

# NOTES overall

## Workshop:

### Identifying and Co-developing Challenges, Solutions and Actions for Citizen Engagement Activities towards Mission Ocean

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

**Theme:** Citizen Engagement

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One of the objectives of the BlueMissionBANOS project is to contribute to an increased awareness of citizens of all ages in the BANOS area by strengthening collaboration with and among existing and emerging citizen engagement networks, approaches and activities with the Mission, providing insights, tools and support to them for increased involvement of citizens. Therefore, guidelines and actions to reinforce citizen engagement and mission uptake by citizens will be developed during the BlueMissionBANOS project. The development needs will be identified in co-creation with several stakeholders (incl. citizens) during local and regional workshops.

Prior to this regional workshop at the Mission Arena, the BlueMissionBANOS project has organised three local workshop (Belgium, Denmark and Poland) focusing on citizen engagement in relation to offshore wind energy in the respective regions. During these local workshops, challenges were identified and recommendations were formulated by stakeholders with different backgrounds (Company/private sector, Public Engagement Experts, NGOs, Research and education, Blue Economy expert, public sector, students and citizens, etc.). During the past local workshops, 66 representatives participated.

The objective of this regional workshop is to address the main findings of the local workshops and define concrete actions to reinforce citizen engagement in the blue economy sector. Therefore, the main challenges and recommendations from the local workshops are listed below. During our workshop, you will be asked to discuss and co-develop concrete actions to tackle these findings in a world café set-up.

## Keynotes:

Keynote Olga Mashkina (ACTeon – EU4Ocean):

- Important to recognize the difference between citizen science and citizen engagement.

Keynote Hans Chr. Sorensen (SPOK consultancy):

- Local private shares in wind turbines can create ownership and acceptance in coastal OWFs.
- People are scared for noise, health and visual disturbance, good examples and visits to wind farms can help.
- Broad range of citizen/stakeholder groups are interested in learning more about wind turbines, and visit them.

- Governments and companies find that incentives are not needed in OWF.
- Local involvement takes time and resources.
- General impression that more involvement leads to higher acceptance.
- The narrative of “our or your OWF project” and not a company project/something forced/top down.

During this workshop, participants have co-developed actions to address different challenges of including citizen engagement in blue economy activities. Some actions are very general, while others are quite specific. This outcome will be used to generate guidelines for mission uptake by citizens and serves as input for D3.2 of BMB.

- Participants were positive, very engaged and interested in the outcome of the workshop and project.
- The interactive part of the workshop should be a little longer (now only 35 min) in order to capture all thoughts. This could be done by shortening the keynote presentations (1 speaker instead of 2) or by extending the workshop with 30 minutes (2h instead of 1.5h).
- All participants will receive the deliverables of the Citizen Engagement work package of BMB once final.
- Participants who were not yet part of our reference group on Citizen Engagement will be asked to join.
- During next regional workshops on the Mission Arenas, the actions should be concretised by identifying the implementation level/people. Now we know the WHAT but we still need to know the HOW! More concrete examples should therefore be provided to the participants and reference group. As a result, guidelines for mission uptake by citizens can be developed.
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