



Cascais • Sausalito Event Spotlights Blue Economy Leaders & Opportunities

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On September 23, 2025, Blue Economy leaders from Forum Oceano, C2EA, Cascais Municipality and key organizations gathered at Cascais City Hall to explore how to build bridges with business, government, and education to prepare Portugal's young people for Blue Economy careers. The hybrid event hosted by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute featured an exchange on Blue Finance between Lisbon's Blue Finance Specialist at International Finance Corporation and Sausalito's Band of Angels venture fund.

- Recognize **Portugal's Blue Economy leaders** for their pioneering innovations in business and education.
- Honor **Terceira's Mayor** & meet youth delegate to the Institute's 19th Sustainability Summit in U.S. in 2023
- Premiere Video: **Blue Economy: The New Frontier**
- Celebrate **Cronkite Ocean Award 2025** recipient James Ellsmoor, Island Innovation
- Announce the **Global Blue Job Shadow Day** to be held with partners in Portugal on February 2, 2026.
- Announce nomination for Portugal's Blue Economy practitioners to be featured on the Institute's Platform.

Portugal aspires to become the leader of the Blue Economy. As it gains momentum, this an ambitious goal requires a broad vision, a clear roadmap and unprecedented collaboration with business, government and education leaders. It could have a major economic on Portugal's economy. At the recent World Ocean Economic Summit in Cascais, it is estimated that this emerging industry will increase in Portugal by 30% by 2030.

Up until now, there has been an enormous gap between the needs of Blue Economy companies for a trained workforce and the country's education offerings. There is a major brain drain – 50% of college graduates leave Portugal in search of good-paying jobs. These young people are the best and brightest -- representing the country's future. Unfortunately, students aren't aware of the opportunities in the Blue Economy - right in their own communities. Just imagine: Portugal's students could be part of the solution – to help realize the nation's goals.

Cascais Mayor's team is piloting "Educating a Blue Generation"-- an initiative to build student ocean literacy by weaving ocean topics into the school curriculum. It's a wise investment. When children grow up appreciating the ocean, they are eager to protect it. By investing in the next generation now, they ensure their success.

To support the growing Blue Economy, there is a need to create a broad vision and clear roadmap to show how to expand academic curricula to incorporate Blue Economy-oriented certificates and workforce development training opportunities that encourage students to pursue these career pathways. It's important that Blue Economy companies and practitioners share their knowledge and their journeys – by speaking at schools, conducting tours and site visits, offering internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs.

The Blue Economy is a movement that requires all of us. Let's work together to educate the Blue Economy Generation and help them become the champions our oceans need. During these challenging times, the solution is clear: we must come together—*Stone Soup style*—to build a generation of ocean leaders.

About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a global leader in designing Blue Economy workforce development initiatives that prepare young people to become leaders of their lives, their communities and our world. Founded in 1997, the non-profit organization has collaborated with business, education, government, and community leaders to develop customized workforce development initiatives. [**The Institute's Blue Economy Case Studies**](#) spotlight how the **Stone Soup Model** uses our educational tools, trainings and initiatives as a roadmap for how communities can build a more sustainable world.

In 2023, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute hosted a delegation of educators and students to its 19th Sustainability Summit in Boston. There, they tested the **Sustainable Career Pathways Platform**. [Video](#) This year, the Institute completed its one- year initiative to develop a Blue Economy showcase with its first Blue Job Shadow Day in partnership with the College of Marin and Blue Economy leaders in Sausalito and the Bay Area. Representatives will virtually join the event. [California Business Journal](#)

The Institute's **Blue Job Shadow Day** is the cornerstone for all our initiatives. It builds on three decades of leading Job Shadow Days on Martha's Vineyard and in other communities. The first Job Shadow Day was developed in partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in 1994. Over the years this one-day event grew and was adopted by national organizations and the US Department of Labor. In 2022, the Institute launched its first Green Job Shadow Day to build a workforce pipeline and fast-track the Green Economy by connecting sustainability-oriented professionals with students in marginalized communities so they can pursue green careers. The Institute's video-based educational tools and training programs integrate the 100 real-life stories from 38 countries in the book/curriculum **Stone Soup for a Sustainable World**. The Institute's educational tools and online Platform are in English and Spanish and now being translated to Portuguese. The Institute's online **Sustainable Career Pathways Platform** assist educators and career counselors to guide their students towards Blue Economy career pathways and sustainability-oriented certificates. This online platform provides key information about entry, mid, and advanced level jobs with the education requirements and workforce development opportunities, projected jobs and salary ranges.

The Global Blue Job Shadow Day will be held on February 2, 2026

- The Institute offers a training for educators to participate in the Global Blue Job Shadow Day. to their students.

[Read Blog: Blue Economy is New Frontier](#)

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