

# NOTES overall

## Workshop:

## European Blue Schools: Fostering Blue Skills and Connecting Communities

**Date:** Thursday, November 16th, 2023

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**Swedish Network for Ocean Literacy** consists of Marine and Freshwater networks. In total nearly 600 members – schools, universities, NGO,s aquariums/science centres, national parks visitor centres. Close connection with scientists. Nationalconference, workshops, digital meet ups, knowledge exchange. Also promoting the cause of European Blue Schools in Sweden and certifying / cooperation. Now 4 certified Blue Schools in Sweden.

**Strömstad Gymnasion** is a high school (16-19), certified blue school since spring 2023. 20km from Sweden's only marine national park. Blue School project is called life at Sea – all 360 students involved – different activities for different grades. Grade 1: field work / nature science; Grade 2: excursion to national park, ecotourism and outdoor life; Grade 3: presentations and workshop marine businesses, professions and entrepreneurship

The day produces clear outcomes and reports. The framework is prepared by the school and local companies and organisations are brought in to take part.

**The Network of European Blue Schools** aims to promote ocean literacy and bring the ocean into the classroom. It is part of the EU4Ocean coalition. Ocean literacy is important because many people do not understand the ocean. #FindTheBlue is about finding the students' connection to the ocean.It also includes outdoor, project-based learning, active European citizenship and knowledge of blue economy careers. All involved students should actively be involved in the project.

**Pascal Private English School** (Nicosia, Cyprus) students collected plastic toys lost on the beach and created 'ReBlue' boxes where toys can be left and reused by other families. Local businesses and communities were involved.

**Claddagh National School** (Galway, Ireland) visited the Galway Aquarium and created a podcast and recorded a song about the ocean.

### Ideas:

- Expose students to blue job opportunities and bring curriculum into the real world. Partner up with science park
- Career day for 6-10 year olds with different professionals / teachers and the older students will present the careers to the younger students, and after to create the future blue Gothenburg.

- Culinary school teaching teenagers how to cook with novel marine ingredients which grow locally. Inspire them through citizen science, influencing school canteen menu, seafood masterchef competition, recipe book creation, inspirational role models. Exchange with another European school in a different region.
- Collaborate digitally with other schools along a river – digital message in a bottle. Different schools along the river can take water samples and look at different indicators, fish and other species, country history and connection with the river. Different topics related to the water cycle e.g. biology, marine life.

Overall, we need to restore people's relationship with the sea, which is not only about marine biology but also about the connection with life and careers. There is a shortage of employees in the blue industry and it is important to get young people involved but already with the idea of environmental sustainability.