



## **Restoring our Ocean and Waters by 2030**

### **The power of the young generations' visionary solutions**

**3-4 October 2023**

Liceo Scientifico statale "Vittorio Veneto", Via De Vincenti, 7 - Milano

The event is organised on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the University of Milan Bicocca together with the Vittorio Veneto Liceo Scientifico - also in cooperation with the European Commission.

The ocean, seas and rivers are increasingly an engine for the European economy, with enormous innovative potential, recognized by the Blue Economy strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. According to the European Union, the 'sea' provides 4,5 million direct jobs. If the global Blue Economy were compared to a national economy, it would be the seventh largest in the world, and the ocean as an economic entity would be a member of the G7. It operates in the planet's vastest ecosystem: seas and the ocean cover more than 70% of Earth's surface, they hold 97 % of all our water and sustain 80 % of all forms of life.

The importance of the ocean and our seas is also recognized by the United Nations, which organized the World Conference on Oceans in Lisbon in 2022 and recently concluded successfully the so-called *High Seas Treaty* negotiations aimed at protecting vast areas of our planet's oceans.

And yet in our daily lives, we are leaving an ever-increasing footprint on the ocean and waters which is rapidly degrading their health and threatening their ability to provide many essential services.

This makes us all responsible, individually and collectively, for their protection, regeneration and health. Our young people are able to find visionary solutions to accelerate the transition to zero pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, or to identify ways how best to protect and regenerate our rivers, lakes and our mare nostrum.

***This event aims at promoting a dialogue and debate with our future ocean and water stewards and leaders around new scientific advances, innovation activities and solutions in support of implementing the European [Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030](#). It will showcase how the different related Mission Lighthouses offer many new and inspiring blue jobs and professional opportunities.***

The Blue Economy covers all sectors related to the ocean, seas and coasts, and is a large and rapidly changing segment of the economy, which has taken significant steps to modernise and diversify over the last decade.

In addition to traditional sectors, new economic niches are evolving and growing such as regeneration of lost biodiversity, reduction of pollution, ocean renewable energy, blue bioeconomy and biotechnology, sustainable eco-tourism, environmental certification, management of marine protected areas, STEM education, etc.

The demand for new skills and competences to well execute these new blue jobs and related job profiles will be huge; it will open many future job avenues and opportunities for our future generation. Finally, yet importantly, a fit for purpose trained workforce will constitute an important asset for supporting the implementation of the European Mission *Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030*.

The programme is fully in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it contributes to the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the European Year of Skills 2023.

## Programme

4 October 2023 (9:00 - 13.15)

Liceo Scientifico statale "Vittorio Veneto",  
via De Vincenti, 7 - Milano

**9:00 - 9:30** Aula Magna, Liceo Scientifico Vittorio Veneto  
Registration of participants

**9:30 -10:10**

Opening and institutional greetings:

**Mariarosaria Arena**, High school principal Liceo Scientifico Vittorio Veneto

**Giovanna Iannantuoni**, Rector University of Milano-Bicocca

**Anna Scavuzzo**, Deputy Mayor Milan Municipality, Councilor for Education

**10.10 – 10:30 Keynote speaker:**

**John Bell**, Director "Healthy Planet" and Deputy Mission Manager, European Commission,  
DG Research & Innovation

**10:30 – 11:00 Special Guests**

**Pascal Lamy**, Chair of the Mission Board

**Giovanni Soldini**, Sailor by satellite link from Pacific Ocean

**11:00 – 11:15** Coffee break

**11:15 – 12:00**

**Feedback from the Intergenerational workshops of 3rd October jointly presented by  
students and experienced professionals**

**12:00 – 12:50**

**Panel discussion: Which blue professions for which future?**

moderated by **Elisabetta Balzi**, Head of Unit at European Commission, DG Research and  
Innovation, Healthy Seas and Ocean:

**Delphine Lobelle**, Fugro Product Owner: Coastal Hazard Analytics (NL)

**Roberto Cimino**, Vice president Cluster BIG - Blue Italian Growth, (IT)

**Raffaele Leone**, Director Focus Magazine (IT)

**Adrian Stanica**, Coordinator of The International Centre for Advanced Studies on River-Sea  
Systems (RO)

**Silja Teege**, the Blue Generation Project, (ES)

**12.50**

Conclusions

**Simona Tironi**, Councilor for Education, Training, Employment, Lombardy Region

**Giovanna Iannantuoni**, Rector University of Milano-Bicocca