



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Blue Economy Initiative • Portugal 2025-

The **Stone Soup Leadership Institute** is honored to be invited to work with Portugal's decision-makers in business, education, and government who aspire to be leaders in the Blue Economy. To support our partnership, we are pleased to announce the Portuguese version of ***Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*** – *Sopa de Pedra para um Mundo Sustentável: Histórias Transformadoras de Jovens Heróis*.

We appreciate the warm welcome we've received from the Portuguese people and their genuine appreciation for our book title. Sopa da Pedra is a traditional Portuguese soup that is sold in grocery stores and at Stone Soup restaurants in the town of Almeirim. Originally passed down through oral tradition, it was recorded in the late 19th century by Teófilo Braga in his book *Contos Tradicionais do Povo Português*. The Portuguese legend is a foundational, culturally significant folk tale that shows the power of sharing and community.

We've discovered that this folktale is universal with its origins dating back to the 16th century. While the ingredients might change depending on the country, the message is the same – if we each pitch in something, we can create a feast for the whole village. The Stone Soup Leadership uses this fable in its educational tools, trainings and initiatives to encourage everyone to share their time, talents and resources to work together to build a more humanistic and sustainable world.

The Institute's Curriculum brings the 100 stories from 38 countries to life with customized lesson plans featuring Language Arts & STEM Activities, Sustainability Innovations and Sustainable Career Pathways. We use these educational tools to conduct trainings with teachers, facilitators, and students. Aligned with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the curriculum and teacher training modules empower educators to seamlessly integrate sustainability across all subjects; connect ocean literacy to Blue Economy Career Pathways and guide students toward real-world jobs. For the past eight years, the Institute has co-developed its Blue Economy Career Pathways Platform with education and business leaders to help build the blue economy workforce. We customize the Platform with local/national job projections and salary range forming a comprehensive ecosystem. Each pathway is designed to increase teacher's awareness of the demand for these jobs so they can prepare their students for meaningful, well-paying careers in the sustainable blue economy of the future.



Global Blue Job Shadow Day™

• February 2026: The Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ 2026

At the Institute's signature event, we featured prominent business, education and government leaders from Portugal (Peniche and Lisbon) and the U.S. (Newport, Rhode Island and California). Portugal's guests included 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 this high-impact hybrid event 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](#)



• April-June 2026: 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. 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**. Learn more here: www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org/Portugal



The Institute's History with Portugal's Blue Economy

In 2022 The Institute was 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 19th week-long intensive Sustainability Summit in Massachusetts. Terceira youth delegates made presentations on how climate change affects their island and the sustainability innovations that are being developed. Students explored the Institute's Sustainable Career Pathway Platform and discovered sustainable workforce development opportunities so they can pursue good-paying jobs, while helping to rebuild our planet. [Case Study: Terceira, Azores](#)

About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Institute is a 501c3 global non-profit organization founded on the island of 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](#)

For eight years, the Institute has co-developed its **Blue Economy Career Pathways Platform** with youth, business, education and government leaders to create a roadmap for its blue workforce. The Platform features pathways with specific jobs, education requirements and resources from certificates to degree programs. We customize the Platform with local/national job projections and salary range forming a comprehensive ecosystem. Each pathway is designed to increase teacher's awareness of the demand for these jobs so they can prepare their students for meaningful, well-paying careers in the sustainable blue economy of the future. Teachers will find ready-to-use lesson plans that bring the stories from *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World* to life, perfect for sparking classroom discussions and hands-on learning experiences that engage students to imagine how they can be a hero too. Watch videos that showcase how these heroes have used their creativity, innovation, and technology to bring their communities together and build a more sustainable future. Learn from innovators in the field through videos and mentor stories and find degree programs and apprenticeships that can help young people grow into a more sustainable future.

In 2025, California college students were paid interns who championed 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 to support local blue companies. [Our Showcase](#)

www.StoneSoupLeadership.org