Event Report

Written by HackBelgiumLabs
December – 2022

European Commission

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Table of contents

Hack4Oceans

Context

The two-day Hack4Oceans hackathon on ocean's sustainability was held in Brussels, at Area 42 on 23 and 24 of November 2022.

This second edition of Hack4Oceans took place in the framework of the European Year of Youth.

The event was aimed at gathering the future generation of blue economy actors & stakeholders and having them work collectively on tackling four main challenges related to ocean's sustainability.

The Participants

A total of 120 persons took part in the event, of which:

- 88 students (2 selected students didn't make it to the event) coming from 18 EU countries
- 13 professionals joined the teams as participants, coming from the private sector, NGO and academia
- 19 professionals participated as experts for the event in different roles

Methodology & Structure of the event

Creating the final content, themes and specific "How Might We" (HMW) questions

The final content of the event was defined through an online **ideation session** that focused on refining the specific "How Might We" questions - the challenges to tackle - around the four main themes. The four themes were aligned with the DG Mare priorities and carried over from the 1st edition of H40. The ideation session helped in refining those four themes.

In September 2022, an online workshop was held, gathering a panel of 19 experts working in fields related to the main themes. Most of the experts who participated in the ideation session also took part in the event. The experts were split in four breakout rooms, each one dedicated to one of the four main themes.

Workshop participants defined key current matters to tackle within each of the themes, assessed transversal questions and final repartition of the specific "How Might We" questions between the four themes of the event.

The 4 themes & HMW Questions

- **Marine litter**

- HMW accelerate the usage of litter removal technologies by ports, local water authorities and coastal communities?

- HMW increase citizens' access to and involvement in marine litter data collection by providing them with better and easier-to-use tools and methods?

- HMW support industries in designing more recyclable, reusable, and repairable products?

- HWM raise citizens' awareness on cost efficient - low maintenance, easily set up tools, aiming to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up into the rivers and seas, at its source?

- HWM help the industry transition towards less plastic production, by developing the use of alternative materials and encouraging local initiatives on reducing plastic consumption (ex: single use plastic directive)?

- **Protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems**

- HMW communicate the impact of human activities on coastal ecosystems, increase ocean literacy/awareness for the general public, to create public support for ecosystem conservation?

- HMW attribute values (monetary and others) to coastal ecosystem activities and services, helping evaluate externalities, to reduce human-induced pressures on coastal ecosystems by stakeholders and the general public?

- HMW support education on the topic of long-term challenges of people using the coastal system, to help them implement short term behavior change aiming at reducing their impact?

- HMW ensure the alignment of short and long term objectives related to coastal activities, aiming at ensuring sustainable coastal exploitation?

- HMW educate users, citizens and blue economy actors to reduce their impact (pollution, degradation, erosion…) on urban and suburban coastal zones and ecosystems?

- HMW increase protection and expansion of protected coastal areas?

- **Ocean and climate change**

- HMW support the maritime industry's transition towards lower climate impact of marine activities (marine transport /tourism/ aquaculture / fisheries etc.) to preserve ocean ecosystems?

- HMW develop and implement tools that actively help people reduce or mitigate their personal or professional maritime impact on climate change?

- HMW include information of future changes in the environment (e.g. climate) in Maritime Spatial planning in order to conserve ecosystems in the long term?

- HMW help the public understand the urgency of taking concrete actions to reduce climate change effects and support it in implementing behaviour change?

- HWM increase consumers' awareness of the climate impact of human activities (shipping, aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, etc.), develop greener alternatives and re-localise production and consumption?

- **New sustainable foods & resources**

- HMW integrate a holistic approach of environmental and socioeconomic impacts of food, aiming at changing consumers' eating behavior (eat local seafood, eat bivalves and algae)?

- HMW create incentives and accelerate a fair transition of fishers and seafood producers, to achieve lower impact and lower scale of seafood production?

- HMW develop alternative practices and foods in order to increase variety, attractiveness and quality of marine food options?

- HMW improve consumers' literacy about economic, nutritional & environmental benefits and impacts of new and sustainable seafood?

- HMW reduce impact of seafood production along the full supply chain?

The tools & format of the event

The set-up of the event was designed around the methodology and the four main themes to tackle. In order to do so, a room was dedicated to each theme and every work session was organized around those four breakout rooms. All sessions of the program were happening simultaneously in the four rooms, except for the short briefing sessions in the plenary room.

The Miro tool

The event was designed to be paperless. To that end, Miro - an online collaborative whiteboard platform that enables distributed teams to work effectively together - was used by the participants throughout the event.

Miro was leveraged for most tasks, from brainstorming with digital sticky notes to working together on developing a project.

The main H40 Miro board was designed specifically for the event, serving at the methodological framework guiding the teams through each step of the process, allowing them to book their expert's appointments, etc…

When the teams were formed, each team went to their own Miro board to brainstorm and follow the methodological steps for developing and refining their project.

