



**Coherent & Cross-compliant Ocean Governance for Delivering
the EU Green Deal for European Seas**

Deliverable 5.7

**Capacity building in CrossGov:
Development and testing of training modules**



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Abstract	This deliverable presents the capacity building approach and its logic and elements developed in CrossGov to ensure long term learning of the results of the project. The CrossGov team has developed a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) and tested its 4 Modules, and organized a summer school on marine policy coherence.
Keywords	Capacity building, MOOC, summer school, training

Table of contents

Introduction	4
1. Capacity building concept	4
1.1 Capacity building approach	4
1.2 Launching capacity building activities	6
1.3 Promotion at key strategic events and to relevant stakeholders	6
2. Webinars	7
2.1 Format	8
2.2 Content	9
2.3 Promotion & Delivery	10
3. Training modules and MOOC	11
3.1 Concept & Format	11
3.2 Content	12
3.3 Learning material & activities	14
3.4 Promotion & Delivery	17
4. Testing of the modules: CrossGov's Summer school	18
4.1 Concept & Format	18
4.2 Promotion and Delivery	18
Annex 1. Program of summer school	23
Annex 2. List of participants of the summer school training	25
Annex 3. Students bios	26

Introduction

The CrossGov project aims to improve the coherence of multi-level and multi-sectoral marine policies and their environmental and social cross-compliance to better manage biodiversity decline and enhance the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems undergoing rapid change. The project develops a comprehensive research framework and innovative governance models, including analytical and methodological guidelines, roadmaps toward Green Deal (GD) goals and policy evaluation tools. These novel frameworks, evaluation tools and governance models are expected to improve the coherence of multi-level policies and cross-compliance with their goals and consequently increase synergies between policies and provide significant support to policymakers at EU and national level.

Following the work of WP5 on stakeholder engagement and deliverable (5.4), which develops approach and process of co-creation in CrossGov, this deliverable goes further to identify how the results of the project could be disseminated to have the maximum uptake.

This deliverable presents in detail the concepts, procedures, and final outcomes of the realised CrossGov capacity building products, specifically: the webinars, the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), and the Summer School, where these products have been tested.

1. Capacity building concept

1.1 Capacity building approach

Capacity building is the bridge between individual competency development and organisational learning, ultimately leading to change. Unless individuals explore what underlies their own typical thinking and action, they are likely to make only superficial changes to existing strategies, which will limit the potential for more fundamental learning and change. For CrossGov capacity building is important to ensure that CrossGov results, recommendations and outcomes were made available, widely disseminated and ready for uptake by a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers.

Capacity building for CrossGov was developed during summer 2024, and presented to partners in August 2024.

Through consultations from Consortium partners, members of the Advisory Board and the Stakeholder Forum, **the task identified key opportunities** (initiatives carried out by key stakeholders, partnerships with universities and research communities, etc.) **to be seized for enhancing CrossGov results**, visibility, dissemination and exploitation.

The capacity building concept included learning modules, webinars, and in-person trainings, including peer support and feedback generation processes. The modules for the capacity building were structured around the following "*building approach*":

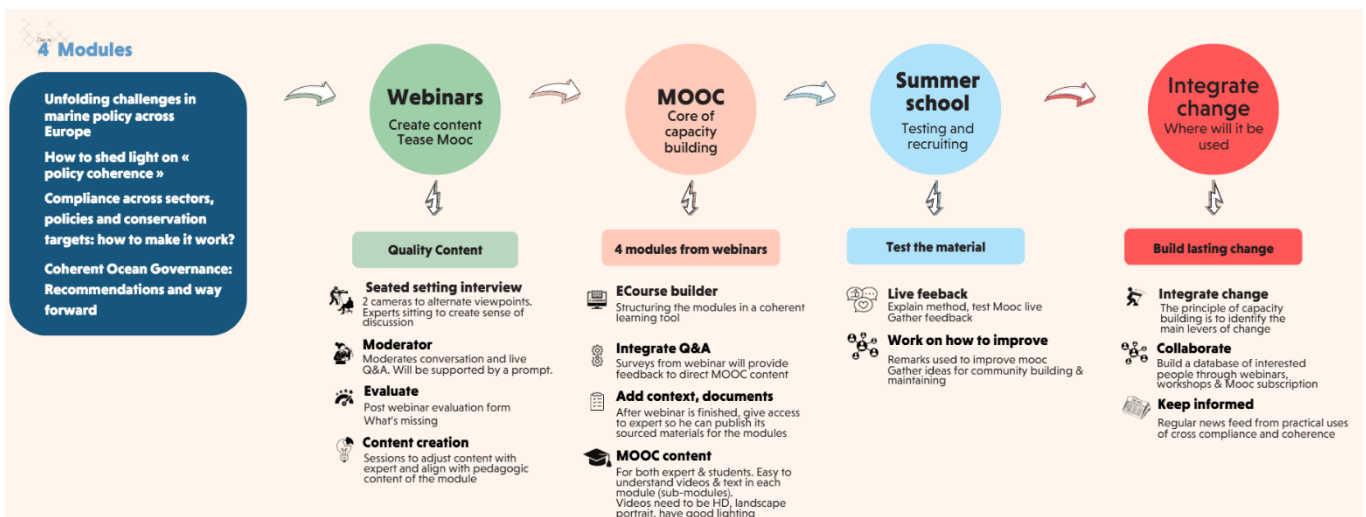
- 1-Framing and conceptualisation of the need
- 2-Identification of barriers limiting its implementation
- 3-Proposal of methodology to fulfill the need

4-Implement **change in the organisation**, through targeted trainings, peer community creations, and small integrations that will bring about lasting change.

The capacity building approach focused on the following axes:

1. **Deliver a Webinar Series** in the format of **live panel discussions**, where CrossGov researchers and relevant external speakers would discuss the contextual need for the project's research, the methodologies applied, the results, best practices, and recommendations arose from the case studies' findings.
2. **Develop and test 4 training modules** for sharing and strengthening use of CrossGov concepts, assessment methods, results and recommendations with today's and future professionals, stakeholders and decision makers. The modules were integrated into a unique **Massive Online Training Course (MOOC)**
3. Tested the 4 training modules through a **Summer School** training in July 2025.

The overall logic of the capacity building and training is presented in Figure 1 below:



1.2 Launching capacity building activities

CrossGov capacity building and exploitation activities gained momentum in September 2024 from the initial launch of a **call-to-action campaign** targeting the main stakeholder groups. The campaign invited consultants, policy analysts, policy makers, and research communities to join upcoming dedicated trainings to be launched in spring 2025.



