

# EUNIC ast

The European University of Islands, Ports and Coastal Territories!

ABSTRACT BOOK

Preprints

EUNICoast ONLINE WORKSHOP

Erasmus Blended Intensive Programme

27th SEPTEMBER 2024

**Title: Octopus's Garden – teaching to and learning from coastal workers and their families**

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In the last decades, there has been an increase in science education outside of the school grounds, as well as growing interactions between researchers and the general public in outreach actions. In this regard, it is essential to turn science into something meaningful to the non-academic public and involve them in data collection. Coastal workers are valuable stakeholders who spend a lot of time observing the ocean and have centuries of cultural knowledge to share. On the one hand, researchers need to use adequate language to effectively reach this specific public. On the other hand, academics should learn how to truly listen and value their input. One approach is to conduct informal interviews in their working environment instead of the traditional inquiries that may exude superiority. Another approach is to create appealing activities, letting them make and answer questions as they observe the subjects. Additionally, outreach activities should be developed with the partners and children of coastal workers. That would allow the scientific message to be passed to the whole community and provide the researcher with different experiences and points of view. Ultimately, when coastal workers' knowledge is valued, they may easily and eagerly contribute to the effort of biodiversity protection.