The challenge briefings & ideation sessions

The event started with two consecutive rounds of challenge briefing and ideation sessions. Those sessions happened simultaneously in the four breakout rooms in order to give each participant the opportunity to attend two sessions and therefore to participate in the challenge briefings on two themes.

The sessions started with a 15-minute introduction of each challenge by a duo of experts whose roles were to introduce the theme and related challenges ("How might we" questions) to tackle. They provided context on those challenges and presented the opportunities to explore and potential alternatives to develop.

From those two rounds of ideation, participants generated 38 project ideas which were presented in the Idea Gallery.

Those 38 pilot project ideas can be found on the following link.

The Idea Gallery & teams' formation

The Idea Gallery displayed all the ideas that emerged from the ideation sessions. All participants were asked to pick their favorite idea and to form a team around it. A total of 18 teams were formed (see final list of projects below). Once formed, teams gathered in the breakout rooms linked to the Challenges of their choice, and started to narrow down and refine their projects.

In order to get the best possible mix of expertise in each team, the participants were split into five categories related to their field of expertise / study, represented with the color of the participants' badges:

- Biology
- Engineering
- Environmental Management
- Social sciences
- Marine sciences

The facilitators helped during the teams' formation, to try having all the colors / expertise represented and balanced in each team.

The appointments with experts

Throughout the event, all teams had the possibility to book several 20-minute appointments with business and domain experts at different crucial stages of the event in order to receive feedback and to be guided on how to best develop their projects.

On the first day, expert feedback focused on helping the teams to focus their ideas and to identify the most efficient and viable solutions. Content was at the center of the first day's appointments.

On the second day, the guidance was more focused on refining teams' projects, on viability and implementation, as well as on the best way to present and to "sell" the projects.
Also on the second day, in addition to the input from the domain and business experts, teams had the opportunity to meet with pitch coaches, who helped them prepare their final presentations for the closing pitching session (see "Experts' roles").

The pitching session

At the end of day 2, all teams did a one-minute pitch presentation to present their ideas to the audience and the jury panel. A jury panel composed of five jury members (three from DG mare and two external juries from the experts' panel), rated all teams' presentations and voted to elect one winning team per theme, as well as one overall winning team.

The winning team was offered, by the European Commission, the opportunity to go to the European Marine Day 2023, held in the city of Brest, to present their project.

The Experts' Roles

The panel of experts was composed of 19 people, coming from all around Europe as well as Tunisia, all of them with a specific expertise linked to one of the four main themes of the event. Their role was to provide guidance and feedback to the teams in order to help them develop and refine their final project.

If their expertise had to be linked to the themes, we also looked at recruiting them based on the different roles to be tackled during the event, defined hereunder. You can find the full list of H40 experts as annex 1 of this document.

The Domain experts

Domain experts were selected for their experience and their marine/maritime knowledge. Their role was to provide constructive feedback and guidance on the content of the projects developed by the teams, to give a fresh perspective on some blind spots, and, if the project was not clear enough, raise additional questions on how they were planning to execute it.

The Business experts

Business experts were selected based on their knowledge of the industry, their experience in business development and related skills. Their role was to give constructive business feedback, guidance on the feasibility and the viability of the teams' projects. They offered suggestions of improvement and shared their experience: what has been tried, what has worked, what didn't, which stakeholders to involve, indicated new alternatives and new paths to explore, etc.

The Challenge briefers

The Challenge Briefers opened the event by giving, in pairs, 15-min presentations on one of the four main themes. Their role was to bring all the participants to a shared understanding of the theme and the challenges of the event by describing the current situation, the context and the specific problems the world is facing within the theme. They would also exemplify those challenges by describing possible solutions and failed ideas.

The Pitch coaches

Pitch coaches were selected based on their skills and knowledge of communications strategy. Their role was to provide constructive feedback to the teams' project ideas presentation and help them find a way to better bring their message across.

The Jury panel

The jury panel was composed of three DG Mare representatives as well as two external experts. Their role was to listen to the teams' final 1-min pitches, grade them based on criteria and select one winning team per theme and one overall winning theme.

The Teams' Projects

From the 38 rough ideas that came out of the two ideation sessions, 18 ideas were picked during the idea gallery and 18 teams were formed around those ideas.

18 final projects were developed by the teams and presented during the final pitching session:

- 4 projects were developed under the "marine litter" theme
- 5 projects were developed under the "ocean & climate change" theme
- 6 projects were developed under the "coastal ecosystems" theme
- 3 projects were developed under the "new sustainable foods & resources" theme

The 4 winning teams

For each theme, the jury panel voted on the best team's project. Four teams won (one per theme) and one of those teams was elected by the jury as the overall winner. The five jury members graded each team's project with grades going from 1 to 5.

