



ROADMAP FOR A BLUE SCHOOL



This roadmap is designed as a guide allowing a college or a high school to become a BLUE SCHOOL committed to the challenges of sustainable maritime development.

This roadmap indicates the different stages, conditions, results and activities to be carried out to establish an educational project on the challenges of the blue economy

Preamble and context

- **What is the blue economy? Overview of the issues**

The blue economy refers to **all economic activities directly and indirectly linked to the exploitation of the sea and the oceans** i.e. nautical activities, shipbuilding, port infrastructure, maritime transport, seaside tourism, maritime security, renewable energies, exploitation of marine resources, coastal development, etc.

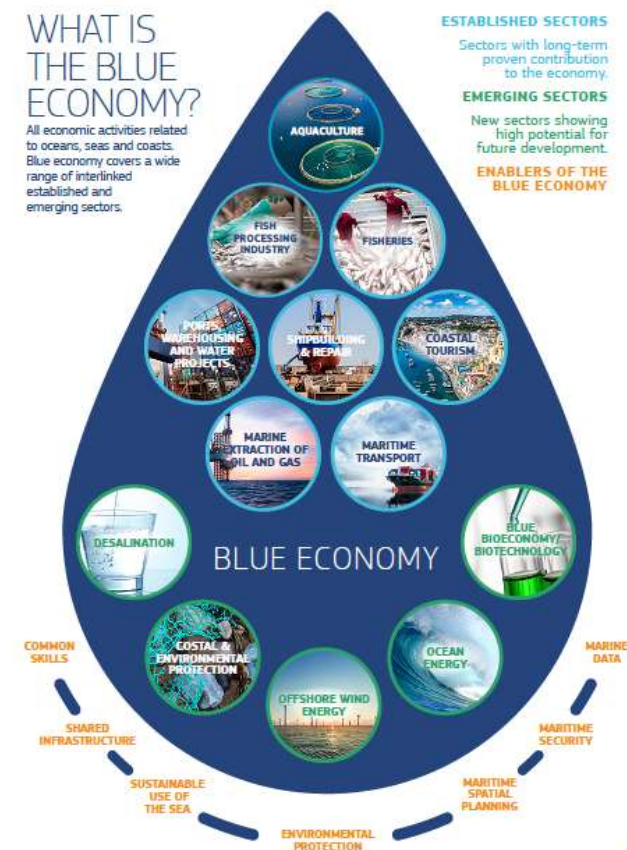
However, the sea and the oceans are **very fragile natural spaces whose human knowledge remains limited**. Only 10% of marine species are currently identified.

Thus, the principle of the blue economy must be closely linked to sustainable development, to reconcile economic development, environmental protection and social inclusion of populations for the benefit of future generations.

As such, the objectives of UNCTAD 2014 (United Nations) can be cited. They set out the **conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for the purposes of sustainable and inclusive development**, that is to say a concept of economic growth that is part of a long-term perspective and which integrates the constraints linked to the environment and the functioning of society.

The involvement of the younger generation is essential to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and protect our planet.

Schools and the education provided therein have a fundamental role to play in education about the marine environment.



Preamble and context



- ***What is a Blue School ? Presentation of the concept***

A blue school is a **school turned towards its sea, its ocean and its coastline** which is engaged in a global educational project, at the level of its establishment in order to sensitize its pupils (secondary education - between 12 and 16 years) to sustainable development and encourage them to get involved in the society as a citizen sensitive to questions of local sustainable maritime development and engaged in developing local agendas in order to build a responsible future.

A blue school must establish and then propose an **educational project** in this sense at the level of the whole establishment, as well on the functioning of its infrastructure, as on the commitment of the educational and teaching teams as well as on the participation of its students.

It implies that the school implements **sustainable practices** (sorting and recycling of waste, reduction of greenhouse gases, saving of renewable energies, etc.), linked, or even in partnership, **with the local ecosystem of maritime economy through a specific school program** (integrated into each of the different subjects) made up of fun activities and educational outings on the environment and its preservation, enhancement of local cultures, know-how and marine heritage and employment in this sector.

Preamble and context



What are the commitments, the changes to be made in the school?

To become a blue school, a school must commit to:

- Define a project for the entire establishment
- Involve teachers, members of the educational team, parents of students etc.
- Build a project team
- Train teaching and educational staff
- Orient school curricula and different subjects on issues related to the blue economy
- Establish links with key players in the local blue economy ecosystem
- Define activities to conduct with the students.

