



## Rules of the **call for witnesses** on blue education experiences and emotions

### **We, children of the ocean**

#### **Why the call for witnesses on blue education experiences and emotions**

You have already participated in **blue education/school project and initiative** that has helped you discovering and experiencing rivers, seas and the ocean. And there is something special you discovered, discussed and felt you would like to share. Something you still remember: a surprise; some emotions; the need to change how we live and connect to rivers, seas and the ocean; something that is now a passion... for you to tell!

Share this (unforgettable) moment: unleash your **creativity** and **share the photograph or video** that best translate what you perceived and felt during your blue education experience.

The purpose of the **call for witnesses *We, children of the ocean*** is to raise awareness on how blue education projects and initiatives can impact pupils from all over the world - as felt and expressed by pupils themselves. The call is linked to collective initiatives that aim at strengthening ocean literacy for and by all, in particular in the context of the **[United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#)** and of the **[EU4Ocean](#)** coalition and its **[Network of EU Blue Schools](#)**. The best photographs and videos submitted by pupils to this call will help creating an exhibition, both online and in presence, which will be presented during activities organised by the call's organisers, in particular during the United Nations (UN) Ocean Decade Conference and its satellite events taking place in Barcelona from April 8 to April 12, 2024.

#### **The rules of the call**

**Art.1** – ACTeon (France), as coordinator of the EU4Ocean coalition, in collaboration with Institut de Ciències del Mar – CSIC, Ciencia Viva, L'Office français de la biodiversité (OFB), European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA). is organising a **call for witnesses on blue education experiences and emotions** entitled "***We, children of the ocean***". The call for witnesses is held **from 1 March to 18**

**March 2024** and organised as part of the preparatory activities to the forthcoming **UN Ocean Decade Conference** and its satellite events that will take place in Barcelona from April 8 to April 12, 2024.

**Art.2** – The competition is open to **all school pupils, children, youth and young adults aged 8 to 20** who have participated in blue (formal and informal) education projects and initiatives. Jury members and their first-degree relatives are excluded from the competition.

**Art.3** – The call for witnesses on blue education experiences and emotions aims at **expressing and sharing the perceptions and emotions** of, and **benefits** as perceived by, pupils, children, youth and young adults who participated in blue (formal and informal) education projects and initiatives.

**Art.4** – The competition is divided into two sections: a **photo** section submitted by individuals or groups of individuals aged 8 to 20; a **video** section, submitted by individuals or groups of individuals aged 8 to 20.

**Art.5** – Submitted photographs must comply with the following guidelines:

- Submission of **black and white or colour** photographs in .pdf | .gif | .tiff | .tif | .jpg | .jpeg | .png | .bmp | .webp format is required;
- 1 **photo** per person or group of persons, aged between 8 and 20, that have participated in a blue (formal or informal) education project/initiative;  
The photo must be accompanied by: (1) the **name and surname** of the person (or of the group representative if the photo is submitted by a group), as well as its age/the average age of the group; (2) the **place** (city, country) and **date** where the photo has been taken (e.g., Marina di Carrara beach, Portugal, 30th April 2023); (3) the **title** and/or a **short description of the blue education project/initiative** it relates to; (4) one **key word** or **short statement** (in the pupil(s)'s native language) that best translate or amplify the perception, emotions or benefits that the photo is sharing;
- The names of the submitted image file must have the following format:  
**Witness\_Photo\_Surname\_Name\_age\_country** (e.g., Witness\_photo\_Smith\_Johanna\_12\_Brazil).  
The images must not contain identifying marks, such as signatures or frames, and must be attached **exclusively in digital format** in the dedicated space on the **entry form**.

**Art.6** – Submitted videos must comply with the following guidelines:

- Submission of horizontal **videos in .mp4 or .mov** format is required;
- A video must be **less than 3 minutes long**;
- 1 **video** per person or group of persons, aged between 8 and 20, that participated in a given blue (formal or informal) education project/initiative;
- The video must be accompanied by: (1) the **name and surname** of the person (or of the group representative if the photo is submitted by a group), as well as its age/the average age of the group; (2) the **place** (city, country) and **date** where the video has been taken (e.g., Marina di Carrara beach, Portugal, 30th April 2023); (3) the title or a **short description of the blue education project/initiative** it relates to; (4) one **key word** or **short statement** (in the pupil(s)'s native language) that best translate or amplify the perception, emotions or benefits that the video is sharing;
- The names of the submitted file must have the following format:  
**Witness\_video\_Surname\_Name\_age\_country** (e.g., Witness\_video\_Smith\_Johanna\_12\_Brazil).  
The videos must not contain identifying marks, such as signatures or frames, and must be attached **exclusively in digital format** in the dedicated space on the **entry form**.

**Art.7** – Photograph and video files must be uploaded and submitted **no later than midnight on 18 March 2024**, using the competition **entry form** <https://framaforms.org/we-children-of-the-ocean-1707728680>. In case of **submission from minor children, whose image is depicted on the photo or video the surname will not be used in any communication about it**.

**Art.8** – By submitting the images, the participant(s) implicitly declares that he/she/they is (are) the **author(s)** and holds **all rights** to them.

**Art.9** – The photographs and videos submitted will be reviewed and assessed by a special **jury** appointed by the call for witnesses' Organising Committee. The jury will be composed of experts in the field of the ocean, media and blue education. The **composition** of the jury will be **announced and published by March 10, 2024** on the competition page on the co-organisers website as well as on social media channels used for dissemination.

Prizes will be **awarded** to the photographs and videos with the highest number of votes by the jury:

- Three best photographs of the **Photo** section;
- Three best videos of the **Video** section.

The jury's judgement, once formalised, will be **final**. The jury reserves the right not to accept those images whose presentation is deemed to cause damage to the organising bodies or which do not meet the requirements.

The **outcome of the competition** will be published on the partners' website and social media **by March 25, 2024**.

All best photographs and videos will receive:

- A certificate of participation, visibility in the article on Maritime forum ([www.eu.oceanliteracy.eu](http://www.eu.oceanliteracy.eu)) and a prize from organizers (a book on marine/underwater photography).
- In addition, for photographs: a **professional print** of the selected photo; For videos: **visibility on YouTube channels of EU4Ocean**.

**Art.10** –The **three best photographs** selected, as well as a sample of photographs representing a diversity of experiences and emotions from different regions, **will be printed by the organisers**. The printed photographs and the winning videos will be displayed/presented during temporary exhibitions set up by the organisers as part of the **UN Ocean Decade Conference**. Organisers will also make use of prints and videos in other wider public events that promote ocean literacy and blue education.

**Art.11** – All personal data will be processed in accordance with the current General Data Protection Regulation legislation of EU.

**Art.12** – The files and any prints of the photographs and videos received will remain at the disposal of the organising bodies, which may use them free of charge for institutional and promotional purposes, including up to June 2025. By signing the rules below, the author of photo/video submission gives the right to Organizing committee to use the photos and images. In the case of participation by a minor, the rules shall be signed by a parent or a guardian and uploaded together with the photo/video via survey link. In case when a parent/teacher/pupil would like to retract their permission to use the image /video before this time, they can do it by sending a request to the organisers.

Name/surname of applicant (submitting person/teacher/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_