



Call for Applications

to ECOPs from each Ocean Race Europe stopover country

Ocean Race Europe 2025

Ocean Youth Summit Kiel 2025 – All connected by the ocean

Kiel, August 6–10, 2025

Dear ECOP community - dear Ocean and Sailing Enthusiasts,

We warmly invite motivated Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) from each Ocean Race Europe stopover country to apply for the **Ocean Youth Summit 2025 in Kiel** - the sailing city in northern Germany where the event will start!

The Ocean Race Europe is not just an offshore sailing competition - it is a dynamic platform that moves both ideas and people across the ocean. It's more than racing; it's about moving minds, forging connections, and creating conversations carried by the sailors and their boats across the coasts of Europe. This setting creates an ideal space for ECOPs from Europe to unite and amplify their collective voice. This is especially important regarding current trends in right-wing populism and authoritarianism. The challenges the ocean face are not bound by national borders, they require international cooperation of science and research and a collective response from future ocean professionals.

Unfortunately, ECOPs are often underrepresented in scientific formats and crucial discussions on climate and ocean conservation - yet they are the future leaders and the ones directly affected by policies being made now. As the 1.5°C target has already been exceeded and only around 16% of the SDGs are on track to be met by 2030, it is clear we need new ideas, bold visions, and fresh approaches. The community of ECOPs is united by the vision of strengthening the perspectives of the younger generation through a collective voice. At the heart of our mission is the exchange of inter- and transdisciplinary marine knowledge between experienced marine scientists and experts, and ECOPs - working together toward a sustainable ocean. To effectively respond to future challenges and build on ongoing initiatives, a summit by ECOPs, with ECOPs, and for ECOPs fosters the honest exchange and impactful outcomes that hierarchical structures in science and planning often fail to provide. This community tries to create spaces where we can encourage, support, and stand in solidarity with one another. This includes openly addressing challenges such as climate anxiety and concerns about the alarming state of the ocean - fears that particularly affect many young people today. This format is designed to provide scientific and expert input but also a dedicated space to discuss challenges and needs unique to the younger generation. It aims to amplify a collective voice, strengthen young European collaboration, and ensure their perspectives shaping the future of ocean research. More than that, it seeks to make the spirit of the Ocean Race a shared experience for the European ECOP community.

To make it short...

What awaits you?

The Ocean Youth Summit is a unique platform for inter- and transdisciplinary exchange, networking, and empowerment of ECOPs from across Europe. The focus is on current challenges and future visions for the protection and sustainable use of the oceans. You will meet leading scientists, fellow ECOPs, and stakeholders from science, policy, and society. Together, we will form a core group of 20 ECOPs, consisting of 7 participants from the Ocean Race Europe stopover cities and 13 from Kiel. Thematically, we will focus primarily on young, critical and feminist perspectives on topics such as marine conservation and water sports. We are happy to offer the possibility to experience the start of the Ocean Race Europe in Kiel together! After that, the thoughts, conversations and exchanges can move on through Europe to the next stops.

Who can apply?

We are looking for one ECOP from each of the following Ocean Race Europe stopover cities (**Portsmouth/UK, Porto/Portugal, Cartagena/Spain, Nice/France, Genoa/Italy, Boka Bay/Montenegro**) to follow the start in Kiel. In addition to the stops, we would also like to invite an ECOP from **Aarhus/Denmark** - our dear partner city and the city that hosted the previous Ocean Youth Summit 2023 as part of the Ocean Race.

As an ECOP, you are eligible if you feel part of the ECOP community! We welcome everyone at the beginning of their ocean-related career - whether you are a student (master or PhD), apprentice, young professional, water sports enthusiast, or ocean advocate. The typical age range for this group is approximately 25–35 years. What unites us is our passion for the ocean and our commitment to shaping its future, regardless of our specific background or discipline. It would be helpful if you already have some initial experience in marine research, ocean conservation, environmental education, or related fields, and if you are motivated to connect internationally and actively participate in the program.

What do we offer?

We are able to **co-fund the stay and travel to and from Kiel for one ECOP from each country**. You will be paid lump sum amounts (see list below). Travel expenses will be adjusted. For the 4-day overnight stay, you all have 500,00€ each at your disposal. These funds will be transferred to you after the event.

Please note that you will need to cover your own meals. However, there will be free food provided at various points during the event, including a potluck buffet on Wednesday evening, as well as snacks and drinks during the sessions. Lunch at the university cafeteria ("Mensa") or at the Ocean Race food stalls are also quite affordable, and we are happy to help you with recommendations!

Personal preferences regarding travel, arrival/departure times, and accommodation can vary greatly. If you book your travel and accommodation soon after being selected, you will definitely still find good options - including the possibility of staying in a single room rather than a shared one, if that is your preference. We will provide the seven selected participants with detailed information and tips, such as the best ways to get from Hamburg Airport to Kiel, recommendations for hotels, and suggestions for affordable places to eat.

| Location | Travel Subsidy | Mode of Transport | Overnight Stay Subsidy |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Aarhus/Denmark | 50,00€ | Train | 500,00€ |
| Portsmouth/UK | 350,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |
| Porto/Portugal | 350,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |
| Cartagena/Spain | 350,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |
| Nice/France | 250,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |
| Genova/Italy | 200,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |
| Boka Bay/Montenegro | 250,00€ | Airplane | 500,00€ |

How to apply?

Please send by **June 22, 2025** an email to oceanyouthsummitkiel2025@web.de with the following information: **Name, Affiliation, A few sentences about your background and why you would like to participate (your gain/your contribution)**

A selection committee of ECOP DACH will review the applications. We value diversity and different marine backgrounds. An official response will be provided to you by the end of June at the latest.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time!

Preliminary Schedule

- **Wednesday, August 6:** Arrival, Get-together
- **Thursday, August 7:** Great opening session
(GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research)
- **Friday, August 8:** Inter- and transdisciplinary workshops & ECOP community exchange on current challenges
(Marine Science Campus/Kiel University)
- **Saturday, August 9:** Networking sessions & Science/Sailing/Ocean Protection
(Get to know Team Malizia)
- **Sunday, August 10:** Joint participation in the Ocean Race Europe start, Departure

Join us and let's shape the future of the oceans!

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