



Policy Report for stakeholders and decision makers within the fields of ocean sports & ocean preservation

The EU-funded “Ocean Sustainability through Education and Sport” (OSES) project, bringing together a consortium of nine partners, worked over three years to develop practical tools, pilot field interventions, and a community linking nautical sports with ocean conservation through awareness, education, and action among young trainees and enthusiasts.

OSES proved to be a unique and innovative experience, strengthening the capacity of nautical sport clubs to design their own methodologies, toolkits, and on-field actions for ocean preservation.

To support, disseminate, and replicate these results across the EU, and to ensure nautical sports become an effective driver for sustainability, greater alignment is needed between environmental policymakers, sporting federations, and key stakeholders at local, national, and European levels.

This paper presents the OSES partners’ recommendations and calls to action to support this positive shift. It is addressed to:

- Local stakeholders: nautical sport clubs, local authorities, universities, citizens, NGOs, and scientific institutions involved in ocean conservation.
- National stakeholders: nautical sport federations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, agencies, and ministries working on marine and environmental protection.
- European stakeholders: European nautical sport federations, NGOs, organizations, and agencies active in marine and ocean sustainability.



The project “Ocean Sustainability through Education and Sport” is focused on the development of tools for federations and local sports actors to educate youth in eco-responsible actions and develop environmental awareness from an early age through sport. It is the result of a collaborative effort involving nine partners.

OBJECTIVES

It is built around three main objectives:

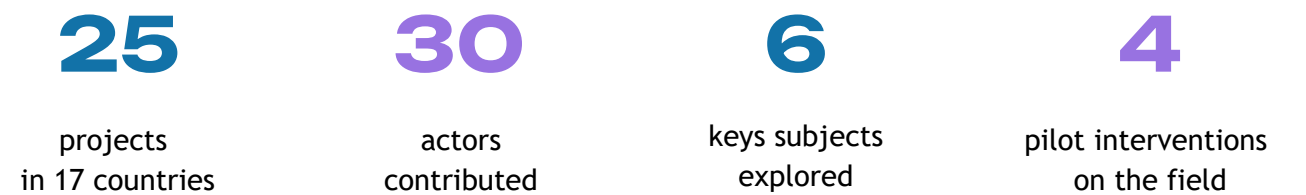
- Assess the experience and insight of active sports organizations on creating and implementing an awareness campaign and educational methodology towards ocean and seas preservation
- Develop educational and environmental awareness methodology at local level to foster ocean protection through sport
- Measure and enhance the social and environmental impact of the programme implemented to strengthen advocacy toward ocean protection

PILOT INTERVENTIONS

The project is based on four pilot interventions carried out by sport organizations at local, regional, and European levels.

These pilots integrate pedagogical approaches on ocean protection and environmental awareness into everyday sports activities. Beyond implementation, a key objective is to measure the social and environmental impact of these actions, demonstrating the value of youth environmental education through concrete and measurable results. By defining clear evaluation tools with relevant stakeholders, the project ensures that outcomes are translated into practical and operational terms.

KEYS FIGURES



TOOLS FOR THE COMMUNITIES
Discover the OSES good practices handbook et reports by the OSES project:

<https://oses-project.org/ressources-oses/>



SPECIAL CALLS



- Accessibility to and exposure to the ocean for all public - through direct or indirect experiences - shall be reinforced and supported by all stakeholders.
- Marine protected areas' designation and effectiveness shall be reinforced
- The ocean is as a common good of humanity, allowing public and sustainable governance of marine areas and resources.



GENERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLOW NAUTICAL SPORTS TO BECOME A PLATFORM FOR OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY

- The ocean is not a playground. It is a fragile living ecosystem and it shall be considered as such by sports organizations and practitioners.
- Ocean sports shall be recognized as catalyst and platforms for ocean literacy, sustainability, ocean conservation and awareness raising.
- They allow experiential informal learning on ocean conservation through a special bond with the ocean.
- Ocean sports' practitioners, trainers and champions shall be recognized as agents of change.
- While enabling sustainable practices and ocean literacy, ocean sports clubs and organizations shall be empowered as leaders of ocean protection.
- Carbon neutral, positive and regenerative impact of ocean sports' approaches and programs shall be fostered.
- Long-term funding marine environment (ME) & ocean literacy (OL) programs in ocean sports shall be ensured.
- An element of ocean literacy, marine education, and environmental awareness should be a mandatory component of all publicly funded ocean sports programs.
- As a conclusion, ocean sports shall be integrated into local, national and European sustainability and ocean protection strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS & KEYS FOR SUCCESS

Regarding toolkits and interventions development



- Tool kits and education programs shall be integrated in the clubs' daily activities and learning, and their continuity shall be ensured, as integrated part of the sports' training and learning.
- Ocean sports organizations shall developed their own ME & OL methodology and toolkit adapted to each sport, each age, and local contexts.
- Regarding the need assessment and results evaluation, surveys shall be considered as are particularly advantageous and complete tools.
- Flexibility shall be enabling to adapt tools formats, language etc ... to local realities

- Co-creation of tools and protocols involving interactions with clubs' trainers shall be flexible, inclusive, and adaptable formats, language and tools to local context especially in non-formal learning environments.
- Equipment usability shall be key.
- Timelines shall enable identifying and organizing recipients' group, field interventions and tools testing
- Robust backup plans indoor activities for outdoor sessions shall be designed.
- Particular attention shall be paid to assess and evaluate the educative, through evaluation tools, the testing new tools and protocols, and surveys.
- A shared online platform and knowledge database shall be established to collect and disseminate tools, activity ideas, and good practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS & KEYS FOR SUCCESS

for sustainability, marine environment & ocean literacy programmes within ocean sport clubs



- Change is a process, not a moment. Long-term programmes should be embedded in regular training sessions as an integral part of the sea sense.
- Ocean literacy, marine education and awareness-raising should be core elements of water sports training, especially for newcomers.
- Young generations should be educated on ocean conservation, as ocean sports offer strong educational potential through diverse environmental perspectives. Support for ME & OL programmes within ocean sports communities should be ensured.
- All ocean threats should be addressed equally in ME & OL programmes, including biodiversity loss, climate change, coastal processes, pollution and invasive species.
- ME & OL programmes should be long-term and continuous, going beyond one-off actions.
- Ocean literacy should be integrated into national curricula, particularly in coastal and tourism-intensive regions.
- Strong internal commitment from sports clubs, combined with partnerships with environmental organisations, authorities and scientific institutions, is key to successful ME & OL programmes.
- For greater impact, ME & OL programmes should be delivered by internal trainers, with a strong focus on training the trainers.

RECOMMENDATIONS & KEYS FOR SUCCESS

for citizen science interventions and scientific data sharing



- Citizen science and community-based monitoring through ocean sports shall be promoted.
- Data collection and sharing shall be ongoing process between clubs and universities and other scientific institutions. To this end, networks shall be built and supported between research centers and sports clubs and federations to assess the status of the marine environment through citizen science.
- Awareness on plastic pollution shall be reinforced.
- Alert systems shall be promoted and shall reach local and national organizations, and finally the European institutions