 Member States and associated Horizon Europe countries.
 - It targets primary and secondary schools to enhance their engagement in ocean literacy and environmental challenges related to blue growth.
- The projects are more short-term and smaller in scale compared to SHORE and PROBLUE



Summary of Similarities

- 1. Blue Sustainability Focus:** All three projects focus on promoting marine and freshwater sustainability, with educational initiatives targeting primary and secondary schools.
- 2. Target Audience:** All projects are open to schools, encouraging the involvement of students, teachers, and broader communities in blue economy initiatives.
- 3. Geographic Scope:** They all target EU countries and Horizon Europe associated countries.



Mission Ocean & Waters Helix.



Platform: Hosted on Crowdhelix (13,000+ users)

Leadership: Managed by CHX, with YTU as honorary Helix Leader

Membership (as of M18): > Target: 250+ relevant orgs profiled by M36

Features:

- Publishes events, resources & funding calls
- Organization of events
- AI-based matchmaking tool
- Showcases SHORE outputs

	845 Experts
	306 Organisations
	51 Countries



Implemented Open Calls

1st Open Call:

- 29 projects successfully funded
- 18 external evaluators involved

2nd Open Call:

- 29 projects successfully funded
- 16 external evaluators involved

- Fair, transparent selection using pre-defined evaluation grid

- Mentorship program coordinated via Country Hubs





SHORE

Empower students as the agents of change

Thank you!



ivica.ilic@crowdhelix.com



contact@shoreproject.eu



@shore-community



shore-community



shore.school.community



SHORE-Community



PART OF THE
EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS

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#EU4Ocean
#Youth4Ocean
#EUBlueSchools



Network of
European
Blue Schools

The Network of European Blue Schools (NEBS) in Practice: Exploring, Connecting, and Sharing

Dominika Wojcieszek

European Marine Science Educators Association



Exploring



Network of
European
Blue Schools

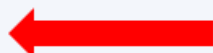


Explore our Blue Network Members

The EU4Ocean Coalition brings teachers together in the Network of European Blue Schools, fostering ocean literacy across Europe. This initiative aims to integrate marine and maritime topics into classrooms, creating awareness and responsibility for our oceans among students. Schools can join the network by taking up the Find the Blue Challenge and identifying an ocean-based topic relevant to students, collaborating with pupils to create a school project and making the ocean a part of the school curriculum through project-based learning.



Looking for the inspiration? Check Members here >



Discover the European Blue Schools

Discover the members of the Network of European Blue Schools. Updated automatically with all the necessary information, as soon as new schools join the community, this list allows you to search members by name of school, country, project, level of education and topic.

Discover the European Blue Schools



Blue school members

Name of school	Name of project	Country
		- Any -

Apply filters

869 results found

Project information

Project name in native language Heroes Azuis - Loita polo océano

Starting date of the project Wed, 09/11/2024 - 12:00

End date of the project Fri, 06/20/2025 - 12:00

Level of education Primary school

Optional field

Project contact CEP Sabarís
Dr. Fariña 26
36393Sabarís - Baiona
Pontevedra - España
Tlf:886110144 // cep.sabaris@edu.xunta.gal

Connecting



European School Education Platform

“The European School Education Platform is a meeting point for the school education community – school staff, researchers, and policymakers – to share news, interviews, publications, practice examples, courses and partners for their Erasmus+ projects. Its eTwinning area is dedicated to eTwinners and their activities”.

European School Education Platform

Home | About | Discover | Learn | Teach | Connect | eTwinning

 **Network of European Blue Schools**

Group

The Network of European Blue Schools

The Network of European Blue Schools is part of the EU4Ocean Coalition, an initiative funded by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). We are a hub for all schools and teachers that strive to engage students with oceanic, marine, or water topics and raise awareness on issues related to those environments. The concept of a European Blue School evolved from the marine education expertise gathered from consultations with teachers and educators across Europe. It acknowledges the variety of cultures and school communities from the 27 EU Member States and champions the concept of open schooling – encouraging the development of local partnerships to make the learning context relevant. The challenges that the work of teachers faces are many, but through the Network of European Blue Schools, you will not be working alone. All teachers are invited to join this effort to promote ocean literacy by taking the ocean into their classroom, helping to make it everyone's concern, no matter where you are. Teachers are mentors and inspirational figures for students and the subjects they choose at school, as well as their future career choices and attitudes toward the environment.

