





MISSION ARENA 4 28-29 April 2025 | Sopot, Poland

# Citizen Engagement Strategies in Mission Ocean

**Appraisal and Next Phase** 

Theme: Citizen Engagement & Education

O BLUE MISSION BANOS



# Inspiring stories from practitioners

- 1. Ewelina Widerska, WSB University, Poland project SHORE
- 2. Grazyna Niedoszytko Gdynia Aquarium, Poland
- 3. Maria Lewander & Tina Johansen Lilja, Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment, Sweden
- 4. Frederick Bruce (SUBMARINER), Germany















# **Ewelina Widerska**

WSB University
SHORE project





### **Our mission**

enhance Ocean Literacy and to actively engage with students, teachers and schools across five distinct regions: Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Danube River, and Rhine River.

















181 submitted projects



















30 selected projects



PART OF THE

EU MISSIONS

RESTORE DUR OCEAN & WATERS



What is the most selected target region?



Mediterranean Sea



# Akademia WSB Dąbrowa Górnicza, Kraków, Cleszyn, Żywiec, Olkusz, Gliwice, Tychy

**WSB University** 





Hatay Fen Lisesi





Lale Kemal Kılıç

Secondary School

Elementary school

Sime Budinić









SHORE













# Grażyna Niedoszytko

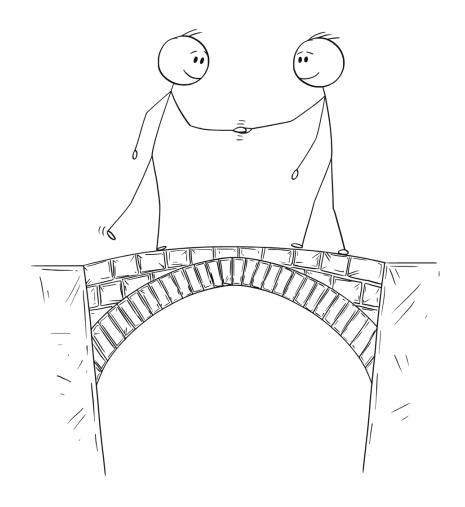
**Gdynia Aquarium** 















### **MISSION ARENA 4**

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**Who** 

<mark>When</mark>

**How** 

<mark>Why</mark>

**What for** 

















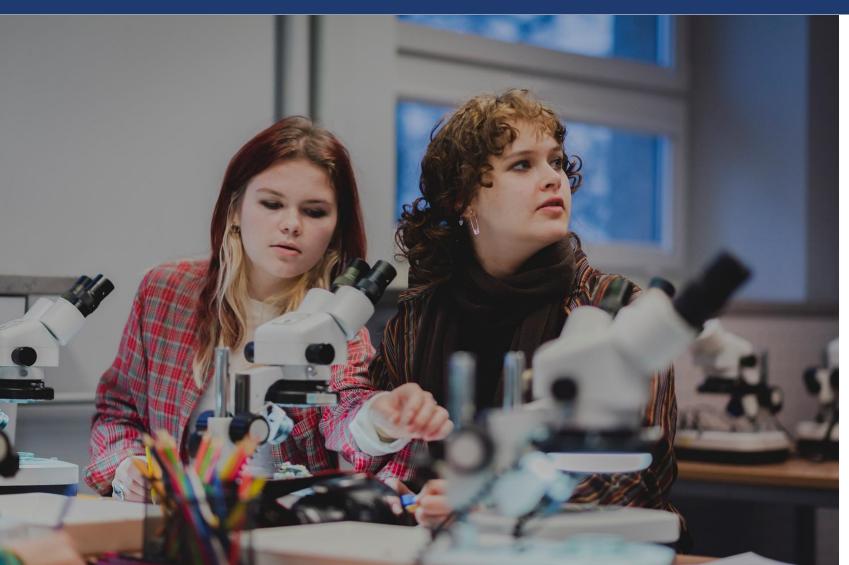
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# Ocean Literacy, Citizen Engagement and Blue LightS in Sweden

Maria Lewander & Tina Johansen Lilja, Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment

maria.lewander@havsmiljoinstitutet.se tina.johansen@havsmiljoinstitutet.se













# Swedish Ocean Literacy Networks

- The Marine Network (2018) coordinated by the Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment
- The Freshwater Network (2019) coordinated by SLU Centre for Nature Interpretation
- Funded by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, 2018–2024

## From source to sea

- In total reaching nearly 700 members
- Swedish coastline both marine and brackish waters
- Norway, Denmark and Finland too











# Inspiration, knowledge, creativity

- Knowledge exchange
- Digital Meet Up:s
- Workshops
- National Conference
- Cooperation with scientists
- Collaborating with and promoting European Blue Schools Network







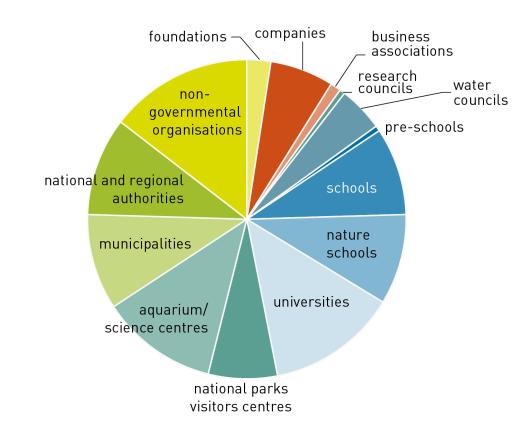


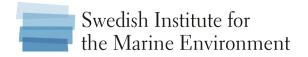


# **Network members**

Engaged members from all over society, e.g.

