



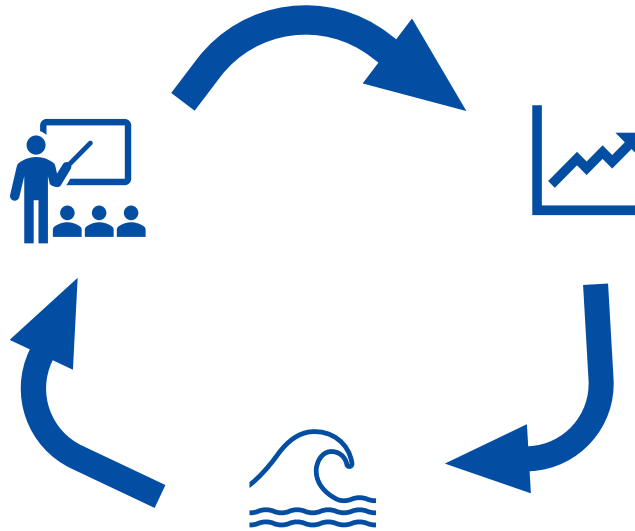
EU initiatives supporting the development of **blue skills**

Blue Skills for a Sustainable Economy | 25 April 2024

Sandra Castañer
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

We need blue skills & ocean literacy for (sustainable) blue growth

Blue skills
are needed to support
the development of
the blue economy



Blue economy
demonstrates the dynamism of
the blue economy and the
importance of the ocean for the
economy and society

Ocean literacy
is essential to demonstrate the importance of the ocean
and make careers in the blue economy more attractive

What is the EU doing?

- **Raise awareness** about the ocean, its role and protection
- **Reskilling** workers from other sectors, improve the **image** of blue careers
- **Developing** ocean literacy and blue skills trainings across the EU
- **Better cooperation** between education, government, science and bus



Trans-sectorial skills initiatives:

- **European Year of Skills**
- **Pact for Skills** (large-scale partnerships in shipbuilding & offshore renewable energy)



Calls for proposals:

- **Blue careers (EMFAF)**
- Mission Ocean (HE)
- Blueprint (Erasmus+)



EU4Ocean coalition
for **ocean literacy**

European Year of Skills to address skills gaps

When? From 9 May 2023 to 9 May 2024

How? Thousands of [events and activities](#) on skill development across Europe:



Showcasing skills development opportunities



Creating discussions between skills providers, companies and institutions

You can submit your own event or activity as contributions to the year.

