



**2024 OCEAN DECADE
CONFERENCE**

DELIVERING THE SCIENCE WE NEED
FOR THE OCEAN WE WANT 10-12
APRIL 2024
BARCELONA, SPAIN

As part of the Ocean Decade Week (8-12 April 2024)

Enbluement
Connecting science and arts
to expand our belonging to the ocean

April 9th 2024, 17:00-20:00.
Institut de Ciències del Mar & Charles Darwin Square



Enbluement: connecting science and arts to expand our belonging to the Ocean

Event Timing: 17:00-20:00, April 9, 2024.

Event Address: Sala d'Actes Ramon Margalef, Institut de Ciències del Mar, and Charles Darwin Square, Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 08003 Barcelona, Spain.

This is a two-part event:

- Part1 will be held between 17:00 and 18:00 CET in the Ramon Margalef Auditorium, with a maximum capacity of 150 people. For this reason, participation in Part1 is by [registration in this link](#), which will remain open only until March 27, 2024. Notifications regarding acceptance to Part1 will be sent out by April 1, 2024. Additionally, this part of the event will be streamed online.
- Part2 of the event is an open participatory celebration in a public space, the Charles Darwin Square, which is open to all public. This part will start at 18:30 CET in front of the Institut de Ciències del Mar building, located in Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta, 37, Barcelona, Spain.

For further information please contact us at: blue-genes@icm.csic.es

Hosts and co-hosts

The Enbluement event is hosted by Blue Genes, the Barcelona City Council and the Bluewave Alliance, and co-hosted by the following institutions: Ocean Cities Network program, ISDIN, Institut de Ciències del Mar, Universitat de Barcelona, Associació Barceloneta Alerta - Pla Comunitari de la Barceloneta, QuoArtis, Prep4Blue EU Mission Ocean&Waters Project, Barcelona Cluster Nàutic, Casa Batlló, Oyster/TransOcean EuroMarine, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, ECOP UN program, and the ICM Young Researchers Association. Besides the host and co-host organizations, the Enbluement event is supported by a number of individuals, associations and NGOs.

Motivation and objective

Harmony with Nature was endorsed in 2009 by the UN General Assembly for the sake of the present and future generations, and in 2015 evolved into the Sustainable Development Goals to promote wellbeing while protecting planet Earth. Indeed, a harmonious evolution of *Homo sapiens* requires developing a new relation with Nature: a central challenge is to recognize we all are part of the living planet, a recognition that requires finding new ways to perceive and experience Nature. Technology increases greatly our access to information, but our reality is not only digital exchange of information, our world is rather the outcome of countless internal and external processes that cannot be digitized.

The border between standard quantitative sciences and other qualitative approximations to Nature is certainly diffuse, it is difficult to say where science ends and philosophy or arts start. Most significant scientific and technological advances have always had creativity at the heart, with innovative and imaginative elements that emphasize the complementarity of science, philosophy, arts and other sensory and traditional approaches to expand our cognitive-sensory perceptions of Nature. This is particularly important at a time when robotics and artificial intelligence are changing the way we interact among each other and with the environment. The challenge is to use these tools not as goals but rather as gears towards a harmonic development with and for people and Nature, and the opportunity is the emergence of both bottom-up and top down movements that acknowledge and work in this direction.

The Enbluement satellite event will explore new ways towards Harmony with Nature, expanding the scientific approach through sensory and artistic perceptions and interactions. The main objective of “enbluement” is to develop the traditional scientific exploration of Nature towards an expanded cognition of the ocean, which would enhance our participation in the living Earth. This is to be accomplished through different sorts of sensory, artistic and virtual perceptions and interactions. In particular, the Enbluement event will address how we may search for a balance between apparently dualistic views of our world: are the current crises on climate/biodiversity/inner-peace an opportunity for individual/collective/species evolution? Is the technological/digital perception of the world compatible with our interaction/perception of

an expanded non-digital reality? Can we harmonize robotics and artificial intelligence with enhanced citizen consciousness and engagement? Are wealth, power and individuality compatible with wisdom, happiness and empathy?

