



Connect to the ocean
and drive changes together!

EU4OCEAN COALITION

1st EU4Ocean event “Designing Ocean Literacy actions in Europe”

Ocean literacy in the Arctic: EU4Ocean workshop – 25 September 2020,
14:00-16:00 CEST

Main outcome & key messages

The workshop in a nutshell

In two breakout-groups, 30 participants with expertise in research and science communication discussed ideas for concrete Ocean Literacy initiatives in the Arctic. The groups focused on audio/visual outputs and educational materials, also fostering networks among participants.

Key messages/main outcomes

- Curiosity and compassion pave the way (not only) for Ocean literacy. Seemingly remote regions like the Arctic Ocean spark an undeniable fascination to people also south of the Arctic Circle. We as EU4Ocean members need to tap into this fascination while respecting the rights and needs of those already living in the region.
- Sharing and hearing personal stories of this fascination for the Arctic, including local knowledge from the region and scientific insights into the challenges there could allow to bring together even more dedicated support. Together we can co-create momentum for a more sustainable Arctic Ocean.
- Based on the discussions in the “audio/visual output” group, the development of a podcast linking the personal stories from people from the Arctic with the scientific background of changes affecting the region and its inhabitants could provide a helpful gateway to raise interest in and knowledge about the Arctic.
- The “educational materials” group gathered good practices of existing initiatives and challenges, including target audiences, the translation into languages and cultural contexts. It also recognized the need for higher education opportunities in Arctic areas. Overall, the group agreed that useful initiatives and networks exist but do not pay enough attention to the Arctic yet. Additional materials such as pre-recorded talks could feed into those networks and target various age groups. Translations/subtitles would allow to cover different languages.

Follow-up

Following the two breakout-groups the co-organizers offered contact addresses to stay in touch for the further development and implementation of the concrete ideas. The “audio/visual output” group is planning on conducting a test run for a podcast with about 10 topics to fine tune the format and examine potential distribution channels. Colleagues who would like to join in can contact arctic-ocean-literacy@geomar.de. The “educational materials” group is assessing its next steps and can be contacted at birzan@mba.ac.uk.

