Date: 8 April 2024
Venue: Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM) - CSIC, Barcelona.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

55 APPROX. PARTICIPANTS

This satellite event titled "**Capacity Development for the Ocean We Want: Exploring Science Communication and Solving Global Capacity Development Challenges**" was designed to find innovative and efficient solutions to address specific challenges related to capacity development/sharing.

MEET THE PRESENTERS

TIAGO GARCIA

Tiago is Communication Officer at +ATLANTIC CoLAB and his talk questioned how we can change the narrative within science communication. He challenged the audience to think outside the box when sharing research and used the example of PROJETO19 as a way to engage Youth in Ocean Science.

COSMIN CHIVU

Cosmin, as Project Officer for International Ocean Institute HQ in Malta, shared how the impact and continuity of the IOI's Capacity Building Programmes are creating global Ocean leadership and empowering ECOPs, especially for those from developing countries.

CONOR SAVAGE

Conor, Training and Mentoring Task Team Manager for the ECOP Programme, presented "How to reach out and communicate science to non-academic audiences". His guidance for reaching "non expert" audiences included the art of passionate storytelling to draw people into the topic.

The event aimed to provide an **inclusive, international and intersectoral** atmosphere for **impactful and meaningful collaboration and knowledge-exchange**.

Introductions were followed by three compelling and thought-provoking presentations from the guest speakers, and the room was organized into groups for an interactive and action-oriented mini-hackathon. This facilitated session provided **opportunity for networking among participants from diverse backgrounds whilst brainstorming about specific challenges related to capacity development.** The focus was on providing Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) with opportunities to **develop practical skills and tools** that they can use in their careers, by **solving 'real world' challenges.**

Organizing partners:

ECOP Early Career Ocean Professionals

IOI International Ocean Institute

INSTITUTE OF MARINE Engineering, Science & Technology

APECS Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

CoNISMa

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

OCEAN VOICES

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HACKATHON

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

GROUP 1 SCENARIO:

As organizers of a rather small scientific conference/meeting focused on SDG14: Life Below Water, describe how you would invite and engage with more diverse stakeholders, such as business owners, media, ports authorities, oil and gas companies and shipping companies. How would you meet their needs, whilst trying to encourage cross-sector dialogues within the blue economy?

THE GROUP CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- **Try to align the conference with the agenda(s) of the participants**
- **Determine the conference's value proposition (this might be different for different stakeholder groups), and try to**
- **Provide opportunities for promotion (expo, sponsorships, branded items)**

GROUP 2 SCENARIO:

In order to advance your career and gain access to new professional opportunities, it is important for you to attend workshops and conferences in your field. What networks, websites, institutions, etc do you rely on to find funding? What could be done to make the process of finding funding opportunities easier?

THE GROUP CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- **Hold more conferences in the Global South**
- **Create a centralized, searchable platform that lists funding opportunities**
- **Ideally should be searchable by region, topic**
- **Funding should help empower local communities to receive more knowledge and skills**

GROUP 3 SCENARIO:

Complex Ocean issues such as those related to sustainable development, climate change and environmental management and planning are characterized by high uncertainties about the research agenda, tools, choices and solutions to adopt, and the impacts these choices may have on different components of socio-ecological systems. What gaps can you identify right now in the available capacity development, education and training offerings in the Ocean sector?

THE GROUP CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- **Inadequate training on interdisciplinary topics and crosscutting themes in ocean conservation; as well as resource mobilization and funding**
- **Limited recognition and inclusion of the local and indigenous knowledge**
- **Inadequate multidirectional partnerships i.e. exchange programmes where underrepresented and well-represented ECOPs learn from each other**
- **Limited accessibility, sharing and transfer of technical skills, software, ocean data and information among various resource users**

Through focused and moderated workgroups during this event, concrete suggestions and actionable recommendations were provided within the Ocean Decade framework. Mini-hackathons facilitate the development of practical skills and tools among ECOPs and the session included in the event **evidenced how a supportive environment for peer-to-peer exchanges and learning is extremely valuable for promoting robust capacity development and shared knowledge in the ocean sector.**

CO-HOSTS AND FACILITATORS