- 1 About our Network
- 2 Resources for teachers
 - 2.1 **Funding opportunities**
 - 2.2 How to join the Network of European Blue Schools
- 3 Ocean literacy and Blue Schools in different countries
- 4 Teachers for teachers - our projects

Funding opportunities

Created by **Dominika Wojcieszek**
Last updated by **Dominika Wojcieszek** 1 year ago

Page options



Sharing

The NEBS Newsletter

- September to June - on average once a month in the first half of the month,
- Update on the NEBS composition
- Sharing resources and opportunities
- Contact – info@blueschools.eu

NEBS May Update: New Members, Funding Webinar & BlueTech Winners!

👍 1 😊 ↩️ ⏪ ⏩



✓ Dominika Wojcieszek <dominika.wojcieszek@emseanet.eu>

Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 14:30

To: info; Bcc:

Dear Members of the Network of European Blue Schools,

The end of the school year is close, but we're not slowing down and growing our network.

This month, we're excited to welcome new schools from **Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Romania, the Netherlands, Albania, Turkey, France, and Monaco.**

As of May2025, the Network brings together **754 schools**, including:

- **598** from EU countries
- **156** from non-EU countries

Among these, we now have:

- **90** Aquamarine Schools
- **18** Ultramarine Schools
- **18** Associated Aquamarine Schools
- **2** Associated Ultramarine Schools

Funding Opportunities for Schools – Join Our Webinar!

We're happy to announce that funding calls for schools are now open through **BlueLightS, SHORE**, and **ProBleu** — sister projects of the **EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030."**

To help educators explore these opportunities, understand the criteria, and choose the best fit for their school, the **NEBS Secretariat** is hosting a **dedicated webinar**:

Date: May 19

Time: 18:00 CEST (19:00 in Greece, 17:00 in Portugal)

More information and registration: https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/events/funding-opportunities-schools-join-nebs-webinar-2025-05-19_en

#EU4Ocean
#Youth4Ocean
#EUBlueSchools



Network of
European
Blue Schools

Thank you

Dominika Wojcieszek

dominika.wojcieszek@emseanet.eu, info@blueschools.eu

European Marine Science Educators Association





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Advancing Ocean Literacy Through Sports: Presenting OSES Resources

Dominika Wojcieszek,
European Marine Science Educators Association



#oses

oses@sportetcitoyennete.com

OSES - Ocean Sustainability Through Education and Sport

OSES focuses on providing sports federations and local stakeholders with tools to promote eco-responsible behaviors and enhance environmental awareness among youth through sports engagement.





Co-funded by
the European Union

OSes Resources



1. Connecting schools, water sports, and ocean literacy
2. Environmental cleanups
3. Citizen science, environmental data collection, and monitoring
4. Sustainable practices in water sport tourism
5. Engaging with local communities
6. Good practices in professional sports

1

KIDS DIVE

SCUBA DIVING **TARGET AUDIENCE** Children 8-17 years old

Led by MARE-Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre / Iago - University Institute

Diving Education Inspires Ocean Conservation in Youth

Kids Dive is a practical and educational program that introduces scuba diving to young individuals, fostering their commitment to ocean conservation. Since 2018, it has engaged over 2500 students aged 8-17, aligning with 5 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 14 – Life Below Water, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 – Climate Action, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

Groups of 60 school students engage in a 5-day Kids Dive program that immerses them in ocean education and scuba diving. The experience begins with a school presentation, followed by a scuba diving introduction. They participate in underwater educational activities and later delve into themed workshops covering plastic pollution, marine biodiversity, and climate change.

To illustrate the issue of plastic pollution, students swim through hula-hoops, one of which is covered with transparent plastic, which they usually can't see underwater and therefore are surprised when hitting

the « invisible wall ». This demonstrates how marine life can be impacted by underwater plastics. In the «Expositify the Ocean» workshop, they learn about how marine creatures can mistake plastics for food, the varying properties of different plastics, and the growing problem of microplastics.

