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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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BLUEMINDS4TEACHERS: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A DIGITAL TOOLKIT FOR EMPOWERING EDUCATORS IN OCEAN LITERACY

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A free-access digital toolkit has been developed within the framework of the BlueMinds4Teachers project, supported by the EU4Ocean Coalition and funded by the European Commission, after the implementation of an interactive online course. The online course was designed through a collaboration between marine and freshwater scientists -several of them from organizations that are members of the EU4Ocean Platform- as well as with experts from educational and social sciences, teachers of schools being members of EU Blue Schools Network, and young ocean advocates from Youth4Ocean Forum, universities, and collaborative projects. The interdisciplinary approach, implemented during the online course, aimed at empowering teachers of Primary and Secondary Education and other educators from both EU and non-EU countries in Ocean Literacy (OL).

Integrating content knowledge (CK) on ocean science issues and pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) into teaching at school and other non-formal educational settings (e.g., aquaria, museums) is fundamental to achieving Education for Sustainability. Therefore, teachers of primary education, participating in the course and having an adequate PCK, were provided with CK on ocean science issues. On the other hand, secondary school teachers, especially those having a science degree, were offered relevant methodology on PCK. Furthermore, teachers were introduced to blue economy concepts and the role of OL in fostering more sustainable blue industries and increasing the attractiveness of blue careers. In addition, concrete examples for incorporating blue economy topics into their lessons were provided as a way to engage with their students/trainees.

The learning goals of the online course were: a. familiarization with the OL issues related to EU Missions, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030, UN Ocean Decade 2021-2030; b. to offer tools to identify ocean topics and to integrate them into school curricula and teaching activities in non-formal educational settings (e.g., aquaria, museums); c. to provide methods to develop and implement lesson plans, in collaboration with students/learners and local stakeholders, based on the use of participatory methods in teaching and learning processes (e.g., hands-on science,

project-based learning, open schooling); d. to supply materials to promote blue economy concepts and blue careers in classrooms, aquaria, etc.

Based on partners' experience with relevant OL projects (e.g., BlueS_Med, BlueNIGHTs), initiatives (e.g., EMSEA, EU Blue Schools Network, EMD) and in synergies with other projects (e.g., ERASMUS+ Fins into the Water, BlueGeneration, FLORES), the online course of BlueMinds4Teachers provided teachers and educators with materials and tools, resources, and links. This will enable teachers and educators to equip their students/trainees with the necessary skills to play an active role in a modern democratic society and participate in decision-making processes.

In order for the online course to be reproducible, exportable, and adaptable to the needs of teachers and other educators, and to contribute to improving their teaching skills and OL CK, a free-access digital toolkit was produced. The toolkit will serve as a gateway for achieving European Blue Schools certification and joining the Network, which represents a movement that aims to make pupils aware of and passionate about sustainable ocean management.