LEARNING PROGRAMME

Blue Planet Educators: Sustainability & Marine Learning

10-DAY COURSE

50 learning hours | Course programme

Blue Planet Educators: Sustainability & Marine Learning – 10-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This course is designed to strengthen teachers' knowledge, pedagogical skills, and confidence in delivering high-quality sustainability and marine education through experiential, outdoor, and field-based learning. Grounded in the principles of ocean literacy, environmental education, and education for sustainable development, the course positions the sea and coastal environments as powerful learning contexts for understanding global ecological challenges and their local manifestations.

The programme responds to the growing need for climate- and sustainability-focused education in European schools by equipping educators with scientifically grounded content knowledge on marine ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, and human impacts on the oceans. Participants explore key concepts such as coastal and marine habitats, ecosystem interactions, ocean-climate relationships, pollution, and resource use, while critically examining the role of education in fostering environmental awareness, responsibility, and action.

A distinctive feature of the course is its strong emphasis on outdoor and field-based pedagogy. Across the programme, participants engage directly with coastal, marine, or aquatic environments through observation, inquiry, citizen science activities, and place-based investigations. These experiences allow teachers to develop practical skills in planning, conducting, and evaluating fieldwork that connects scientific understanding with real-world contexts. The course highlights the educational value of learning beyond the classroom, encouraging participants to use natural environments as living laboratories for interdisciplinary learning.

The course also integrates creative and digital approaches to marine education. Participants explore ways to document, interpret, and communicate environmental learning through storytelling, media, and reflective practices, strengthening learners' engagement and sense of connection to the sea. Attention is given to linking field experiences with curriculum goals, whole-school sustainability initiatives, and community-based learning.

By the end of the programme, participants develop concrete, transferable teaching units or project plans that embed marine sustainability themes into their own educational contexts. The course supports teachers in moving from knowledge acquisition to pedagogical application, empowering them to design meaningful learning experiences that foster ecological awareness, critical thinking, and active environmental citizenship among learners.

Methodology and Assessment

The course applies an experiential and inquiry-based methodology, combining short theoretical inputs with extensive outdoor fieldwork, observation, investigation, and reflection. Learning takes place through hands-on activities in marine or aquatic environments, guided inquiry, citizen science tasks, creative workshops, collaborative project design, and structured reflection. Participants work individually and in groups, linking field experiences to curriculum planning and classroom practice.

Assessment is formative and continuous, focusing on professional learning rather than formal testing. It includes reflective journals, field notes, participation in practical activities, peer feedback, and the development of a final project (teaching unit or sustainability initiative). The final project demonstrates participants' ability to apply course concepts to their own educational contexts and serves as evidence of learning outcomes.

Learning Objectives

1. Marine & Environmental Knowledge

- Deepen understanding of marine ecosystems, coastal environments, and ocean–climate interactions.
- Analyse human impacts on marine systems, including pollution, resource use, and climate change.

2. Sustainability & Ocean Literacy

- Strengthen ocean literacy and key sustainability concepts relevant to European and global contexts.
- Connect local marine observations with global environmental challenges.

3. Fieldwork & Outdoor Pedagogy

- Develop competence in planning and implementing outdoor, field-based, and place-based learning activities.
- Apply inquiry-based and experiential approaches to marine and environmental education.

4. Citizen Science & Inquiry

- Use simple scientific methods for environmental monitoring and data collection.
- Interpret field data and translate findings into meaningful learning activities.

5. Creative & Digital Communication

- Integrate creative and digital tools to document, interpret, and communicate marine learning.
- Design engaging learning tasks that combine science, storytelling, and reflection.

6. Curriculum Integration & Educational Practice

- Design transferable teaching units and projects aligned with curriculum and sustainability goals.
- Reflect critically on professional practice and the role of educators in sustainability education.

Preparation

After registration participants will receive a pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not directly offer accommodation and subsistence and participants are responsible for organizing it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 800 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (50 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Foundations of Blue Planet Education
09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement
10.30 - 11.15	Understanding the Blue Planet
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Ocean literacy and sustainability education
12.15 - 13.00	Pedagogical approaches to marine learning

Day 2	Coastal & Marine Ecosystems
09.00 - 09.45	Introduction to the field site
09.45 - 10.30	Coastal and marine habitats
10.30 - 11.15	Species identification and biodiversity observation
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Ecosystem interactions
12.15 - 13.00	Field reflection
Day 3	Learning from the Sea: Observation & Inquiry
09.00 - 09.45	Scientific observation in marine environments
09.45 - 10.30	Inquiry-based marine learning
10.30 - 11.15	Simple marine investigations
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Interpreting findings
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection circle
Day 4	Oceans, Climate & Human Impact
09.00 - 09.45	Climate change and the oceans
09.45 - 10.30	Human impact on marine environments
10.30 - 11.15	Marine litter and waste audits
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	From local to global
12.15 - 13.00	Action-oriented reflection
Day 5	Creative & Reflective Marine Learning
09.00 - 09.45	Creative approaches to marine education
09.45 - 10.30	The sea in culture, history, and imagination
10.30 - 11.15	Designing creative marine learning activities
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Sharing creative outputs
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection and synthesis

Day 6	Citizen Science & Environmental Monitoring
09.00 - 09.45	Introduction to citizen science
09.45 - 10.30	Marine and coastal monitoring methods
10.30 - 11.15	Data collection in the field
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Interpreting and visualising data
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection on scientific engagement
Day 7	Digital Tools & Media in Marine Education
09.00 - 09.45	Digital documentation in the field
09.45 - 10.30	Storytelling with digital media
10.30 - 11.15	Mapping and geolocation tools
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Communicating marine issues
12.15 - 13.00	Sharing field-based digital stories
Day 8	Community, Place & Marine Sustainability
09.00 - 09.45	The sea as a shared community resource
09.45 - 10.30	Learning from local contexts
10.30 - 11.15	Education beyond the classroom
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Designing place-based sustainability projects
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection and planning
Day 9	Assessment, Reflection & Learning in Nature
09.00 - 09.45	Learning through experience
09.45 - 10.30	Capturing learning outcomes outdoors
10.30 - 11.15	Reflection tools in natural settings
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Transfer to classroom and school practice
12.15 - 13.00	Peer feedback in the field

Day 10	Individual support, presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Reviewing key concepts and frameworks
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support
10.30 - 11.15	Final presentations and feedback
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.
**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.