Description

The event will consist of two differentiated parts. Part1 will be a workshop held in the Ramon Margalef Auditorium at the Institut de Ciències del Mar, with a maximum capacity of 150 people. This part – which is open only to people properly registered and accepted – is specially recommended to scientists, professionals, students, artists, philosophers, influencers and people in contact with the ocean through all sort of sensory and living experiences, including sports, technology and economy. Because of the space limitations, potential participants will be required to respond to a short questionnaire regarding their motivation and contribution to the event. An unlimited number of participants will be able to follow the event online, via open transmission through a Youtube channel.

In Part1, speakers will present their ideas and experiences on how to raise general awareness on the essential role of the ocean in the living planet. This will be accomplished by six short inspirational stories on the following topics: **visual arts, music and dance, traditional knowledge and rituals, aquatic sports, augmented reality and artificial intelligence, and virtual networks**. These stories will be followed by an open debate around three engaging questions on how we envision our current and future relation with Nature.

Part2 will be a participatory sensory experience open to all public in the Charles Darwin Square, which is adjacent to the Institut de Ciències del Mar. This will be an inclusive celebration of our belonging to the Ocean, developed through a 60-minute participatory choreography of music, silence, image, motion and design. The celebration will be followed by several practical activities simultaneously carried out in the Square.

The event will offer valuable contributions to Ocean Decade Challenge 10: Change humanity's relationship with the ocean, helping overcome those barriers to behavior change that are required for a step change in humanity's relationship with the ocean. The acquired knowledge will be used as the basis for a white paper on the subject towards the Ocean Decade Vision 2030.

Expected Outcomes

Living beings do not only learn, react and evolve to the environment but also co-produce and live the environment, so that their consciousness develops by biological, physical, mental, social and cultural interactions. Environmental action (**enaction**) defines how we live, as there is not a gap between sensing, feeling and being.

The event will explore non-cognitive approaches to the living Ocean, including sensory, ritual and intuitive connections. The premise is that we can expand our world by developing new

insights, in particular the perception that all creatures and ecosystems are interconnected through the Ocean. This expansion will empower a natural evolution of individuals, collectives and even *Homo sapiens*, with technology as a tool towards happiness. Because of its economic value and role in the living Earth, the Ocean is a central and essential element in this evolution, which will determine our utopic or dystopic futures.

The two main expected outcomes are to enhance synergies among a growing community of people that explores new ways to interact and perceive the ocean, and to produce an open document with new methods and strategies towards an expanded experience of the ocean, with no closed receipts but rather as an open departing point.

Participants in this workshop will be eligible to apply for limited travel grants (up to €550 in the form of living and accommodation expenses during the week of the Ocean Decade Conference) and pilot activity funding (up to €2250 to be submitted after the event). Applicants to these pilot actions will be required to have participated in person in the satellite event. These grants will be administered by the Prep4Blue EU Mission Ocean&Waters Project, one of the event co-hosts.

Draft Agenda of Part1 (60 min)

Time	Activity	Lead
Leg A (7 min)	Welcome and opening	Blue Genes
2 min	Welcome and logistics	Ifigeneia Giannoukakou-Leontsini
4 min	Opening key note	Blue Genes
Leg B (25 min)	Success inspirational stories on our belonging to the Ocean	Moderator: Jade Zoghbi (6 min total) Very brief presentations (3 min max)
3 min	Visual arts	Anne-Marie Melster (We are Ocean UN program)
3 min	Music and dance	Mar Serinyà (PhD in arts, dancer and musician)
3 min	Traditional knowledge and rituals	Cristina Caparrós (PhD in chemistry, fishermen guild)
3 min	Aquatic sports	Ona Carbonell (olimpic artistic swim champ)
3 min	Augmented reality & artificial intelligence	Polina Guryashina (artist, SeaSpore creator)
3 min	Virtual network	Pol Vives (biologist, diving expeditions)
Leg C (22 min)	Round table: On the search of Utopia	Moderator: Jade Zoghbi (3 min) Brief ideas (3 min max) per person
9 min	Question 1: Are the biodiversity and climatic crises opportunities for rethinking the priorities of <i>Homo sapiens</i> ?	Anne-Marie Melster, Cristina Caparrós Pol Vives
9 min	Question 2: Can we combine science, new technologies and arts to expand our perception and experience of Nature?	Ona Carbonell Mar Serinyà Polina Guryashina
Leg D (5 min)	Wrap up	David Whyte
4 min	Wrap up and conclusions	David Whyte