02 SEALabHaus: The Atlantic Community

The Atlantic Community establishes a long-term framework for cooperation between five Atlantic regions that are connected by shared maritime identities, experiences and challenges. Through Regional Action Groups, transnational exchange, and collaborative processes, it brings together over a hundred public institutions, communities, researchers, cultural practitioners and economic actors. The aim is to promote mutual learning, support inclusive governance and connect local knowledge with broader territorial strategies. By fostering dialogue and sustained interaction, the Atlantic Community contributes to the development of shared approaches to maritime culture, blue tourism, environmental responsibility, and the resilience of coastal communities.

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SEALabHaus

The Atlantic Community

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UDC
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The Atlantic Community: A Shared Horizon

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● See **SEALabHaus. An Atlantic Laboratory** publication.

The Atlantic Community has been developed within the framework of the New European Bauhaus Laboratory of the Atlantic Area, which provides its conceptual and operational foundation. This framework brings together Atlantic regions to collectively reflect on coastal territories, maritime heritage, and the role of local communities in shaping sustainable futures.

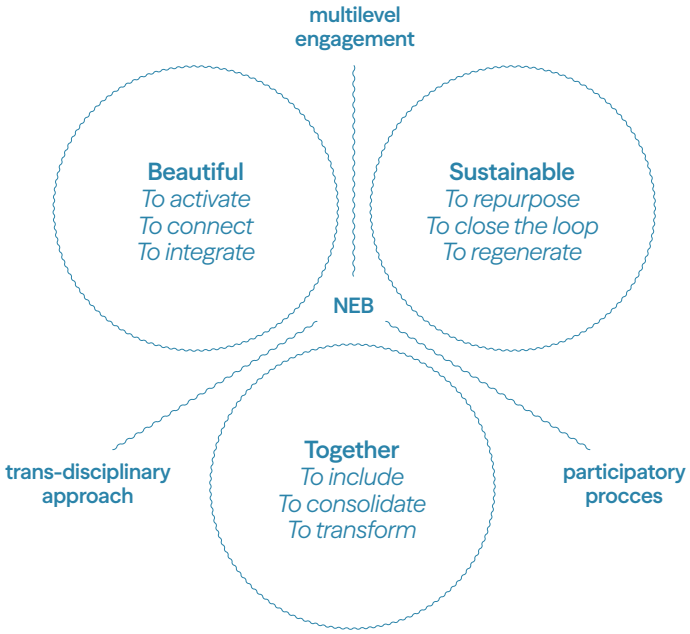
The creation of the Atlantic Community within SEALabHaus represents a key milestone, as it consolidates the project's ambition to transition from analysis and experimentation to a shared, long-term structure for cooperation across territories. The Atlantic Community is more than just a project output; it embodies the transition from individual initiatives to a stable transnational space for mutual learning, co-creation, and action. By connecting regional stakeholders and knowledge, the Atlantic Community provides a practical mechanism for testing New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles—beautiful, sustainable, and together—in real territorial contexts and anchoring them in collective practice.

This publication introduces the Atlantic Community, defining its conceptual basis, methodological foundations, and governance structure. In doing so, it presents the Atlantic Community as a transferable and scalable model aligned with the core values of the NEB and oriented towards territorial cohesion and long-term sustainability across the Atlantic Area.

THE COMMUNITY

The Atlantic Community is a transnational collective comprising actors from the Atlantic regions involved in the SEALabHaus project, including Ireland, France, Galicia, Portugal, and the Canary Islands, as well as representatives of project partner institutions. The community is rooted in a shared cultural and socioeconomic relationship with the Atlantic Ocean, based on the understanding that the sea is a shared space of heritage and identity, as well as a productive space. This common ground enables knowledge exchange and cooperative innovation across territories.

Developed within the New European Bauhaus Laboratory of the Atlantic Area, the Atlantic Community translates the Laboratory's conceptual framework into concrete territorial experimentation and learning through face-to-face encounters and discussions. It provides a space where ideas, practices, and approaches related to the



The **New European Bauhaus Compass** is a guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities. It describes the three core values of the initiative and traces the path for a project to become truly NEB. To achieve this, the Compass also sets out three working principles that apply across the system of values.

project's five thematic areas—blue tourism, art and culture, architecture, sea and sustainability, and professionalisation and training—are jointly explored.

The participation in the Atlantic Community is based on a voluntary commitment to work together. Its members come from a wide range of social and institutional backgrounds linked to the thematic areas mentioned above. Each member brings their local knowledge and professional experience to foster dialogue and reflection. Together, the community aims to build a shared Atlantic vision, rooted in diversity, cooperation, and long-term sustainability.

METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

The New European Bauhaus Framework

The NEB provides the Atlantic Community with an overarching conceptual reference. As a facilitator of the green transition, the NEB aims to transform economic sectors—particularly the built environment—by integrating sustainability, inclusion, and quality of experience.

The NEB is structured around three core values:

- Beautiful, which emphasises aesthetics, cultural value, and the quality of experience beyond mere functionality.
- Sustainable, which addresses climate goals, circularity, biodiversity, and zero pollution.
- Together in terms of values that promote inclusion, accessibility, affordability, and social cohesion.

The NEB Compass is a key instrument for operationalising these principles. This tool identifies the defining characteristics of exemplary NEB projects and draws on three possible lines of change described: together, sustainable, and beautiful. It also establishes increasing levels of ambition. The NEB Compass highlights essential working principles, including participatory processes, multi-level engagement, and transdisciplinary approaches, all of which are central to the development of the Atlantic Community.

Co-Design and Participation

Co-design is one of the fundamental methodological pillars of the Atlantic Community. This collaborative, creative approach enables diverse stakeholders, beneficiaries, and end users to contribute meaningfully in identifying challenges and developing solutions.

Unlike traditional consultation-based approaches, co-design is about creating shared value through equal collaboration among participants. All participants are active contributors to the design process, and their needs, experiences, and concerns are at the heart of decision-making. As a human-centred, problem-solving approach, co-design facilitates the integration of tacit and practical knowledge, revealing aspects that often remain inaccessible through non-collaborative methodologies.

This participatory approach closely aligns with the ambitions defined in the NEB Compass. By engaging stakeholders as partners in the design, decision-making, and implementation processes, the project aims to empow-

er the Atlantic Community to play an active role in shaping its future and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project's outcomes.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governance within the Atlantic Community is organised through Regional Action Groups (RAGs), which are established in each participating region. Each RAG comprises approximately 20–25 socio-institutional actors who have been identified as either key stakeholders or potential beneficiaries of the project. These groups ensure balanced representation across regions and the project's thematic areas, thereby fostering interdisciplinary dialogue. Acting as territorial platforms for cooperation and discussion, the RAGs play a central role in identifying local needs, resources, and challenges and assessing existing or potential actions in relation to the values of the New European Bauhaus.

RAG members are connected beyond the regional scale through the SEALab digital platform, which integrates them into the wider Atlantic Community. The platform facilitates mutual learning and the sharing of resources, documentation, and results, while supporting the development of joint databases and knowledge repositories. In doing so, it ensures the continuity, accessibility, and long-term impact of the community's work beyond the project's duration.

This digital interaction is complemented by face-to-face encounters at transnational forums and regional seminars, where RAG members come together for collective reflection and cross-regional learning. These events reinforce the transnational dimension of the Atlantic Community, strengthening collaboration between regions and enabling ideas to be tested and refined within real territorial contexts.








① Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (2024).
② II Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Portugal (2025).
③ II Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Brest (2025).
④ I Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (2024).
⑤ II Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Galicia (2025).
⑥ I Seminar of the Regional Action Group of Ireland (2024).

REGIONAL SEMINARS

Regional seminars provide a key space for knowledge exchange, dissemination, and participation within the Atlantic Community. These seminars are held annually in each participating region, organised in a face-to-face format, and bring together members of the RAGs alongside other relevant local stakeholders. They provide a structured setting for dialogue and collective reflection, strengthening the connection between regional realities and the project's transnational objectives, while generating structured outputs such as reports, databases, and shared documentation. These encounters facilitate the collection and discussion of local information on policies, needs, resources, and emerging issues, contributing to a deeper, more contextualised understanding of maritime and coastal dynamics within each region.

The programme for each year's regional seminars follows a common thematic approach aligned with the project's development stages. In 2024, the focus was on SEALab design; in 2025, it shifted to the development of the strategic plan for maritime culture and blue tourism; and in 2026, it moved on to the consolidation of a network of volunteers.

Beyond their immediate regional impact, the seminars contribute to broader SEALabHaus's objectives by facilitating the transfer of methodologies and results. They serve as testing grounds for co-design tools and New European Bauhaus principles, generating knowledge and practices that can inform other projects and communities interested in blue tourism, cultural heritage, and sustainable development.