CrossGov capitalised on opportunities to **link with existing institutions, European initiatives and sister projects**. Instead of prioritising its own process like many research projects, CrossGov favoured dialoguing and partnering with established networks and platforms to gain shared visibility and reach a broader audience. CrossGov included in the MOOC resources and links to sister projects and relevant European initiatives including:

- Podcasts from [Green Deal Big Deal](#)
- Podcasts and recommended readings from [Green Deal.Net](#)
- Links to scientific publications from established networks
- Links to recommended reading and resources from sister projects, including [BlueGreen Governance](#), [MSP4BIO](#), [PERMAGOV](#).

1.3 Promotion at key strategic events and to relevant stakeholders

CrossGov made specific efforts to connect with influential policy makers, and promote the capacity building activities to respective target groups being present at key events, including:

- EU Ocean Days in March 2025 in Brussels
- Mission Arena 4 in Sopot, Poland on 28-29 April 2025
- One Ocean Science congress, Nice, 3-6 June 2025
- UNOC United Nation Ocean Conference, Nice, 9-13 June 2025
- Policy Day: CrossGov Final Event, Brussels, 23 June 2025
- MARE Conference, Amsterdam, 24-27 June 2027





Flyers, presentation slides, and posters were produced to showcase the MOOC features and attract relevant stakeholders (university lecturers, researchers and policy makers) in potential collaborations.

Interests were raised and collected from university lecturers in implementing the MOOC as additional training resource in relevant course modules. Promotion to target groups continued online with targeted posts to encourage collaborations and disseminate CrossGov MOOC across relevant academic and professional contexts.

2. Webinars

A webinar series was produced to create video content material to be implemented in the MOOC, and disseminate the project's learning and findings via an interactive and livestreamed panel discussion.¹

The capacity building strategy officially kicked off with the launch and promotion of the **Webinar Series: Towards a Coherent & Cross-Compliant Ocean Governance**. The series showcased 5 *episodes*, each building on project deliverables, and complemented by tailored summaries, key messages, and recommendations on how CrossGov results could be taken up into future practices and processes. Webinars were announced on social media platforms and were delivered livestreamed.



Recordings of each episode were complemented with subtitles, edited into short clips, and uploaded on Youtube (links available below). The webinar clips were then integrated, alongside additional reading and learning material, into an **Online Training Course (MOOC)** on CrossGov website.

[Full list of webinar episodes](#)

- 1- Understanding the ambitions for the European oceans, regulatory realities and the need for policy coherence

¹ <https://crossgov.eu/event/marine-policy-in-europe-coherence-challenges-opportunities/>

Speakers: Froukje Maria Platjouw; Gunnar Sander; Niko Soininen; Nikolaos Giannopoulos; Sebastian Maria Karl Heinrich Kopf (moderator)

2- Policy coherence in marine governance – How can we comprehensively assess and understand it?

Speakers: Froukje Maria Platjouw; Gunnar Sander; Laura Friedrich (moderator); Jonas Kyrönviita; Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen; Saskia Trubbach

3- Evidence-based marine policy making: concepts, challenges, and recommendations

Speakers: Ginevra Capurso; Emiliano Ramieri; Andrea Barbanti; Sašo Gorjanc; Mauro Randone; Judith van Leeuwen, Folco Soffietti (moderator)

4- Balancing offshore wind energy expansion and biodiversity protection in the North Sea

Speakers: Nikolaos Giannopoulos; Cristian Passarello; Ben Boteler (moderator); Maaïke Knol-Kauffman

5- Policy coherence from source to sea

- *Speakers: Saskia Trubbach; Laura Bastide; Niko Soininen (moderator); Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen; Antti Belinskij*

[Link to webinar edited clips \(Youtube\).](#)

2.1 Format

CrossGov aimed to deliver an attractive product that would differ from the standard webinar format of online remote speaking. Therefore, the established plan and strategy has been to gather, where possible, speakers in-person to host and livestream **live panel discussions**. The panels were filmed using 2-cameras to alternate viewpoints and create dynamism for viewers while watching. Episode 1 and 2 were filmed in the NIVA Institute's Green Room. Episode 3 and 4 were filmed in CNR-ISMAR, Venice, and RIFS, Potsdam. All episodes had dedicated technical staff (NIVA and ACTeon) managing filming technicalities and coordination of the webinar's hosting platform. Lastly, due to timing and geographical constraints, the final episode 5 was hosted with all speakers presenting online via Teams.

Each episode had a moderator directing the conversation and transferring to panelists the questions raised from the audience during the registration process and the live session. The in-person gathering to livestream the webinars offered additional opportunities to film recorded content and video interviews to be integrated into the MOOC.

Livestreaming Webinar 3 in CNR-ISMAR, Venice.



Recording additional MOOC material post webinar livestream. CNR-ISMAR, Venice.

2.2 Content

In order to develop targeted products and follow our capacity building concept strategy, the content of each episode was drafted and developed following interests and questions raised by the audience during the registration process. In the registration form, attendees had the possibility to express specific points that they would have like to be covered, as well as indicating their professional sectors, and interest in joining the session.

Scripts for each episode were drafted from Crossgov partners, following specific guidance on best practices to frame key points and communicate findings in accessible format.

The series was structured around 5 episodes, livestreamed from March to May 2025 via Microsoft Teams. Each episode built on project's deliverables and provided a progressive learning journey into the issues hindering policy coherence in Europe, the methodologies applied within CrossGov to assess for coherence, and the results emerged from the varied socio-economic and geographical contexts across the case studies.

The webinar sessions provided the building blocks for constructing the outline of Training Modules of the subsequent Online Course (MOOC) (see figure 2 below)

Modules & Associated Webinars

- Module 1** **Unfolding challenges in marine policy across Europe**
Webinar 1 Understanding the ambitions for the European oceans, regulatory realities and the need for policy coherence - NIVA
- Module 2** **How to shed light on policy coherence**
Webinar 2 Policy coherence in marine governance – How can we comprehensively assess and understand it? – NIVA
Webinar 3 Evidence-Based Policy Making: Concepts, Challenges, and Recommendations- CNR
- Module 3** **Compliance across sectors, policies, and conservation targets: how to make it work?**
Online Workshop (S.Pro) Fisheries and biodiversity conservation: Is a path to policy coherence in the Mediterranean possible?
Webinar 4 Balancing offshore wind energy expansion and biodiversity protection in the North Sea – UU + RIFS
Webinar 5 Policy coherence from source to sea – NIVA + UEF
- Module 4** **Coherent Ocean Governance: Recommendations and way forward**

Figure 2. Training modules and webinars

2.3 Promotion & Delivery

A dedicated page was created on CrossGov website to outline the webinars' titles, description, speakers, date and time, alongside link for attendees to register. [CrossGov Webinar Series - Crossgov Project](#)



Tailored social media posts were created to promote webinars on LinkedIn. The series was launched in February 2025, followed by specific promotion of each episode starting 2 weeks prior to its scheduled date.