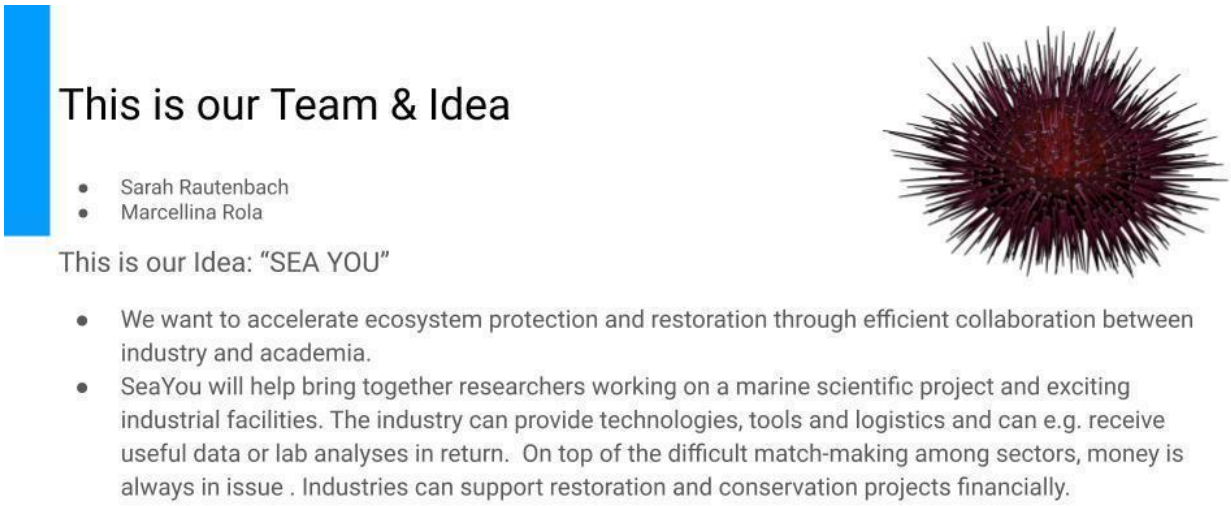
- The winning team for the "marine litter" theme is **team Lobster** (18 points)
- The winning team for the "ocean & climate change" theme is **team Walrus** (19 points)
- The winning team for the "coastal ecosystems" theme is **team Ursin** (21 points)
- The winning team for the "new sustainable foods & resources" theme is **team Dolphin** (20 points)

The overall winning team is **team Ursin**

The winning team was offered, by the European Commission, the opportunity to go to the European Marine Day 2023, held in the city of Brest, to present their project.

Team Ursin for Coastal Ecosystems & overall winning team

View their full presentation here



The winning team project "SEA YOU" was elaborated to accelerate and scale up creation of viable and efficient solutions for ecosystem protection and restoration. Inspired by the concept of the Tinder application, the project's purpose is putting researchers in relation with relevant industry actors with the aim of the two parties working together.

Instead of having academic researchers and industry stakeholders working in parallel but separately on the same topics and projects, the idea is to put in contact people from those two worlds so they can mutually benefit from each other's know-how and share the different resources they have to jointly develop stronger, more viable solutions.

It is interesting to note that on their team's Miro board the first team member describes herself as detail-oriented, creative and introverted and the other as big picture oriented, analytical and extroverted. They illustrate very nicely the added value of creating teams with a good mix of different profiles and expertise, to develop an efficient and viable project.

- **Team Walrus for Ocean & Climate change**

View their full presentation here

This is our Team & Idea

- Mariah Vella
- Leon Azzopardi Ciantar
- Sebastian Uhlmann
- Colombe de Lambert
- Illany Véliz Cedeño
- Tom De Block

This is our Idea: The Blue Dataverse

- An interconnected dataspace and visual, real-time 3D map frontend that allows for mass data aggregation with real-time updates. These data will aid in the protection of vulnerable marine species via tracking and protect algae for utilization as carbon sinks.

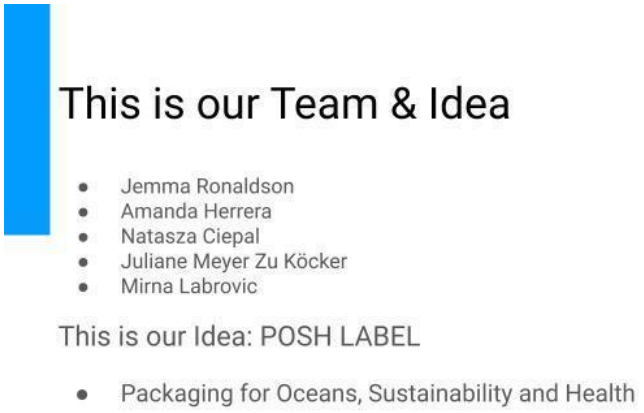
The project "The Blue Dataverse" aims at supporting the EU member states in reaching their 2050 goals by improving the transnational monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem changes through trans-boundary data collection and offering advice on spatial management and protected zones. The project will provide an aggregated crowdsourced dataspace with Digital Twin interoperability in order to aid data enrichment through a public-private partnership between EMODnet and Copernicus.