Contribution of Regional Seminars to the development of the Atlantic Community				
Year	Seminar theme	Main purpose	Contribution	Main outputs
2024	**SEALab Design**	To identify regional challenges, opportunities and good practices linked to maritime culture and sustainable tourism.	Creation of the first shared knowledge base and activation of Regional Action Groups through a common co-design process.	Good practice collection, stakeholder contributions and joint seminar report.
2025	**Strategic Plan for Maritime Culture and Blue Tourism**	To define strategic priorities and future actions based on the knowledge gathered during the first phase of the project.	Consolidation of a shared Atlantic vision and alignment of regional perspectives around common objectives.	Strategic inputs, policy recommendations and joint seminar report.
2026	**Volunteer Network and future of the SEALab**	To explore mechanisms for long-term engagement and continuity beyond the project lifetime.	Strengthening community ownership and establishing structures capable of sustaining collaboration after SEALabHaus.	Volunteer network proposals, partnership mechanisms and joint seminar report.

Source: Authors, based on the SEALabHaus Methodological Guide.

The evolving themes of the Regional Seminars mirror the Atlantic Community's progressive development, shifting from knowledge gathering and co-design in 2024, to strategic planning in 2025, and ultimately to long-term community engagement and continuity in 2026.

MCC
Meath County Council

Regional Perspectives Within the Atlantic Community: I. Ireland

Dr. Conor Patterson. Managing director, WIN (EU). Chief executive officer, NMEA. Supporting Meath County Council in the delivery of the SEALabHaus project.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT. A COASTAL REGION IN TRANSITION

Ireland's coast occupies a unique position within the Atlantic context. It is a region shaped by maritime trade, fishing heritage, resource deprivation, emigration, regional policy, inward investment, economic regeneration, re-migration, and tourism. It faces complex contemporary challenges—such as biodiversity loss, coastal erosion, development pressures, shortages of affordable housing, localised tourism pressures, unprofitable agriculture, climate change, and the need to diversify rural and maritime economies in ways that enable local communities to survive.

The SEALabHaus project provides a structured framework for exploring these challenges through facilitated innovation and participatory design. Rather than focusing only on infrastructure or economic outputs, SEALabHaus invites partners to rethink coastal development through the lens of values, aesthetics, and collective responsibility.

The Island of Ireland Regional Action Group (RAG) was founded to anchor this European ambition in local reality. Through seminars, participatory workshops, and the mentoring of selected pilot projects, the RAG fosters a space for structured dialogue between policy, practice, and community action.

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

Along Ireland's coasts, from Malin Head to Carnsore Point, a diverse network of organisations, educators, scientists, creatives, and community leaders is working together to reimagine the future of seaside regions. Through the SEALabHaus project and its Irish RAG, the EU's Atlantic Community is exploring how the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB)—beautiful, sustainable, and together—can be translated into concrete action on the ground.

This RAG brings together expertise in marine restoration, creative industries, local government, economic development, research and higher education, ocean literacy, and community-led regeneration. While each member operates within their own sphere, their collective work reflects a shared ambition: to ensure that coastal development is not only economically viable, but also socially inclusive, environmentally responsible, and culturally meaningful.



Greers Quay Pier on the shores of Lake Carlingford, in County Louth, Ireland.
Photo: Shifting Tides.

The Irish Atlantic Community understands that transformation cannot happen in isolation but emerges and is sustained through dialogue, experimentation, and collaboration across sectors and borders.

KEY MEMBERS

The strength of the Irish SEALabHaus Atlantic Community lies in its diversity. It includes grassroots environmental initiatives, academic institutions, local government, enterprise agencies, chambers of commerce, creative enterprise hubs, and transnational education networks. Together, they represent a living ecosystem of coastal innovation.



Art and culture
Sustainability

❶ Shifting Tides

One of the most powerful expressions of this Atlantic Community ethic is the Shifting Tides Project, a cross-community civil society initiative based in Carlingford Lough. Led by Suzie Cahn, the project combines marine ecosystem restoration with creative climate action, while reinforcing both local democracy and ocean literacy.

Carlingford Lough is a shared body of water between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is ecologically rich but historically under pressure from pollution, habitat loss, and almost a century of fragmented governance. Shifting Tides seeks to restore native oyster beds and seagrass meadows while raising public awareness of what lies beneath the surface of the lough, against a backdrop of constant pressure to retain employment and secure new sources of prosperity for coastal communities.

The initiative brings together oyster farmers, scuba divers, artists, researchers, local government, enterprise agencies, and local residents. Through storytelling, participatory workshops, and creative engagement, it reveals the invisible ecosystems of the seabed. A new community group known as Lough Keepers has emerged from this work, ensuring long-term stewardship and civic ownership.

Shifting Tides embodies the NEB values in practice:

- Sustainable through the restoration of biodiversity and marine stewardship.
- Together through cross-border collaboration and citizen engagement.
- Beautiful through reconnecting communities with the cultural and sensory experience of the lough.

The project demonstrates how ecological regeneration can also be cultural regeneration—restoring both habitats and a shared sense of place.

❷ Dundalk Institute of Technology



Training and professionalisation

Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT), represented within the RAG by Aidan Browne, contributes a strong research and innovation dimension to the Atlantic Community. Located close to Carlingford Lough, DkIT has a long-standing role in regional enterprise development, applied research, and skills training in communities influenced by the sea.

The institution acts as a bridge between community initiatives, local businesses, and European research frameworks. Through applied projects and in collaboration with industry, DkIT supports the sustainable development of the blue economy, based on empirical evidence and driven by technological innovation.

Within the SEALabHaus project, DkIT strengthens the transdisciplinary approach promoted by the NEB's principles. Engineering, design, enterprise, and environmental sciences intersect to generate both practical and forward-looking solutions.

DkIT's engagement ensures that grassroots innovation is supported by academic insight and that regional experimentation can connect to European policy and research agendas.

❸ National Aquarium of Ireland



Sustainability
Training and professionalization

The National Aquarium of Ireland, under the leadership of Dr. Nóirín Burke, represents the marine science and public engagement pillar of Ireland's Atlantic Community.

Based in Galway but nationally influential, the aquarium plays a central role in advancing ocean literacy. It goes beyond exhibition and education to actively promote marine conservation awareness, citizen science, and biodiversity protection.

Members: Ireland

Organisation	Location	Perspectives
● Creative Spark	Dundalk	Art and culture
● Waterford Chamber of Commerce	Waterford	Training and professionalisation
● Munster Technological University	Munster	Training and professionalisation
● Boyne Valley Flavours	Dublin	Blue tourism
● Technological University Dublin	Dublin	Training and professionalisation
● SETU EU-CONEXUS	Europe	Sustainability
● South East Technological University	Waterford	Training and professionalisation
● Dundalk Institute of Technology	Dundalk	Training and professionalisation
● Boyne Valley Tourism	Boyne Valley	Blue tourism
● Ireland South East Development Office	Waterford	Sustainability
● Queen's University Belfast, Biological Sciences	Belfast	Training and professionalisation
● Newry and Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency	Newry	Training and professionalisation
● WIN (EU)	Ireland	Training and professionalisation
● Shifting Tides	Dublin	Art and culture
● National Acquarium	Galway	Sustainability
● Sea Synergy Marine Awareness	Kerry	Sustainability
● National College of Art and Design	Dublin	Blue tourism
● Irish Ocean Literacy Network	Ireland	Blue tourism
● Retired Petroleum Geologist	Dublin	Sustainability
● University of Galway	Galway	Sustainability
● Great Irish Lighthouses	Ireland	Blue Tourism

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Its contribution to SEALabHaus lies in translating complex marine science into accessible narratives that inspire action. Young people, families, and communities are encouraged to understand their relationship with the Atlantic Ocean not only as distant observers, but also as active participants in stewardship.

Regarding the NEB's values, the aquarium's work reflects:

- Sustainability grounded in scientific knowledge.
- Inclusivity through accessible education and outreach.
- Beauty through the celebration of marine biodiversity.

In the context of SEALabHaus, ocean and littoral literacy is the basis for a sustainable future of coastal areas.

❹ Creative Spark



Art and culture

Creative Spark, run by Sarah Daly, is a centre for creative industries. It is located in Dundalk, an historic port that declined in the 20th century, but has, in recent years, rediscovered its relationship with the sea through new sustainable shellfish and tourist fishing enterprises based along the old port quays.

