



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute Blue Economy Initiative • Portugal 2026

The **Stone Soup Leadership Institute** is honored to collaborate with Portugal's decision-makers who aspire to be leaders in the Blue Economy. The Institute's **Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ 2026** featured prominent business, education and government leaders including the Secretary of State of the Fisheries & Maritime Affairs Salvador Malheiro, representatives from DGPM, FOR-MAR, Ciência Viva, BLUEBIO ALLIANCE, Fórum Oceano, Lisbon Ocean Professionals Network, Island Innovations, Catolica-Lisbon University and others. At the high-impact hybrid event with U.S. and Portugal cities a clear **Call to Action** emerged: the need to develop a Blue Economy workforce by empowering Portugal's youth with the tools, training, and networks needed to be innovators and leaders of a Blue Economy. After the event, the Institute was asked to bring its disruptive technologies and the Stone Soup model to assist in developing a response to this Call to Action. [Read more here](#)

[The Blue Economy + Our Youth = A Vision for Our Future](#)

The Institute's Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors Initiative

Portugal's university students are responding to the Call to Action with the **Blue Economy Youth Ambassadors** internship program. They are using the Institute's Surveys to interview leaders in business, education and organizations to design **Blue Economy Career Pathways** that connect ocean literacy, vocational training, and industry needs to build a vibrant Blue Economy workforce. They will present their recommendations to Secretary Salvador Malheiro at a prestigious event on World Ocean Day.

This innovative approach helps cultivate essential skills and strengthen community ties and foster opportunities for advancement in Portugal's dynamic landscape. By equipping youth with both knowledge and networks, we are preparing them to thrive in developing sectors while ensuring that they are future-ready leaders.

We will bring their report to life by creating a **Blue Economy Education Exhibit** that includes a video library of their interviews. This will be a **living document available to schools for free** so that teachers can bring to their classrooms to inspire their students to explore the **Blue Economy Career Pathways**.

Our ultimate goal is to develop a template for the Institute's **Blue Economy Career Pathways in Portugal** - a digital platform to help teachers and students become a strategic partner in the Blue Economy. Once developed, it will serve as a tool to help students better understand opportunities, educational routes, and professional pathways across different sectors of the Blue Economy, supporting informed decisions about their future studies and careers.

About the Institute: The Institute is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in Martha's Vineyard in 1997. The Institute has a history of building partnerships with business, education and government leaders – from inner cities: Boston, Baltimore, Cleveland, Oakland as well as coastal communities of Newport, RI, New Bedford, Fall River Massachusetts and the islands of Terceira, Azores, Martha's Vineyard, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, British Virgin Islands, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. [Case Studies](#)

Stone Soup Leadership Institute
www.StoneSoupLeadership.org
www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org/Portugal

The Institute's History & Case Study: College of Marin, California: [site](#)

For seven years, the Institute has co-developed its **Blue Economy Career Pathways Platform** with youth, business and education leaders to create a roadmap for its blue workforce. In 2025, ten college students served as paid interns to research and be champions of one career pathway. They researched job projections, salary ranges, skills, and education requirements, and prepared reports with recommendations for how the college could expand its academic program to offer workforce training for blue companies.



The Institute's History with Portugal's Blue Economy: 2019-2023

In 2022 it was an honor to be hosted by Mayor José Meneses, Terceira, Azores to explore their island's ocean innovations like the Blue Azores Program. The next year we hosted a delegation of teachers and students from Terceira for our week-long intensive Sustainability Summit in Massachusetts. Terceira youth delegates made presentations on U.N. SDG goals on how climate change affects this issue in their communities as well as the sustainability innovations that are being developed. Students explored sustainable workforce development opportunities and developed their Sustainable Career Pathways on the Institute's SustainWDN™ portal so they can pursue meaningful good-paying jobs, while helping to rebuild our planet. [Case Study: Terceira, Azores](#)

The Institute's journey with the Blue Economy witnessed Portugal's leadership at various conferences including:

- The University Massachusetts Dartmouth's Blue Economy Symposium in 2019. There Portugal's Ministry of the Sea introduced its BlueTech Accelerator, sparking meaningful exchange among academic and government leaders.
- (The Maritime Alliance) TMA's Blue Tech 2019 conference in San Diego: Portugal's Blue Economy Cluster with Forum Oceano we shared lessons learned from our work with New England's Blue Economy community.

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