



sea for
SOCIETY • EU
TOWARDS A BLUE SOCIETY

BLUE CAFE

Overview

This information sheet is for educators and relevant stakeholders organising a Blue Café event in the context of Sea for Society, or other projects raising awareness on marine ecosystem services. Blue Cafés are based on the Café Scientifique format: a casual, open and cross-disciplinary meeting about Blue Society topics with a group of scientists, general public and maybe politicians in an informal setting.



Photo: K Blakeman, Flickr

Objectives

- To foster endorsement and to disseminate Blue Society principles to a broader audience
- To receive further feedback from stakeholders on some aspects of the Blue Society Challenge and ideas on Blue Society solutions
- To help refine and contribute to principles and guidelines for the concept of Blue Society
- To engage stakeholders specifically on the "linking oceans to human health and wellbeing" issue.

At a glance

Duration: 30 minutes – 3 hours

Organisation time: 3 months to book speakers, 1 month for logistics

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

Organisation

The objective is to change the way the ocean is usually perceived by stakeholders and general public, to inform about the latest research findings or to talk about topics that directly impact populations (e.g. coastal pollution, invasive species etc).

First, the facilitator presents the rules, introduces the topics, warms up the assistance and launches the Blue Café by presenting a practical issue using a real-world example. The facilitator's role aims to move the debate from sectorial considerations to a comprehensive representation of the issue.

Next, one scientist and one stakeholder each give a short, clear presentation of 5-7 minutes long. A question and answer session follows. Props can be used to spark discussion - a little quiz or practical activity on each table. Discussion then continues informally around the tables and can be facilitated or not, according to the choice of the organisers.

BLUE CAFE

Blue Café rules

- At least one scientist must participate
- At least one non-scientist stakeholder must participate
- The setting must be informal – not a workshop room
- Refreshments must be served
- Some kind of outcome must be shared online

Tips

This is a flexible concept which can be adapted for your needs.

- Subjects for the Café could be chosen among barriers identified in the Sea For Society European consultation (depending on their relevance regarding trans-sectorial dialogue challenge)
- Possible high-profile events could be identified as contexts in which to organise these Blue Cafés, making contacts to set them up in open spaces.
- Blue Cafés can be also seen as an opportunity for stakeholders to meet. They can be local, regional or national.
- Organisers can also consider ways to engage participants – recording outcomes to be shared online, organising a pledge at the end of the event, or video-recording part of the event to share on social media.
- A positive statement could be drafted during the Blue Café which stakeholders are then encouraged to sign up to, during and after the event.
- Blue Cafés should be filmed to be produced and shared on partner's websites and the Sea for Society blogs. All together, they could serve as the basis for a final film production
- Find an experienced moderator to facilitate if you do not have one in house.
- Catering, transport, room space should all be budgeted for if necessary.
- Use the Sea for Society blogs to share your experiences Europe-wide.
- After the Blue Café, make sure you keep your participants updated with the follow-up.

Links

Café Scientifique

<http://www.cafescientifique.org/>

Bar Des Sciences, mode d'emploi

http://www.normandbastien.com/site_bds/acrobat/guide_bds.pdf

Rete dei Caffè-Scienza italiani

<http://www.caffescientifici.it/>

Science Cafés Sweden

<http://v-a.se/projekt/science-cafe/>

Science Café resources for organisers

<http://www.sciencecafes.org/for-organizers/>