

Bringing the Underwater World to Life: Co-Creating Stories and Experiences

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Session Description

The concept of co-creation in the development of projects aimed at underwater cultural heritage is gaining pace and is increasingly seen as a fundamental part of successful projects with significant legacy. This was recognised by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in 2024 with the launch of an online training course focused on co-design.

Co-creation ensures that all stakeholders are involved and engaged through all stages of a project. The ethos ensures that the public are not just passive participants, but they are central to the decision making process. It builds on pre-existing relationships, networks and shared experiences as well as being open to new audiences. Experience has shown that co-creating with stakeholders in this way can have the best possible outcome for the safeguarding, management and enjoyment of underwater cultural heritage.

The aim of the session is to bring practitioners together in a friendly, collaborative space to share successes, failures and lessons learnt. This will help ensure co-creation continues to flourish and becomes integral to the design of future projects. This session will explore examples of co-creation in underwater cultural heritage projects and examine good practice, as well as looking at unsuccessful case studies where lessons can be learnt.

Keywords

Co-Creation; Participation; Public Engagement; Stakeholders