

Dear Mr Stålgren,

It is with pleasure that we contact you about a new European initiative on Ocean Literacy – the **EU4Ocean coalition**, with an **invitation for the Baltic Leadership Programme on Bioeconomy Youth to take an active role as a founding member of the EU4Ocean Platform**, a key component of this initiative.

The **EU4Ocean Coalition** is a European Commission DG MARE initiative that will become a **focal point for Ocean Literacy in Europe**. It will connect existing efforts in Ocean Literacy, mobilize diverse stakeholders, stimulate collaborations and co-design new Community Actions in Ocean Literacy.

The **Coalition has 3 key components**, a Platform for professional organizations, initiatives and networks, a Youth4OceanForum for 16-30 years old and a Network of European Blue Schools. You can find out full details here: [www.eu-oceanliteracy.eu](http://www.eu-oceanliteracy.eu)

With this letter, **we invite your organization to become a founding member** of the **EU4Ocean Platform**. This Platform is specifically intended to bring together the professional community of organizations, initiatives, networks and projects, to collaborate on ocean literacy activities. The Platform is a light and flexible network that offers a dynamic topic-oriented working environment that stimulates collaboration, exchange of practices and dialogue on ocean literacy in Europe.

Your organization has been nominated as a potential founding member due to the relevant activities it already undertakes in ocean literacy, or a closely related area in the marine and maritime domain. Full details on what this involves and how to apply are available on the [EC Maritime Forum webpages](#). This includes a full Terms of Reference that has been developed by the EU4Ocean Platform facilitators, in collaboration with EC (DG MARE).

As a founding member you would be at the fore-front of this new initiative, and a key stakeholder to drive forward ocean literacy efforts in Europe. Successful members will be presented on the EU4Ocean website and will get access to a password-protected online community where they can engage with other members and submit web articles on their ocean literacy activities.

Founding members have no legal obligations. The expected commitment includes 1-2 key representatives from your organization actively participating in Platform meetings (max 2/year, mostly tele-meetings) and thematic Working Group meetings (max 2/year/WG). Travel & Subsistence for attending physical meetings, together with any staff time contributions, are at the expense of the employee's organization. The EU4Ocean Coalition and DG MARE are not in a position to reimburse any expenses.

To apply as a founding member of the EU4Ocean Platform, please **complete the online Application form by 26 May 2020** [here](#). All applicants are invited to also submit a signed letter of intent (see template provided with the email), which describes your motivation to become a member of the Platform and how your organization could contribute to it. If this is not possible online, please send the **letter of intent**, and your **organization logo**, by email to [info@eu4ocean-platform.eu](mailto:info@eu4ocean-platform.eu) with the email subject "EU4Ocean founding member: application for X".

Thank you in advance for considering this invitation and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Kate Larkin and Andrée-Anne Marsan

*On behalf of the EU4Ocean Coalition, an initiative funded by European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)*

