

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

Date: 03/12/2021 10:00-12:00 CET

Meeting chair: Francesca Alvisi (CNR, OLI, Italy)

Meeting facilitator: Ángel Muñoz Piniella (EMB, EU4Ocean Platform facilitator)

Participants: see annex 1

Meeting agenda: see annex 2

Main outcomes:

The third meeting of the EU4Ocean Platform Working Group (WG) on Healthy & Clean Ocean focused on what the members of the Working Group have done in the framework of EU4Ocean over the past year and on how and how much the Working Group has been useful to the members. In addition, input was sought for the next phase of the Working Group from January 2022 onwards.

Francesca Alvisi presented herself as the new WG chair after Elisa Baldrighi stepped down from this position in October 2021. Elisa Baldrighi gave a brief farewell to all the members and thanked them for the interesting discussions during the previous meetings and wished them all the best. Francesca Alvisi continued by highlighting the usefulness of the EU4Ocean Platform as she, and other colleagues of the CNR, was included in new EU-funded projects and proposals, and also got the opportunity to meet other networks and relevant stakeholders both in the Med RSA and in EU. In general terms, members highlighted the EU4Ocean Platform as a useful forum to share and learn from different experiences and eventually join forces or develop similar activities, or tailor messages for future campaigns.

Gabriela Mayans (Navigatio Santander) gave a presentation on the the Coastal Code of Navigatio for the bay of Santander, Spain, which was launched in November 2021 at a dedicated event. She highlighted the main points from this code of conduct, and thanked the input from the other members to this initiative at the second WG meeting in December 2020. She mentioned that contacts with schools from the region were promising, as they were willing to implement the code, and eventually become European Blue Schools. She also said that they are working with the Cantabria's Sailing Federation and other City Councils, and that she has already received emails from interested members of EU4Ocean and hoped to build synergies with them. Some members present at the meeting showed interest on how the impact of such a code would be measured, and Gabriela Mayans replied that behavioral change needs time to be evident, and that they have already received some input on how the impact could be assessed. Some members also highlighted that these measures cannot only rely on local communities, and that powerful messages based on the assessment of the impacts of the Coastal Code are needed to work further towards policies. A member also suggested an assessment tool developed by the University of Genova named "index of educational effectiveness". Another member said that they will review the Coastal Code and try

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to see what elements can be linked to their local coast, and identify an action that can be carried out in 2022.

Starting off the discussions, Francesca Alvisi introduced a reflection on the concept of Healthy and Clean Ocean by specifically highlighting the connection between land and sea/ocean that largely determines the health of the ocean. She made a comparison between the network of rivers in Europe to the human circulatory system, and highlighted that everything that is thrown into that system ends up in the ocean. Members appreciated this comparison and reminded that the narrative “the Ocean starts here” is still really relevant. One member also highlighted that the atmosphere also connects inland areas to the Ocean.

Francesca Alvisi suggested to concentrate the efforts from this WG on finding ways to show the intrinsic interactions between the environment, as a healthy and clean Ocean depends on a healthy and clean environment. She suggested to reinforce the connection with in-land communities and challenges of the “I live by the Sea International Youth Photo and Film Contest” (<https://todaywehave.com/CONTEST.html>), a photo and video contest and exhibition where a narrative explaining the connection to the sea is shared as well. Entries from in-land could also document connections with the Ocean that interest people and help to promote less-known/obvious connections. This would re-iterate that every activity that humans do could impact the Ocean, even if you live far from the sea. It was highlighted that this was the motto of the MakeEUBlue campaign developed by EU4Ocean, and that this related to the “show us your water” campaign discussed in previous meetings.

It was agreed that the WG Chair Francesca Alvisi, Margherita Zorgno (co-organizer of the I live by the Sea contest), Nathalie Van Isacker and Ángel Muñoz Piniella would meet with the organizers of the “I live by the Sea contest” to present the promotion of this idea, and if agreed, a special call for entries could be made for distribution for the EU4Ocean Platform members and the EU4Ocean youth communities. Francesca, together with some WG members, will also start to develop a list of possible connections between land and sea and illustrative materials to be posted on the social networks and/or on the EU4Ocean platform. In the meantime, the WG members could raise awareness of the existence of the Coastal Code within their networks, especially at in-land locations.

Background and summary of the EU4Ocean Platform 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 third online meeting of the WG on Healthy and Clean Ocean, chaired and moderated by Francesca Alvisi (WG chair), took place on 3 December 2021.

WG members discussed on how behaviour change could be promoted in-land and show the land-sea connection to make sure we achieve a healthy and clean Ocean. The Coastal Code developed by Navigatio Santander was considered as a good example to share and promote, and an effort will be made to promote entries from in-land areas for the “I live by the Sea International Youth Photo and Film Contest”.





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Annex 1

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

WG member	First Name	Last Name
Ocean Literacy Italia	Elisa	Baldrighi
CNR-ISMAR / Ocean Literacy Italia	Francesca	Alvisi
EMB	Ángel	Muñiz Piniella
Irish Ocean Literacy Network	Noirin	Burke
Explore Your Shore!	Dave	Wall
DelTa - Delfini e Tartarughe nel Golfo di Trieste	Milena	Tempesta
JPI Oceans	Willem	De Moor
FONDAZIONE ACQUARIO DI GENOVA	Antonio	Di Natale
Lithuanian Sea Museum	Jurgita	Egliniskiene
Mare Nostrum NGO	Andreea	Ionaşcu
Mare Nostrum NGO	Anca-Maria	Gheorghe
Eurofleets+	Niamh	Flavin
Klaipėda University	Paola	Forni
Navigatio Santander	GABRIELA	MAYANS
Ecologic	Chiara	Mazzetti
ACTeon	Pierre	Strosser
CSIC	Laura	Prieto
Independent	Giulia	Realdon
Seascape Belgium	Nathalie	Van Isacker
EurOcean	Margherita	Zorgno



Annex 2

Agenda

09:50 – 10:00	<i>Log in by participants</i>
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and reflections by Francesca Alvisi (CNR-ISMAR) Chair of the Working Group on Healthy & Clean Ocean <i>Farewell words by Elisa Baldrighi (tbc)</i>
10:10 – 10:20	The Coastal Code of Navigatio - Gabriela Mayans (Navigatio Santander, EU4Ocean Platform member)
10:20 – 11:00	Discussion: What's the added value of this Working Group? – <i>moderated by Francesca Alvisi (CNR-ISMAR) Chair of the Working Group on Healthy & Clean Ocean</i>
	<i>Participants will be asked how they have contributed and benefited from participating in this Working Group, and reflect on previous meetings (see reports from previous meetings here)</i>
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Comfort break</i>
11:15 – 11:55	Discussion: How would you like to see the future of this Working Group from January 2022 onwards? – <i>moderated by Francesca Alvisi (CNR-ISMAR) Chair of the Working Group on Healthy & Clean Ocean</i>
	<i>Participants will be asked what kind of activities they would like to conduct as a Working Group for the new phase from January 2022 onwards, and their recommendations and willingness to continue these activities in the future.</i>
11:55 – 12:00	Final remarks and next steps - <i>Ángel Muñoz Piniella, EU4Ocean WG facilitator</i>
12:00	<i>Close</i>