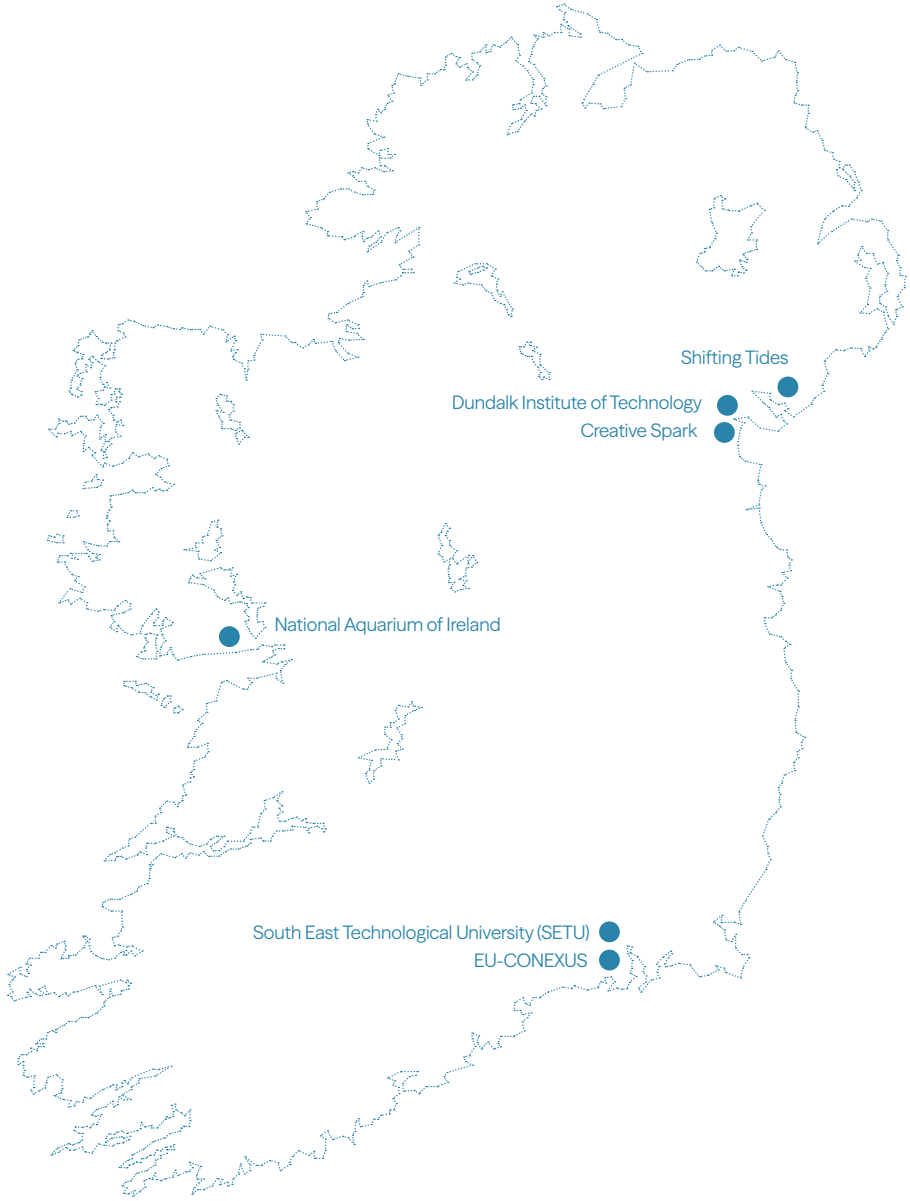
Supporting designers, makers, and social entrepreneurs, Creative Spark reinforces the role of creativity in economic and social regeneration.

Within the Atlantic Community, creativity is not treated as a mere decorative component but as a structural feature. It shapes identity, strengthens community cohesion, and makes innovation visible.

Creative Spark embodies:

- Beautiful by elevating design and cultural value in regeneration.
- Together by fostering collaborative creation and skills exchange.
- Transdisciplinary thinking by linking design with enterprise and sustainability.

Its involvement in SEALabHaus highlights that coastal transformation must integrate aesthetic and cultural dimensions alongside environmental and economic considerations.


Shifting Tides
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Creative Spark
National Aquarium of Ireland
South East Technological University (SETU)
EU-CONEXUS

❺ EU-CONEXUS

EU-CONEXUS, the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, connects higher education institutions across Atlantic regions in Europe. Represented in Ireland by Michelle Maher at South East Technological University (SETU), this initiative frames Ireland's programme to promote coastal sustainability within a broader European context.

The EU-CONEXUS initiative facilitates student mobility and joint research and knowledge exchange focused on coastal sustainability. It creates pathways for young people to engage directly with blue economy challenges and innovations.

Within SEALabHaus, EU-CONEXUS reinforces the NEB's multi-level engagement principles, with a particular focus on young people. Local coastal initiatives are linked to European education networks, research collaborations, and policy frameworks.

The transnational perspective that the EU-CONEXUS representative brings to the SEALabHaus RAG ensures that the Irish Atlantic Community is not inward-looking but outward-facing—contributing to and learning from other coastal regions across Europe.



Sustainability
Training and
professionalisation

BREST
Brest Métropole

Regional Perspectives Within the Atlantic Community: II. France

Muhamad Rahmansyah. Apprentice. European projects officer, Brest Métropole. Project manager for the SEALabHaus project in Brest Métropole.
Christophe Dubois. Head of Metropolitan Facilities Office, Brest Métropole. Project coordinator for SEALabHaus in Brest Métropole.
Maël Le Berre. Deputy director of economic and international development, Brest Métropole. SEALabHaus project manager in Brest Métropole.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT. RESILIENCE AND DYNAMISM

Brest Métropole is a public authority for eight municipalities located at the westernmost tip of continental Europe, with direct access to the Atlantic Ocean. As a maritime urban area, Brest Métropole is anchored around one of the world's largest natural harbours. It is surrounded by a dense urban centre that combines a wide coastal and rural hinterland shaped by tides, cliffs, and estuaries. Its identity is deeply marked by a long naval and shipbuilding tradition, a strong scientific community tied to the sea, and a lifestyle organised around the waterfront, ports, and bay.

Today, Brest Métropole hosts a rich mix of activities, from commercial and military port operations to fisheries, marine renewable energies, and cutting-edge ocean research. Cultural life is closely connected to the maritime world, with festivals, ports of call, and local heritage highlighting a community that sees the sea as both a resource and a shared horizon. At the same time, this area faces major challenges, including adapting to climate change and coastal risks, ensuring a just transition for traditional maritime sectors, and keeping high-value jobs and local skills within the context of a globalised blue economy. These issues place Brest Métropole at the crossroads between local resilience and broader Atlantic and transnational dynamics.

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

SEALabHaus project supports Brest Métropole in structuring a concrete Regional Action Group (RAG) which participates in the development of blue tourism. In this sense, SEALabHaus helps to connect Brest's local specificities to a broader Atlantic and European dynamic, in which coastal territories are recognised as key spaces for experimentation in sustainable development.

At the heart of the project, SEALabHaus highlights the importance of coastal territories with its aesthetic dimension and sustainability. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) values—beautiful, sustainable, and together—provide a common compass that guides how places are designed, experienced, and governed.

To move from principles to concrete governance, SEALabHaus promotes the creation of an RAG that brings together a diverse set of actors whose aspirations, con-

straints, and initiatives are taken seriously in decision-making. Brest Métropole incorporates diverse actors in different sectors into this group, such as:

- blue tourism professionals
- training and professionalisation establishments
- sustainability-oriented institutions
- art and cultural organisations

KEY MEMBERS

The following organisations are key members of the French RAG. Working across innovation, heritage promotion, sustainable ocean development, scientific knowledge, art and science, and sustainability, among other areas, they build a strong and innovative network of agents with a strategic relevance within the territory.

❶ Brest en Vue

This local public company is recognised for its efficient management of major metropolitan facilities. This is evident in at least two respects.

On the one hand, in carrying out the public service missions delegated to it, it ensures that Brest Métropole takes the general interest into account and provides it with the initiative, responsiveness, and flexibility of a dynamic company. Integrating issues from both the public and private sectors, it facilitates, connects, and develops numerous networks of stakeholders in various fields: economic, cultural, scientific, educational, sports, events, etc.

On the other hand, in the core of its mission, Brest en vue manages two major urban facilities directly connected to ocean science. Those two facilities are as follows:

Océanopolis. This is the name of the National Center of Scientific Culture dedicated to the Ocean. For more than 30 years, Océanopolis—a facility located in Brest Métropole which is managed by Brest'aim—has been a place for sharing and exchanging science-based knowledge.

Through a visit to its three pavilions (Brittany, Tropical, and Polar) and the otter trail, Océanopolis offers visitors an experience based on a rigorous scientific approach. Set in the heart of a wide range of marine ecosystems faithfully reproduced in its aquariums, Océanopolis



Blue tourism

Members: France

Organisation	Location	Perspectives
Croisière/Office du tourisme	Brest	Blue tourism
Le Febvre Prestations Maritimes	Brest	Blue tourism
Brest'aim–Océanopolis	Brest	Blue tourism
An Test	Plouguerneau	Blue tourism
BTS Tourisme, Lycée Fenelon	Brest	Training and professionalisation
UMIH	Brittany	Training and professionalisation
ConsultantSeas	Brest	Training and professionalisation
Best Western Plus Europe Brest	Brest	Blue tourism
Penn Ar Bed	Brest	Blue tourism
Association Karreg Hir	Plouguerneau	Blue tourism
Conservatoire Botanique National de Brest	Brest	Sustainability
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Brest	Brest	Art and Culture
70,8 Brest en vue	Brest	Blue tourism
Adeupa	Brest	Blue tourism
NORZH	Plouguerneau	Blue tourism
Sonia Glop	Brest	Art and Culture

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aims to change the way we see the ocean with a concrete goal: To better understand its biodiversity in order to better preserve it.

Océanopolis brings its longstanding expertise in marine science mediation and public engagement to the SEALabHaus project, reinforcing the link between scientific research and societal awareness. This partnership enhances the project's educational dimension, connecting research, innovation, and the public in a shared mission to value and sustain the ocean.

70.8. This museum is dedicated to the ocean and addresses three of the key issues concerning it: as a resource for the future, as a territory for navigation, and as a field of study for better understanding it. From marine biotechnology to deep-sea exploration, from maritime routes to the development of renewable marine energy, and from the transport of the future to understanding the ocean through satellites, each topic is illustrated through projects carried out by scientific and industrial partners.