Additionally, template emails were circulated across relevant stakeholders' network to direct promotion to its target audience.

The 5 episodes received an overall constant level of attendance and engagement. A total of **193** participants attended the whole webinar series, with an average of 39 attendees in each episode, and episode 4 (*Balancing offshore wind energy expansion and biodiversity protection in the North Sea*) having the highest number of attendees (n: 56).

Following each episode, an email was circulated to all people that had registered to share the recording of the session and a feedback form. Below are listed some of the responses from the question *'What was your single biggest takeaway?'* in the feedback form below.

Table 1. Feedback from webinars

ID	Name	Answers
1	anonymous	Knowledge of EU policies on marine governance
2	anonymous	Knowledge-based & collaborative policymaking
3	anonymous	Evidence-based marine policy making should be embedded in all relevant initiatives. Through a label, BLUEPRINT can become a quality mark of such kind of processes.
4	anonymous	Interdisciplinarity and transversal skills are a must to overcome the problems of different policy scales as well as sectorial silos
5	anonymous	was great to have 3 different country perspectives - showed how complex and diverse the challenges are across Europe's northern seas
6	anonymous	Multi-stakeholder consultation process in the Netherlands

3. Training modules and MOOC

One of the main outcomes of the project were translating CrossGov assessment methods in **digitally accessible fit-for-purpose policy-support methods**.

Four training modules were built around the webinar episodes and complemented with learning material and activities to provide knowledge and practical guidance on how to assess coherence and cross-compliance. CrossGov MOOC is being hosted on CrossGov website, and is open and free for the public: <https://crossgov.eu/mooc/>

3.1 Concept & Format

The primary stage was to define the goal and target audience for the MOOC, in line with the webinar series, and integrated with the feedback received from it.

The overarching goal for this Online Training Course was to **provide knowledge, tools and adaptable solutions** to effectively implement EU marine policies and reach the Green Deal goals.

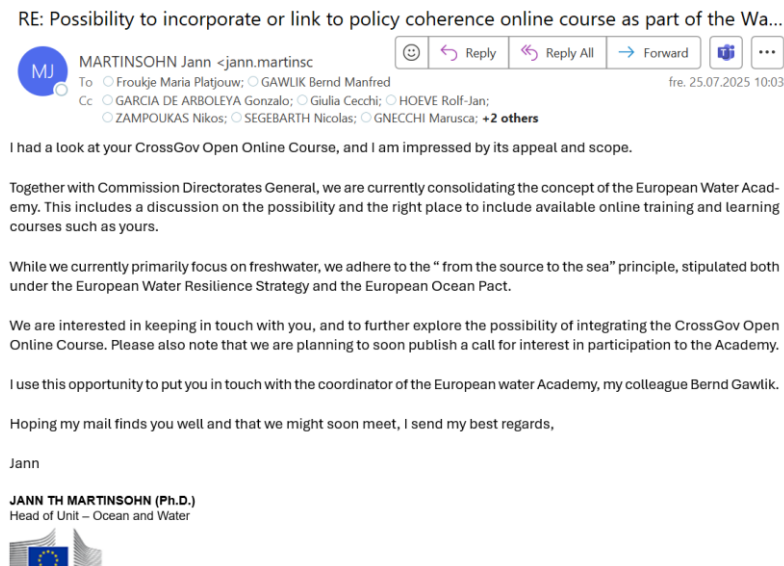
The target audience comprises :

- **University students** in Marine Policy & Governance, Environmental Law, Social and Political Science, Environmental and Marine management
- **Researchers & Consultants**
- **Policy Makers** and Implementers at various level of governance
- Actors with a role in the **transfer of knowledge** for evidence-based policymaking, **from evidence generators to evidence users**.

After an investigation of the available e-learning platforms for hosting online courses, the selected choice has been to self-design the course via a **Wordpress Plug-in (Tutor LMS)** to integrate directly into CrossGov website. The decision was motivated partly by a cost perspective, and primarily by the long-term reassurance to maintain the course available without it being subject to a renewal of subscription. Therefore, a **lifetime** TutorLMS plug-in course was purchased to build the MOOC. The Self Course Builder option also gave more customizability compared to e-learning platforms, which provided CrossGov with the

possibility to maximise interactive and visual features, and format a visual interface in line with the project's branding and graphic design.

The Plug-in solution also facilitates uploading the MOOC modules to other external websites. Currently, a dialogue is ongoing with the Head of Unit and colleagues, Ocean and Water, from the Joint Research Centre. They developed and launched the European Water Academy in the context of the Water Resilience Strategy, and may be interested in connecting other existing initiatives with it.



The course is fully **open and visible**, with no mandatory registration required to access content. Due to the multiple target audiences, the potential time commitments and knowledge interests of each, the course was structured in a “pick and choose” format.

If learners are interested in only certain aspects (e.g. methodologies, case study findings), they can freely access the module and content of interest. Registration is recommended for students and learners who may want to keep track of their progress, take quizzes, and to gain a certificate of completion.

3.2 Content

The MOOC is structured around **4 Training Modules**, showcasing the complexity of the EU regulatory framework for the marine sector, the methodologies to ensure coherent and evidence-based policy making, and the lessons learnt from our case studies.

Each module provides attendees with specific and targeted learning outcomes to comprehend, develop, assess and implement integrated policy actions.

- **Module 1** dives into the legal and political landscape regulating ocean governance in Europe, the associated challenges, and the crucial role of coherent policies in advancing marine conservation goals
- **Module 2** guides learners into the application of CrossGov methodologies for the assessment of policy coherence and the analysis of Science-Policy-Society Interfaces.

- **Module 3** identifies learning and challenges for aligning conservation goals with regulatory frameworks across different governance landscapes, socio-economic contexts and sectors.
- **Module 4** provides replicable guidance, recommendations and self-assessment tools for analysing coherence within and between policies, improve science-to-policy processes, and ensure alignment between sectoral policies and conservation goals.

Every module contains:


- A brief explanation of the module's content and learning objectives
- Learning outcomes: what learners are expected to know or be able to do after completing the module.
- sub-modules to cluster the main topic discussed and to build upon previous knowledge.
- video and written content, plus recommended reading and media resources to enhance learning.