Marine biodiversity is explored through a simulated kelp forests in a pool, treated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Students release model fish into this environment and further delve into the topic during a workshop. They discover the ocean's role in mitigating climate change through algal communities and the importance of MPAs in marine ecosystem conservation.

The program continues with a field trip to explore local coastal marine life, a visit to the Lisbon Oceanarium (public aquarium), and a meeting with scientists.

Presently, this innovative program goes beyond scuba diving, featuring a digital learning tool and a citizen science project. Digital learning through virtual scuba diving using VR360 headsets emerged from a National Geographic project during the pandemic. It enables an immersive experience of salvaging into diverse underwater habitats that were filmed by the program creators with VR360 cameras.

These include marine forests and reefs or shipwrecks teeming with life. A citizen science project is customized for local schools by our research team. This project includes small monitoring projects (based on our knowledge of the local fauna and flora) that enable teachers and students to follow local intertidal protected species, non-indigenous species (NIS), and/or commercially important species. They also follow species that are in their northern or southern limit of distribution while installing temperature data loggers (that we provide) in the intertidal to better understand the effects of climate change.

The intention is to expand this pioneering practical program nationally (Portugal) and internationally (already running in Norway). National and international projects have been pivotal for Kids Dive, while ongoing projects have gained traction from an increasing number of participant municipalities. Individual feedback helps measure program effectiveness, considering the different levels of ocean literacy.

This program aims to deeply engage and inspire young individuals, promoting sustainable and ocean-friendly lifestyles within their schools and families. We want to nurture the desire to safeguard marine ecosystems contributing to a proactive blue generation. Our motto is: #Waveheroes.

<https://www.kidsdive.org/>

7

SCHOOL SPORTS

«Desporto Escolar»

SURFING AND PADDLEBOARDING

TARGET AUDIENCE customers certain ages, mostly kids

Led by Centro de Formação Profissional de Canoagem e Surf AEPFL

Locally nurturing ocean stewardship through kayaking and paddleboarding

The Centro de Formação Desportiva de Canoagem e Surf AEPFL is located in the charming fishing village of Fuseta, nestled in the Algarve region. This region has witnessed a surge in tourism, making Fuseta a sought-after destination for vacationers. However, Fuseta boasts a unique feature - its proximity to Ria Formosa, a protected natural park that is home to essential flora and fauna crucial for the marine ecosystem.

While the primary objective of our Center is to teach canoeing and surfing to young generations, our town's geographical location profoundly influences our approach. We recognize the interconnectedness of our town with ocean sustainability. This recognition drives our project to extend its scope beyond sports, with the aim of fostering community awareness about the complexity, beauty, and fragility of our natural park.

We actively participate in campaigns to clean up Ria Formosa. During each sea excursion, our dedicated group of 50 regular volunteers conducts symbolic cleanups. For them, one trip to the sea equals one piece of plastic waste brought to the shore. They perform such cleanups roughly once a week. Most of these volunteers are students from our local cluster school and nearby areas. We equip them with kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) during these cleanups. They are responsible for retrieving the waste they find in the water, bringing it ashore, and disposing of it properly in recycling bins.

In addition to these field activities, we actively foster collaborative initiatives and connect students with the water environment. Our goal is to educate local students and inspire them to protect the marine environment. To achieve this, we organize talks and lectures featuring renowned speakers. Notable athletes like Joana Schenker, a professional bodyboarder and the 2017 APS Bodyboard World Champion, have shared impactful messages about sports, perseverance, and ecology. We have also had the privilege of hosting environmental advocate Andreas Noe, known as «The Trash Traveller» and assisting him in his mission to clean beaches and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