What are the results to be achieved?

The school must:

- Propose at the start of school year an educational project led by an educational team
- Clearly state commitments in local maritime development
- Adapt materials to project commitments
- Offer school activities in class, outside the class and outside the establishment
- Support and involve students in carrying out project activities
- Link the school programs, for each subject taught, to the content of the project
- Present the results of the project at the end of the year.

What strategies and / or methods should the establishment follow?

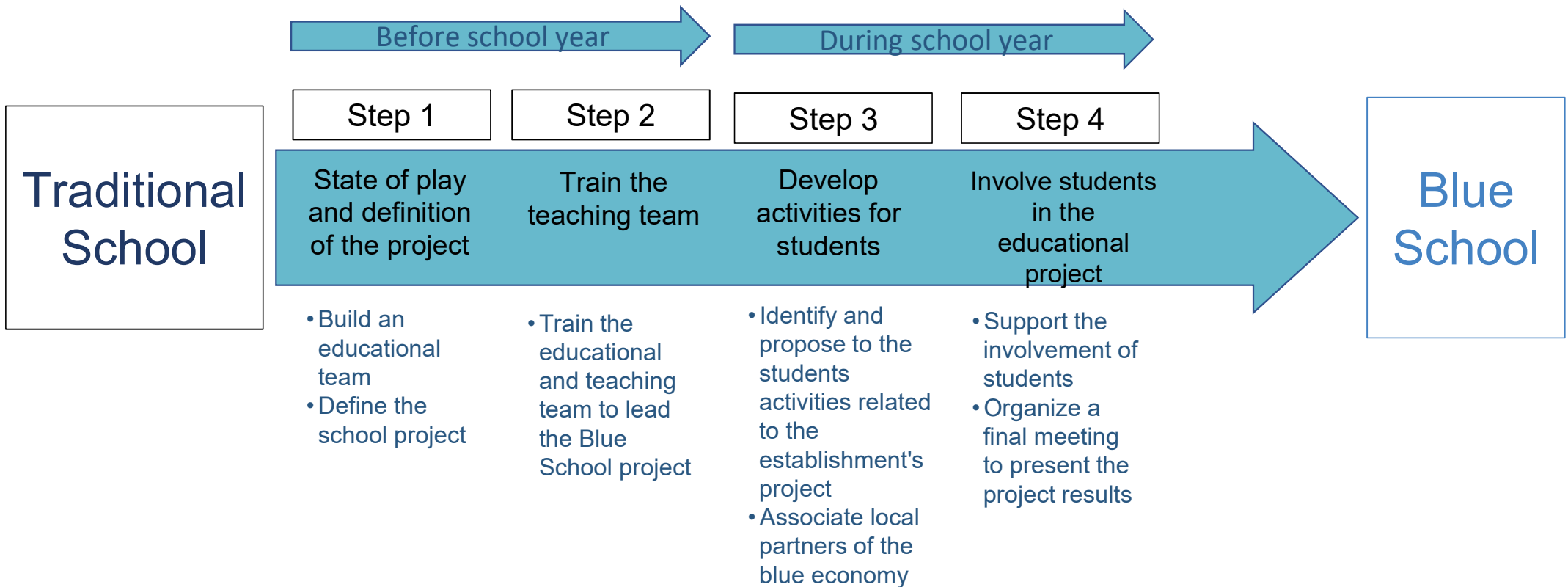
Commitment to the principles of the blue economy by a school requires a commitment to a process in several stages:

- Inventory and orientations chosen to become a Blue School
- Training of educational and teaching teams
- Development of activities and involvement of stakeholders
- Students' involvement

These steps must meet specific objectives with activities to be carried out to achieve specific results.

Roadmap scheme

Several stages to transform your school into a Blue School



Step 1: State of play and definition of the project



Description

A blue school must be run by a "project **team**" made up of the school's representative bodies: teachers, school staff, pupils' parents, pupils' representatives, etc.

The blue school **project** must fit into the local context of the blue economy. As such, an **analysis of the local context** is necessary to understand the issues and problems.

Each year, before the start of school year, an educational team must be constituted and declare the content of the chosen project: school's commitments in terms of local maritime development, activities to develop, changes to be made, level of involvement of the students etc.

