LEARNING PROGRAMME

Blue Planet Educators: Sustainability & Marine Learning

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Blue Planet Educators: Sustainability & Marine Learning – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This course is designed to support teachers in developing high-quality sustainability education through marine, coastal, and outdoor learning contexts. The course is grounded in ocean literacy, environmental education, and education for sustainable development, positioning the sea as a powerful entry point for understanding global ecological challenges and their local implications.

The programme addresses the increasing need for climate and sustainability education in European schools by strengthening educators' content knowledge of marine ecosystems, biodiversity, ocean–climate interactions, and human pressures on marine environments. Participants explore key themes such as coastal and marine habitats, ecosystem dynamics, climate change impacts, pollution, and resource use, while examining how these topics can be meaningfully integrated into formal education across subjects and age groups.

A central feature of the course is its strong emphasis on outdoor and field-based learning. Over the five days, participants engage extensively in coastal or aquatic environments through observation, inquiry, and hands-on investigation. These field experiences enable teachers to understand how learning in real-world settings enhances scientific understanding, environmental awareness, and learner engagement. Participants develop practical competences in planning, managing, and evaluating fieldwork activities that connect theory with lived environmental experience.

The course also highlights inquiry-based learning and citizen science as effective pedagogical approaches for sustainability education. Participants gain experience with simple environmental monitoring methods and data collection techniques suitable for school contexts, learning how evidence-based inquiry can foster critical thinking and ecological responsibility. Digital and creative documentation methods are introduced to support reflection and communication of environmental learning.

By the end of the programme, participants design transferable teaching units or project plans that embed marine sustainability themes into their own curricula and school practices. The course supports teachers in moving from environmental awareness to pedagogical action, strengthening their role in promoting ecological literacy, responsible citizenship, and long-term sustainability within education.

Methodology and Assessment

The course uses an experiential and inquiry-based methodology, combining concise theoretical inputs with extensive outdoor fieldwork in marine or aquatic environments. Learning activities include observation, investigation, citizen science tasks, guided reflection, creative documentation, collaborative project design, and peer exchange. Participants work individually and in groups, linking field experiences to curriculum planning and classroom practice.

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

Learning Objectives

1. Marine & Environmental Understanding

- Develop a solid understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and their ecological functions.
- Examine the relationships between oceans, climate change, biodiversity loss, and human activity.

2. Sustainability & Ocean Literacy

- Strengthen ocean literacy as a foundation for sustainability education.
- Connect local marine observations with global environmental challenges and policy priorities.

3. Outdoor & Field-Based Pedagogy

- Develop practical skills for planning and implementing outdoor, field-based learning activities.
- Use natural environments as learning spaces that support inquiry and experiential learning.

4. Inquiry & Citizen Science

- Apply basic scientific methods for environmental monitoring and investigation.
- Interpret field data and translate findings into meaningful educational activities.

5. Creative & Digital Approaches

- Use creative and digital tools to document, reflect on, and communicate marine learning.
- Design engaging learning tasks that connect science, storytelling, and reflection.

6. Curriculum Integration & Professional Practice

- Design curriculum-aligned teaching units and sustainability projects.
- Reflect on the educator's role in promoting environmental awareness and responsible action.

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: 400 €

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 (25 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 and documentation
Day 3	Oceans, Climate & Human Impact
09.00 - 09.45	Climate change and the oceans
09.45 - 10.30	Human activities and marine pressure
10.30 - 11.15	Marine litter and waste analysis
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	From local observation to global challenges
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection and discussion
Day 4	Inquiry, Citizen Science & Digital Documentation
09.00 - 09.45	Introduction to citizen science in marine education
09.45 - 10.30	Environmental monitoring activities
10.30 - 11.15	Data collection in the field
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Digital documentation and storytelling
12.15 - 13.00	Creative and reflective marine learning
Day 5	Individual support, presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Designing teaching units and projects
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.