



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Ocean Bachelor (under preparation) Meet the Ocean NOW !

30th June 2022, 9h-12h, One Sustainable Ocean (Portuguese Pavilion)

Organized by: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa; NOVA School of Law; NOVA School of Science and Technology; NOVA School of Business and Economics; NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities; NOVA Information Management School; University of Algarve; Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy; UiT-The Arctic University of Norway – Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea; Edinburgh Napier University;

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The side-event organised by Universidade NOVA de Lisboa was structured in one plenary session and two workshops. The plenary session aimed to launch the proposal of the Bachelor's of the Ocean to the public. The new degree is a pioneer degree under preparation in which key terms such as sustainability, global challenges, cutting-edge, international focus, and interdisciplinary, trace the path of its students. The Bachelor's of the Ocean is based on five pillars that intersect in various areas: Law; Economy and Management; Biology, Engineering and Technology; History, Geopolitics and Culture; Information and Data Systems. The intersection between these areas will provide a fertile environment to identify and create opportunities and solutions allowing to overcome obstacles through a wide, holistic approach of the Ocean. The Bachelor has the ambition to establish an overall understanding of the opportunities and threats, facing the Ocean at a global level and an entrepreneurial and differentiating positioning at a local level. It engages the participation of eight different faculties of two Portuguese universities, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa and University of Algarve. Following the plenary session, two workshops took place, the first one entitled "Maritime Spatial Planning: tool for sustainable and inclusive economic development" in which Professors from Portugal and Norway with different backgrounds, from law, natural sciences and economics fomented a debated. The second workshop focused on "Coastal Management for a sustainable development" and the presentations from Professors from Norway, Edinburgh and Portugal ranged from law to natural sciences.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

In the plenary session the key points discussed by the various keynote speakers were:

- Bachelor's of the Ocean comes to fill in a gap in the academia, by providing an interdisciplinary course totally devoted to the Ocean;
- The Bachelor has the ambition of establishing an overall understanding of the opportunities and threats, facing the Ocean at a global level and an entrepreneurial and differentiating positioning at a local level.

In the first workshop “Maritime Spatial Planning: tool for sustainable and inclusive economic development”

- Policy making comes hand in hand with the economic factors and the law. However, the law is a key element in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development.
- The coastal population should be integrated in the policymaking processes.

In the second workshop “Coastal Management for a sustainable development”:

- Coastal management is essential for sustainable development however, it is important to take the biological dynamics in specific environments into consideration. Hence, being essential a co-ordinated policy making between lawyers and biologists.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Interdisciplinary is a keyword when it comes to actions towards the Ocean: there is the need to provide broad and englobing degrees that promote activities and engage students with the various sectors.
- Policymaking requires a partnered work between law, natural sciences, economics and social sciences in order to develop and implement concrete initiatives that will reflect the real needs of the community and the protection of the environment.
- Engagement with the coastal communities in providing knowledge on the challenges and better practices.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

The Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (NOVA) pledged its new academic endeavour, the Bachelor's of the Ocean. NOVA is in the top 3 national universities with international recognition in Portugal. Actively contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals in this area, NOVA welcomes in its teaching, research and science, several initiatives of national and international relevance to the Ocean. NOVA is committed to the UN Agenda 2030 and aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, by seeking to enhance the societal impact of the University in the community and to facilitate its organizational transformation towards sustainable best practices, complying with the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. In support of the implementation of the UN SDGs, especially SDG 4 (Quality Education) and 14 (Life Bellow Water), NOVA has been promoting the study of the Ocean, with educational offers such as the Master's in Law and Economics of the Sea – Ocean Governance.