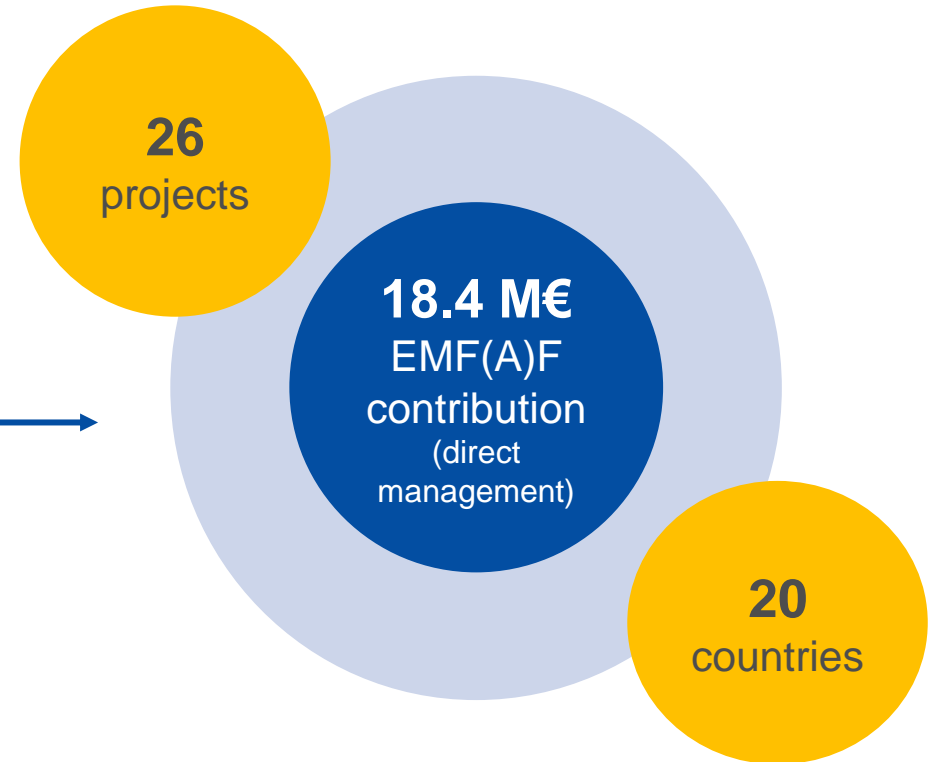


Calls for proposals to fund projects on blue skills

1. European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF/old EMFF):

Blue careers
(2016, 2017, 2018, 2023)

- + Women in the blue economy (2 projects)
- + Fishers of the future (foresight study)
- + Study on blue skills (mid-2024)
- + Actions by Member States (shared management)



Blue careers projects | 2023

Blue Career Centre for Aquaculture Education supported by a gamification approach and distance learning platform | [BlueAquaEdu](#)

Blue jobs through blue careers | [BOUTCAR](#)

The Next Blue Generation | [NextBlueGeneration](#)

Unlocking Transversal and Entrepreneurial Skills for the Blue Bioeconomy | [BlueBioTechpreneurs](#)

Training framework on Underwater Tecs as key enabler for blue careers development | [uBlueTec](#)

Blue careers in net-zero energy ports | [BLUE PORTS](#)

Integrating young offenders through the blue economy | [Turning Blue](#)

Game-based Learning of Entrepreneurship and Next-Generation Skills in Coastal Tourism | [COASTAL PRO](#)

Calls for proposals to fund projects on blue skills

2. Horizon Europe:

EU Mission

“Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030”

E.g. HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-08:
Student and school activities for the promotion of education on ‘blue’ sustainability and the protection of marine and freshwater ecosystems



Calls for proposals to fund projects on blue skills

3. Erasmus+:

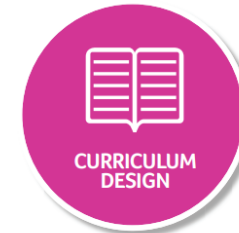
Blueprint alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills

One on maritime technology:

MATES project (2018-2022)

EUR 4.9 million

11 pilot case studies on shipbuilding
and offshore renewable energy



Large-scale partnerships under Pact for Skills to create links between academia and industry

Flagship action of the European Skills Agenda to support upskilling and reskilling of workers

Existing multi-stakeholder skills partnerships for:



Offshore Renewable Energy
(supported by Erasmus+ project FLORES)



Shipbuilding and Maritime Technology



[Find out all Industrial Ecosystems and Partnerships](#) – and consider joining?

Centres of Vocational Excellence

Networks of partners that provide high quality vocational skills to young people and adults, and contribute to regional development, innovation, industrial clusters, smart specialisation strategies and social inclusion

Existing CoVE's for:

Aquaculture ([BRIDGES](#))

Offshore renewable energy ([T-shore](#) & SHOREWINNER)

Water sector ([PoVEWater Scale-up](#))

For more information: ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence

Net-Zero Industry Academies

Solar + Hydrogen + Raw Materials + Wind + **European Battery Academy**



Aim: 100,000 learners per Academy within 3 years from establishment

EU4Ocean Coalition for ocean literacy



EU4Ocean Platform

for organisations and individuals engaged
in ocean literacy initiatives



Youth4Ocean Forum

for young ocean advocates aged between 16 and 30

Network of European Blue Schools

for schools, teachers and staff of education
services from all subjects



#EU4Ocean
#Youth4Ocean
#EUBlueSchools



European
Commission

Platform
163
members

Youth4Ocean
366
members

Blue schools
341
certifications

Click on the map
to get feature info

Layers (3)

Legend

EU4Ocean Coalition for Ocean Literacy
– EU4Ocean Platform members

Year: 2023

 EU4Ocean Platform member

Projects of Young Ocean Advocates

Year: 2022



Network of European Blue Schools

Year: 2020-2023



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