

Shape your future.
Little waves make a big ocean!

NETWORK OF EUROPEAN BLUE SCHOOLS

Network of European Blue Schools Background information

In a European Blue School, teachers actively engage to bring the ocean into the classroom through project-based learning. The program challenges schools to **Find the Blue** and explore their connections to the ocean.

On the journey to becoming a European Blue School, teachers and pupils will improve their understanding of the ocean and develop a sense of responsibility towards our blue planet. Being *ocean literate* encourages students to become more aware and engaged European citizens. Teaching about the ocean is an integral part of environmental education and education for sustainability.

Student action and ownership, collaborations between schools and ocean professionals/organizations, and creating a schools' community oriented towards the ocean or sea are key values of this project.



A **handbook for teachers**, available [here](#), outlines the teaching principles behind the European Blue School initiative and the European Blue School certification process. It includes a step-by-step guide for developing a blue project as well as a variety of inspiring school projects on the ocean from all over Europe.

European Schoolnet has published a complementary **curriculum analysis** [here](#) on oceans-related topics in schools in Belgium, France, Portugal, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Germany, Finland and the UK.

All certified European Blue Schools become part of the **Network of European Blue Schools**, where teachers and students:

- become agents of change for ocean sustainability;
- share experiences with teachers and students from other schools;
- connect to ocean professionals and the wider ocean literacy community.



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The European Blue School initiative is open to all schools based in the EU (or schools collaborating with an EU-based school) whose project complies with the following **criteria to receive the European Blue School certification**:



Applications are accepted from all schools (kindergarten to senior high) in Europe for a wide range of projects in the **themes** 'Food from the ocean', 'Climate and ocean', 'Healthy and clean ocean', 'Biodiversity' and 'Maritime culture'. Teachers are encouraged to develop more complex project ideas such as participation with other teachers in a multidisciplinary project or international collaborations between schools via eTwinning or Erasmus+.

In June 2021, the first 38 schools were **granted the certificate of a European Blue School**. Every year new schools are admitted in December and June.

[See the list and map of certified schools.](#)

[Find teachers in the Network in our Facebook group](#)

[Apply here](#)

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The [Network of European Blue Schools](#) is an initiative of the European Commission, funded by DG MARE and was developed in 2020 by the [EU4Ocean Coalition partners](#) Ciencia Viva, EMSEA and Acteon, with the aim to increase ocean literacy on a European scale via formal education.



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