Located in the heart of *Les Ateliers des Capucins* [The Capucins Workshops] in Brest, at the tip of Finistère, 70.8 promises a family visit rich in discoveries.

As a museum dedicated to the ocean and a key player in marine innovation outreach, 70.8 contributes to the SEALabHaus project by showcasing the diversity of ocean-related research and industrial initiatives.

❷ An Test

The non-profit voluntary organisation An Test is a non-profit association that owns two old sailing ships in Brest Harbour, both of which are classified as historic monuments: the Notre Dame de Rumengol and the Bergère de Domrémy. Sea trips are organised for everyone on the first ship, while the second is reserved only for members.



Blue tourism
Art and culture

Among all the old boats sailing along the coasts of Brittany, the English Channel, and the Atlantic coast, the Notre Dame de Rumengol is the largest restored cargo ship still in service. A beautiful jewel in the crown of Brest harbour's heritage, it is celebrated for its elegance at all maritime festivals. It is a ship with many possibilities: cruises to the Scilly Isles or along the Seine, half-day trips in the afternoon or evening, participation in maritime events or occasions that mark social life in Brest, private hire, and much more.

An Test contributes to the SEALabHaus project through its commitment to the preservation and promotion of maritime heritage. By maintaining and operating historic vessels such as the Notre Dame de Rumengol and the Bergère de Domrémy, the association helps to safeguard traditional seafaring knowledge and share it with diverse audiences.



Blue tourism

❸ Association Karreg Hir: The Algae Centre

Created in 1985, the Karreg Hir Association manages the ALGAE Centre, an ecomuseum dedicated to seaweed harvesters and seaweed. It was established following several periods of intense mobilisation by the local population, who wanted to promote what makes this coastal community unique: seaweed harvesting. Gradually, through donations, a collection of objects—mainly tools related to the seaweed harvesting profession—was assembled. The *Ecomusée des Goémoniers et de l'Algue* [Seaweed Harvesters Museum] opened its doors at the same time as the annual Fête des Goémoniers [Seaweed Harvesters Festival] continued to be held at the Port of Koréjou in Plouguerneau, Brittany.

During this event, volunteers from the association strive to promote the traditional profession, often practised by their parents and grandparents, thus paying tribute to them and passing on the skills and traces of a unique coastal society.

As years go by, enthusiasm for this festive event, which is spreading from one coastal town to another, shows no sign of waning. Completing the collection of objects, the two traditional seaweed boats, Karreg Hir and Fleur des Îles, are living, sailing witnesses to the region's maritime history. At the same time, seaweed harvesting continues in real time with modernised tools. The belief that this marine plant has great potential encourages further research. Public and private laboratories are busy discovering new applications, which are being relayed by the Breton industry.

Today, the seaweed industry in Brittany is on the cusp of development, and the Écomusée des Goémoniers et de l'Algue aims to report on both the latest scientific and economic developments of the seaweed sector and the history of a seaweed-harvesting population across the Breton region and throughout human history.



View of Brest. Brest Métropole. SMDE Cap 30. October 2022. Tourism: "a driving force behind the appeal and hospitality of the Brest metropolitan area".

Through this project, the Karreg Hir Association has not only documented the history and the know-how of the industry in Brittany, but also helped revitalise and promote it.

Training and professionalisation

❹ ConsultantSeas

This French consulting firm specialises in helping organisations reduce their plastic use and prevent plastic pollution at source, before it reaches the ocean. It supports companies and institutions throughout the entire process, from assessing plastic footprints and defining a reduction strategy to designing concrete action plans and implementing them through different measures. The consultancy positions itself as a practical ally for teams that want to move from commitments to measurable results on plastic reduction.

Its service offering is structured around several complementary pillars—such as strategy and road mapping, implementation support, technical and scientific expertise, and capacity building through training and facilitation. ConsultantSeas works along the plastic value chain, bringing together producers, brands, retailers, and recyclers to co-develop collective, systemic solutions rather than isolated actions. This multi-stakeholder approach enables the firm to align interests, identify leverage points, and scale impactful initiatives.

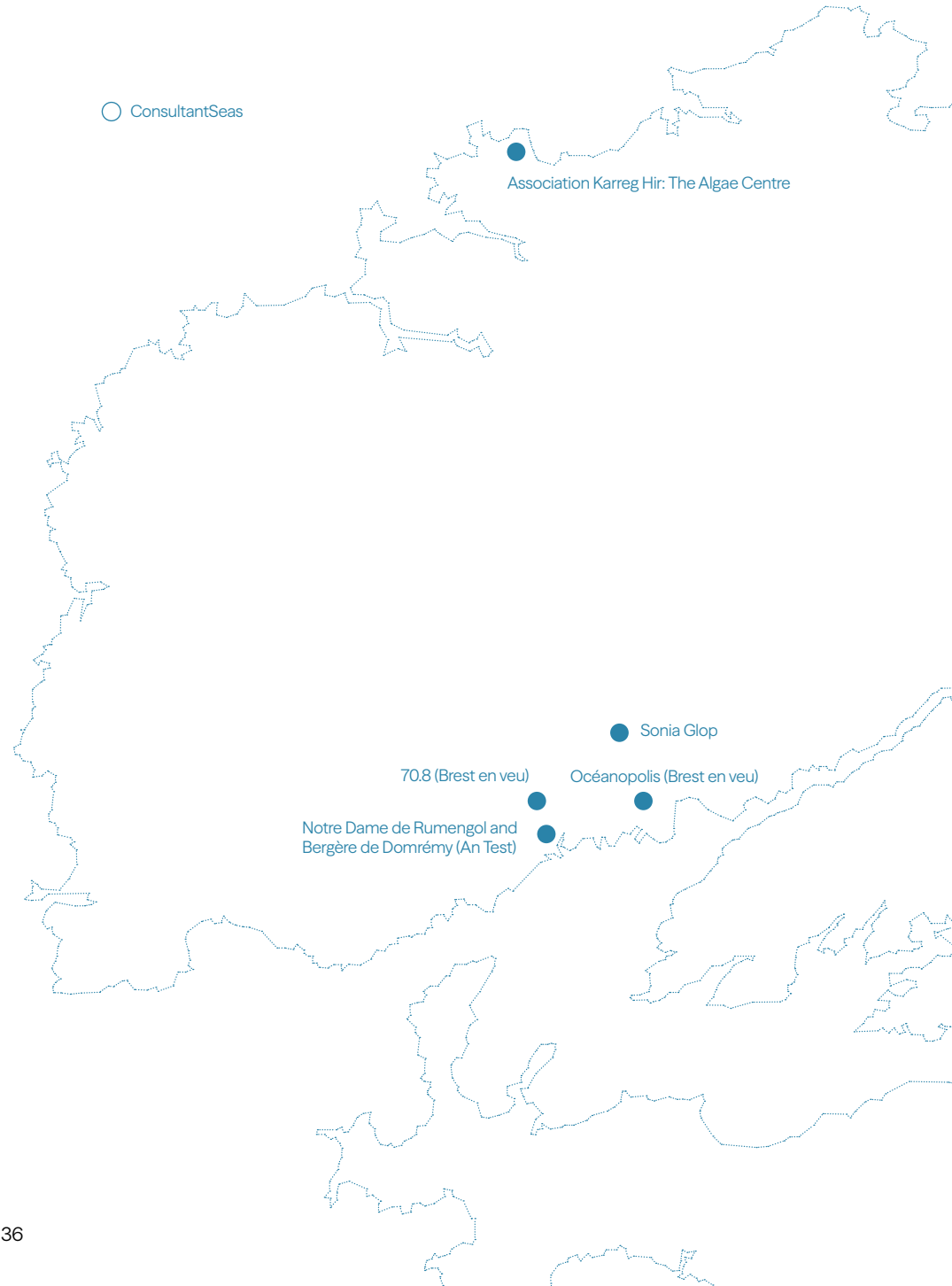
ConsultantSeas collaborates with the local RAG on sustainability, sharing its know-how on how to reduce plastic use and prevent pollution at source. It provides guidance through simple checks on plastic waste, group workshops to plan concrete steps forward, and hands-on tips to make changes across local businesses and supply chains. By bringing together producers, companies, and local leaders, ConsultantSeas integrates plastic reduction into broader green goals, accelerating the achievement of results that respond to the needs of the area.



Art and culture

❺ Sonia Glop

Sonia Glop is an artist who works at the crossroads of art and science. She is interested in how natural elements change over time and how these transformations reflect our connection to the environment. Through her work, she invites people to look more closely at the fragile, often overlooked spaces along the coast and to think about what they reveal about the world we live in.


ConsultantSeas
Association Karreg Hir: The Algae Centre
Sonia Glop
70.8 (Brest en veu)
Océanopolis (Brest en veu)
Notre Dame de Rumengol and
Bergère de Domrémy (An Test)

One of her projects is “Coeff 120”. This initiative brings together science and the visual arts to create a dialogue between scientific observation and artistic expression. It focuses on the wrack line—a thin, ever-changing strip along the shore where seaweed and marine debris accumulate. This quiet ecosystem tells the story of coastal movements, yet it remains little known to the public. The project combines scientific methods—such as surveys, identification, and documentation—with artistic creation—such as collecting materials, drawing, and workshops—in a way that can be shared and repeated by others.

