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Report from the second meeting of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group on Healthy and Clean Ocean

Date: 16/12/2020 14:00-16:00 CET

Meeting chair: Elisa Baldrighi (OLI, Italy)

Meeting facilitator: Ángel Muñiz Piniella (EMB, EU4Ocean Platform facilitator), with the collaboration of Nathalie Van Isacker (Seascape Belgium, EU4Ocean Platform facilitator) and Gabriela Mayans Vennemann (Navigatio Santander, EU4Ocean Platform member).

Participants: see annex 1

Meeting agenda: see annex 2

Main outcomes:
The second meeting of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group (WG) on Healthy and Clean Ocean focused on developing joint actions between the Platform members for 2021. One of the outcomes from the first meeting of the WG was the suggestion to develop a "coast code" and a "show us your water" campaign. Aiming to continue to work together as a WG, this meeting aimed to co-develop the "coast code" framework, in order to have the possibility to implement it in areas around Europe and to investigate the interest of developing the "show us your water" campaign.

Gabriela Mayans, from Navigatio Santander, presented to the participants their plans and implementation plan to co-develop with their local partners a "coastal code of conduct" for a bay in the area of Santander, Spain for the summer 2021. She asked the members for other similar initiatives they were aware of and what they thought of their plans. Suggestions of similar processes included the "countryside code" from Nature England, the "Leave No Trace" in Ireland, both land-based, and the "code of conduct" on dolphin sighting from the Blue World Institute in Croatia. Afterwards, she introduced the questions that were covered in 4 breakout sessions:

- Which subjects/headings a coastal code should have?

The participants made several suggestions that could be grouped under the following headings:
How can you help the local biodiversity? This could include concepts such as the protection of the natural environmental, and the avoidance of invasive species.
How can you reduce marine litter and pollution? Including concepts such as plastic and other litter, noise reduction, ballast waters and the influence of fresh water environments
How can you sustainably use the coast and its resources? The promotion of local consumption, the effects of erosion and tips for people with pets could be included under this heading.

- How do you make sure it will be used?

The participants raised the important issue of defining what is the coast and what would be its boundaries considered for the users. To avoid major complexities, recommendations were made to narrow down the stakeholders and target groups as a start, with the "general public" (leisure users

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accessing the coast) as preferred target for the first versions. The "keep it simple" principle was also suggested, to not present all possible pressures at the beginning to avoid complexity.

It was suggested that several codes could be developed for the different users of the coast, and to start with trusted connections. The set of general principles or ethics which every user can get behind was recommended, and the pivotal involvement in the co-development of local communities (bringing cultural aspects) and authorities (to provide support and eventually a regulative framework or prosecutions).

For the implementation, suggestions were raised on starting a campaign related to the "Sea Starts Here" motto, and the use of tourist maps, information board and/ or stewards for awareness. The development of a short, accessible version, and a longer version with further information was suggested as well.

- How would you evaluate and measure it results?

The participants discussed that the evaluation indicators and framework of the code at local level should be determined by the local partners, using base lines (before/ after), available data, with expert advice (to avoid misinterpretation) and considering funding for evaluation. Some indicators were suggested, such as social media reaction, volume of trash and surveys. The use of established frameworks such as citizen science projects, apps and certificates (e.g. Blue Flag framework) were suggested. The evaluate the success of the coast code framework, the multiplication and uptake of the code by different municipalities/ areas was the only suggested indicator.

After a reporting back session in plenary, the WG chair moderated a short brainstorm exercise on the concept on setting up a "show us your water" campaign. The idea came from the first meeting of the WG, where people could send pictures of in-land water masses (e.g. rivers, lakes, pools) and experts could explain the connection to the ocean and the importance of keeping those clean and healthy to have a clean and healthy ocean. The participants agreed of the difficulty of assessing the pictures and have an engaging message, and the importance of having these images geolocated. but thought that it was a good idea to show the connections with in-land environments. A suggestion included making a mosaic with those pictures to have a bigger picture.

The WG members present at the meeting agreed to continue discussions in 2021.

