BlueTech Competition

Terms and Conditions

Presentation

The BlueTech Competition is a technological challenge designed to encourage STEAM in schools and inspire children and young people for the blue economy. The Competition provides a next step of complexity for blue schools and aims at empowering the students to actively contribute for the sustainable use of the ocean, seas and freshwater systems, playing a key role in the conservation of the Planet.

Students will be challenged to create a prototype, instrumented model, or biotechnological product that facilitates the monitoring of the EU waters and their ecosystems or that promotes the sustainable use of its resources. Examples of topics to work on are marine robotics, renewable energy, solar vessels, aquaculture, and valorization of aquatic food products. The students should work in groups and communicate their results to the community, thus acquiring important transferable skills.

The competition will reward the best practical applications created, based on the scores given by the jury.

General guidelines

The work submitted must focus on one of the following thematic areas:

- Marine renewable energies (example: devices to harness wave and tidal energies);
- Marine robots with sensors to measure variables such as salinity, temperature, or pH;
- Innovative vessels (example: remote-controlled solar vehicles);
- Technologies and processes that help eliminate or mitigate marine pollution;
- Biotechnology (examples: pharmaceuticals, new food products, food production systems);
- Approaches to preserve biodiversity and resources.

The competition is aimed at all basic and secondary schools, including vocational and maritime schools, public or private, in the EU.

Each team, with a maximum of five students, must be gender diverse and will be supported by a teacher / tutor. Each tutor can support a maximum of 3 teams in the competition.

Teams should seek partnerships with universities, polytechnic institutes and/or companies for technical and scientific support.

The call for the 1st edition of the BlueTech Competition is open from 10th of March until 30th of April, and applications must be submitted electronically with the following elements:

- Video presentation (3 minutes maximum)
  - Presentation of the application, the objectives and distribution of tasks.
- Technical presentation document (maximum 2 A4 pages)
  - The scientific objective of the project;
  - The description and images of the prototype, model or product;
  - The planned partnerships with universities, polytechnic institutes and/or companies for technical and scientific support.

Note: all submissions must be in English. Videos in your native language with English subtitles are accepted.

The evaluation will be carried out by a jury of researchers and secondary school teachers with experience in the relevant areas.

Evaluation criteria

In the documentary phase, the teams will be evaluated by the jury, taking into account the following criteria:

1. Scientific Value

The jury will assess the scientific and/or mathematical rigor of the prototype, model or product, the processing of the data presented, as well as the scientific mastery of the areas involved in each project.

Teams must present solutions to real problems. The originality and creativity used to solve these problems will be considered, as well as their potential for scalability.

2. Technical execution

The innovative aspects of the project will also be considered in the assessment.

The implementation of the designed project, the engineering processes applied, the robustness of the systems and the reliability of operation and data acquisition will be assessed.

If the project fails to achieve the defined and/or proposed objectives, but the team is able to justify the causes and suggest modifications to correct the problems, this will be positively considered in the assessment.

3. Educational value

The jury will consider the quality of the report, the presentations, the commitment and the evolution of learning during the development of the project. The presentation and structure of the project will also be valued.

As in point 1, originality and creativity in solving the problems that may arise will also be taken into account.

4. Teamwork

The jury will assess the team's performance in distributing the work among its members, in planning and carrying out the project's tasks, as well as the support obtained in scientific, technical, or financial terms.

5. Dissemination to the community

The team will be scored on how well the project has been communicated to the school and local community, taking into account the means used for this purpose (websites, blogs, presentations, promotional materials, social media, etc.).

Each criterion will be weighted as follows:

1. **Scientific value and creativity - 30%**
2. **Technical execution - 30%**
3. **Educational value - 15%**
4. **Teamwork - 15%**
5. **Dissemination to the community - 10%**

Awards

The best project will be awarded at the European Maritime Day in Cork, 21-23 May. The team should be represented by three students (maximum) and one teacher. All travel expenses will be covered by a competition sponsor.

The three best projects evaluated by the jury will be promoted in the webpage of the competition and awarded with a visit to a local research center/science center and a mentorship one-on-one session with a professional in the blue tech or environmental sector.

Privacy and Personal Data Processing Policy

Ciência Viva – Portuguese National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture, is responsible for BlueTech Competition´s personal data processing. When submitting the team's project, you must provide only the strictly necessary personal data, as described in this document.

Ciência Viva – Portuguese National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture collects the following categories of personal data:
- Identification data.
- Contact details.

The personal data are only processed for the following purposes:
- Registration in the BlueTech Competition, to allow the team´s submission and participation in the activity.
- Communication of personal data to the jury members of partner institutions that are supporting the evaluation of the projects.
- Participation in the European Maritime Day, only for the winning team.
- Production of the winning teams' certificates.

The selected teams may be required to provide additional personal data necessary to participate in other initiatives related with the competition, such as the final event or competition dissemination as described in this document.

Personal data will only be kept for the period necessary to fulfil the purposes set out in the regulations for which they will be processed and for as long as retention periods arising from pre-contractual, contractual or legal obligations or the legitimate interests of Ciência Viva have to be met, and will be deleted when they are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were collected and processed.

For more information on how Ciência Viva processes your personal data, please consult our privacy policy. You can access the original privacy note document here.

EU4OCEAN

EU4Ocean is a project funded by the European Commission and implemented by a consortium of 13 partners across Europe, which includes: ACTeon (coordinator, France), Seascape Belgium (Secretariat of the European Marine Observation and Data Network and the European Atlas of the Seas, Belgium), Nausicaá-National Sea Centre (France), Ciência Viva (Portugal), the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA, Belgium), the European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology (EurOcean, Portugal), European Schoolnet (Belgium), Youth and Environment Europe (YEE, Czechia), REVOLVE (Belgium), JPI Oceans (Belgium), EuroGOOS (Belgium), European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA, The Netherlands), Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA, Belgium).