The Blue Dataverse focuses on trans-boundary, centralized link up for blue heart users to offer observational capacities of underutilized, crowdsourced data and appropriate data-sharing protocols, decentralized dataspace with a pan-European hosting alliance. Further, the project aims at moving from 2D to 3D maps: developing a front-end app and compatible data export protocols to talk with global biodiversity dataspaces.

The team wants to incentivize individuals with an innovative reward token model, and corporates through a financial incentive model via corporate social responsibility (CSR). The project aims at having technical and business infrastructure partners provide them with funding the most expensive parts of our software developments.

- **Team Lobster for Marine Litter**

View their full presentation here



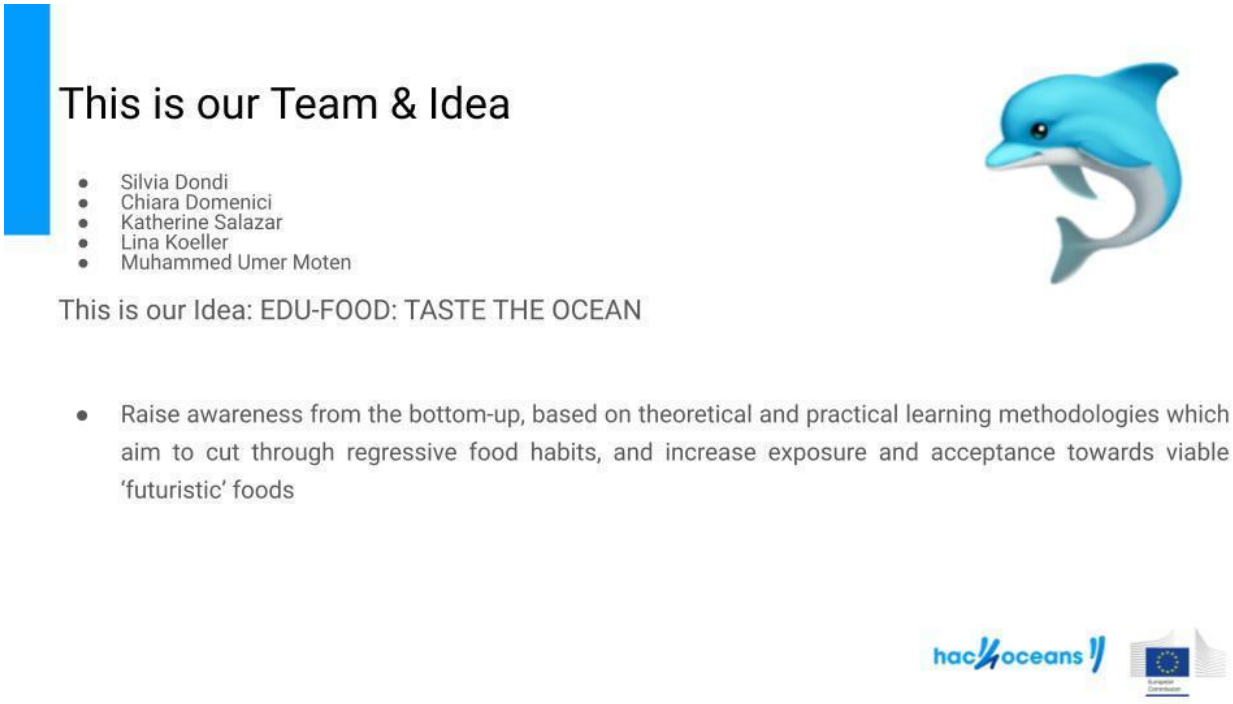
The project "Posh label" focuses on reducing marine litter and raising awareness about the level of sustainability of packaging for products used and bought every day by consumers. The aim is to reduce ocean litter by creating a label that would clearly rate the sustainability of the packaging used, taking two main parameters into account: the chemicals released while decomposing and the time the package needs to fully decompose.

The idea is also to raise awareness about the direct link between ocean litter and health, providing consumers with clear information on the level of chemicals present in the packaging they use daily.

In its feedback the team highlighted the very good cooperation between all team members, as well as a good time management and flow of ideas.

- **Team Dolphin for New sustainable foods & resources**

View their full presentation here



The project "EDU - FOOD: Taste the ocean" aims at creating a long-term behavior change amongst individual consumers with regards to nutrition patterns, with the twin goals of putting an end to the near-monopoly of land-food resources in the human diet, as well as to halting marine resource depletion.

Starting from the observation that the current nutritional behaviors cannot be sustained and the sustainable marine alternatives are not being fully utilized, the project proposes to incorporate sustainable oceanic consumption into the nutritional regime in international schools across Europe.

Through an accreditation system, the goal is to push and support a drastic change of habits in behaviors and ideologies regarding sustainable marine alternatives, within the European community circle i.e., kids, youth, adults.

