



## **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event**

*The Ocean as a global common*

*Connecting generations of stakeholders through storytelling*

30 June 2022, 11:30 AM, Institut français du Portugal - French Embassy

Organized by: Youth4Ocean Forum (Europe); Ocean as Common (France); Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) Programme of IOC-UNESCO (Global), Surfrider Europe; Institute of Oceanology of Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland); Sustainable Ocean Alliance (USA); University of Brest UBO (France), European Marine Board (Belgium); Today We Have (Poland); EurOcean (Portugal); WildTrust (South Africa); Youth4MPAs (South Africa), World Ocean Network (Belgium); Nausicaa (France), EurOcean (Portugal)

### **Background on the event**

We care about what we know, and we care about what affects us emotionally. This all-inclusive side event emphasises the importance of creating one ocean generation connected to the ocean through personal experiences and storytelling. It encourages a trans-generational dialogue by facilitating communication between different generations of stakeholders, anchored in the concept of having the ocean as a common good and shared through story-telling. This side event aims to connect stakeholders from different backgrounds, sectors and generations. 'All welcome policy' - this is an inclusive workshop and the more diversity among participants the better. Speakers, young people and participants share their perception of the ocean as a common good, their personal stories about its benefits for themselves and for their communities, and showcase a few innovative solutions of trans-generational cooperation. The workshop furthermore involves networking and storytelling activities to connect diverse stakeholders and young people from different backgrounds and sectors. It engages the audience with personal ocean-related stories to find differences and communalities, activating emotional and collective intelligence to plan future concrete cooperation and innovative solutions for managing, protecting and restoring ocean and coasts and effective trans-generational cooperation.

## **Key Issues discussed**

- What does the Ocean as a common good imply for Humanity, what would be your project?
- What must we do to create more opportunities for intergenerational cooperation?
- How must journalism evolve to lead to concrete changes?
- How can we mobilise inland people who don't feel connected to the sea ?
- What are other participatory approaches aiming to bring generations closer together on the sea and create or strengthen their emotional link with it?
- What key initiatives could be developed in the coming years?
- How can art be used to raise awareness on the ocean challenges ?
- How can civil society bring the ocean into schools ?

## **Key recommendations for action**

- Dialog and mutual listening between generations are the keys to understand each other and act together to answer the many challenges the ocean is facing. Informal dialog events like this one should be organised in to facilitate the exchanges between participants from different generations, regions and "status".
- The use of storytelling, art and personal stories is essential to create the emotional connection with the ocean needed to move people from discovering scientific knowledge to taking concrete actions.
- Ocean Literacy must be developed among the citizen, politics and journalists even inland far from the ocean: everyone benefits from the ocean and everyone can have an impact on its protection.
- Ocean science research has to be developed and we must facilitate access to its work and results.

## **Voluntary Commitments one paragraph**

To address the many challenges facing the ocean, it is more than urgent that we all learn to work better together. Building on initiatives such as the Ocean Science Decade and international events, the organisers of this event are committed to increasing opportunities for dialogue between different generations and to lobbying international organisations to include these types of interactive events in their conferences to spread new ideas about how to consider the ocean.