



sea for  
SOCIETY • EU  
TOWARDS A BLUE SOCIETY

# BLUE SOCIETY THINK TANKS

## Overview

This information sheet is for educators and other relevant stakeholders interested in organising a National Blue Society Think Tank in the context of Sea for Society, or other projects raising awareness on marine ecosystem services. Think tanks are an opportunity to engage high-level expert stakeholders in order to inform policymakers directly, using established formal channels.



Photo: Sea for Society

## Objectives

- To foster endorsement of the Blue Society principles
- To engage stakeholders specifically on the "linking oceans to human health and wellbeing" issue
- To disseminate Blue Society to a broader audience
- To help define and promote concrete proposals for research and maritime governance

A Think Tank is the most efficient way to address decision makers about Blue Society topics. They are a link between research and politics and bring an academic rigour to contemporary problems. To form a Think Tank, we need to use existing structures. Based on the existing think tanks in France and Portugal, we can create new ones and sustain them into a permanent network on the Blue Society, using the Sea For Society consultation processes.

## At a glance

**Duration:** Half a day to one day per meeting  
**Organisation time:** Long-term  
**Target group:** Expert, high-level stakeholders

## Organisation

1. Use existing structures (for example, the Blue Society think tank in France or Portugal)
2. Share ideas and projects on the cross-cutting theme and choose a methodology
3. Plan regular work meetings to formulate recommendations and lines of reflection

## THINK TANKS

### Organisation

Think tank activity has demonstrated results in addressing decision makers on Blue Society topics. National Blue Society think tanks would gather a wide scope of personalities e.g. industry CEOs, members of ministers' cabinets, scientists (including social sciences and philosophy), NGO representatives, artists etc. Gathering different profiles fosters out of the box thinking and engages people in looking beyond their own interest.

Once or twice a year, the national think tanks could meet up at European level.

This Blue Society think tank should comprise of:

- one director or secretary general
- 2 to 4 project managers (who could be, at the first step, young graduates)

### Tips

- Engage an experienced facilitator in order to ensure discussions run smoothly.
- Accommodation may be necessary and should be included in the budget.
- Catering and room hire may also be required and budgeted.
- This concept could develop into a Blue Society database of key contacts as a resource for future collaborations.

### Links

Institute for European Environmental Policy  
<http://www.ieep.eu/about-us/about-ieep/>

Think Tank Directory Europe  
<http://www.eu.thinktankdirectory.org/>

International Center for Climate Governance map of climate think tanks  
<http://www.thinktankmap.org/>

European Parliament Think Tank resource  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

DG MARE consultations  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/index_en.htm)

DG Research consultations  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/list_en.cfm)