The idea is to raise awareness from the bottom-up, based on theoretical and practical learning methodologies, cut through regressive food habits, and increase exposure and acceptance towards viable 'futuristic' foods. This is to be achieved by instating a nutritional regime within Primary and Secondary schools, that target sustainable oceanic consumption through practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

The Teams' Projects

- **Marine Litter**

  View their full presentation here

This is our Team & Idea

- Andrei-Bogdan Harcotă
- Matea Kramar
- Mirela Kovačević
- Lada Bolotova
- Rui Costa
- Nikola Bobchev
- Jana Ropac

This is our Idea: Sea ROOMBA - Litter Collection Unmanned Vessel

- Sustainable, Low-cost Unmanned Surface Vehicles for litter cleanup in Ports, Inland waterways and Offshore - with environmental data gathering capacities.
- Systems made up of an unmanned towing vessel and modular skimmers for macroplastic, microplastic and water filtering - with port sized and offshore sized vehicle iterations.
- Designed to minimize environmental impact while maintaining a low-cost, easy-to-produce, high-impact solution strategy.

View their full presentation here

This is our Team & Idea

- Kathrin Bangert
- Lea Tanzer
- Elena Herberz
- Darragh Daly

This is our Idea: PlastX

- We want to create an app that helps people identify the most harmful packaged products in the grocery store and choose the more environmentally friendly option. This will be rewarded through a score system.

View their full presentation here

This is our Team & Idea

- Rimante Plikunaite
- Nanna de la Motte Nielsen
- Toscane Forestier – Depresle
- Rodrigo Espada
- João Pinto da Costa

This is our Idea: RATE2SAVE

- A grading system for supermarket products that rates the plastic content of the product, raising awareness of consumers, built upon the European Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive.

- **Ocean and climate change**

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Eloi Alberton
- Kirke Paris
- Aoife Lyster
- Rita Sarreira
- Ciara Chamberlain
- Charlotta Westphal

This is our Idea: Shell-Conscious

- Fully using oyster waste shells (and potentially expanding to using other bivalve and mollusks.) Oyster shells contain excellent sources of bicarbonate which can help against ocean acidification in sensitive ecosystems and help provide nourishment to coral reefs.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- José Dias
- Lorena Marcos Almansa
- Gonçalo Meira
- Alexandra Berdova Chebakova
- Hannah Salber

This is our Idea: Offshore multi-use space to transition into/speed circular economy

- Windfarms are growing at a significant rate and so is the algae industry in Europa. A result of this development is the multi-usage of offshore windfarms. Our idea is to include small business owners in the multi-usage of offshore-windfarms.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Katrina Feliciano
- Wassim Seksaf
- Maria Velimitskaya
- Sayma Naznin Prova
- Anthi Paschalidou

This is our Idea: Educational game “Mission: Blue Horizon”

- The game is about solving ecological problems by decision making strategy
- Climate change is here and we have yet to make our current and future generations aware and engaged about our situation.
- That is why we have designed this game to be an interactive, strategic, and realistic online game that will allow users from all backgrounds to learn about making proper decisions, even from the most basic, to change the future of the society and the planet.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Aiste Andriule
- Victoria Theodorou
- Ioanna Evangelou
- Athanasios Nikolaou
- Laurent Peretti

This is our Idea: Tracing, Tracking Climate Labelling

- Creation of an awareness app which enables consumers to know their products carbon footprint.
- The app will come with a scoring system making it more friendly to the consumer.

- **Protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems**

  [View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Benjamin Mifsud Scicluna
- Julianna Ostrowska
- Luisa Reske
- Robin Caruana Montaldo
- Julia Micallef Filletti
- Hanne Collette

This is our Idea: Ecosystem Value Assessment

- Assigns economic value to ecosystem services
- Is financially self-sustaining
- Shapes future of coastal development policy-making

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Benjamin Mifsud Scicluna
- Erin Murray
- Isabella Villaquiran
- Aisling Thompson
- Evita Andreikeviciute
- Asia Milano
- Steve Rocha

This is our Idea: Ocean citizen: " A new approach on blue tourism and marine litter"

- Education and awareness centre.
- Promote biodiversity and sustainable living
- Community engagement.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Fabio Bentivogli
- Enrico Petucco
- Gerard Combis
- Neil Crawford
- Rebecca Kinsella

This is our Idea: Cannot hear you

- Coastal Acoustic Protection Programme (CAPP)
- Develop surveillance technologies and an acoustic mapping database to reduce noise related pressures on cetaceans across coastal ecosystems.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Giulia Dapueto
- Sharmin Hussain
- Gino Pedreira Lucchese
- Adrián Pinto Lezaun
- Mar Ferrer Renau

This is our Idea: Coastal ecosystems projection programme

- Innovative procedure based on a standardized framework that allows to forecast and envision scenarios of vulnerable marine coastal ecosystems thanks to spatial outputs (e.g. risk maps) supporting stakeholders and managers to implement new/improve existing measures and regulations (first alarm), providing a consultancy.
- Analyse present situation and predict future scenarios for identifying potential new MPAs and the expansion of existing ones (vulnerability level) due to different (natural and anthropic) pressures that act on defined variables, getting data from existing database (Copernicus, Edmodnet).