Learning objectives expected to gain from attendees following the completion of the whole course include:

- Understand the EU regulatory landscape for the marine sector
- Propose methodologies for policy coherence analysis
- Improve the effectiveness of SPSI for evidence-based policy making
- Identify and predict challenges in policy implementation
- Learn solutions and best practices supporting the achievement of the European Green Deal goals

ABOUT ▾ OUTCOMES ▾ CASE STUDIES ▾ **ONLINE COURSE** NEWS & EVENTS

CrossGov Open Online Course
Towards a Coherent & Cross-Compliant Ocean Governance



What will you learn?

✓ Navigate the complexity of European marine governance	✓ Identify and predict challenges in policy implementation
✓ Propose methodologies for policy coherence analysis	✓ Ensure alignment between conservation targets and regulatory frameworks
✓ Improve the effectiveness of Science-Policy-Society interfaces for evidence-based policy making	✓ Apply solution and best practices supporting the achievement of the European Green Deal goals


Meet the Experts

Course Essentials

From the Green Deal to the Ocean Pact

Course Overview

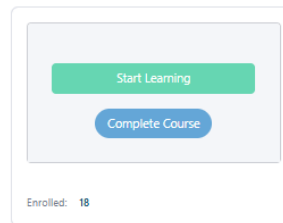
Pick your module of interest or take them all for a full and comprehensive policy coherence journey.



1 The Blue side of the Green Deal

- Marine policy and legal landscape in Europe

Overview of MOOC's Landing Page on CrossGov website



Introduction

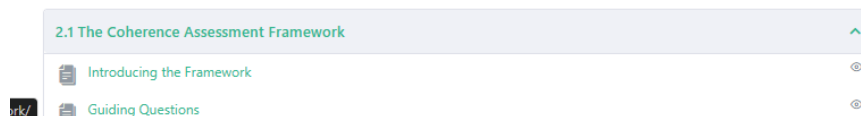
- Learn and apply the methodologies developed within Crossgov for the assessment of policy coherence and the analysis of Science-Policy-Society interfaces (SPSIs).
- The guidelines will lead you to understand where in the policy cycle or at which governance level challenges of coherence emerge, and the crucial role of SPSIs in sound policy and decision-making processes.

[Course Info](#) [Reviews](#) [Resources](#)

What will you learn?

- > Carrying out analysis for policy incoherence in marine governance
- > Ability to evaluate synergies across policy frameworks
- > Critically assess gaps across the Science-Policy-Society interface.
- > Propose solutions to reinforce the application of evidence into marine policy-making.

Course Curriculum



Interface of Module 2 landing page (CrossGov MOOC)

3.3 Learning material & activities

Recordings from the webinars were cut, edited, complemented with subtitles, and uploaded onto the respective sub-modules within the MOOC. The videos were complemented by written content further outlining the topic, methodology, and concepts explained in the video.

All content has been drafted and displayed in the best accessible and concise format available via the TutorLMS plugin and web editor tool (Elementor Pro). Material, reports, and presentations produced within CrossGov were carefully scanned, selected, and re-adapted into a visually appealing, digestible, and easy to ready format, in order to minimise the complexity of the topic and maximise the reach of its comprehension from the audience.

Additional reading and media resources (including podcasts and video presentations) were added in each sub-module to support collaboration with and visibility of sister projects and ongoing European initiatives.

Comprehension and understanding is evaluated within each module with a wide range of tailored and interactive quizzes, ranging from Multiple Choice Questions, Fill the Gaps, Matching questions and Open Answers.

In Module 2 (*How to shed light on policy coherence*), two assignments are provided as learning suggestions to independently apply research questions and specific stages of CrossGov methodologies (Coherence Assessment Framework and SPSI Analysis) into the learners' own geographical and policy contexts.

The assignments provide learners with the ability to transfer and re-adapt methodologies exclusively developed within CrossGov into their own contexts, allowing the upscaling of CrossGov work, widening its scope, and gathering additional useful findings relating to the issue of policy (in)coherence in environmental and marine governance.

The screenshot displays the CrossGov Webinar Series interface. On the left, a sidebar lists the course structure under '2.1 The Coherence Assessment Framework': 'Introducing the Framework' (selected), 'Guiding Questions', 'Coherence Scoring', and 'Policy coherence in your own country'. Below this, '2.2 Evidence based policy-making: SPSI analysis' and '2.3 Coherence analysis in practice' are listed. The main content area is titled 'About Lesson' and features a video player for 'CrossGov// Webinar Series Episode 2: Introducing the policy coherence assessment framework' by Froukje Maria Platjouw, a Research Manager and Legal Expert in EU and International environmental law at NIVA. Below the video, the text 'The Framework' explains that the evaluation framework enables understanding of where in the policy cycle governance level challenges of coherence and cross-compliance emerge. 'Part A' is titled 'What are we assessing?' and 'Coherence Attributes', stating that when assessing coherence, one considers coherence between objectives and measures of policies. At the bottom, two boxes are shown: 'Policy Objective' and 'Some examples of policy objectives'.

Module 2 sub-module (*Introducing the Framework*)

Interface Overview : *Webinar Clip introducing the Coherence Assessment Framework, followed by visual explanations and practical examples*

What type of science, knowledge, and interactions do we need for coherent and cross-compliant formulation and implementation of policies?



Identified needs

To answer the question above, analyses were conducted on the **functioning of SPS** at the **EU level** (policy formulation) and at the **case study levels** (policy implementation). Based on the results of these analyses, good

Recorded video content (in addition to webinar clips) filmed and integrated into CrossGov MOOC



How policy instruments set for the implementation of sectoral policies adequately internalize key requirements of EU policies established to deliver healthy marine ecosystems (MSFD/WFD/MSPD)

Germany's policy instruments, including including Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), aim to integrate environmental considerations into

*Module 3 sub-module (The Germany Case study)
Interface overview : Webinar clip followed by diagram of policy instruments in Germany.*

About Lesson

The Mediterranean Sea Case Study has examined how 2030 **biodiversity targets** (such as 30:30) and **climate change targets** (Paris Agreement and EU Climate Law) are represented within the Mediterranean region and to what extent they are integrated into Mediterranean **fisheries policies**.



