




EU4OCEAN PLATFORM

*A focal point in Europe for professionals
to connect, collaborate and mobilise efforts
in Ocean Literacy*

**Terms of Reference
key facts**

#EU4OCEAN



This EU4Ocean Platform Key facts has been prepared by EU4Ocean facilitators Seascope Belgium, in collaboration with the European Marine Board, ACTeon and Ecologic. It is based on a full Terms of Reference available on the EU4Ocean website and produced in April 2020.

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), Seascope 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).

Photo credits: pixabay

WHAT IS EU4OCEAN AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

Europe already has a strong expertise and capability in ocean literacy, developed by a diverse set of stakeholders spanning academia, industry, youth, education, arts, civil society and citizens. But are we making the most of these efforts?

Whilst many fruitful partnerships and collaborations exist, efforts remain largely fragmented. And many stakeholders are motivated to contribute to ocean literacy, but don't have the tools or the connections to start. **The EU4Ocean Coalition is a European-driven initiative to connect and build upon Europe's capability in ocean literacy that engage and empower people to:**

- (a) understand the ocean and its role in the planetary system;
- (b) value the ocean and its

interconnectedness with humankind;

- (c) take action, and promote societal change towards a climate-neutral and more sustainable life-style, business practice and society.

The EU4Ocean Coalition includes three key components: The EU4Ocean Platform, Youth4Ocean (for people aged 16-30) and the Network of European Blue Schools.

This document focuses on the **EU4Ocean Platform**: a diverse and dynamic network motivated to work together to connect, shape and innovate ocean literacy actions in Europe. Building on existing capability, strengthening existing alliances and forming new partnerships – across domains, and with youth – are all key to success.



Figure 1 - EU4Ocean Platform Objectives

WHO CAN BE A EU4OCEAN PLATFORM MEMBER?

With an inclusive philosophy, the EU4Ocean Platform is open to all professional organisations, institutes, initiatives, networks, projects and people who show a strong motivation to actively shape ocean literacy actions in Europe. Members span, but are not limited to, science, policy, industry, civil society, education,

music, arts, media and science communication, and wider society. EU4Ocean also bridges domains, connecting wider marine and maritime fields with other domains, including water, wider environment, social, behavioural, economic and beyond.

What does the EU4Ocean Platform offer to members?

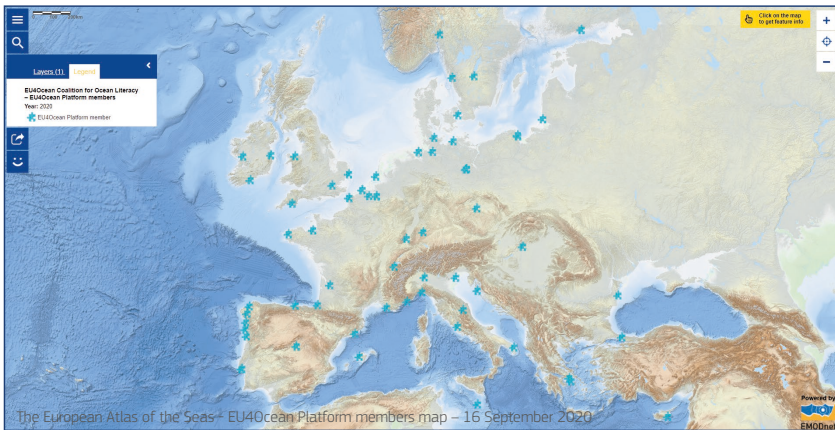
- ▶ Gaining visibility, added value and impact for existing activities;
- ▶ Increased connection between existing activities, towards a EU movement and narrative;
- ▶ Contributing to the central focal point for collaborative dialogue and action in Ocean Literacy in Europe, the EU4Ocean coalition;
- ▶ Working with other organisations and individuals and mutual learning around topics, including food from the ocean, climate and the ocean, and a healthy and clean ocean;
- ▶ Pooling and adding value to resources for scaling up ocean literacy activities into campaigns;
- ▶ Forming new partnerships, creating innovation and exploring diverse funding opportunities;
- ▶ Directly engaging with youth and young leaders e.g. the Youth4Ocean Forum;
- ▶ Contributing to the growing European movement in ocean literacy, as a contribution to international efforts and agendas e.g. UN 2030 Agenda.



EUROPEAN SEA-BASIN ACTIONS FOR ONE OCEAN: THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

EU4Ocean advocates for the “One Ocean” principle of ocean literacy that connects the ocean to all of us. Building on the “think global, act local” approach, EU4Ocean works across the **five regional sea-basins** of the European continent: Arctic Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean (including North Sea), Baltic Sea, Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. EU4Ocean actions will be co-designed and implemented with regional needs in mind. Regional EU4Ocean sea-

basin events will also be organized to extend regional stakeholder dialogue and communication to reach citizens at regional, national and local levels - including those from land-locked countries whose populations are crucial to engage in ocean literacy activities. Collective actions will be developed in synergy with international initiatives as a contribution to global ocean literacy efforts.