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[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Felana Andrianjakarivony
- Henrique Marques
- Antoine Jaumain
- Ulrike Willhelm
- Emma Gasper
- Mateja Švonja
- Helena Cvetkovic

This is our Idea: Ocean Rally Game: an app to raise awareness and educate children on coastal ecosystems

- Our team focused on coastal ecosystems and found a solution to communicate the impact of human activities, raise recognition of ocean literacy and combine diverse stakeholders to create public support for ecosystem conservation. Our idea was an application that merges educators and children with non-governmental bodies to strive towards a mutual goal; to educate and increase ecosystem conservation activities.

- **New sustainable foods & resources**

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Sara Montalban
- Nele Fricke
- Sandra Hernegger
- Andreas Goritschnig
- Abdulrahman Banisheyba
- Andrea Illa Oviedo
- Sebastian Schmidt

This is our Idea: Make fishing less fishy!

- We as a consultancy are facilitating ecotourism infrastructures for the purpose of diversification of income for low impact fisherman within the blue economy.
- This is based on bringing about business and cultural changes to relieve the industry from collapsing due to intense fishing pressure through tackling overfishing.
- This transformation is approached by using a individual model based on region and unique cases.

[View their full presentation here]

This is our Team & Idea

- Laure Brumont
- Nicholas Theux Lowen
- Ainhoa Hermida
- Valentina Romboli
- Anne Liong
- Alanah Cuny
- Silvia Malagoli

This is our Idea: SeaVoicers

- The current increase in food scarcity induces the need to find alternatives to “traditional food”. Paradoxically, food producers that are utilizing a sustainable approach struggle to scale up and gain visibility on their products. In such a tense context, we propose the creation of a public relation agency to support responsible and sustainable food consumption. Our mission is to valorize and promote novel food products through events, product placement, and advertising. We will then contribute to related events on which we present products for which we are Ambassadors/Agents.

Feedback from the teams

The teams' assessment on Miro

For this second edition, to secure more concrete participant feedback and to create a more thorough picture of the work the teams did and how they got to their final project, we created an additional board on Miro, focusing on assessing the following aspects:

- What went great in their teams' work
- What did the teams struggle with and what could be improved

We asked the teams to grade the following points:

- How ready to implement do you think your project is?
- How effective and innovative do you think your solution is?
- How helpful and valuable was the experts' guidance?

Finally, we asked the teams the following questions:

- How do you wish your idea to be implemented in the future?
- During team work, did you change your mind / pivot on the definition of your final project?
- Share a funny anecdote or fun fact about your team / project development

Summary of the teams' feedback forms:

- Almost all teams refer to positive group dynamics: team work, enthusiasm, involvement and diversity. In addition, some positive references were made towards the creative process, the creative flow and the generation and sharing of ideas.
- Overall, the advice of the experts was really well received. It forced teams to look critically at their idea and to pivot. It made their ideas stronger.
- Almost all teams indicate that during the process they changed their mind and/or idea. Adapting to change is considered positively.
- Overall participants gave positive feedback and high grades on the rating scales

"Valuable experience, meeting really nice people and we all learn a lot!"

"Thank you for letting us participate in Hack4Ocean. The organization was wonderful, foods were tasty, people were very nice!!!! Let's do it again next year :)"

All teams' feedback forms can be found on the following link.

Survey Results

Summary of the survey results

The overall results of the survey are very positive regarding the set up, format and content of the event.

Quite a few participants answered that more time would have been great, even a third day in order to do some activities outside of the hackathon framework to get to know everyone better.

A few answers focused on the need to have concrete outcomes and implementation of the ideas.

The paperless format was appreciated and the meetings with experts valued very positively. The most recurrent answer was the appreciation of the opportunity to meet fellow students from all around Europe and to extend their network.

Quick peek at some of the feedback

"I think overall it was a great experience. I've learned a lot about new subjects and ended up with a more open mind in certain areas. I enjoyed meeting new people from all around Europe, especially the group I worked with, and seeing how different and yet similar we are."

"The event was well organized, the people were amazing and overall it was a great way to learn a lot of new things and meet new people from different cultures/parts of Europe."

"Very good set up and great opportunity to meet with fellow students from all around europe"

What was the one thing that you liked the most?

"The zero-way aspect of materials. Every facilitator was so willing to help us"

"Get to know people with different points of view to find solutions for the same problems"

"the exchanges of views and knowledge"

"The overall environment" "The topics"

"The crew that has organized the event"

"Networking. I met so many interesting people, in which I intend to keep contact with them in the future"

What came out as a good surprise?

"Number and diversity of participants"

"The awards at the end"

"I wasn't expecting such great service during the hackathon, with water, coffee, food, etc., so that really surprised me"

"taking to the professionals was very insightful"

"The amazing teamwork in a group of people that didn't know each other until the event!"

