



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

“Scaling up action and building effective partnerships for SDG14: the essential roles of higher education and business”

Monday 27 June, 16:00-17:15, Side Event Room 2, Altice Arena

Organized by: The Government of Ireland, UN DESA, UN OHRLLS, the International Association of Universities (IAU), The Partnering Initiative (TPI), and the University of Bergen (UiB)

Background on the event

The side event was a merger of two proposals for side events, which after joining forces took a special look at the roles of academia and industry respectively in building partnerships for SDG14 and a sustainable ocean. [Read more about the side event.](#)

Key Issues discussed

- A general presentation of how stakeholders in academia and industry are working and partnering to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and marine resources.
- Higher education and business are both crucial for the acceleration of the SDGs, including SDG14.
- The [2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator](#) was presented by UN DESA and the Irish ambassador to Portugal, with the Government of Ireland funding the accelerator.
- The [joint IAU-UiB publication Higher Education and SDG14: Integrating Ocean Research for the Global Goals](#) was presented and examples of good practice from the publication and the IAU HESD Cluster network discussed.
- The University of Bergen with partners the University of the South Pacific, the University of the West Indies and the University of Cape Town presented the voluntary commitment SDG200 as part of the One Ocean Expedition, a circumnavigation of Earth on board the tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl, which includes an MA course on the ocean-climate nexus taking in SDGs 4, 13, 14 and 17.

- The University of Bergen with partners presented another voluntary commitment, the SEAS postdoctoral fellowship programme, consisting of 37 postdoctoral positions at the university, funded by the EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training. SEAS is a career and mobility programme aiming to train future European research leaders for marine sustainability.
- The Ocean Frontier Institute/Dalhousie University presented the Ocean Graduate Excellence Network (OGEN), which unites excellent graduate training with industry and government, to build a unique research nexus.
- Presentation of the Digital Twins of the Ocean (DITTO) programme, which aims to establish an international framework for digital twins of the ocean to explore and design ocean futures.

Key recommendations for action

- Taking a partnership approach and whole-sector approach to sustainable development, with SDG14 as a connecting point.
- Putting SDGs into practice by finding common goals and denominators, in academia and business.
- Higher education must be strengthened to improve ocean literacy.
- Research-based knowledge must be included when policymakers implement SDG14 targets.
- Strengthening of the climate-ocean nexus across and between sectors.
- Industry leaders must be provided with knowledge and tools, for instance courses, to increase awareness of the ocean's key role in climate change.