



MEMBER OF  
BASQUE RESEARCH  
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

[www.azti.es](http://www.azti.es)

# AZTI Summer School 2024

Joint action from GES4SEAS, OBAMA-NEXT, BIOcean5D, ACTNOW, Marine SABRES and MARBEFES Horizon Europe projects

**Bridging the gap  
between marine science  
and policy:  
Communicating for an  
informed society and  
decision-making**

Aquarium of San Sebastian  
(Spain)

11th to 13th June 2024

Supported by:



# **Bridging the gap between marine science and policy: Communicating for an informed society and decision-making**

Aquarium of San Sebastian  
(Spain)

**11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **Introduction to the course**

Since 2004, AZTI annually organizes an international 'Summer School' on marine research related cutting-edge topics, always trying to bridge the gap between research, policy and society. The course is taught by around 10 teachers and attended by around 40-60 students that join from 15-20 countries each year.

Some years we have organized the school back-to-back with European projects, such as DEVOTES, MARS, SOPHIE, GlobalHAB, as well as other organizations (e.g. Euromarine, EEAcademy, European Environment Agency -EEA-, Frontiers in Marine Science). This year, the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the school is organized by AZTI, in the framework of several Horizon Europe projects (GES4SEAS, OBAMA-NEXT, BIOcean5D, ACTNOW, Marine SABRES and MARBEFES), under the topic "Bridging the gap between marine science and policy: communicating for an informed society and decision-making". All these projects have started in 2022-2023 and are dealing with marine biodiversity, developing tools which will help in monitoring and assessing the ocean. However, the use of these tools, and the benefits they provide in assessing the status of marine biodiversity, need to be spread and communicate to policy-makers and society in an efficient and effective way.

Currently, different policies and directives require in Europe to monitor and assess the status of marine waters e.g. Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats and Birds Directives, Biodiversity Strategy, Nature Restoration Law, etc. Hence, there is a need to communicate the achievements and solutions for the problems faced by the ocean to the society at large, managers, policy-makers, but also to other scientists. This can be done using different channels of communication, from traditional ones (e.g. press, TV, etc.), but also using social media, infographics, writing scientific papers, etc.

Hence, the main objective of the school is to present, both theoretically and practically, different tools and methods for a better transmission of the ideas, connecting science and

policy in an effective manner. To achieve this objective, we have organized the school in three days, dedicating each of them to a target audience, combining the experiences from scientists, journalists, practitioners and managers in making science available for policy-makers. The course is open for early career scientists, senior scientists wanting to better communicate, communicators, managers and policy-makers, to jointly debate this current hot topic.

## Contents of the course:

(Note T: theory, P: practice)

### / Tuesday, June, 11<sup>th</sup>: From Science to Policy

- **08:30 - 08:45 Introduction to the course**  
Angel Borja, AZTI, Spain.  
Coordinator GES4SEAS, participant in OBAMA-NEXT project
- **08:45 - 09:45 How scientists can reach and influence policymaking processes (T)**  
Sigi Gruber, Active Senior Advisor from DG Research & Innovation, Belgium
- **09:45 - 10:45 Experiences from a European agency, working at the edge of science and policy (T)**  
Stéphane Isoard, European Environment Agency, Denmark
- **10:45 - 11:15 Coffee break**
- **11:15 - 12:15 Communicating for policy-makers (T)**  
Martin Alessandrini, Foundation Tara Océan, France  
BIOcean5D project
- **12:15 - 13:15 How to talk to governments (T)**  
Julie Bremner, CEFAS, UK  
MARBEFES project

### / Wednesday, June, 12<sup>th</sup>: From Science to the World

- **08:30 - 10:00 Navigating the challenges of Marine Science Communication - an exploration into accessibility of evidence based scientific marine information (T,P)**  
Kathrin Kopke, MaREI, Ireland  
Marine SABRES project
- **10:00 - 10:30 Coffee break**
- **10:30 - 12:00 Science communication in social media (T,P)**  
Miguel C. Leal and Alice Estrela, Science Crunchers, Portugal  
GES4SEAS, OBAMA-NEXT projects
- **12:00 - 13:00 How the scientific research can be made attractive for the society? (T)**  
Stephen Burgen, The Guardian, UK
- **13:00 - 15:00 Lunch break (not included)**
- **15:00 - 16:30 Writing scientific papers for Early Career Researchers (Part I): theoretical basis (T)**  
Mike Elliott, IECS, UK and Angel Borja, AZTI, Spain  
GES4SEAS project
- **16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break**
- **17:00 - 19:00 Writing scientific papers for Early Career Researchers (Part II): Practical exercise (P)**  
Mike Elliott, IECS, UK; Angel Borja and María C. Uyarra, AZTI, Spain  
GES4SEAS project
- **19:00 Ice-break with pintxos and drinks at the restaurant in the Aquarium**

## Contents of the course:

(Note T: theory, P: practice)

### / Thursday, June, 13<sup>th</sup>: From Science to Societal Solutions

- **08:30 - 10:30 *Playing for change: Using experiential learning for bridging science and policy making to drive holistic understanding (T,P)***  
Erasmia Kastanidi, HCMR, Greece  
ACTNOW project
- **10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break***
- **11:00 - 12:30 *Engaging society using the Ocean Literacy concept (T,P)***  
Tymon Zielinski, IOPAN, Poland  
MARBEFES project
- **12:30 - 13:15 *Wrap-up session with the 'take home' messages from attendees, in form of a 'mockup parliamentary hearing session (P)***  
Angel Borja, AZTI, Spain.  
Coordinator GES4SEAS, participant in OBAMA-NEXT project  
Sigi Gruber, Active Senior Advisor from DG Research & Innovation, Belgium

*Note that the 'experienced participants' will be in the 'listening mood', while the summer school participants need to present their take home messages in an appealing, concise, policy-relevant way (probably in small groups).*

## Supported by



#### / Headquarters

Txatxarramendi Ugarteia z/g  
E-48395 Sukarrieta - BIZKAIA (Spain)  
Parque Tecnológico de Bizkaia

Astondo Bidea, Edificio 609  
E-48160 Derio - BIZKAIA (Spain)  
Herrera Kaia - Portualdea z/g  
E-20110 Pasaia - GIPUZKOA (Spain)

/ t. (+34) 946 574 000  
/ m. (+34) 657 799 446  
/ e-mail: info@azti.es  
/ www.azti.es