- Schools/nature schools
- Universities
- NG0:s
- Aquariums/science centres
- National parks visitor centres





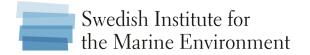






# **Blue LightS project**

- 1 of 17 partners in the BlueLightS Horizon Europe project, 2024–2026
- Collaboration with ProBleu, SHORE, PREP4BLUE and linking to the UN Ocean Decade
- Strengthen knowledge and skills of European children and youth to deliver "blue" (rivers and seas) resilience and sustainability.
- Sweden 1 of 9 experimentation countries
- Roadmap to strengthen the "blue" in schools on Gotland.









# **Blue Node Gotland**



Island of Gotland, Baltic Sea, about 60 000 people, x 10 in summer A pilot project to engage the local community in an iterative process to inspire and initiate collaboration with schools to achieve more "blue" in the education and ocean literacy in Gotland as a whole.

### Collaboration developed with

- Schools (2 so far)
- Science centre "Fenomenalen"
- Research Station Ar
- Blue Centre Gotland (Uppsala university,
   County Administration Board, Region of Gotland)
- Uppsala university Teachers training
- Visby Rotary Club
- NGO:s eg. The Swedish Anglers Association
- Coast guard and Swedish Sea Rescue Society

Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment









# **Blue Education Platform**

https://blue-lights.eu/

















# Frederick Bruce SUBMARINER Cool Blue Baltic project





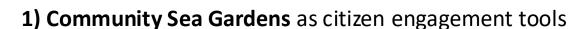


### COOL BLUE BALTIC





### AlgaeFood



2) Mussel kits: Guerilla tactics to catalyse change

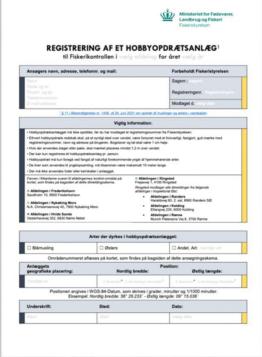
Citizen science

Tourism

Education

**Community-led** regeneration

**European Solidarity Corps** 





















# First, a quick rundown of project-specific concepts

- Mission Lighthouses incl. BlueMissionBANOS for Baltic and North Sea basin + succession
- Mission Ocean implementation plan published by DG RTD
  - 10 expected outcomes w.r.t. citizen engagement
- Mission Arenas and the regional roadmaps















# The info sheets

Title for reference -

Expected outcome for citizen engagement in the Mission, as worded in the Mission Ocean implementation plan

> Action(s) implemented by or proposed for the current or future **BANOS Lighthouse**

> > Discussion starters

Additional documentation



Y K

"Tried and applied deliberative democracy mechanisms and social innovation practices for the co-design and co-implementation of solutions for the restoration of the aquatic environment."

MIP p. 36, first expected outcome

### BANOS Lighthouse solution: Mission Arena Assembly

BlueMissionBANOS leverages its Mission Arenas as an instrument of deliberative democracy. During each Mission Arena, a Regional Roadmap is co-designed with the participants (local stakeholders), serving as collectivized, regional priority setting. Fulfilling a prerequisite of deliberative democracy, participants are strongly encouraged to inform themselves on and discuss a range of possible action points through the workshops and other meeting opportunities during the Mission Arena. At the closing plenary, as Mission Arena Assembly, participants are then afforded decision-making power by voting on action points in view of top priority actions, thereby directing the content of the Regional Roadmap.

- The Mission Arena Assembly may well be a biased constituency. How can we broaden
- · As project consortium, do we need to delegate more power to the Mission Arena Assembly? If so, to what degree and in which capacity?



0 BLUE MISSION **BANOS** 

"BANOS Lighthouse solution"



"Background and expectation"

→ brainstorm









### At each table:

- 5 participants + 1 moderator
- 2 info sheets, each detailing 1 expected outcome for citizen engagement in Mission ocean.
   We invite any kind of feedback, suggestions, comments... on how you would like to see
   BlueMissionBANOS contribute to the stated outcome!
  - 1 outcome for which BlueMissionBANOS has tested some type of solution → for review
  - 1 outcome that BlueMissionBANOS has not yet engaged with → to brainstorm about





### **Discussion process**

- 30 minutes for discussion, ca. 15 minutes per topic / info sheet
- Summarize discussion per info sheet in a single action point, suggestion or critique
- 10 minutes at the end to share these summaries to the other participants
- The moderator may help with the review or brainstorm process
- Draw from your own experiences!















- summaries





# Resources & follow-up

**Today's input** will be disseminated as part of BlueMissionBANOS 'Report on co-creation workshops, incl. blueprints for feasible solutions' (WP3, **D3.2**), expected publication in **November 2025**.

On the topic of public mobilization in Mission Ocean, see also:

BlueMissionBANOS at <a href="https://www.bluemissionbanos.eu/results">www.bluemissionbanos.eu/results</a>

- Deliverable 3.1 - 'Report on citizen engagement and concerns in the BANOS area with respect to sustainable blue economy'

### PREP4BLUE at <a href="https://www.prep4blue.eu/results">www.prep4blue.eu/results</a>

- Deliverable 3.2 'A synthesis report containing bespoke legacy training resources to support citizen action'
- Milestone 6 'Engaging Citizens with Mission Ocean and Waters: A toolbox of approaches'
- Milestone 7 'Beneath the surface: A collection of recommendations and good practices in aquatic citizen science to support the EU's Mission Ocean & Waters'
- Resource 'Results from Survey on Citizen Engagement'
- Whyte et al. (2024). Planning for citizen participation in the EU mission to restore our ocean and waters by 2030. Maritime Studies 23, 44. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-024-00385-x">https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-024-00385-x</a>