Connected and integrated with Youth and Schools

With strong connections to the Youth4Ocean and Network of European Blue Schools, the EU4Ocean Platform aims to actively engage, and drive change, across generations, domains and geographical scales. Platform members are welcome to engage into partnerships with Youth4Ocean members and Blue schools, providing resources and contributing to the dialogue between experienced professionals and the next generation.

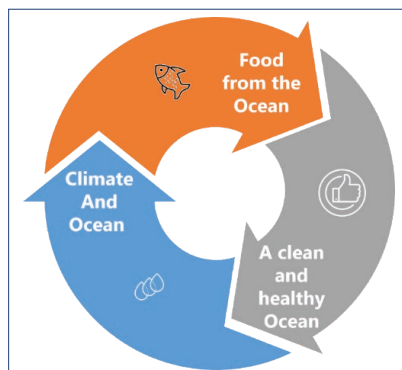


HOW DOES THE EU4OCEAN PLATFORM OPERATE?

Initiated in 2020, the EU4Ocean Platform is an inclusive network, driven by its members and with light governance by the EC and the platform facilitators. Guiding principles of the network are inclusivity, shared responsibility, open and free access to information and resources, driving innovation and enabling a strong voice for the youth and for marine and maritime education. Read the full [Terms of Reference](#)¹ for more details.

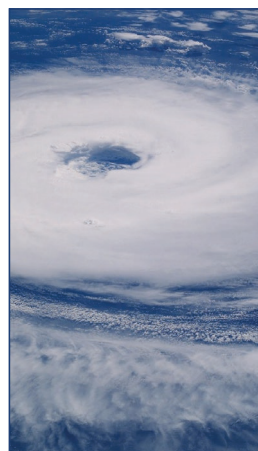
Working Groups:

The thematic working groups of the EU4Ocean Platform offer a dynamic topic-oriented working environment that stimulates collaboration, exchange of practices and dialogue across the many different target groups leading to the creation of new ocean literacy partnerships and co-designed innovative actions.



Sharing platforms:

The full Platform and individual Working Groups meet twice per year, to drive forward partnerships. Meetings are web-based, or with online connections possible to ensure inclusivity. All approved members gain access to an **online EU4Ocean platform community** to share relevant activities and outputs, discuss and develop new ideas and partnerships and create joint actions.



1 <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/sites/maritimeforum/files/tor-eu4oceanplatform.pdf>

HOW CAN MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU4OCEAN PLATFORM?

Members can contribute to the EU4Ocean Platform in many ways, every member bringing different expertise and experience, geographical and stakeholder knowledge, existing resources and

partnerships. EU4Ocean Platform members have a responsibility to actively participate and contribute in any one, or more, of the following areas:

Key roles for EU4Ocean Platform members

- ▶ Committing to the EU movement and narrative of EU4Ocean coalition, acting as informal ambassadors to build connection and momentum that drives societal change;
- ▶ Actively participating in the EU4Ocean Platform meetings and activities, including discussions around ocean topics;
- ▶ Working proactively and synergistically in topic-oriented multi-stakeholder environment;
- ▶ Bringing expertise and knowledge e.g. in marine and maritime research, policy, conservation, management, education;
- ▶ Being open and inclusive, forming new partnerships and co-designing ocean literacy activities, actions and campaigns at multiple geographical scales;
- ▶ Mentoring and coaching other members of the Platform and the Youth e.g. the Youth4Ocean Forum, European Young Ocean Leaders and Network of European Blue Schools;
- ▶ Engaging in relevant sea-basin events and dissemination, contributing to planning and promoting EU4Ocean activities at sea-basin, national and local levels.

Interested to become a EU4Ocean Platform member? Apply online!



Figure 2 - Further information on how to make an EU Login account, apply and request access to the EU4Ocean Platform community is available in the website manual (2.1).

EU4OCEAN CAN UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL FOR OCEAN LITERACY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL SECTOR!



Join the growing network of EU4Ocean Platform members to complete the puzzle: add value and impact to your activities.

“Sea” what you can do for EU4Ocean, and what EU4Ocean can do for you!





“ Together, let’s create a movement
for an ocean-literate society.

A society that understands the interconnectedness
of the ocean with humankind.

A society that has the knowledge and tools to take
action in their local community,
to drive a new wave of ocean literacy
and a shift towards sustainability.”

Join forces for the ocean.
Work together and inspire others!

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www.eu-oceanliteracy.eu

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