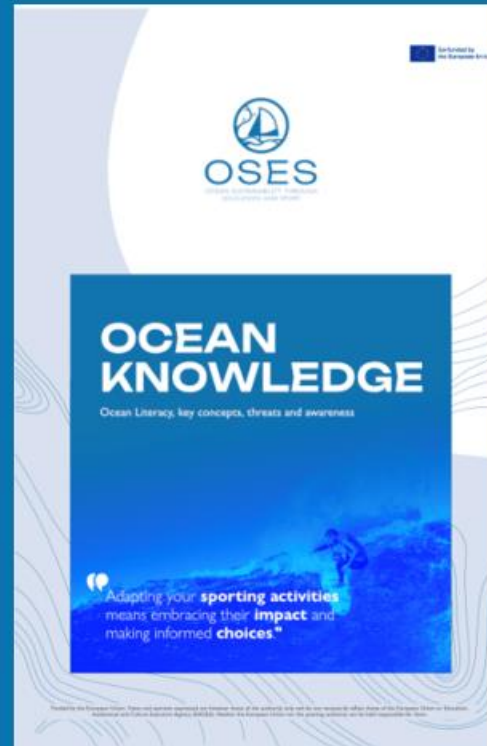
Additionally, we organize larger cleanup initiatives. We collaborate with other ecological projects, such as Escola Azul, for more specific cleaning actions that typically span one day. We arrange cleanup events that are open to the general public. These larger-scale actions are occasionally supported by the city council or the parish, which provides equipment beyond water gear, including trash bags and trucks.

OSes Resources



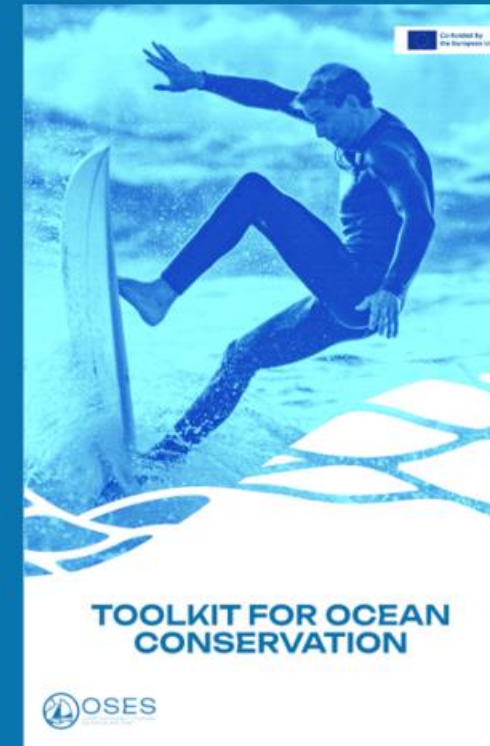
Tools for ocean conservation awareness

Discover **practical tools** designed to assess **water quality**, monitor the effects of **climate change** and much more.



Ocean Knowledge

A resource for better **understanding the ocean** through **key concepts** and **examples**.



Toolkit for ocean conservation

Explore the OSes toolkit to create awareness programs for training youth in sports organizations.

Thank you

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Agenda

- Welcome & introduction
- Reflecting on the outcomes of the previous workshop
- **Tools & Resources to Bring the Vision to Life**
 - Upcoming e-training opportunity
 - Insights from sister projects: ProBleu & SHORE
 - Network of European Blue Schools & resource sharing (EMSEA)
 - Role of water sports in advancing blue education (project OSES)
- **Q&A and Discussion**
- Closing remarks

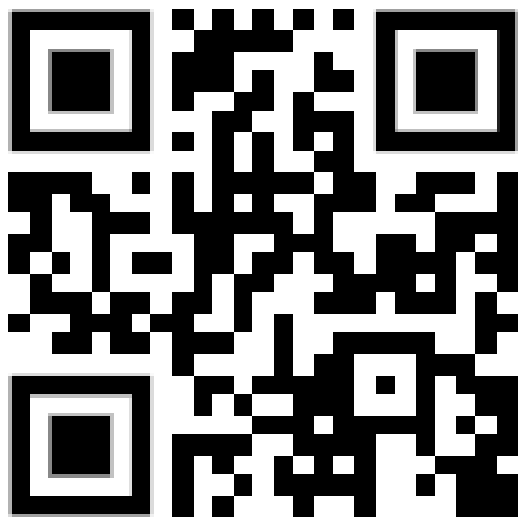


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Open
discussion and
Q & A



<https://blue-lights.eu/>

Are you going to be
part of the
communities?

**Thank you for your
attention**



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