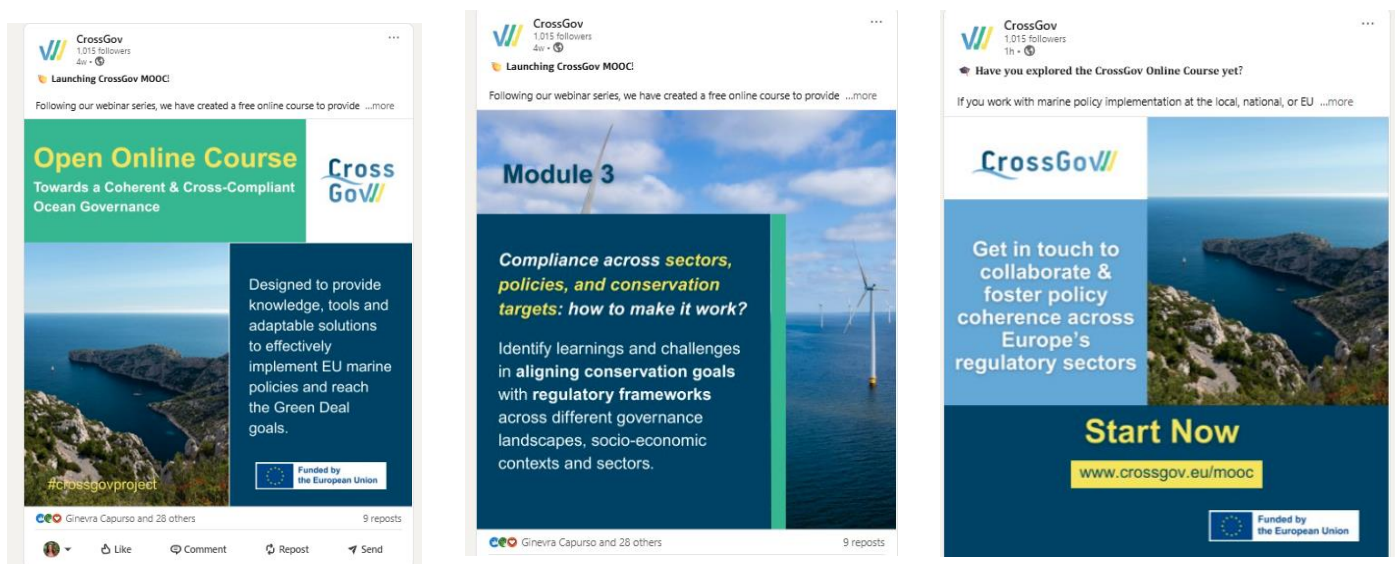
Module 3 sub-module (The Mediterranean Case study) Interface overview: Recorded interview followed by visual outline of regulatory frameworks in the Mediterranean.

3.4 Promotion and Delivery

The MOOC was launched at the end of June 2025 through social media posts on LinkedIn and targeted emails directed to the webinars attendees who had expressed interests and approved to be contacted for being updated on the upcoming Online Training Course.

The post outlined a brief description of MOOC's format and target audience, general content of each module, learning outcomes and directions to enroll.

Social media promotion continues throughout summer with targeted posts calling for interest from specific audiences (university lecturers, policy makers, researchers), encouraging collaborations to implement the MOOC across academic and professional contexts. This will ensure that this digital learning tool and its content will be transferred and implemented beyond CrossGov scope and timelines.



Within the first month from the MOOC's launch, 43 attendees enrolled to the course. At the moment of drafting this current deliverable (end of July 2025), the total learners enrolled amount to 68 participants. The number includes only the people that have enrolled, but not the ones reading and exploring the content for their own interest without undertaking the quizzes and assignments.

A feedback form is integrated on the MOOC's introductory landing page, as well as in the final module, to collect suggestions for improvements and evaluate the achievement of conformity of topics with stakeholders' needs.

4. Testing of the modules: CrossGov's Summer school

4.1 Concept & Format

A 3-days Summer Training Course was organized to test the learning effectiveness of the training modules (MOOC), and to bring complementary perspective to CrossGov research from young future professionals.



The training, named “*Marine Policy Coherence: from challenges to solutions*”, was co-organised with the Ocean Sciences Institute from Aix-Marseille University, and hosted in Marseille from 8th till the 10th of July at their premises (station l’Endoume).

The Summer school was dedicated to students interested in or studying political science, environmental law, ocean management and protection (Bachelor/Master, and Doctoral levels) in Europe, as well as to young European professionals working on the design and implementation of public policies.

Structured into a **3-days sharing and learning experience**, the training focused on knowledge and tools for assessing alignment across Europe marine-related policies, and ensuring efficient Science-Policy-Society interfaces. Activities were delivered prioritizing engagement and discussions, active thinking and games, over a one-way transmission and overflows of information.

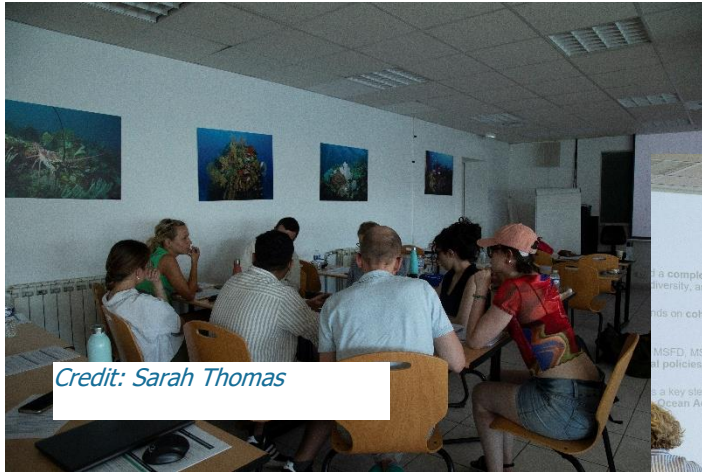
The full agenda of the Summer School is provided in Annex 1.

4.2 Promotion and Delivery

The Summer School was launched in spring 2025 with registration available until the 30th May 2025. The maximum capacity of students was 20 participants, with a registration fee of 50 euros for students and 150 euros for young professionals (inclusive of materials, coffee breaks, lunches and dinners). Travel and accommodation costs were covered by participants, although a limited number of travel grants (up to 300 euros) were made available.

As part of the registration process, students had to submit their CV and a motivation letter. A total of 34 applicants from EU and non EU countries registered to the training. 20 applicants were selected based on their relevant experience and interests, motivations to attend the training, and previous experience in the area of marine and/or environmental policy. The learning activities were coordinated and delivered by CrossGov researchers (Olga Mashkina, Pierre Strosser, Paulina Ramirez-Monsalve, Cristian Passarello, Ginevra Capurso), director (Richard Sempéré) and project manager (Sarah Thomas) from the Ocean Institute, and retired EU Commission Official Juan José Ronco Zapatero.

On *day 1*, participants worked in groups on pressing topics of Fisheries & Biodiversity, Offshore Wind Energy & Nature Conservation and Source-to-Sea Management—aligning key EU water directives. Following a guided role play exercise, they took on the roles of industry, civil society, NGOs, and public authorities—debating the root causes of policy conflicts and exploring solutions to improve coherence.



