



HOW TO BECOME A YOUNG OCEAN ADVOCATE

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS 2020



#YOUTH4OCEAN



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EU4Ocean is a project funded by the European Commission and implemented by a consortium of 12 partners across Europe. These partners are EU4Ocean facilitators and include: ACTeon (coordinator, France), Seascape Belgium (Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network and the European Atlas of the Seas, Belgium), the European Marine Board (EMB, Belgium), Nausicaá - National Sea Centre (France), the World Ocean Network (WON, France), Ciência Viva (Portugal), the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA, Belgium), Ecologic Institute (Germany), the European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology (EurOcean, Portugal), Secretariat of Submariners (S.Pro, Germany), MARE Nostrum (Romania), European Schoolnet (Belgium), and Farah Obaidullah (Independent Ocean Advocate & Founder Women4Oceans, The Netherlands).



Accreditation process

STEP 1

Apply online

Members of the Youth4Ocean Forum can submit their projects and apply for accreditation of the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission as Young Ocean Advocate at any time.

STEP 2

Have your application screened for eligibility

We will screen your eligibility before proceeding to the next steps.

You need to be:

- A member of the Youth4Ocean Forum
- Between 16 and 30 years of age

Your project needs to:

- Be relevant to the topics of the EU4Ocean Coalition: *Food from the Ocean, Ocean & Climate, Healthy & Clean Ocean*
- Be in relation to the ocean: from marine education, conservation, research and arts, to blue economy businesses, fishing, maritime transport, coastal tourism or even sports!
- Bring a solution to a marine and/or social challenge, promote sustainable development, community engagement, good practice & behaviour

STEP 3

Have your application assessed

The jury is made up of representatives of facilitators of the Youth4Ocean Forum, founding members of the Youth4Ocean Forum, previously selected Young Ocean Advocates, and experts in the domain of your project (recruited among the members of the EU4Ocean Platform). The jury will review your application and will:

Rate your personal skills:

- Motivation and commitment
- Conceptual thinking
- Leadership skills
- Long-term vision
- Open-mindedness
- Communication skills
- Creativity
- Interpersonal skills
- Coaching and mentoring skills

Assess your project and its:

- Impact
- Potential for change
- Clear vision
- Implementation
- Sustainability and replication potential
- Catalytic role
- Strategic relevance to EU Green Deal, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development Goals
- Inclusiveness and collective approach
- European dimensions
- Effectiveness and achievement of outputs

STEP 4

Get a final approval by the European Commission

If you passed stages 1 and 2, your application and recommendations from the jury will be reviewed by a representative of the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission.

STEP 5

Become a Young Ocean Advocate!

Expect an answer within 15 days after the deadline for submission.



Benefits and duties of being a Young Ocean Advocate

As a Young Ocean Advocate you will have access to exclusive benefits and resources to make a positive change for the ocean:

- ★ Your project and personal profile will be showcased in the Youth4Ocean Forum section on the Maritime Forum website of the European Commission, and promoted on social media by the EU4Ocean Coalition;
- ★ You will get support and guidance from members of the EU4Ocean Coalition, to help you carry out your activities;
- ★ You will have access to the coaching/mentoring programme of the EU4Ocean Coalition to develop your project and skills;
- ★ You will be invited to participate in the EU4Ocean sea basin events on an equal footing with the EU4Ocean Coalition other members and get the chance to pitch your project and ideas in front of a broad audience;
- ★ You will be able to attend events and network with leading experts, likeminded young people and professionals from all over Europe.
- ★ You will get access to tools and networks to promote ocean literacy in Europe.
- ★ You will be able to participate in EU4Ocean Coalition discussion groups on topics: Food from the Ocean, Climate & Ocean, Healthy & Clean Ocean;
- ★ And last but not least, you will have the possibility to participate in the EU4Ocean final event (to be held in one of the EU Member States in 2021/2022), and to win an award for your project.

Young Ocean Advocates will be active in the Youth4Ocean Forum and in particular they will:

- ★ Continue to develop and carry out their projects;
- ★ Promote the Youth4Ocean Forum and ocean literacy;
- ★ Mobilise their networks to expand the Youth4Ocean Forum outreach and bring in new members including the youth from beyond the marine sectors and from all social groups;
- ★ Participate in and contribute to the Youth4Ocean Forum committees, meetings, activities of education, outreach and advocacy, and coaching and mentoring programme;
- ★ Contribute to the strategic development of the Youth4Ocean Forum;
- ★ Help the EU4Ocean Coalition to organise events at the sea basin scale and the final EU4Ocean summit;
- ★ Contribute to other ocean literacy initiatives of the EU4Ocean Coalition by collaborating with members of the EU4Ocean Platform and of the European Network of Blue Schools;
- ★ Be ambassadors of the Youth4Ocean Forum and of initiatives supporting the sustainable use of the ocean.

Get support, inspiration and guidance from members of the two other communities of the EU4Ocean Coalition!

The EU4Ocean Platform:

the focal point for organizations and initiatives to connect, collaborate and mobilize efforts on ocean literacy. A full list of members is available [here](#).

The Network of European Blue Schools:

a network dedicated to empowering schools to bring ocean-related issues into the education system e.g. curricula, extra-curricula activities, towards becoming a certified Blue School.



FAQ

1. I just missed the deadline, can I still apply?

Not to worry, you can apply at any time. We will publish new calls for projects on specific topics every 3 months, but we will review your application as long as your project matches the project eligibility criteria (see page 2).

2. I am under 16 /over 30, but I feel that my project fits the criteria. Can I still apply?

Yes, we will review all applications, and apply flexibility if we deem that your project is innovative and promising.

3. I have developed my projects with others, can we apply as a group?

Only one person can submit the project through the online application form, and can mention the names of the other applicants. If the project is approved, all applicants will become Young Ocean Advocates if they all meet the eligibility criteria (see page 2).

4. I am a founding member of the Youth4Ocean Forum, can I apply?

Yes! Founding members are allowed and encouraged to place their candidacy to become Young Ocean Advocates. For obvious reasons, if you apply, you will be excluded from the jury assessing your application.

5. I understand English but I am not confident in applying in English. Can I apply in my native language?

We do not want language to be a barrier. Candidates can be leaders at a sea basins scale and not be fluent in English. Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications in languages other than English, but in order to be inclusive, the Youth4Ocean Forum members who are fluent in English can help other members to translate their documents in English for evaluation.

We are always there if you need help.

Contact us through the contact form or by email at youth4ocean@nausicaa.fr.



FAQ

6. If my application is not successful, can I improve my project and apply again?

Absolutely! The innovative projects that have passed the eligibility criteria but have been rejected will benefit from advice/coaching tips to succeed the next time they are submitted.

Some applicants whose projects do not comply with the criteria will be contacted and given suggestions on how to improve their project and apply again. In addition, members of the Youth4Ocean Forum and the EU4Ocean Coalition will provide mentoring and coaching to improve projects that have been declined and to implement projects that are in concept phase or planning stages.

7. My project is only an idea at the moment, can I apply?

Yes, we welcome applications for projects at various stages of development, it can be just a concept (in which case the Youth4Ocean Forum will help you in developing it), or already being implemented or ongoing. Please note that only completed and ongoing projects will be able to compete for awards at the EU4Ocean final event, due to take place in 2021/2022.

8. My project is in place already and it generates a profit, could this be an issue?

Not at all, as long as a project contributes to a more sustainable use of the ocean resources or to raise awareness, we want to hear from it!



www.eu-oceanliteracy.eu

We are always there if you need help.

**Contact us through the contact form
or by email at
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