"the variety of profiles and expertise"

Annexes

Annex 1: The Hack4Oceans II Expert Panel

Name	Surname	Experts' role(s)	Organization	Job Position
Chokri	Mansour	Challenge Briefer - Business expert	Association PINNA	marine biologist, Head of PINNA
Kinnie	De Beule	Challenge Briefer - Pitch coach	Blauwe Cluster	Innovation Manager
Christina	Kontaxi	Domain expert	Freelance	Environmental Consultant
Marília	Breite	Business expert - Pitch coach	Bin Your Butts Leuven	Founder
Tobias	Troll	Challenge briefer - Domain expert	Seas at risk	Marine Policy Director
Thomas	De Groote	Challenge briefer - domain expert - jury member	River Cleanup	Founder
Rebecca	Zitoun	Business expert - Pitch coach - jury member	European Marine Board	EMB Young Ambassadors 2021-2023
Irene	Martins	Challenge briefer - Domain expert	Ciimar	Researcher
Luciana	Das Neves	Challenge briefer - Domain expert	IMDC	project manager coastal and offshore engineering
Pierre	Leclercq	Business expert		Strategy Consultant
Teresa	Vereterra	Pitch coach	European Boating Industry	Policy and Projects Junior Officer
Dany	Robberecht	Business expert - Pitch coach	Verhaert	Director consulting office
Pierre	Leonard	Challenge briefer - Business expert	Little Green Dots	Circle economy facilitator
Maris	Stulgis	Challenge briefer - Domain expert - jury member	DG Mare - European Commission	Policy officer
Deepak	Mehta	Business expert	MCA community vzw	Ecosystem developer
Hanne	Collette	Domain expert	River Cleanup	Manager
Branka	Mitrovikj	Business expert	TechAltruism and The Product Boost	Founder
Céline	Frank	Challenge briefer	DG Mare - European Commission	Policy officer
Zoi	Konstantinou	Jury member	DG Mare - European Commission	Policy officer

Name	Surname	Experts' role(s)	Organization	Job Position
Alena	Petrikovicova-de Chevilly	Jury member	DG Mare - European Commission	Policy officer

Annex 2: Participants' list

First name	Last name	Name of the organization you work/study at	Discipline / Job title
Athanasios	Nikolaou	University of the Aegean	Oceanography and Marine Bio-science
Mariah	Vella	University of Malta	B.Sc (Hons) in Earth Systems
Ulrike	Willhelm	University of Vienna	Ecology and Ecosystems
Helena	Cvetkovic	University of Vienna	Ecology and Ecosystems
Rui	Costa	Instituto Superior Técnico	Naval Architecture and Oceanic Engineering
Katherine Jennifer	Salazar Alekseyeva	University of Vienna	Microbial oceanography
Enrico	Petucco	Superior Technical Institute (Instituto Superior Técnico - IST)	Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering
Kirke	Paris	University of Tartu	Biology and conservation
Fabio	Bentivogli	Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisbon	Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering
Gonçalo	Meira	Instituto Superior Técnico - Universidade de Lisboa	Naval and Ocean Engineering
José	Dias	Instituto Superior Técnico	Marine Engineering
Henrique	Marques	Instituto Superior Técnico - Universidade de Lisboa	Naval and Oceanic Engineering
Leon	Azzopardi Ciantar	University Of Malta	Earth Systems
Olayinka Idris Adebayo	Olugboye	Novia University of Applied Science	Sustainable Coastal Management
Katrina	Feliciano	Novia University of Applied sciences	Sustainable coastal management
Maria	Velmitskaya	Novia University of Applied Sciences	Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, Sustainable Coastal Management
Abdulrahman	Banisheyba	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Sustainable Coastal Management
Sayma Naznin	Prova	novia university of applied sciences	Bachelor of natural resources
Julia	Micallef Filletti	University of Malta	Institute of Earth Systems
Anne	Liong	University of Porto	Biomedical Sciences

