



2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development

today we have

INTERNATIONAL JUDGES I LIVE BY THE SEA

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PHOTO AND FILM CONTEST 2025



Tea Andreoletti

She is a performance artist interested in exploring how artistic practice can develop alternative models of local governance, collective democracy and feminist leadership. Tea works with participatory performance and storytelling between Helsinki and her hometown, Alta Valle Seriana, a rural valley in the Alps of Northern Italy, where she co-founded Cap24020, a non-profit association dedicated to site-specific and community-led art and research programmes. She holds an MA in Live Art and Performance Studies (Uniarts, Helsinki) and a diploma as a hydro-sommelier (A.D.A.M., Rome), using the knowledge of tasting to embody the discourses around the properties and accessibility of water. Since 2020 she has been collaborating with the artist Eero Yli-Vakkuri in performative actions exploring drinking water in different urban and rural contexts.



Daria Ezgeta-Balić

She is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Croatia, where she has worked in the Fisheries Science Laboratory since 2007. She holds a PhD in Applied Marine Science. Her research focuses on various aspects of marine bivalves' biology and ecology. More recently, she has expanded her work to marine trophic ecology and demersal fisheries. She has authored 40 papers in ISI-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

In addition to her scientific work, she is deeply dedicated to science communication and ocean literacy. She actively engages with children and young people to raise awareness about the ocean's crucial role in sustaining life on Earth. She has organized and led numerous workshops, lectures, and exhibitions showcasing children's and students' art related to the ocean. In recognition of her efforts to increase ocean literacy among both children and the general public, she was awarded the National Annual Award for Science Popularization in 2022 by the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education. She is also an active member of the European Marine Board Communication Panel and its steering committee, as well as a member of the EuroGOOS Ocean Literacy Working Group.

This is maybe irrelevant for this purpose so feel free to delete it.

Carina Braun

She is graphic designer and partly social media creator at Rostock Zoo. Therefore she organizes and creates exhibitions and takes photos of the zoo animals for signs, posters or social media posts, and a lot more.

Carina is interested in photography since school days, when she got her first real camera, a Canon EOS 500D. Some of her photos were also exhibited in Rostock Zoo (e.g. the one of the polar bear in the picture).

As a "children of the coast" -- born in Kiel, grown up and living in Rostock -- there is a natural relation to the ocean, in special to the Baltic sea. Further she is interested in nature and their conservation in general.



Theano Dandari



She's a hobbyist photographer, a marine biology enthusiast, and a recreational SCUBA diver, currently working as a Promotion and Communication Manager for Cretaquarium. In her line of work, she gets to combine her love for sea life and her passion for photography with her background in digital marketing and customer relations.

She began experimenting with digital photography in 2017 at the Hellenic Photographic Society of Crete, and since then, she has been the main photographer for Cretaquarium while also participating in photo exhibitions.

María del Carmen García-Martínez



She is researcher at Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), is the head of the Climate Change Laboratory at Oceanographic Center of Malaga, and the responsible of RADMED project, devoted to the routine observation and sampling of the Western Mediterranean. From October 2021 to January 2023 she was the Director of the Oceanographic Center of Málaga. Since then, she is the General Director of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, the biggest marine research institute in Spain (around 1000 people staff). She has written or participated in numerous research papers, congresses contributions, books

and has participated in 25 research cruises. She has always developed a sense of responsibility in making science knowledge available to the general public, being the chair of the European Marine Board Communications Panel from spring 2021 to spring 2024.

Iwona Gin



She is Head of International Relations at Nausicaa, National Sea Experience Centre in France. She holds Master's degrees in Business Management and Administration, International Relations, Intercultural Cooperation and Applied Linguistics. She has developed, managed and supervised marine science communication projects funded by the European Commission (Horizon 2020, Interreg, EMFF, private foundations): H2O:Source2Sea, Blue Nights, Valgorize, Aqua-Lit, Sumaris, Marina, Sea for Society, Accent, Choose the Right Fish campaign and Ocean Info Pack. Iwona has also been in charge of the international non-profit organisation World Ocean Network, European partnerships, the Youth4Ocean Forum, international conferences and expert group meetings, including participatory workshops, learning labs and the Blue Planet Forum. Her expertise is mainly in stakeholder engagement and general public empowerment to inspire a behavioral change for sustainable management of the oceans and seas.

Andreea-Stefania Ionascu



She is a psychologist and the Coordinator of the Education&Volunteering Department in Mare Nostrum NGO, one of the oldest NGOs in Constanta, Romania. She has developed over time a passion for the environment, and especially the sea, which are so interconnected with the health and welfare of human beings. Mare Nostrum opened for her new horizons related to the fascinating world of education for sustainable development, but also to environmental psychology. Andreea has been a part of Mare Nostrum NGO since 2007, dedicating her time and efforts to engaging young people, teachers, students, public authorities' representatives and the general public in taking action for the environment. She loves what she does and she strongly believes that education is the base of society and of change, for a better world.