The goal of this project is to help people understand the ecological role of wrack lines through direct, hands-on experiences. A sailing journey is planned along the coasts of the Interreg Atlantic Area. The boat—whether a sailboat, a traditional rig, or an oceanographic ship—stops at several ports to meet local communities. At each stop, a team of scientists and artists leads creative workshops focused on the wrack line. For instance, one of the activities involves creating drypoint engraving on recycled Tetra Pak cartons. This simple and flexible technique requires very little equipment, produces high-quality results, and makes artistic expression accessible to everyone. The workshops, easy to set up in any port, have already proven their potential to connect people with ecological issues in a creative and positive way.

In this project, Sonia Glop plays a key role in building connections between art, science, and the public. Through her workshops and collaborative approach, she helps turn observation into shared experience and strengthens the link between local communities and their coastal environment.

Xunta de Galicia
Autonomous Goverment of Galicia

Regional Perspectives Within the Atlantic Community: III. Galicia

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TERRITORIAL CONTEXT. A COMPLEX AND RICH GEOGRAPHY

Galicia occupies a unique position in the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula. Its rugged and highly indented coastline is characterised by a succession of cliffs, *rías* [estuaries], and fishing ports. This complex coastal geography has historically influenced settlement patterns and infrastructure, as well as how the territory is inhabited, fostering a close, continuous interaction between land and sea. The Atlantic Ocean is not just a geographical feature, but also a defining presence that shapes Galicia's coastal landscapes and its relationship with the wider Atlantic territory.

The sea has also played a central role in shaping Galicia's economy. Fishing, shellfish harvesting, and aquaculture remain key sources of employment. These activities coexist with a robust maritime industry involving shipbuilding, seafood processing, and port logistics. These are increasingly being complemented by emerging sectors such as blue tourism, maritime heritage management, and sustainable aquaculture. This contributes to the economic diversification, resilience, and long-term vitality of Galicia's coastal areas.

The coastal regions of Galicia have a rich maritime heritage, both material and immaterial, which is reflected in their culture. Towns and villages along the estuaries preserve distinctive architectures of the sea, in which the built environment responds to productive activities, climatic conditions, and social organisation. This heritage is complemented by natural assets—including protected estuarine ecosystems, wetlands, dune systems, and areas of high marine biodiversity—, which contribute to ecological balance and local livelihoods. Cultural institutions and associations play a key role in safeguarding and transmitting maritime knowledge, while research centres and universities provide expertise in areas such as architecture, sustainability, and heritage. Blue tourism initiatives, ranging from coastal trails and maritime museums to experiential activities, further demonstrate Galicia's ability to integrate cultural identity, economic development, and environmental stewardship.



***Bateas* [Galician mussel rafts] in the Vilaboa estuary (Pontevedra), with the Ría de Vigo landscape in the background.** Photo: Noso Coop, PCUMA.

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

The Galician Regional Action Group (RAG) brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, reflecting the five thematic areas of SEALabHaus: blue tourism, art and culture, architecture, sea and sustainability, and professionalisation and training. The involvement of key academic institutions, cultural organisations, research bodies, and sectoral representatives ensures that the Atlantic Community is grounded in territorial knowledge and professional practice. This diversity enables the RAG to move beyond sector-specific perspectives and promote integrated, cross-cutting responses to maritime challenges.

These institutions and initiatives relate to the New European Bauhaus (NEB) in different ways. Regarding these principles, the beautiful dimension is articulated through the work of institutions—such as *Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de La Coruña, Universidade da Coruña* [A Coruña School of Architecture, University of A Coruña] (ETSAC, UDC), *Plan da Cultura Marítima de Galicia* [Plan of Maritime Culture of Galicia] (PCUMA), and *Asociación Galega do Patrimonio Industrial* [Galician Association for the Industrial Heritage] (BUXA). These organisations recognise coastal landscapes, maritime architecture, and industrial and cultural heritage as living assets. They also promote their valorisation and conservation. The principle of sustainability is found in organisations such as *Asociación Galega de Carpintería Ribeira* [Riverbank Carpentry Galician Association] (AGALCARI), whose commitment to traditional wooden boatbuilding highlights low-impact production, the use of renewable materials, and the continuity of local knowledge within a contemporary ecological framework. Finally, the ethos of togetherness is deeply rooted in Galicia's maritime culture and embodied by organisations, such as the *Federación Galega de Cofradías de Pescadores* [Galician Federation of Fishermen's Guilds] (FGCP), representing long-standing traditions of self-organisation, co-governance, and collective resource management, and *Federación Galega pola Cultura Marítima e Fluvial* [Galician Federation of Maritime Culture] (Culturmar), operating through federations and networks that foster community participation and intergenerational cultural transmission across coastal and river territories.

The composition of the group reflects the five thematic axes of SEALabHaus:

● Blue tourism, through stakeholders, is engaged in sustainable tourism development and experiential maritime initiatives, such as *Bluscus Turismo Marinero en Galicia* [Bluscus Maritime Tourism in Galicia], *Clúster Turismo de Galicia* [Tourism Cluster] (CTG), *Facultad de Turismo da UDC* [Faculty of Tourism, University of A Coruña], and *Axencia Galega de Turismo* [Galicia Tourism Board].

● Art and culture are represented by associations and institutions dedicated to maritime heritage, traditional boatbuilding, and community memory. These include some of the institutions already mentioned, such as AGALCARI, Culturmar, and PCUMA, and others such as *Fundación Clúster de Conservación de Productos del Mar* [Cluster Foundation for the Conservation of Seafood Products] (FUNPROMAR) and *Museo ANFACO da Industria Conserveira* [ANFACO Museum of the Canning Industry], *Museo do Mar de Galicia* [Galician Museum of the Sea], *Padroado do Museo do Pobo Galego* [Patronage of the Museum of the Galician People], *Red de Espacios Museísticos Atlánticos* [Atlantic Museum Spaces Network] (REMA), and *Asociación Cultural Balandro Joaquín Vieta* [Balandro Joaquín Vieta Cultural Association].

● Architecture, through academic and professional actors, is concerned with coastal landscapes, port infrastructures, and vernacular building traditions. This list includes some of the institutions mentioned above, such as ETSAC and BUXA. Another example is *Colexio Oficial de Arquitectos de Galicia* [Galician Architects' Association] (COAG).

● Sea and sustainability, through research entities, focuses on coastal dynamics, environmental monitoring, and territorial resilience. The following institutions are particularly noteworthy: *Universidade de Vigo* [University of Vigo] (UVigo) and *Observatorio do Litoral* [Litoral Observatory].

● Professionalisation and training, particularly through organisations representing fishers and sectoral institutions, are linked to maritime labour and education. This includes FGCP and other organisations, such as *Asociación Española de Mayoristas, Importadores, Exportadores y Transformadores de Productos del Mar* [Spanish Association of Wholesalers, Importers, Exporters, and Manufac-

turers of Fish and Aquaculture Products] (Conxemar) and *Fundación para a Pesca e o Marisqueo* [Foundation for Fishing and Shellfishing] (FUNDAMAR).

KEY MEMBERS

The following organisations illustrate the diversity and strategic relevance of the Galician RAG. Together, they represent architecture, heritage, governance, and environmental expertise within the Atlantic Community.



Architecture
Art and culture

❶ Escola Técnica Superior de Arquitectura da Universidade da Coruña

The A Coruña School of Architecture (ETSAC, UDC) plays a key role in linking architectural research, territorial analysis, and maritime heritage. Located in a coastal city with a strong port tradition, the ETSAC has long been involved in waterfront regeneration, vernacular coastal architecture, and the adaptive reuse of industrial heritage.

Emphasising maritime focus, ETSAC and COAG co-organised the 13th International Docomomo Ibérico Congress (October 2025), *La modernidad marítima. Arquitecturas e Infraestructuras del Paisaje Litoral, 1925–1975* [Maritime Modernity: Architectures and Infrastructures of the Coastal Landscape, 1925-1975], positioning the Atlantic as a central field of study. This role is reinforced by two UDC research groups closely linked to the A Coruña School of Architecture. On the one hand, the *Grupo de Estudos Territoriais* [Territorial Studies Group] (GET) applies social science approaches to territory, landscape, and communities. It combines qualitative and quantitative methods with spatial analysis to support participatory and sustainable territorial strategies in coastal regions. Its areas of work include tourism–territory relations and cultural landscapes, which are directly applicable to coastal contexts. On the other hand, the *Grupo de Investigación en Historia de la Arquitectura* [Research Group in the History of Architecture] (IALA) focuses on architectural history and theory, with particular attention to modernity, heritage, and cultural landscapes. It promotes knowledge transfer to institutions and society, ranging from architectural design to land and landscape analysis. Both groups actively support the SEALabHaus project, contributing design-led enquiry and critical reflection on maritime territories.

