

## Ocean EDGE: The European Database of Good Examples in ocean education and outreach

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A lot of excellent learning elements, from individual units (videos, images, illustrations) to full packs containing multiple elements (manuals, field trips, experiments) have been developed globally and can be used to teach Ocean Literacy (OL) principles in both formal and informal education settings. As part of the Horizon 2020 project Sea Change we have now built an online searchable database collecting good practices for marine outreach and education developed by European organizations, organised in Europe or having a strong European involvement.

The Ocean EDGE (European Database of Good Examples in marine education and outreach; <http://seachangeproject.eu/seachange-media-4/sea-change-database>) database can be regarded both as a source of inspiration and as a tool to find proper learning materials online. The database has been developed for formal educators as well as people interested in informal learning, both groups being actively engaged in these topics, including developing other people's knowledge.

Ocean EDGE can be searched by combining keywords belonging to different categories such as audience, language, country, activity type or resource type. The structure of this search function is based on, and made as compatible as possible with the structure of the North-American 'The Bridge' directory for formal education, as to allow a minimum degree of interoperability in the future.

The database is designed to further grow and expand in the future. Its basis was laid and structured by use of 133 good practices carefully selected from (a) all European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) conferences (2012-2015), (b) the first International Marine Science Communication conference (IMSCC, 2014) and (c) a list of known good practices previously compiled by experts of EMSEA. In addition, the Sea Change partner College of Exploration Ltd sent out a survey to c. 100 experts in order to collect their top best practices in sharing ocean knowledge with a wider audience. These resources are complemented by an inclusive list of European Citizen Science initiatives, as identified by the European Marine Board (EMB) Citizen Science working group.

The system is being tested and evaluated on a regular basis, and gets updates and improvements in line with its organic growth, feeding and use. Future collaborations or integrations with other systems are being investigated.