



All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Forum 2025

From Enlightenment to Action

25-26 September 2025

Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels, Belgium



Thursday 25 September - Day 1

Interpretation in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish will be offered throughout the day.

8:00 – 9:00

Registration and Welcome Coffee

9:00 – 10:15

Welcome and Opening Comments

- 09:00 – 09:30
 - Welcome by moderator – Karen Coleman
 - Opening by the EU host: Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva (video message)
 - Political context: André Franqueira Rodrigues, Member of European Parliament
 - Scene setting: James Morrison (DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)
- 09:30 – 10:15 From Enlightenment to Action – AAORIA's transition
 - John Bell and James Morrison
 - Opening Panel of AAORIA partners
 - Edem Mahu – Ghana
 - Anas Chokairi – Morocco
 - David Morin – Canada
 - Gustavo Ferreyra – Argentina
 - Yara Rodrigues – Cabo Verde
 - James Morrison – EU



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10:15 – 13:00

Deep Dive into Implementation: Preserving a healthy Atlantic Ecosystem

- 10:15 – 10:30 Keynote speech
 - *James Honeyborne (Founder and Creative Director, Freeborne)*
- 10:30 – 11:00 AAORIA in action: Coastal Resilience
 - *Martin Zimmer (Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Germany)*
 - *Nikia Gooding (Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad & Tobago)*
 - *Godwell Nhamo (University of South Africa – UNISA, South Africa)*
 - *Eleonora Verón (National Scientific and Technical Research Council – CONICET, Argentina)*
- 11:00 – 11:15 Launch of the All-Atlantic Network of Coastal Resilience Beacon Sites
 - *OKEANO – Alexandra-Sophie Roy*
- **11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break**
- 11:45 – 12:30 AAORIA in action: Ocean Observation and Modelling
 - *Steve Thur (NOAA)*
 - *Nicolas Segebarth (DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)*
 - *Louis Demargne (Fugro)*
 - *Nicole du Plessis (SAEON)*
 - *Joanna Post (Global Ocean Observing System)*
- 12:30 – 13:00 Intergenerational dialogue Part 1 – Pitch from Atlantic youth
 - *Sigi Gruber & Lavinia Giulia Pomarico (OKEANO)*
 - *Early Career Ocean Professionals*

13:00 – 14:30

Networking Lunch

14:30 – 17:15

Deep Dive into Implementation: An All-Atlantic Ocean Community

- 14:30 – 15:15 Session 1 – Ocean literacy and broadening engagement
 - *Othman Cherkaoui Dekkaki (National Coordinator - ECOP Morocco)*
 - *Andrea Latgé (Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação, Brazil)*
 - *Evy Copejans (European Marine Science Educators Association)*
 - *Emma McKinley (Cardiff University, UK)*
 - *Kogie Govender (South African Environmental Observation Network)*



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- 15:15 – 16:00 Session 2 – Building bridges among generations: Launch of the Blue Intergenerational Programme
 - *Sigi Gruber (Active Senior, European Commission)*
 - *Jonathan Heiner (KDM, Germany)*
 - *Luis Menezes Pinheiro (Floating Universities Network)*
 - *Janice Trotte-Duhá (National Institute for Ocean Research, Brazil)*
 - *David O'Sullivan ('Our Shared Ocean' – Marine Institute, Ireland)*
 - *Florence Coroner (IFREMER, France)*
 - *Gary Kett (CIIMAR, Portugal)*
- **16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break**
- 16:30 – 17:15 Intergenerational dialogue Part 2 – Pitch from Atlantic youth
 - *Sigi Gruber & Lavinia Giulia Pomarico (OKEANO)*
 - *Early Career Ocean Professionals*

17:15 – 17:30

Summary Reflection of Day 1

- *Szilvia Németh (DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)*

17:30 – 19:30

Networking Reception



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Friday 26 September - Day 2

Interpretation in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish will be offered throughout the day.

8:00 – 9:00

Registration and Welcome Coffee

9:00 – 09:45

Welcome and Opening Comments

- 09:00 – 09:45 Welcome Address, stage setting Day 2
 - *Welcome by moderator – Karen Coleman*
 - *Pascal Lamy (Coordinator of the Jacques Delors Institutes (Paris, Brussels and Berlin))*
 - *Imraan Patel (Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa)*
 - *Raphaël Goulet (DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission)*

09:45 – 12:45

Cross Cutting Atlantic Science Interactions

- 09:45 – 10:45 AAORIA Supporters
 - *Alison Clausen (IOC-UNESCO)*
 - *Miguel Miranda (AIR Centre)*
 - *Alan Haynie (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea)*
 - *The Ocean Race*
 - *Katja Matthes (GEOMAR)*
 - *Rachel Clausing (Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco)*
 - *Peter Heffernan (Oceano Azul Foundation)*
- **10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break**
- 11:15 – 12:00 Session 3 – Action for Sustainable Blue Economy and Food from the Ocean
 - *Ann-Lisbeth Agnalt (ICES)*
 - *David Basset (European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform)*
 - *Jónas Rúnar Viðarsson (Matís, Iceland)*



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- *Silvina Romano (Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego, Argentina)*
- *Adam Kennerley (Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK)*
- *Szilvia Németh (DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)*
- 12:00 – 12:45 Our linkages with the polar seas
 - *Lena Buth (Early Career Ocean Professional - Alfred Wegener Institute)*
 - *Geneviève Pons (Europe Jacques Delors)*
 - *Nicole Biebow (Alfred Wegener Institute)*
 - *Mercedes Santos (Instituto Antártico Argentino)*
 - *Ann-Lisbeth Agnalt (ICES)*
 - *Kylie Owen (European Polar Coordination Office)*