Members Galicia

Organisation	Location	Perspectives
● AGALCARI: Asociación Gallega de Carpintería de Ribeira	Boiro	Art and culture
● Conxemar: Asociación Española de Mayoristas, Importadores, Exportadores y Transformadores de Productos de la Pesca y Acuicultura	Vigo	Training and professionalisation
● Buxa: Asociación Galega do Patrimonio Industrial	Bugallido-Ames	Architecture
● Bluscus: Turismo Marinero en Galicia	Vigo	Blue tourism
● Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Galicia	Galicia	Architecture
● Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitecura de Coruña	A Coruña	Architecture
● Culturmar: Federación Galega pola Cultura Marítima e Fluvial	Cambados	Art and culture
● Federación Galega de Confraría de Pescadores	Milladoiro	Training and professionalisation
● FUNPROMAR: Fundación Clúster de Conservación de Productos del Mar – ANFACO	Vigo	Art and culture
● Clúster Turismo de Galicia	Santiago	Blue tourism
● Universidade de Vigo	Vigo	Sustainability
● Observatorio del litoral	A Coruña	Sustainability
● Museo do Mar de Galicia	Vigo	Art and culture
● FUNDAMAR: Fundación para la pesca y marisqueo	Vigo	Training and professionalisation
● Padroado do Museo do Pobo Galego	Santiago	Art and culture
● Plan da Cultura Marítima de Galicia (PCUMA)	Galicia	Art and culture
● Facultad de Turismo UDC	A Coruña	Blue tourism
● REMA: Red de Espacios Museísticos Atlánticos	Galicia	Art and culture
● Axencia Galega de Turismo	Galicia	Blue tourism
● Asociación Balandro Joaquín Vieta	Noia	Art and culture
● Federación Provincial de Confrarías de Pescadores A Coruña	A Coruña	Sustainability

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Art and culture
Architecture
Sustainability

❷ Plan of Maritime Culture of Galicia (PCUMA)

The Plan of Maritime Culture of Galicia (PCUMA) is an initiative led by the UDC and promoted by the *Xunta de Galicia* [Regional Government of Galicia]. It aims to preserve, document, and promote the region's maritime culture as a driver of social cohesion and sustainable territorial development. PCUMA plays a significant role in strengthening the connection between academic research, institutional action, and public engagement. Its integrative approach supports the dissemination of knowledge, encourages participation, and helps to transmit maritime culture to a wider audience, including younger generations.

As part of its first general strategic objective, namely conserving and promoting maritime culture in all its forms, PCUMA is developing the *Census of Galicia's Immovable Maritime Heritage*, a comprehensive initiative aimed at identifying, recording, and valuing the built assets through which maritime culture has historically materialised along its coastline. Drawing on existing catalogues and previous inventories, as well as extensive research and fieldwork, the census is establishing, for the first time, a consistent and rigorous knowledge base on coastal heritage. This includes shipyards, salting factories, canneries, fishermen's huts, and slipways, as well as other structures closely linked to maritime trades, communities, and cultural landscapes.



Art and culture
Training and professionalisation

❸ Asociación Galega de Carpintería de Ribeira

The Galician Ribera Carpentry Association (AGALCARI) is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and transmission of traditional *carpintería de ribeira* [wooden boatbuilding], one of the most emblematic expressions of Galicia's maritime identity. As a guardian of intangible maritime heritage, the association safeguards the artisanal knowledge that has shaped coastal life for centuries, maintaining close links with fishing, shellfish harvesting, coastal navigation, and traditional seafaring trades. AGALCARI is committed to the intergenerational transmission of this living craft, which is deeply rooted in local expertise, identity, and the use of renewable, locally sourced materials, through workshops, exhibitions, and educational activities.

Nowadays, traditional wooden boatbuilding faces significant challenges related to industrial standardisation, regulatory pressures, and the loss of specialised skills. Against this backdrop, AGALCARI emphasises the contem-

porary relevance of classic boatbuilding as a sustainable and innovative practice. Wooden construction relies on renewable materials, requires minimal energy, and results in a significantly reduced carbon footprint throughout its life cycle. By combining old-fashioned expertise with technological advances in eco-construction, AGALCARI shows how this craft can adapt to modern demands while preserving its cultural, environmental, and social values.

❹ Asociación Galega do Patrimonio Industrial



Architecture
Art and culture

The Galician Industrial Heritage Association (BUXA) specialises in studying, protecting, and promoting Galicia's industrial heritage from technical, historical, social, and territorial perspectives. Its activities include research, documentation, and public promotion of the diverse material traces left by industrial activity. These activities involve maritime industries such as shipyards, carpentry workshops, salting factories, canneries, and mills, as well as other infrastructure that defines the region's maritime and coastal landscapes. BUXA conducts inventories, catalogues, and interpretive work to evaluate the significance, state of conservation, and landscape integration of maritime industrial heritage. Through this work, BUXA has played a key role in acknowledging industrial patrimony as an integral part of Galicia's collective memory and cultural identity.

On an Atlantic scale, BUXA has led initiatives that highlight shared maritime and industrial heritage across regions. In 2019, one notable project, "O Camiño do Mar" [The Way of the Sea], was developed in collaboration with partners in Galicia and Ireland. This transnational initiative focused on the public restoration of a traditional Irish vessel and cultural exchange between maritime carpenters. Working alongside organisations including Meitheal Mara, Camino Society Ireland, Galician Museum of the Sea, and AGALCARI, the project further established BUXA's position as a link of maritime cultures and a facilitator of intercultural dialogue within the Atlantic region.

Key Members: Galicia



❺ Federación Galega Pola Cultura Marítima e Fluvial

The Galician Federation for Maritime and Fluvial Culture (Culturmar) is a wide-reaching network of sports, cultural, neighbourhood, and ethnographic associations committed to preserving and revitalising Galicia's maritime and river heritage. Since its foundation, the federation has focused on restoring traditional vessel designs, researching coastal patrimony, promoting cultural associations, and celebrating maritime culture through joint regattas, exhibitions, and other dissemination activities. Culturmar is a volunteer-based network that reinforces its social core and encourages intergenerational participation, including youth engagement. The federation's work also extends to publications, workshops, and advocacy initiatives that highlight the contemporary relevance of maritime culture.

Culturmar is best known for organising the *Encontro de Embarcacións Tradicionais de Galicia* [Gathering of Traditional Galician Boats], a travelling event that showcases the work of member associations throughout the year. Rather than working as a single festival, the Encontro acts as a collective platform, strengthening community engagement and visibility and facilitating the transmission of maritime heritage. Its international focus fosters exchange with other Atlantic and European coastal regions, helping to situate Galicia's legacy within wider maritime cultures. At the European level, Culturmar has participated in projects such as "DORNA" and has also been invited to major traditional boat festivals. Since 2009, it has been a full member of the European Maritime Heritage (EMH), a non-governmental organisation, and has served on its Executive Committee, becoming its first Spanish representative.



Art and culture

○ Implemented from 2008 to 2014 within the Atlantic Area Programme, the **DORNA** project promoted the restoration and use of traditional vessels as living heritage, strengthening sustainable tourism and maritime cultural identity across the European Atlantic coast.



Sustainability

❻ Federación Galega de Confrarías de Pescadores

The Federation of Fishers' Guilds (FGCP) is one of the most distinctive and enduring models of governance in Galicia. The origins of the guilds can be traced back to the 13th century. They have evolved from early brotherhoods, such as the *Irmandade das Vilas e Marismas* [Brotherhood of the Villages and Marshes], and later the *gremios de mareantes* [seafarers' unions]. These organisations combined economic management, mutual aid, and community protection. Over time, they transformed into *pósitos de pescadores* [traditional fishermen's guilds] and eventually into today's public-law corporations. At the same time, they have maintained their role as key representatives of small-scale coastal fisheries and key actors in the social and economic life of coastal communities.

FGCP's maritime connection is fundamental. The fishers' guilds play a direct role in fisheries management, labour organisation, and resource stewardship. They also act as advisory and collaborative bodies for the regional administration, coordinating production, commercialisation, and regulatory compliance. The Federación Galega, formed through the unification of the three provincial fishers' guild federations, provides a common voice for fishing communities, supports community-based governance, and contributes to the sustainability and resilience of Galicia's coastal territories. At the European level, the FGCP participates in cooperation projects and represents Galicia in dialogues on sustainable fisheries and maritime policy within the Atlantic context.

AD ELO
Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego

Regional Perspectives Within the Atlantic Community: IV. Portugal

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TERRITORIAL CONTEXT. DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

With approximately 943 km of mainland coastline, Portugal is structurally an Atlantic country whose identity, economy, and culture remain deeply connected to the sea. Along the Atlantic coastline of the centre and northern regions—encompassing coastal cities, estuaries, and port areas—a dynamic coastal belt has been developed where fisheries, port activities, tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), marine research, and emerging blue economy initiatives coexist within a strong maritime identity.

This territory faces significant challenges, notably coastal erosion, the impacts of climate change, and the need to reconcile economic development with environmental sustainability—issues shared by many European Atlantic regions.

In this context, the *Associação de Desenvolvimento Local da Bairrada e Mondego* [Bairrada and Mondego Local Development Association] (AD ELO) plays a strategic role as a local development association with a strong focus on the coastal area. As the managing entity of the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) under the European programme MAR 2030, it promotes an integrated and participatory approach to the sustainable development of maritime communities, strengthening the articulation between territory, sea, and Atlantic vision.

