

**Title of Side Event:** Ocean Literacy Dialogues

**Date, Time, Location:** Series of open and participative events from 28th June to 1st July held in Ciência Viva. The official side-event was held on 29th June from 18:00 - 20:00 in Ciência Viva, Auditorium José Mariano Gago.

**Background on the event (one paragraph):**

The Ocean Literacy Dialogues a series of open participative events to take stock of the development of Ocean Literacy across the world through an inclusive and holistic approach, with the aim to provide concrete opportunities for new joint actions to re-imagine humanity's relationship with the ocean. The IOC-UNESCO, DG MARE of the European Commission and the EU4Ocean Coalition co-organized the Ocean Literacy Dialogues high-level side event that took place on the 29th June 2022 at the occasion of the UN Ocean Conference. The event marked the beginning of a process to look into the shared commitments brought together to support ocean literacy across the globe and that culminated at the sessions of the UN Ocean Conference. The overarching objective of the event was to support the inclusion of ocean literacy in the next iteration of high-level dialogues. This dialogue welcomed contributions from different stakeholder groups and ocean literacy networks across the globe to engage with a wide range of sectors, which foster the inclusion of multiple perspectives in ocean literacy, and support the implementation of the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Decision-makers, journalists, entrepreneurs, educators, researchers, artists, and youth took part at the event and were incentivized to share their values, beliefs, and visions for ocean literacy across all panels.

Recording of event <<https://youtu.be/FBHVB4LwoME>>

**Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- The need to leverage OL to high-level priorities
- The inclusion of OL embedded in curriculum frameworks across the world
- The role of OL international networks on the expansion of the Ocean Literacy concept across the globe
- The use of OL as a diverse and inclusive tool that can be adapted to many contexts and cultures.

**Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Connection of ocean topics to not only to sciences but as well to arts, culture, intangible and tangible heritage, and geopolitics so that it can be connected to more partners and stakeholders.
- Connect Ocean Literacy to emotions to promote accommodation of acquired knowledge and its transfer into behaviour change

**Voluntary Commitments - Blue Education With and For All**

The Ocean is endlessly fascinating and deeply connected to human life and a diversity of cultures. Despite the ocean's vastness, unparalleled range of species, and its cornucopia of resources, we understand only a small part of it. As of the end of 2021, only 20.6% of the ocean had been mapped. Ocean Literacy and ocean-related educational practices are not

yet widely present within school curriculum structures worldwide – but the inclusion of the ocean and ocean science as an area of learning in curricula offers many opportunities to engage future generations and support informed decision-making processes regarding the ocean and our planet. A greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of the ocean is key to its long-term sustainability. The inclusion of ocean related topics and the development of ‘blue curricula’ is occurring alongside other changes transforming the educational sector across the world, namely approaches aiming to transform educational environments, empower teachers, encourage flexibility and hybrid learning, and strengthen community cooperation. These forward-looking movements, which are designed to enhance global Ocean Literacy, are taking place with an eye to envision global futures defined by sustainability, care, and imagination. The blue curricula are critical if the necessary workforce of the future is to be prepared. With the continuing technological advances in and outside the classroom, and from the conditions of a post-COVID world, emerging trends in educational approaches and methods can shape progressive blue curricula and blue education initiatives to be spread around the world.

The objectives of this voluntary commitment are threefold:

- Support policy-makers, curriculum developers, education experts, and stakeholders to integrate Ocean Literacy into curricula structures with consideration of local, national, and regional policies, and specific cultural and geographical aspects of the ocean within their contexts;
- Increase the visibility of existing good practices for blue education around the world, and facilitate further exchanges of these practices among all concerned stakeholders; and
- Develop a global, public campaign to advocate for Ocean Literacy and blue education.

Deliverables:

1. Development of online and in-person training on the blue curriculum
2. Development of a global public campaign on blue education using the blue curriculum
3. International workshop on blue education

**Organized by:** (list of partners)

IOC-UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

IBE-UNESCO International Bureau of Education

Ciência Viva, ANCCT

European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG MARE

Ministry of Economy and Sea of Portugal

EMEPC, Portuguese Task Group for the Extension of the Continental ShelfEscola Azul,

Portuguese Network of Blue Schools

Network of European Blue Schools, EU4Ocean Coalition

Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition

Acqua Mater

College of Exploration

EMSEA

AAEE Australian Association for Environmental Education

RELATO Red de Educación Latinoamericana para el Océano

GOSE Global Ocean Science Education Workshop

COSEE Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement

IPMEN International Pacific Marine Educators Network

NMEA National Marine Educators Association

AMEA Asia Marine Educators Association

Planeta Océano

AcTeon

OFB Office Français de la biodiversité

EUROGOOS

EU4Ocean Coalition

Nausicaá

Oceano Azul Foundation

UNIFESP Federal University of São Paulo

Maré de Ciência

All-Atlantic Blue Schools Network

All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (Building an All-Atlantic ocean community implementing the Belém Statement)

Aires Marines Educatives, OFB, France.

Prada Group

AXA