Credit: Sarah Thomas



Credit: Sarah Thomas

On *day 2*, participants brought together all the knowledge from the MOOC, expert sessions, and discussions. Outcomes comprised: investigations on real-world marine policy challenges, the application of CrossGov policy coherence frameworks and methodologies, the exploration of solutions and reflections on how they can be actually implemented in practice across diverse contexts.

Each group worked on topics they personally cared about—from fisheries & biodiversity, to offshore wind & nature conservation, waste management and source-to-sea management, and stakeholder engagement.

The day ended with a sailing boat trip and onboard dinner, reinforcing connections amongst participants, trainers and organizers, and stimulating inspiring networking and collaboration opportunities.



Credit: Sarah Thomas



Credit : Sarah Thomas



Credit : Sarah Thomas

Finally, on **day 3**, learners shared the outcomes of their group works, and were able to further investigate their topic by hosting “panel discussions” with a selected CrossGov researcher, in order to pose him/her additional questions on their topic of interest.

Discussions and presentations brought up a collective learning from a wide range of perspectives and contexts, and provided additional and complementary findings to CrossGov research.

Ideas for MOOC improvement were identified and collected via feedback discussion sessions and forms. Key points raised from the participants’ group work were integrated into the MOOC final module to keep up the momentum on the ocean policy coherence conversation. Inspiring ideas arose from this training to follow-up on the CrossGov project, including references to the


CrossGov Coherence Assessment Framework and SPSI analysis methodology into Master and PhD theses, and integrations of the MOOC in teaching material across academic and learning contexts.

All activities from the training were shared and promoted across social media, following consent forms approved and signed by participants.



Day 1 keeps going here at the Marine Policy Coherence Summer School in Marseille! ...more



 You and 43 others

12 reposts

Annex 1. Program of summer school

July 7 th (arrival)	
18:00-19:00	Informal gathering at L'Horloge or le Phonographe bar
July 8 th	
8:45-9:00	Registration and getting settled
9:00-9:45	Why are we here? Who are we? And what are we going to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome to the Summer training! ○ Sharing roles and responsibilities ○ Expectations and Q&A <p><i>Ice breaker: In small groups (2-4 pp), share "What motivates you in relation to marine policy and governance?" and record it on a video (15 sec/person)</i></p>
9:45-11:00	Searching for policy coherence in the EU legislative and marine policy framework: setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does EU legislation work? (Pierre Strosser and Juan Zapatero) ○ Overview of the main European and international marine policies (Cristian Passarello) • (MOOC Mod1) - <i>The Blue side of the Green Deal</i> <p>Slido exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy coherence and compliance – what is it and why is it essential? (Paulina Ramirez-Monsalve) • (MOOC Mod1) - <i>Why Coherence?</i> <p>Q&A exchange of thoughts and knowledge</p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:30	Which methodologies and tools can we apply to analyse policies and policy coherence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy coherence frameworks and tools (Paulina Ramirez-Monsalve) ○ Science - Policy- Society Interface (Ginevra Capurso) <p>Q&A: exchange of thoughts and knowledge</p>
12:30-13:00	Which resources are available in the MOOC? Time to play around and discover! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (MOOC Mod2) - <i>The Coherence Assessment Framework + CrossGov methodologies in 4 steps</i> • (MOOC Mod2) - <i>Evidence based policy-making: SPSI analysis + CrossGov methodologies in 4 steps</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	If I was... an NGO, policy maker, community leader, researcher or an industry representative A role play game to discover policy (in-)coherence
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-16:00	Diving into three policy interfaces as illustrations of the policy (in-)coherence state of play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When marine renewable energy meets biodiversity (Cristian Passarello) • (MOOC Mod3) - Offshore energy vs (or with) Nature Conservation ○ Fisheries and biodiversity: does it work together? (Ginevra Capurso) • (MOOC Mod3) - Fisheries vs (or with) Biodiversity conservation ○ A source-to-sea perspective to connect fresh and marine waters policy frameworks (Paulina Ramirez-Monsalve) • (MOOC Mod3) - Coherence from source to sea
16:30-16:50	Q&A exchange of thoughts and knowledge
16:50-17:00	How did it go... today?

	A collective sharing of experiences and feedbacks, identification of “plus” and “minus”, possible adaptations in the following day’s agenda and organisation
17:00	FREE TIME
20:00	Dinner at restaurant Cocotero
July 9th	
9:00 –15:50	<p>Investigate – and find solutions for - your “own” policy interface incoherences!</p> <p>Group Work: in 3-4 groups, participants will follow a step-by-step approach to discover policy (in-)coherence challenges and solutions for different policy interfaces (whether the ones illustrated in the previous day’s session or other policy interfaces they are interested in) - using materials available in the MOOC, their own research or exchanges with CrossGov and other researchers.</p> <p>Helpful material from the MOOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (MOOC Mod4) - <i>Toolkit for policy coherence analysis (blueprint, handbook etc)</i> • (MOOC Mod2) - <i>Coherence Analysis in practice</i>
With coffee break at 11, and lunch at 13:00	
15:50-16:00	<p>How did it go... today?</p> <p>A collective sharing of experiences and feedbacks, identification of “plus” and “minus”, possible adaptations in the following day’s agenda and organisation</p>
19:00-23:00	<p>Sailing boat trip with dinner (leaving from the Vieux Port)</p> <p>Don’t forget your swimming suits!</p>
July 10th	
9:00-11:00	<p>Sharing the outcomes of the groups’ work</p> <p>Participate in 3-4 interactive panels facilitated by the summer school’s participants to discover and challenge the results of the groups’ work!</p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee
11:15-12:00	<p>What did you (we) learn and experience during the summer training ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The summer training evaluation: how to do better if... we would organise it a second time? ○ MOOC evaluation: identifying possible adaptations in the MOOC and framework that emerge from it + MOOC feedback form ○ Next steps: what can each of us do with what has been learnt, how relevant it is for contributing to our personal research or future professional development, etc. <p>A last individual reflection: In small groups (2-4 pp), share “What are your takeaways from the summer training? What lessons do you bring to your current/future activities and policy context?” and record it on a video (15 sec/person)</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	<p>It is time to say goodbye...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing of the summer school ○ Prizes and certificates

Annex 2. List of participants of the summer school training



amU Océan
Aix Marseille Université

CrossGov

List of the participants of the Summer School on Marine "Policy Coherence

Marseille 8-10 July 2025

Venue: Station Marine d'Endoume (Rue de la Batterie des Lions 13007)

