



## C2EA's Blue Careers Job Fair and Conference

### By Miguel Rogue

### The Institute's Blue Economy Youth Ambassador

C2EA's Blue Careers Job Fair and Conference was an eye-opening experience. C2EA's Álvaro Sardinha opening remarks were a highlight as he spoke enthusiastically to a full room of students. From that moment on, the event became increasingly busy.

I enjoyed listening to companies making presentations on their job and career path opportunities. They presented their activities and encouraged young people to apply and imagine their future careers with them. They highlighted internal mobility and progression opportunities within their organizations. Most companies were from the **cruise industry**, focusing mainly on the passenger tourism side of the industry and the wide range of roles that support it.

They are a key partner of the **blue economy** as they are a growing sector with strong recruitment programs for young professionals, with or without higher education.

- **Grupo ETE** stood out as a potential strategic partner: ([recrutamento.ete.pt/Offers](https://recrutamento.ete.pt/Offers)). They operate in Portugal and offer jobs across several business areas, including:
  - **Engineering, shipbuilding, and repair:** project managers, mechanical and naval engineers, maintenance technicians, welders, refrigeration technicians.
  - **Port operations:** locksmiths, welders, industrial maintenance technicians.
  - **River transport:** captains and sailors.
  - **Logistics operations:** truck drivers, warehouse operators, commercial and operations technicians.
  - **Maritime services:** operational technicians, dock workers.
  - **Maritime transport:** pilots, engineers, machine operators, assistants.
- **Lisnave**, a Portuguese company specializes in ship maintenance and repair. They offer jobs in areas such as steelwork, piping, machinery, electricity, propulsion, and surface treatment.

They announced plans to expand into **offshore wind farms** and **recycling of decommissioned ships** in the future.

### Workforce Development & Training

- **Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo (IPVC)** was impressive - due to our conversation and their openness to collaborate. They offer **two online postgraduate programs** focused on the Blue Economy:
  1. *Leadership in Sustainable Blue Economy* (one-year, online, evening format);
  2. *Ocean Energy Technologies* (also one-year, online, evening format).

**José Martins:** they will evaluate these programs after three years to decide whether to open a master's degree. He showed strong interest in collaborating with the Institute – both by connecting us with companies in Viana do Castelo and by promoting the region as a center of excellence in the blue economy, supported by an educational curriculum already aligned with that goal. He invited us to participate in their **April 2026 Job Fair** and wants to partner with us for the Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day in **February**.

- **For-Mar** and **EMA (Escola do Mar dos Açores)** offer similar training programs, mainly for people aiming to work on board vessels, such as **STCW certifications**. For-Mar provides training across its 12 centers along the Portuguese coast, in regions where maritime and fishing activities are most significant. Their courses cover fishing careers, local traffic, commerce, maritime machinery, aquaculture, food safety, ship repair, recreational navigation, and nautical tourism.
- The **Nova School of Business and Economics (NOVA SBE)** in Cascais is currently the **only other higher education institution in Portugal** with a curriculum specifically focused on the blue economy.
- Founded by C2EA's CEO Álvaro Sardinha, Blue Economy Centre of Competence they offer:
  - **Bachelors in Ocean Studies**
  - **Postgraduate program in “Blue Economy: Sustainable and Regenerative”**
  - **Program on Blue Economy and Sustainable & Regenerative Development.**



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