



sea for  
SOCIETY • EU  
TOWARDS A BLUE SOCIETY

# "A DAY WITH..."

## Overview

This information sheet is for educators and relevant stakeholders interested in organising an "A Day With..." event in the context of Sea for Society, or other projects raising awareness on marine ecosystem services. "A Day With" is an opportunity for the general public to meet a scientist or stakeholder in order to gain a better understanding of Blue Society issues, seeing marine ecosystem services and research in action.



## Objectives

- To foster dialogue between citizens and researchers/stakeholders on Blue Society issues
- For the general public to gain a greater understanding of the work of a professional dealing with marine ecosystem services on a day-to-day basis, and its connection to their daily lives
- For the participating scientist/stakeholder to gain a deeper understanding of the relevance of their work to the needs of the general public

This flexible activity can take the form of a day-long meeting, a lunch date, a Skype appointment, an on-site visit or a formal Q&A. Types of researchers or stakeholders to involve should be chosen according to the topic to be discussed.

## At a glance

**Duration:** 1 hour – 1 day

**Organisation time:** 3 months

**Target group:** General public, Researchers, Decision makers, Business sector

## Organisation

**Stage 1: Preparation** Based on the formulated recommendations, the cross-cutting theme or the principles of the Blue Society, prepare points for the discussion to make sure that it runs smoothly. Contact a range of stakeholders who are willing to share their ideas and experience and to debate on the subject. An experienced facilitator should structure the dialogue to ensure the public and the scientist/stakeholder are given time to truly engage on Blue Society issues.

**Stage 2: Implementation** Structure the day to ensure there is time for informal interaction as well as dialogue on the specific issues to be discussed. Ensure that there is a clear introduction which states the aims of the activity – this is not a top-down presentation from an expert, but a two-way dialogue. At the end of the activity, the facilitator should sum up the outcomes, drawing on the opinions expressed by both the public and the expert.

## "A DAY WITH..."

### Tips

- One way to do this could be as an interview of a researcher/scientist/decision maker, etc, as an opportunity to address difficult and controversial topics.
- This could also take place in the classroom, with a presentation by a stakeholder followed by structured debates.
- Be sure to make it clear to participants, and especially your "expert" that the objective is a two-way dialogue. Very often professionals are more used to this type of event as a top-down presentation. It might help to give them some examples so they understand what you want from them.
- The event could be filmed and posted online afterwards. Ensure you have permission from participants to do this.
- Communicate locally through the usual dissemination channels of your institution.
- Find an experienced moderator to facilitate the event if you do not have one in house.
- Accommodation, catering, transport, room space, camera and internet connection for a video call should all be budgeted for if necessary.
- Make sure you have parental permission for any under-18s to attend.
- Use the Sea for Society blogs to share your experiences Europe-wide.

### Links

NHM UK's Nature Live events

<http://nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/daytime-events/talks-and-tours/nature-live/index.html>

NHM UK's evaluation materials

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/visitor-research/evaluations-and-research/index.html>

RCUK Practical Guidelines on dialogue with the public

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/archive/DialoguewithPublic/>

University of Southampton Meet the Scientist evaluation report

[http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/imported/transforms/peripheral-block/UsefulDownloads\\_Download/28599B558A8244EB94DE15AC7D027ED0/Meet\\_the\\_ScientistsEvalBL.pdf](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/imported/transforms/peripheral-block/UsefulDownloads_Download/28599B558A8244EB94DE15AC7D027ED0/Meet_the_ScientistsEvalBL.pdf)

Bournemouth University: What makes Meet the Scientist work?

[https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/AH\\_what\\_makes\\_meet\\_scientist\\_work\\_pres.pdf](https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/AH_what_makes_meet_scientist_work_pres.pdf)