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

The Portuguese Regional Action Group (RAG) brings together a diverse set of stakeholders representing different dimensions of the territory: local development associations, tourism promotion entities, environmental civic movements, academic institutions, and research centres. This plural composition enables the articulation of scientific knowledge, community mobilisation, territorial strategy, and the economic valorisation of the coastal area.

Within the framework of SEALabHaus, the Portuguese RAG positions itself as a space for reflection and collaborative work around maritime culture and blue tourism. The presence of institutions linked to sport and youth, territorial promotion, environmental protection, and academic research ensures a multidisciplinary approach to coastal challenges.

This diversity directly reflects the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The beautiful dimension is expressed through the appreciation of the Atlantic landscape, maritime identity and culture, and the quality of the coastal experience. The sustainable principle is ensured through the integration of scientific knowledge, a strong focus on coastal resilience, and the promotion of responsible practices. Finally, the together dimension is accomplished through active community participation, inclusive initiatives, the articulation between coastal and inland territories, and the development of shared strategies for regional development.

In this way, the RAG constitutes a collaborative governance platform that transforms regional specificity into a contribution to a broader Atlantic vision.

KEY MEMBERS

The following key members of the Portuguese RAG illustrate its diversity and strategic relevance. Together, they represent sustainable leisure, territorial promotion, environmental protection, and academic research, among other areas.

❶ Associação de Desenvolvimento Mais Surf



Art and culture
Sustainability

The Associação de Desenvolvimento Mais Surf [Mais Surf Development Association] (ADMS), based in Figueira da Foz, positions itself as a territorial development agent that uses surfing as a tool for social inclusion, coastal valorisation, and environmental education. More than an organisation focused only on surfing, it promotes a contemporary maritime culture in which the sea becomes a space for learning, citizenship, sustainability, and creativity.

Its connection to the ocean is both structural and identity-based. Through training programmes, community initiatives, and events, ADMS fosters an active and responsible relationship with the coastline, encouraging environmentally conscious practices and strengthening the bond between youth, territory, and the ocean. The valorisation of the coastal landscape as a space for well-being and cultural expression reinforces the beautiful dimension, in line with the principles of the Atlantic territory.

ADMS is also responsible for organising the Gliding Barnacles Festival. This event represents the most visible expression of its holistic approach to the relationship with the sea. It serves as a strategic platform for



Traditional salt pans in Figueira da Foz, a living example of Atlantic coastal production landscapes and maritime cultural heritage. Photo: AD ELO.

hosting the SEALabHaus regional seminars, creating a meaningful articulation between a cultural event, community mobilisation, and structured reflection on maritime culture and blue tourism. Within the RAG framework, ADMS contributes to promoting youth engagement, sea-related economy, and active participation, thereby strengthening both the together and sustainable values within territorial strategies.

❷ Associação de Marketing e Promoção Turística

The *Associação de Marketing e Promoção Turística* [Association for Tourism Marketing and Promotion] (AMPT) plays a structuring role in positioning the coastal territory as a sustainable and competitive destination within the Atlantic context. Its work goes beyond conventional tourism promotion, contributing to the construction of a territorial narrative that highlights maritime identity, landscape, and endogenous resources.



Blue tourism

Its connection to the sea is reflected in the integration of coastal culture, blue tourism, and ocean-related events into a positioning strategy that seeks to balance economic attractiveness with environmental responsibility. By promoting the coastline as a strategic asset, AMPT enhances the beautiful dimension of the NEB's principles, improving the quality of the landscape and the coastal experience. The AMPT also embodies the sustainable dimension by encouraging practices aimed at preserving the natural heritage.

Within the Portuguese RAG framework, the association brings its expertise in territorial marketing, partner coordination, and the structuring of tourism offerings, supporting the consolidation of an integrated vision for the development of maritime culture. Its contribution enhances the group's capacity to transform local identity into strategic value within the Atlantic space.

Members: Portugal

Organisation	Location	Perspectives
● Associação Diogo de Azambuja	Montemor-o-Velho	Training and professionalisation
● ADEPE: Associação para o Desenvolvimento de Peniche	Peniche	Training and professionalisation
● ADMS: Associação de Desenvolvimento + surf	Figueira da Foz	Art and culture
● AMPT: Associação De Marketing E Promoção Turística	Coimbra	Blue tourism
● ANP|WWF Portugal: Associação Natureza Portugal	Lisboa	Sustainability
● Bind'Ó Peixe: Associação cultural	Vila do Conde	Art and culture
● Eduardo Manuel Torres dos Santos Laires Martins	Porto	Art and culture
● Helder Luís Moreira da Silva	Póvoa de Varzim	Art and culture
● Lais de Guia Associação	Vila do Conde	Blue tourism
● Centro de Ciências do Mar e do Ambiente (MARE), Universidade de Coimbra	Coimbra	Sustainability
● Cineclube Octopus	Póvoa de Varzim	Art and culture
● Quadrante Alternativo, Lda	Rebordosa	Architecture
● SOS Cabedelo	Figueira da Foz	Sustainability
● Universidade do Minho, Lab2PT	Guimarães	Architecture
● Universidad Lusófona, Centro Universitário do Porto	Porto	Blue tourism
● Pós-doutoramento UP	Porto	Architecture
● CoimbraMaisFuturo	Coimbra	Training and professionalisation
● PNAES RC "A comer é que a gente se entende"	Coimbra	Sustainability
● Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto	Porto	Architecture
● Joao Silveira Serejo	Lisbon	Architecture
● Centro de Investigação Vaco da Gama	Coímbra	Sustainability
● Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing (ESPM)	Lisboa/ Río de Janeiro	Blue tourism
● PNAES RC "A comer é que a gente se entende"	Coímbra	Art and culture

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❸ SOS Cabedelo



Sustainability

SOS Cabedelo represents an expression of active citizenship focused on the sustainability of the coastal area of Figueira da Foz. More than a movement of critical reflection, it positions itself as a relevant interlocutor in developing balanced solutions for coastal management by integrating environmental concerns, the social use of the beach, and the valorisation of the Atlantic landscape.

Its connection to the sea is structural: it operates directly within a territory that is vulnerable to coastal dynamics and climate change, promoting an informed and participatory approach to erosion, public intervention, and the preservation of surf areas and sand drifts. By reinforcing environmental awareness within the community and fostering well-informed debate, it contributes to a more responsible and sustainable maritime culture.

Within the RAG framework, SOS Cabedelo introduces a collaborative perspective, ensuring that strategies related to blue tourism and maritime art and culture incorporate principles of ecological sustainability and civic participation. Its action reinforces simultaneously the beautiful, together, and sustainable dimensions, ensuring that coastal development is conceived as a shared, balanced, and long-term process.

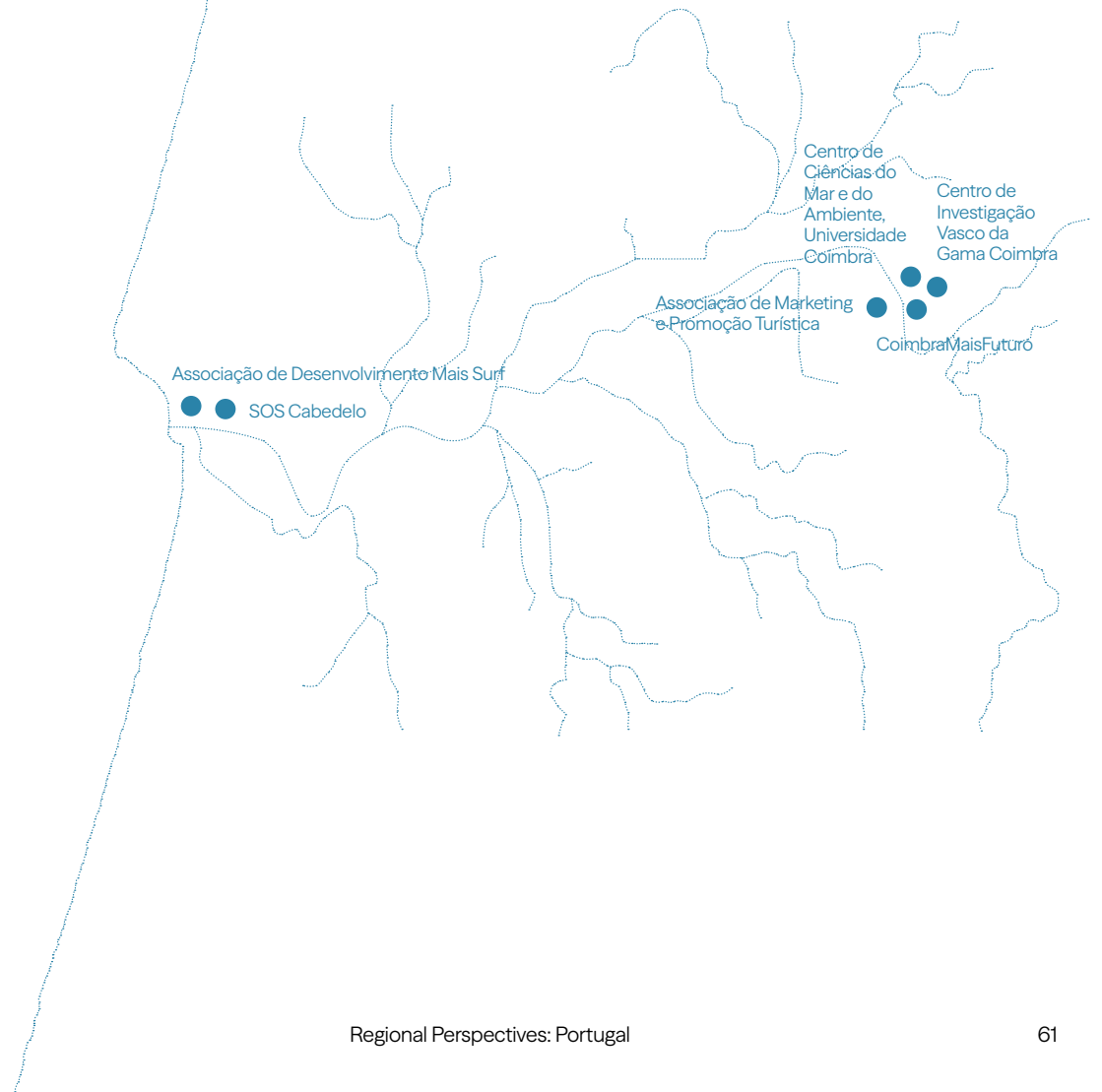
❹ Centro de Ciências do Mar e do Ambiente, Universidade Coimbra