Commitments might relate to the establishment of a selective sorting system for school waste, an energy and / or water saving plan, the organization of beach or rivers cleaning campaigns, rivers, enhancement of seafood or port heritage etc.

Step 1: State of play and definition of the project



- **List of actions:** Define school's commitments to blue economy's principles
- **Sub-steps:** Organize a specific working meeting prior to the establishment's of the commitments to blue economy's principles
- **Conditions:** include commitments through school programs, define activities to be carried out with students during the year.

Objectives	Define the educational project of the school
Results to achieve	1- An educational team is constituted 2- A project is established and it clearly states the objectives and the activities to be carried out
Activities to develop	a) Hold a constitutive meeting of the teaching team b) Write a project for the establishment with activities to be carried out
Indicators	- Number of people from the establishment mobilized - Drafting of a framework document

Step 2: Training of educational and teaching staff



Description

The project must be integrated **into the school curriculum**. In order to do it, members of the educational and teaching team must know the challenges and principles of the blue economy. They must also be able **to apply the commitments chosen through the school programs**, know how to engage the different classes (class levels) and how to build activities for and with the students in connection with the theme of the project.

A work plan must be carried out.

Step 2: Training of educational and teaching staff



- **List of actions:** Train the educational and teaching team with necessary concepts to implement the principle of a Blue School
- **Sub-steps:** Organize a training session
- **Conditions:** Use the Blue School's training guide

Objectives	Train the educational and teaching team on the challenges of the blue economy for a Blue School
Results to achieve	The educational and teaching team has undergone training and is able to lead the Blue School project
Activities to develop	Conduct a training session
Indicators	- Number of participants in the training session - Curricula of the training program

Step 3: Development of activities and involvement of stakeholders



Description

The Blue School project must be implemented through several **activities**, which **will bring a change into the school** and which will have to involve the students so that they become active citizen of the blue economy in their territory.

These activities should cover the fields of the project and refer to the different subjects taught in order to provide all the necessary knowledge. They should take place both in the classroom and outside the school.

Local players in the blue economy, private and public, must be **associated** with these activities through class participation: presenting a profession, picturing an activity, explaining a local issue.

A preliminary research could be carried out to identify educational activity sheets on the blue economy of different European projects.

Step 3: Development of activities and involvement of stakeholders



- **List of actions:** Identify the activities of the project to be carried out with the students and essential local actors representative of the theme of the chosen educational project.
- **Sub-steps:** Contact local actors to associate them with the project
- **Conditions:** The project activities must involve the students from the start depending on their level

Objectives	Define project activities and local partnerships
Results to achieve	The activities allow students to get involved in the blue school project and the achievement of set goals
Activities to develop	a) Identify and propose to the students activities related to the project b) Associate local partners of the blue economy
Indicators	- Number of activities proposed and number of school subjects associated with the activities - Number of local partners associated

Step 4: Students' involvement



Description

The involvement of students will be achieved through the activities offered. **However, it must be dynamic and not passive.** Activities are a mean to create this dynamic, the students must be involved upstream the project. It is even possible that they define the project by themselves, the changes to be made in the school with the support of the educational and teaching team and local stakeholders.

At the end of each year, the results of the project must be presented in a meeting (i.e. end of year party).

In order to gratify the students, forms of rewards can be imagined such as the appointment of the school's blue economy ambassadors. On this occasion, extensions may therefore be envisaged for the new school year.

Step 4: Students' involvement



List of actions: Define the role to be given to the pupils in carrying out the educational project

Sub-steps: Organize a project restitution event

Conditions: The involvement of students in the educational project must be rewarded

Objectives	Define the degree and methodology to involve students
Results to achieve	Students should be at the heart of the results produced
Activities to develop	a) Support of students' involvement b) Organize a final meeting to present the results of the project
Indicators	- List of activities carried out in the establishment that led to changes

Conclusion

Key points of the Roadmap

- Build an educational team and define a project related to the local blue economy of the territory
- Define transversal activities to the project and involve local actors
- Put students at the center of the project

Vigilant points

- Ensure that the educational and teaching team has the required skills to define the blue school project
- Ensure dynamic, not static, student participation

Possible extensions

- School's blue economy ambassadors winners
- Creation of an association or an online network of pupils of Blue Schools

Examples of Blue Schools: To be completed