Angelika Jezewska



She is the Marketing Director at Storware, a company that actively supports promotional activities around the "I live by the Sea" project and other activities organized by IOPAN. Although she works in the IT industry, nature is very close to her heart. She graduated from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences with a degree in Environmental Protection. She loves nature, mountains (she has climbed her first five-thousander and quite a few lower mountains), as well as diving. Her dream is to dive in Mexican cenotes and meet eye to eye with sharks, which she loves.

Izabela Kotynska-Zielinska



She is a founder of the Today We Have, a coordinator of the I live by the Sea Project and an Ocean Literacy Educator and Communicator.

Izabela is an author and co-author of workshops, exhibitions and popular science events, which have been realized internationally, in e.g. New York, Brussels, Rostock, Lisbon, Paris and Warsaw, among others. Her work has been presented at various international conferences.

She is and has been involved in many national and international projects Ocean of Changing, Ocean@Home, [EARTHgames4EyoUth](#), SHORE, I live by the Sea Project, workshops for children and young people on the broadly understood marine environment, climate and arctic changes. Izabela created the I Live by the Sea Project and has run it since 2015. Here goal is to educate kids and teenagers all over the world to realize that We all live by the Sea, no matter where we live next to the beach or far away in the mountains, we still have a great impact on it.

Her motto: You can never be overdressed or overeducated – Oscar Wilde.

Yolanda Koulouri

She is a marine biologist currently working as a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology & Aquaculture (IMBBC) of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Crete. Her experience working on research projects, scientific publications and special editions is related to issues of marine benthic biodiversity and ecology, coastal zone management, artificial reefs technology for recreational diving parks, and last but not least Ocean Literacy. As a member of the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA), she has contributed to the design and development of the Mediterranean Sea Literacy. As a co-chair of the Working Group on Ocean Literacy of European Global Ocean Observing System (EuroGOOS), she has participated in publishing a policy brief document on Ocean Literacy. She is also the representative of HCMR for EU4Ocean Platform supporting the EU Blue Schools Network. She is the coordinator of BlueMinds4Teachers, one of the 3 winning projects of EU4Ocean challenge of 2023, aiming at strengthen skills in Ocean Literacy. She is currently the CEO of HCMR spin-off company Artificial Reef Innovative Applications (ARIA).



Christine Santora

She is Assistant Director at the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University. Christine earned a Master's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island with a focus on ocean policy and endangered species bycatch. She has over fifteen years of experience in ocean conservation, policy, and science. Since 2015, Christine has focused on advancing science-based marine protected areas at the United Nations through the 10 x 20 Initiative and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance. She also manages outreach and communications for the Shinnecock Bay Restoration Program. Christine was the Project Director of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force from 2008-2012, a major project of IOCS that developed recommendations and ecosystem-based standards for the management of forage fish populations worldwide. Christine has co-authored dozens of peer-reviewed papers and reports over the course of her career, including a flagship paper on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management published in the journal Science.



Tymon Zielinski



He is a leader of the Climate and Ocean Research and Education Unit at IO PAN, where he has a position of an associate professor and director of the Ph.D. program. Tymon has published over 80 research papers. Since 2016, Tymon is a member of the UN Group of experts of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.

Tymon has been involved in many research and educational projects focused on climate change issues in the marine environment. He has organized numerous meetings workshops and conferences and has been a PI in a number of national and international projects. Tymon, since the beginning of his career has been involved in educational activities, both in formal and non-formal teaching.

He has organized and/or lectured during numerous non-formal educational events, such as Science Fairs, workshops, exhibitions for general public, etc.

Margherita Zorgno



She graduated in Marine Ecology and Resources Management in The Netherlands and since then she has been following her passion, the ocean. She is currently a member of the EU co-funded Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Secretariat, working as a Project Officer at the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research. She has started her career in Indonesia, contributing to a local NGO project aimed at enhancing traceability in the tuna market chain. She then joined the Dutch NGO Goodfish Foundation working on a sustainable seafood guide for consumers and retailers in the country. After working in a programme focused on the management of Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals in the Ligurian Sea, she moved to Portugal, where she worked as Science Officer in EurOcean, implementing European marine projects and services, especially related to communication, stakeholder engagement, and outreach. She advocates for Ocean Literacy as a tool to empower citizens to protect the ocean, integrating this belief into both her professional and personal life.

Małgorzata Żywicka



She is an oceanographer with a specialization in marine biology. Since 2006, an employee of the Gdynia Aquarium Education Center of the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute. The co-author of exhibitions, nature workshops for children and adults, organizer of specialist training courses and information campaigns for the protection of wildlife. Since 2010, coordinator of the student internship program and volunteering for the Gdynia Aquarium. From 2020, a member of the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA).