

# NOTES overall

## Workshop:

### Skills: What Kind of Upskilling is Needed for the Blue Bioeconomy

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

**Theme:** Citizen Engagement

---

The session on skills in the Blue Bioeconomy presented various perspectives on what can be done to educate and upskill the (future) workforce to contribute to the development of the Blue Bioeconomy. Perspectives from students, teachers, professionals, and businesses, were given focus throughout the session to also help identify strategies to attract individuals to the Blue Economy. A group of high school students described their involvement in a project-based science project as part of the UNITED project that has inspired and motivated them to learn more about the sector. Other students present at the session emphasized the importance of internships and project-based learning, including direct contact with industry and mentorship, and the key role that (local) innovation cluster may play in networking within the sector. Teachers expressed the need for support to overcome barriers in integrating blue bioeconomy themes in their curriculum, highlighting the value of input from peer teachers with experience in the educational system. Businesses and professionals called for greater integration of educational pathways into the blue economy sector and emphasized the need to mobilize skills and facilitate more collaboration between academia and industries.

Key recommendations included integrating blue economy topics into curricula at an early stage, fostering positive emotions and actions through active collaboration and projects, and securing funding for implementation. Vocational training was recognized as a crucial component to support graduates in developing practical skills. Additionally, the session highlighted the significance of including graduates and undergraduates in research and Blue Bioeconomy development, the importance of re-educating individuals employed in non-sustainable industries, and the need to ensure that more stakeholders that work in the blue bioeconomy are engaged in recruiting young graduates who might be otherwise approached by unsustainable actors.

In conclusion, the session issued a clear call to action along with specific recommendations for teachers and national ministries of education to integrate blue bioeconomy themes into their curricula. Notably, students advocated for the inclusion of more interdisciplinary knowledge, technological proficiency, and entrepreneurial leadership content in their study programs, emphasizing the importance of integrating coding and AI across multiple subjects.