



PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS GAIN GREATER OCEAN LITERACY. PILOT PROGRAMME “EDUCATING FOR A BLUE GENERATION” IS READY TO SCALE NATIONALLY

- Following 5 years of successful implementation, the “Educating for a Blue Generation” programme is set to expand nationally, integrating ocean literacy into the primary school curriculum. On May 2, an event in Sintra will celebrate the programme’s achievements and mark the release of the children’s book series *Patrulha Ação Azul*, thus concluding the pilot phase of the programme.
- The programme is ready to be scaled nationally, integrating blue literacy into the primary school curriculum to foster generations more committed to the sustainability and protection of the ocean.
- To celebrate the launch of the collection, these books will be distributed to over 15.000 students involved in the programme.

After five years, the “**Educating for a Blue Generation**” pilot programme has successfully trained over 1.300 teachers and engaged more than 20.000 primary school students from eight municipalities on mainland Portugal and the nine islands of the Azores archipelago. The initiative, led by **Oceano Azul Foundation** and **Oceanário de Lisboa** with support from the **Directorate-General for Education (DGE)**, aims to nurture environmentally conscious future citizens by integrating ocean topics into essential learning areas.

The results of the **impact assessment show that students have a greater understanding of the ocean, are more aware of its importance in their lives, and recognise the impact of human actions on the ocean.** In partner schools, the ocean is discussed while learning Portuguese, mathematics, and environmental studies, and in some schools, subjects focused on the ocean have also been created within the scope of the Curriculum Autonomy Domains.



Considering the positive results achieved, the programme is now ready to be scaled nationally, integrating ocean literacy into the primary school curriculum, in line with the United Nations and European Union guidelines for creating more "blue" curricula.

To celebrate the conclusion of the pilot phase, a collection of four educational children's books, *Patrulha Ação Azul*, which promote curiosity, knowledge, and learning about the ocean, will be launched on May 2. These books, which are part of the [National Reading Plan](#), will be distributed to over 15.000 primary school students involved in the programme and will be available for free to the public in e-book format. The event will take place at the auditorium of the Santa Maria Secondary School in Sintra, the last municipality to host this pilot programme. It will be attended by the Secretary of State for Educational Administration and Innovation, Pedro Cunha, and the Deputy Director-General for Education, Eulália Alexandre.

The integration of ocean literacy into the curriculum is truly strategic and distinctive for Portugal. Students from this **Blue Generation will be better-prepared citizens, future leaders with greater environmental awareness, and proactive in valuing and enhancing blue natural capital, which is vital for the country's future.**

About Oceano Azul Foundation

Oceano Azul Foundation is an international foundation based in Portugal, established in 2017. Under the motto "*From the ocean's point of view*", its mission is to contribute to a healthy and productive ocean for the benefit of all life on the planet. Based on science, the Foundation's work helps protect, develop, and value Blue Natural Capital, integrating key areas such as Ocean Conservation; International Ocean Advocacy; the Blue Economy; and also focusing on Literacy and Education and Civil Society Empowerment. The Foundation's model for change enables the development of projects focused on Marine Protected Areas and sustainable fisheries, while also providing advice to governments and decision-makers to advance the international ocean agenda, notably working with other foundations and civil society organisations, the UN, and the EU. The Foundation also carries out communication campaigns to increase the impact of its actions through greater awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting and restoring the ocean.

About the Educating for a Blue Generation Programme

Educating for a Blue Generation is an educational programme developed by the Oceano Azul Foundation and Oceanário de Lisboa, with the support of the Directorate-General for Education, aimed at transforming the next generations of Portuguese citizens into the most committed Europeans to sustainability and ocean conservation. This unprecedented programme is based on the training of primary school teachers, who receive a manual and



Oceanário de Lisboa

other educational resources that allow for the integration of ocean themes into the primary school curriculum in a very practical, playful, and fun way.

About the Lisbon Oceanarium

Recognised three times as "the best aquarium in the world" by Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice, Oceanário de Lisboa is a world-renowned public aquarium, a place that brings the ocean to the city through nearly 500 marine species that inhabit it. The mission of the oceanarium is to encourage visitors to learn more about the ocean, making them aware of their own responsibility in conserving our natural heritage by changing their behaviour towards a more sustainable society. Oceanário de Lisboa carries out educational activities, collaborates on scientific research projects, and engages in marine biodiversity conservation efforts that promote the sustainable development of the ocean.

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