12:45 – 14:15

Networking Lunch

14:15 – 15:40

Priorities of the All-Atlantic Declaration and New Horizons

- 14:15 – 14:30 OKEANO Supporting the All-Atlantic Declaration
 - *OKEANO*
- 14:30 – 15:30 Pitches from projects and case studies
 - *Tomás Marina (CADIC-CONICET, Argentina)*
 - *Wim Stubbe (CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, Transatlantic project)*
 - *Peter Teye Busumprah (African Ocean Biodiversity Atlas)*
 - *Cecilie Hansen (ACTNOW project)*
 - *Oliver Wilson (BlueMissionAA)*
 - *Patrizio Mariani (Mission Atlantic)*
 - *Yevgeny Aksenov (Explaining and Predicting the Ocean Conveyor project)*
 - *Valentina Giunta (OceanPrediction DCC, OPERA, and OP4CR)*
- 15:30 – 15:40 Look ahead to the 2026 AAORIA Forum
 - *Andrea Latgé (Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação, Brazil)*

15:40 – 16:00

Closing remarks

- *James Morrison (DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)*



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Side events 23-24 September

Please note that side events will be conducted in English only, without interpretation.

23 September

Intergenerational Dialogue session

Upon invite only

Each year, the intergenerational dialogue provides ECOPs with a platform to collaborate with more senior professionals to co-develop solutions for pressing Atlantic Ocean challenges, present their recommendations to policymakers in the plenary session of the Forum, and contribute to an ECOP-driven policy brief to be submitted to the attention of Policy makers of the Alliance and beyond, for uptake into the implementation of All-Atlantic efforts.

24 September

Atlantic Coastal Resilience – From Vulnerability to Resiliency: Co-Designing Coastal Resilience Pathways (upon registration)

8:30 – 14:30 – Scotland House, Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Brussels

This interactive side event will unite AAORIA stakeholders including [Beacon Site](#) representatives, researchers, policymakers, and ECOPs to co-design pathways for coastal resilience grounded in local realities. Through keynote presentations and panel dialogues, participants will share good practices, explore resilience indicators, and showcase real-world interventions that reduce vulnerability and strengthen adaptation capacity. The discussions will draw on diverse regional experiences to identify actionable, transferable solutions that can be scaled and adapted across the Atlantic. This side event will also address how the Beacon Sites Network can support high quality toolkits and materials for coastal resilience work in communities. The aim is to deliver a draft *All-Atlantic Coastal Resilience Work Programme for Good Practices & Indicators* report, as well as a strengthened collaboration among Beacon Sites and AAORIA partners and recommendations



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that will feed into the 2025 AAORIA Forum outcome documents. The event will be moderated by Dr. Véronique Helfer and Dr. Alexandra-Sophie Roy.

[Register here – online only!](#)

[Explore the agenda here!](#)

24 September

**Polar oceans and climate: Advancing synergies for long-term global collaboration
(upon registration)**

13:30 – 17:30 – Charlemagne Building, European Commission, Brussels

Please plan to arrive early, as going through security and obtaining a badge at the entrance may take some time. We recommend arriving at least 30-45 minutes before the official start of your session.

In the face of rapid environmental change, the polar regions have become critical to understanding and predicting our planet's future. This workshop brings together polar experts and stakeholders from the AAORIA partners to explore key aspects of polar science, including the development and integration of polar observation systems, the role and resilience of polar infrastructures, and as an example for scientific cooperation within AAORIA two initiatives that will pave the way to the 5th International Polar Year (IPY) in 2032-33: the pioneering Antarctica InSync and Arctic Ocean 2050 projects.

We will discuss the vital influence of the polar oceans on global climate systems and highlight the importance of strong international cooperation in advancing polar research. By fostering dialogue and building networks across borders, this workshop aims to strengthen our collective capacity to protect and study the Earth's polar frontiers.

[Register here!](#)

[Explore the agenda here!](#)



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24 September

Co-designing All-Atlantic Ocean Observations and Modelling: Implementing Community Recommendations (upon registration)

15:00 – 17:30 – Charlemagne Building, European Commission, Brussels

Please plan to arrive early, as going through security and obtaining a badge at the entrance may take some time. We recommend arriving at least 30-45 minutes before the official start of your session.

The AAORIA High-Level Board endorsed a [Work Plan for Ocean Observations and Modelling](#) as a path forward for AAORIA's Area of Action #2. Five expert groups were convened and consulted over the spring of 2025 for their recommendations for impactful activities that would advance the objectives in the work plan.

[The recommendations report](#) is intended to be a menu of options to direct current or future collaborations and resources with maximum impact. Many of the recommended activities build on existing global or regional efforts, with an emphasis on the Atlantic and its less well understood areas. All of them will require thoughtful planning and partnership-building to be successful. To this end, AAORIA is convening this side event to consult the All-Atlantic community on co-designing activities to ensure implementation meets needs, is inclusive of partners and stakeholders, and results in a maximum impact.

Following a brief overview of the recommended activities, a representative from each expert group will guide the audience through a detailed discussion on implementing one or more activities recommended by their group. All of the activities are equally highly recommended by the expert groups, but we will use the time we have to focus on a subset of activities that require more complex planning and interdisciplinary partnership.

[Register here!](#)

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