	First name	Last name	Signature of participant		
			July 8	July 9	July 10
1	Matthew	Carvalho			
2	Alice	Thebault			
3	Hugo	Durand			
4	Laura	La Gioia			
5	Maria	Angel			
6	Tayyab Farooq	Arshad			
7	Zoé	Frey			
8	Damien	Jahan			
9	Alissa	Lotzkes			
10	Khadija	Achour			
11	Ambre	Soulacroup			
12	Sarah-Marie	Thomas			
13	Philéane	Wolf			
14	Nikoletta	Chatzopoulou			
15	Simon	Vanhove			
16	Keti	Da Costa Mongabure			
17	Juliette	Jestin			
18	Sofia Athina	Sotireli			
19	Mariana	Moreira			
20	Wakeel Ur	Rehman			
21	Olga	Mashkina			
22	Sarah	Thomas			
23	Richard	Sempere			
24	Pierre	Strosser			
25	Paulina	Paulina Ramirez-Monsalve			
26	Cristian	Passarello			
27	Ginevra	Capurso			
28	Juan José	Ronco Zapatero			

• Annex 3. Students bios



I'm **Alice Thebault**, a PhD candidate in maritime economics, passionate about maritime transport and environmental policy. I study Emission Control Areas and their links with broader environmental and social issues. My research thus touches on topics like marine biodiversity, human diseases, global trade imbalances, and spans regions from Europe and China, to the Arctic and North America seas. When I'm not teaching or researching, you'll find me walking by the sea—except in autumn, when the forest calls."



My name is **Ketì Da Costa Mongabure**. I'm 22, I come from Basque Country and I'm studying engineering at the Ecole Centrale Marseille. I'd like to work for the preservation of the oceans, more specifically in environmental chemistry, which is why during my studies I did a number of internships in this field: in Australia, I did an internship at the Water Research Laboratory of UNSW on the occurrence of PFAS in aquatic environments. (5 months); In Marseille, I did an internship at the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography on the photochemistry of microplastics in the ocean (5 months). At the moment, I'm doing an internship in a startup called Seawards, where we desalinate seawater in an innovative way that respects marine ecosystems. Otherwise I've always done a lot of surfing 🏄 and skiing ⛷, and a few years of life saving, and in Marseille I started sailing 🛥 and playing rugby 🏉. And that's it!



My name is **Hugo Durand** and I'm a second-year PhD Student in oceanography at the French Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority. I'm studying the relevance of legal frameworks in France in the event of a nuclear accident to ensure adequate protection of the marine environment and human health. To achieve this objective, I'm combining models to assess the prospective radiological impact on various marine compartments and French juridical and regulatory framework with regards to international recommendations. The interdisciplinary approach is directly connected to the need for an integrated approach when addressing the management of such crisis, especially concerning the marine environment and the diversity of stakeholders. As in my work, I like to explore various activities. I play the recorder and enjoy hiking. I'm involved in several associations. Social, to assist PhD students during their thesis, or citizens, to inform and discuss about sustainable marine activities. I'm glad to meet you all during this summer school ! See you soon !



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Simon Vanhove is a postdoctoral researcher in law at Ghent University (BE) and a substitute lecturer (KU Leuven, BE). With a background in energy law, his current research interests include human impacts in the marine environment (energy, fishing, sand extraction...) and the interlinkages with climate change mitigation and adaptation. During the summer school, he is hoping to learn more about the marine carbon cycle. Besides work, Simon enjoys historical novels, scuba diving and arthouse cinema.



Alright, I'll try to introduce myself as honestly as possible – no polish, no LinkedIn storytelling, just me. I listen to German music that never makes it to the radio (and no, not the tch-tch-tch kind of electro), and Scottish music that makes me cry without warning – like an onion, but in kilts. I grew up in Germany with French roots, which gave me the superpower of missing every single cultural reference, no matter the country – just a big black hole during every joke. I cut my hair short after moving to the South, because the heat basically threatened my existence. I love yellow (even the shade everyone finds aggressive), reading (yes, even IKEA manuals), and cetaceans – because they swim far away from people, and honestly, who can blame them? Oh, and by the way, my name is **Philéane Wolf**.



Mariana Moreira - I am Brazilian, from Recife and have lived in Portugal for 6 years.

My professional and academic career focuses on public policies for marine management and I have a special passion for islands. I 'm a collaborator in Atlantic International Research Centre and PhD student in University of Aveiro.

I am a great lover of nature, a friend of the sea and a daughter of the mangrove. I love the sun! The things I like most in life are traveling and attending good concerts. I like Yoga, reading, art in general and spending time with my nephews.



Maria Angel is a Communications Officer at Seascope Belgium, where she supports multiple Horizon Europe ocean research and innovation projects, including the European Digital Twin of the Ocean (EDITO). She holds an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a BA in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Goldsmiths, University of London. Previously, Maria was a Blue Book Trainee at the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), working for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). She also gained experience as an Environmental Specialist at the FAO and as a junior rapporteur for the Stockholm International Water Institute and the UN Water Conference. Her hobbies include gardening, hiking and scuba diving.



My name is **Nikoletta Chatzopoulou**, I am originally from Athens, Greece, and I am currently completing a Master's degree in Public Law at Aix-Marseille University. I am a qualified lawyer with a specialization in environmental law, and I have a particular interest in sustainability, climate governance, and international cooperation. My academic and professional background includes work on public and environmental law both in national and international contexts. I am eager to contribute to and learn from interdisciplinary discussions on pressing global challenges."



I am **Khadija Achour**, currently 22 years old. I am a soon-to-be law graduate in Energy Law from Aix-Marseille University. I also have a degree in International and European Law. I enjoy reading and learning new languages. I'm currently taking a course to learn Japanese on my free time. I look forward to this experience so I can practice my English skills.



Sarah-Marie Thomas is the Plastic Pollution Officer for the Mediterranean at Surfrider Foundation Europe. Originally from Germany, she's lived in Scotland, Portugal, and now calls Marseille home. With a background in Politics and International Relations and a Master's in Law and Economics of the Sea, she's passionate about leveraging ocean policy to protect marine ecosystems. When she's not working, you'll probably find her surfing, running, doing yoga, or just enjoying time by the water.



I'm **Damien Jahan**, a 23 year old nature and outdoor enthusiast from Nantes, France. After my Master's in Public Policy, I pursued my passion for biodiversity protection in different roles and am currently working for the Convention on Migratory Species in Bonn, Germany to support marine animal conservation. I love to take spontaneous walks outside, explore new countries and cities through the lens of music, and practice my old basketball skills when I go home.



Hi! My name is **Ambre Soulacroup**, I am French and Luxembourgish and I just ended my second year of Bachelor in European Law at Maastricht University. I am passionate about pretty much anything in life, from F1, space, chess and nature walks, to crafting, sewing and drawing. (I've also been trying to learn piano, but I'm very much open to any tips on that end...) I'm truly curious and open to discuss and hear about anything, with anyone, at any time! I am looking forward to meeting all of you, I'm sure we all share the same enthusiasm for this new experience :)



I am **Wakeel Ur Rehman Kakar**, a PhD Scholar in Agricultural Economics at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan. I belong to Balochistan, a region rich in natural resources yet highly vulnerable to climate change. I bring a unique perspective to the intersection of marine policy, sustainability, and rural livelihoods. My academic and field experiences are focused on climate change adaptation, smallholder resilience, and promoting policy coherence in underrepresented regions. As a passionate advocate for inclusive development and environmental stewardship, I aim to contribute to integrated marine policy solutions that uphold both ecological integrity and socio-economic equity.



I am **Juliette Jestin** I - a PhD candidate in marine social sciences, based in Brest. My research focuses on the socio-economic impacts of offshore wind farms in Brittany, with particular attention to the so-called "territorial measures" associated with them — their negotiation processes, governance structures, and the power asymmetries they may embody or reproduce.



My name is **Zoé Frey** and I am a 25-year-old Master's student. Born and raised in Cologne (Germany), I now study "Security Risk Management", a mix between risk management and security politics, at the University of Copenhagen. Following my passion for the ocean and its protection, I centered my degree around marine politics and maritime security. Currently, my main research area is oil pollution, which I will write my thesis on. The ocean is also part of some of my favorite free time activities: I love sea kayaking, swimming and surfing. Apart from that, I play football, enjoy going for coffee with friends and play the guitar.



Hi, I'm **Alissa Lotzkes** and I'm excited to join the summer training on marine policy coherence! A little about me: I'm half German, half Luxembourgish, but have lived in the Netherlands for most of my life, with short stints in South Africa and Hawai'i. I'm wrapping up my MSc in Tourism, Society and Environment at Wageningen University. My thesis explores how epistemic violence shapes the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into contemporary shark conservation in Hawai'i. During my MSc, I took courses on marine resource and environmental law, political ecology, community-based conservation (including Indigenous perspectives and ecotourism), and applied this background in conservation fundraising through internships and freelance work. My goal is to work in marine conservation and policy in the future. In my free time, I enjoy travelling, spending time in the ocean, photography, working out, and catching up with friends.



My name is **Laura La Gioia**, I'm 24 years old, and I'm Belgian-Italian. I grew up in Munich and later studied in Brussels, where I recently graduated with a Master's degree in Environmental Science and Management from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). I'm passionate about ecology, especially water pollution. My Master's thesis was on PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in European surface waters, focusing on biotechnological solutions and EU regulatory responses. In my spare time, I enjoy rock climbing, musical theatre, volleyball, reading, learning languages, and, above all, exploring nature.



Matthew Carvalho is a J.D. candidate at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, USA. He is interested in public international law harmonization, and how to leverage the multilateral system to protect the health and well-being of people and planet. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, going on walks, and ballroom dancing.



My name is **Tayyab Farooq Arshad** and I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Law at the University of Eastern Finland. I am originally from Pakistan and have a background in public policy and compliance. My academic interests include climate justice, environmental governance, and marine law.

Outside of academics, I enjoy volunteering, traveling, cycling, and playing chess. Chess has been a passion of mine for many years as it helps me stay focused and think strategically. I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the summer school, learning from diverse perspectives, and contributing actively to the discussions.



Juan José RONCO ZAPATERO is a retired European Commission official. He was Policy Officer at the Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). His main responsibilities were in Maritime Spatial Planning. Prior to that, he was with the Directorate General Education and Culture, and Research and Technology. Before starting his career as an EU official, he worked in the information technologies industry in Belgium. He holds a degree in International and Monetary Economics from the Catholic University of Louvain (KULEUVEN, Belgium). He is currently enrolled in a Master's Program in Comparative and International Politics at KULEUVEN.



Cristian Passarello is a Research Associate in the Ocean Governance group at the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) in Potsdam, working on Horizon Europe projects that focus on policy coherence and multi-level governance to support the EU Green Deal for European seas. His background combines research and practice: he previously worked on offshore wind energy policy at the Renewables Grid Initiative in Berlin and supported transdisciplinary sustainability science at Future Earth in Paris. Cristian holds a Master's in Environment & Resource Management from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and has co-authored publications on marine spatial planning, ocean governance, and climate policy.



Paulina is an interdisciplinary researcher specializing in marine policy, environmental governance, and human-nature interactions, with a strong focus on the European Union's marine and nature policies. Currently based at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) in Denmark, her main academic journey has been rooted at Aalborg University, where she has spent several formative years, complemented by roles at institutions such as the World Maritime University. Her research interests include power dynamics, equity and participation, and land-sea interactions in Marine Spatial Planning processes; and the inclusion of socio-cultural values in decision-making processes. Since January 2020, Paulina has co-chaired the ICES Working Group on Balancing Economic, Social, and Ecological Objectives in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (WGBESEO)



Ginevra Capurso is a research Fellow at the Institute of Marine Sciences of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-ISMAR). She has gained experience in EU marine-related policies, focusing on the protection of marine environments and the impacts of human activities at sea. Her research includes work on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs). She is currently researching the role and contribution of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in advancing a sustainable blue economy, both nationally and at the European level, through the development and implementation of coherent maritime policies.



Olga Mashkina is a senior expert with extensive expertise in water and marine policies and management in Europe. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Economics (2003) and has pursued advanced studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After having worked in the USA and Finland, Olga has joined ACTeon Environment in 2014, where she has been leading projects that bridge science, policy, and stakeholder engagement to raise awareness on marine issues and sustainable blue economy and strengthen ocean literacy in Europe.



Pierre Strosser, director of ACTeon, with 30 years of experience, specialising in ecological and climate transition in Europe. In relation to the ocean, he contributes in particular to: the development, implementation and evaluation of EU marine/maritime policies; investigates governance challenges and solutions at different scales...



Richard Sempere: Director AMU-Ocean Sciences Institute Oceanographer at CNRS

Director of Aix-Marseille University 'Ocean Sciences Institute', LCE Researcher on plastic additives in the ocean



Sarah Thomas : with a background in International and European Law, I began my career in sustainable ocean policy in Brussels, working for NGOs and a think tank. With a strong interest in marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries, I have built up my legal expertise to promote European policies in favor of a more sustainable blue economy. I recently left Belgium to return to the Mediterranean region, and thrive in a more operational and highly diversified profession, as Project Manager for the OCEAN Institute.