Background and summary of the EU4Ocean Plaftorm Working Group on Healthy and Clean Ocean second meeting

To operationalize the EU4Ocean Platform, and bring its active group of organisations, initiatives and people closer together, three thematic Working Groups were established in September 2020. The themes of these Working Groups (WG) are Climate and Ocean, Food from the Ocean, and Healthy and Clean Ocean.

The second online meeting of the WG on Healthy and Clean Ocean, chaired and moderated by Elisa Baldrighi (WG chair), took place on 16 December 2020.

WG members brainstormed two suggested initiatives from the first meeting of the WG, to co-develop a "coast code" and a "show us your water" campaign. After an introduction by one of the WG members on their plans to co-develop a "coast code", participants discussed in smaller break out groups, and the reported back their discussion in plenary. A short brainstorm session on the "show us your water" campaign took place afterwards.

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At the end of the meeting, the next steps of the WG and EU4Ocean Platform were presented. In addition, information on current and upcoming activities by the Youth4Ocean Forum and the sea basin component of the EU4Ocean Coalition was shared.

Annex 1

EU4Ocean Platform members registered for the second meeting of the Working Group on Healthy and Clean Ocean

WG member	First Name	Last Name
Ocean Literacy Italia	Elisa	Baldrighi
Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BWI)	Jelena	Basta
Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BWI)	Henrieta	Belegisanin
CSIC	MARÍA	BELLET SERRANO
Irish Ocean Literacy Network	noirin	burke
B2E Associação para a Bioeconomia Azul	Teresa	Catumba
JPI Oceans	Willem	De Moor
FONDAZIONE ACQUARIO DI GENOVA	Antonio	Di Natale
Lithuanian Sea Museum	Jurgita	Eglinskiene
Nausicaa	Delphine	El-Khassawneh
Scuola d'amare	Fabio	Figurella
Independent	Tiago	Garcia
Youth4Ocean Forum	Olivia	Garcia
Mare Nostrum	Anca-Maria	Gheorghe
Nausicaa	Iwona	Gin
EUCC	Jane	Hofmann
Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Anda	Ikauniece
PML	Thecla	Keizer
HCMR	Yolanda	Koulouri
SOA Alliance	Ben	Lesage
Surfrider	Yann	Leymarie
Helcom	Dominik	Littfass
Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	Irina	Makarenko
ACTeon	Olga	Mashkina
Geonardo	Mariana	Mata Lara
Navigatio Santander	GABRIELA	MAYANS
Ecologic	Chiara	Mazzetti
B2E Associação para a Bioeconomia Azul	Ana	Moura

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ACTeon	Véra	Noon
Museos Científicos Coruñeses	Marcos	Pérez Maldonado
CSIC	José	Pintado
FARNET	Janne	Posti
CSIC	Laura	Prieto
Independent	Giulia	Realdon
REV Ocean	Tom	Redd
SOCIB	Llucia	Ribot
Youth4Ocean Forum	Nil	Rodes
CSIC	Janire	Salazar
CSIC	Isabel	Sanmartin
Sea Teach	Max	Schmidle
Ecologic	Nico	Stelljes
Sea Teach	Silja	Teege
MARE	Zara	Teixeira
	Neli	Tsankova
Seascape Belgium	Nathalie	Van Isacker
Gdynia Aquarium	Dominika	Wojcieszek
CSIC	Gemma	

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Annex 2

Agenda

13:50 – 14:00	*Log in by participants*
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome by Elisa Baldrighi, WG Healthy and Clean Ocean Chair
14:05 – 14:20	Developing a "coast code" + Q&A – *Gabriela Mayans Vennemann, Navigatio Santander*
14:20 – 15:15	Breakout groups discussion: co-developing a EU4Ocean "coast code"
	• What subjects/ headings a "coast code" should have? • How do you make sure it will be used? • How do you evaluate?
15:15 – 15:20	*Comfort break*
15:20 – 15:40	Plenary report back from breakout sessions - *moderated by Elisa Baldrighi, WG chair*
15:40 – 15:55	Short brainstorm on "show us your water" campaign – *moderated by Elisa Baldrighi, WG chair*
	• What can you tell someone with a picture of a water body?
15:55 – 16:00	Final remarks and next steps - *Ángel Muñiz Piniella, EU4Ocean WG facilitator*
16:00	*Close*