First name	Last name	Name of the organization you work/study at	Discipline / Job title
Robin	Caruana Montaldo	University of Malta	Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Earth Systems
Matea	Kramar	Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology	Environmental engineering
Jana	Ropac	Faculty of chemical engineering and technology	Eco engineering
Mirna	Labrović	Faculty of chemical engineering and technology	Ecoengineering
Mirela	Kovačević	Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology	Environmental engineering
Valentina	Romboli	Wageningen University	Aquaculture & Marine Microbiology
Chiara	Domenici	Southern Denmark University	Environmental and Resource Management
Sharmin	Hussain	Novia University of Applied Sciences	Sustainable Coastal Management
Anthi	Paschalidou	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Geologist, Environmental protection and sustainable development
Silvia	Dondi	University of Southern Denmark and University of Ferrara (Double Degree)	Environmental and Resource Management, Green Economy
Julianna	Ostrowska	University of Malta	Earth Systems
Benjamin	Mifsud Scicluna	University of Malta	Earth Systems
Victoria	Theodorou	University of Cyprus	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
IOANNA	EVANGELOU	University of Cyprus	Engineering
Andreas	Goritschnig	NOVIA UAS	Ecology
Sandra	Herrnegger	Satakunta University of Applied Science	Physiotherapy
Wassim	Seksaf	University of La Rochelle	Costal geophysics and geoscience
Nanna	de la Motte Nielsen	Syddansk Universitet	Environmental and Resource Management
Lorena	Marcos Almansa	Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale	Marine Science: Marine ecology and fisheries production
Antoine	Jaumain	HEPL	Agronomy (section agriculture)
Juliane	Meyer zu Köcker	Technische Hochschule Köln	Renewable Energies
Marcellina	Rola	Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität Bonn	Marine Biology
ADRIÁN	Pinto Lezaun	Universitat de Barcelona	Ciències del Mar
Andrea	Illa	University of Barcelona	Marine Sciences
Gerard	Combis	University of Barcelona	Marine science
Illany	Véliz	Universitat de Barcelona	Marine Science
Sara	Montalban	Universitat de Barcelona	Marine sciences
Ainhoa	Hermida	University of Barcelona	Marine Science, focusing mostly in Algae Ecology and Biotechnology

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Eloi	Alberton	Universitat de Barcelona (UB)	Sea Science
Aistė	Andriulė	Klaipeda University	Physical geography
Rimantė	Plikūnaitė	Klaipėdos universitetas	Physical Sciences (Hydrology and Oceanography)
Mateja	Švonja	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Isabella	Villaquirán	Atlantic technological university	Marine and freshwater biology
Michael Steve	Rocha Hernandez	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Public Administration and Social and behavioral sciences
Amanda	Herrera	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Social Sciences
Jemma	Ronaldson	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Social sciences
Rebecca	Kinsella	Atlantic Technological University	Bachelor Honors Degree of Freshwater and Marine Biology
Toscane	Forestier Depresle	Erasmus University of Rotterdam	Management of International Social Challenges
Natasza	Ciepał	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Management of International Social Challenges
Colombe	de Lambert	Erasmus University Rotterdam	management of international and social challenges
Umer	Moten	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Public Administration
Rodrigo	Espada	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Public Administration
Aisling	Thompson	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Nikola	Bobchev	RWTH Aachen	Applied Geography
Alanah	Cuny	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Management of International Social Challenges
Evita	Andreikeviciute	Atlantic Technology University	Fresh water marine biology
Darragh	Daly	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Shona	Murphy	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Lada	Bolotova	University of cologne	Geophysik Meteorologie
Nele	Fricke	Windesheim University	Global Project and Change Management
Neil	Crawford	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Luisa	Reske	University of Cologne	Meteorology and Geophysics
Elena	Herberz	University of Cologne	Geoscience
Felana	Andrianjakarivony	Aix-Marseille Université	Life and health sciences

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Alexandra	Berdova Chebakova	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Management of International Social Challenges
Lina	Koeller	Universität zu Köln	Geography
Hannah	Salber	Universität zu Köln	B.Sc. Geography
Lea	Tanzer	Wageningen University & Research	Environmental Sciences
Asia	Milano	Leiden University	International Studies
Charlotta	Westphal	Windesheim University of Applied Sciences	Sustainable Business and Innovation
Kathrin	Bangert	Windesheim Honors College	Business Administration
Emma	Gasper	University of Cologne	Geography and Linguistics
Erin	Murray	Atlantic Technological University	Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology
Ciara	Chamberlain	Atlantic Technological University, Galway	Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology
Sebastian	Schmidt	University of cologne	Geography
Aoife	Lyster	Atlantic Technological University Galway Mayo	Freshwater and Marine Biology
Mar	Ferrer	Universitat de Barcelona (UB)	Marine Sciences
Joao	Costa	University of Aveiro	Assistant Researcher
Rita	Sarreira	Universidade de Aveiro	Researcher
Hanne	Collette	River Cleanup	Cleanup Manager Belgium
Marie Anais	Perdrau	Littoral Environnement et Sociétés	Engineer in Marine Ecology
Piet	Haerens	Haedes	Founder, Chief Soul & Strategy Officer
Nicholas	Theux Lowen	ABSint	Junior researcher on the valorization in Aquaculture
Laure	Brumont	Sopra Steria BeNeLux	Data Driven Sustainability Advocate
Giulia	Dapueto	ETT	Occasional collaborator
Andrei-Bogdan	Harcotă	Ovidius University Constanța	Geography of Tourism
Gino	Pedreira Lucchese	Lund university	Sustainability Science
Sarah	Rautenbach	Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR)	Research Officer
Silvia	Malagoli	University of Strathclyde	Mathematics and Statistics
Tom	De Block	AIOTI / BFO	Chair / Solution architect
Katia	Munoz	Proyecto 7	Coworking owner // Art & tech strategist
Sven Sebastian	Uhlmann	DTU Aqua, VUB	Post-doc / guest professor
Laurent	Peretti		Change Management expert