

The *Ocean Observers* initiative

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The *Ocean Observers* is an international educational network of ocean scientists, teachers and educational authorities, marine communicators, sailing community and other stakeholders (public, policy-makers, etc.), who are willing to share marine science educational resources and experiences for exploring the possibilities to establish new international collaborative activities.

Marine science popularisation and outreach are becoming more and more important to raise awareness among the communities that a healthy ocean is vital for the well-being of generations to come. The existing outreach activities focused on *in situ* ocean observations are isolated and lack national, European and international visibility. The *Ocean Observers* network attempts to bring together different actors involved in marine science outreach activities to:

- do a review of the existing ocean observing outreach initiatives;
- favour discussions and collaboration between people engaged in marine science outreach programmes in link with *in situ* ocean observations;
- give educators marine science information they could apply to their unique environments to raise awareness of the importance of the ocean for human life among school children and local communities;
- engage “new” schools, educators and private associations in ocean observing outreach activities;
- federate a community around a coordinated project.

An international working group was created after the [first *Ocean Observers* educational workshop](#) co-organised by Euro-Argo ERIC and OceanOPS in Brest in June 2017, with the aim to coordinate the initiative. As part of the Euro-Argo RISE H2020 European Union project, a second *Ocean Observers* workshop will be organised by the end of 2021.