



Let's talk about Coastal Challenges

13 June 2025 – 10:30 am - 1:30 pm CEST

Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion

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Abstract

Blue Glue: Where Corporations, Cities, Ports and Innovation Collide for Resilient Coastlines

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“**Blue Glue**” is a new collaborative initiative and definition created to describe how our coastal stakeholders can better partner, steward and innovate for the holistic solutions and practices our coasts and communities need. We know that ports and harbors can be better connected to neighboring communities of varying sizes – from island nations and small coastal communities to the dense urban populations that sit along ocean, lake and riverine locations. Through four intersecting arenas - **education, infrastructure, economy and community equity and governance** – a diverse set of partners and stakeholders explore emerging opportunities in **workforce development, innovation and economic growth** that tackles the climate crisis, coastal resilience and advances equity and inclusion goals.

We look to work with our partners in cities, ports, NGOs, schools and universities, national and regional governments and beyond to meet the very real shocks and stresses that face our coastal communities and economies. These threats and cascading effects require a new way of linking the partners in each location, in each « basin » to meet the transition, safety, health and economic resilience and readiness.

This session and intervention will explore the various elements and partners for Blue Glue success – from early education and ocean literacy to job retraining and transition, from innovation and start up financing to city and port policies that support economy and biodiversity while strengthening coastal resilience. All of which are necessary to make holistic change « sticky » for the coming century.