Sustainability

The *Centro de Ciências do Mar e do Ambiente* [Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre] (MARE), with a Regional Research Unit integrated within the research cluster of the University of Coimbra (UC), through the Marine Ecosystems Lab (MAREFOZ), constitutes a research and territorial engagement hub focused on the relationship between community and ocean. This dual dimension—academic and territorial—enables the articulation of scientific knowledge with the concrete challenges of the coastal area.

Its connection to the sea is both structural and territorially based. Through applied research projects, ocean literacy initiatives, and community engagement actions, MARE promotes an integrated understanding of coastal dynamics, Atlantic ecosystems, and the implications of climate change. By bridging science and society, it strengthens an informed and participatory maritime culture.


Centro de Ciências do Mar e do Ambiente, Universidade Coimbra
Centro de Investigação Vasco da Gama Coimbra
Associação de Marketing e Promoção Turística
CoimbraMaisFuturo
Associação de Desenvolvimento Mais Surf
SOS Cabedelo

Within the RAG framework, the Laboratory for Oceanology MARE provides a fundamental scientific basis to support strategies related to ecosystems, maritime culture, and blue tourism. Its work contributes to evidence-based decision-making, reinforcing the sustainable dimension, while fostering dialogue between academia, the community, and local institutions, thereby consolidating the value of togetherness in the development of the coastal territory.

❺ Centro de Investigação Vasco da Gama Coimbra

The Vasco da Gama Research Centre (CIVG) is the research unit of the Vasco da Gama University School (EUVG) in Coimbra. It conducts applied research in veterinary, biological, and environmental sciences, with a strong focus on the European Commission One Health project, well-being, and sustainability. From a leading academic hub in the centre region of Portugal, CIVG establishes a strategic link between scientific knowledge and the challenges of the Atlantic coastal territory.



Sustainability
Training and professionalisation

Its connection to the sea is established, first and foremost, through EUVG's Bachelor's Degree in Marine Health and Welfare, an innovative academic programme focused on the sustainable management and restoration of marine ecosystems, closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), e.g., SDG 14–Life below water. This vision positions the ocean as a structural pillar of public health, quality of life, and sustainable development, fully resonating with the sustainable dimension—one of the core principles of the NEB's values.

Within the RAG framework, CIVG contributes a distinctive scientific and educational dimension, promoting empirical data decision-making and strengthening the articulation between coastal and inland territories. Its intervention broadens maritime culture beyond the traditional blue economy, integrating knowledge, innovation, and skills development into the strategic development of the coastal territory.



Training and professionalisation

❻ CoimbraMaisFuturo

The initiative *CoimbraMaisFuturo* [CoimbraMoreFuture] is a non-profit association dedicated to promoting integrated strategies for the economic, social, and territorial development of the Coimbra region. With a vision focused on innovation, sustainability, and interinstitutional cooperation, it positions itself as a platform for articulation between public, private, and academic stakeholders.

Based in the city of Coimbra, strategically positioned along the Mondego River basin—the largest river entirely within Portuguese territory—and connected to the Atlantic coastline, its action encompasses the coastal territory of the centre region, recognising the strategic importance of the sea–river relationship in regional development. Its connection to water environments is reflected in its support for initiatives that promote the blue economy, sustainable tourism, and territorial innovation, fostering synergies between coastal and more inland areas.

Within the RAG framework, CoimbraMaisFuturo contributes a strategic vision of planning and development, helping to frame maritime culture and blue tourism within a logic of territorial competitiveness and medium to long-term sustainability. On the one hand, its capacity for institutional mobilisation and partnership-building reinforces the together dimension; on the other hand, the integration of innovation and co-friendliness into regional strategies consolidates the sustainable dimension of the project. In doing so, it contributes to transforming Atlantic identity into a structured opportunity for development.

ULPGC
University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Regional Perspectives Within the Atlantic Community: V. Canary Islands

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TERRITORIAL CONTEXT. INSULAR CHALLENGES

The Canary archipelago constitutes an Atlantic territory defined by its insular condition, its geostrategic position between Europe, Africa, and the Americas, and its historical connection to the sea. In this context, the ocean has simultaneously served as a route of connection, an economic foundation, and a structuring element of landscape and collective identity. Insularity has generated opportunities—mobility, exchange, and openness—but also persistent challenges: logistical dependence, pressure on natural resources, and the need for development models that integrate sustainability and social cohesion.

In Gran Canaria, this relationship with the sea is particularly visible. The city of Las Palmas has developed in close connection with its port and coastline, forming a system in which maritime infrastructures, urban beaches, historic districts, cultural spaces, and productive areas coexist within a continuous coastal environment. Port and logistics activities, ship repair, nautical services, tourism, and higher education are part of an economic and social ecosystem deeply linked to the sea, in which the shoreline functions both as a workspace and as a setting for everyday life.

This maritime importance is also evident in urban transitions. The axis connecting the port with the coastal front and emblematic spaces such as Las Canteras illustrates how the city negotiates diverse purposes—industry, mobility, leisure, and landscape—within a limited and highly demanded space. Added to this is the environmental vulnerability inherent to insular coastlines, which requires protection and regeneration measures as well as planning strategies that integrate accessibility and equity.

Gran Canaria faces significant challenges: pressure on coastal ecosystems, the need to regenerate degraded areas, professionalisation of the maritime-port sector, and the consolidation of a shared environmental culture. This context makes the island an appropriate location for developing initiatives within the framework of SEALabHaus, integrating architecture, sea and sustainability, blue tourism, art and culture, and professionalisation and training from a coherent territorial perspective, in which sustainability is understood as a balance between economic activity, cultural heritage, and social well-being.

REGIONAL ACTION GROUP

The Canarian Regional Action Group (RAG) comprises a broad network of entities operating in complementary fields: the maritime-productive sector, architecture and urban planning, culture and heritage, and secondary and university education. The institutions described in this document are part of a wider structure that includes additional actors committed to the sustainable development of the coastline. This configuration combines sectoral knowledge, innovation capacity, and social legitimacy, connecting local realities with an Atlantic and transnational outlook.

The diversity of the RAG enables a transversal approach to the five SEALabHaus topics, not as isolated compartments but as interrelated dimensions. Stakeholders linked to the maritime-port system and the nautical economy contribute particularly to sea and sustainability, blue tourism, and professionalisation and training, thereby reinforcing sustainable value chains, skilled employment, and sector modernisation. Secondary schools and universities consolidate the training dimension, ensuring knowledge transfer, generational continuity, and the updating of competences in strategic fields. Cultural and heritage actors activate art and culture, promoting the sea as a source of identity and as a space for cultural mediation and environmental awareness. Finally, professionals in architecture contribute intervention capacity in coastal areas, improving accessibility, spatial quality, and regeneration strategies.

Taken together, this structure aligns with the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB): beautiful, sustainable, and together. Beautiful, as a value, is reflected in the attention to the quality of public space, coastal landscape, and the cultural dimension of interventions. Sustainable materialises in environmental regeneration, professional training, continuity of traditional skills, and responsible practices in relation to the sea. Finally, together is expressed through intersectoral cooperation and the involvement of multiple institutional and generational levels, reinforcing the coastline as a shared common good.



View of Mount Teide (Tenerife) from Pico de las Nieves (Gran Canaria), 2008.
Wikimedia Commons. Photo: T. Hisgett.

Members: Canary Islands

Organisation	Location	Perspectives
● Arquitectura ANCA	Las Palmas	Architecture
● Concejalía de Cultura, Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● Concejalía de Desarrollo Estratégico, Sostenibilidad y Energía, Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Las Palmas	Sustainability
● Biblioteca Universitaria ULPGC	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● Consejería de Cultura, Cabildo de Gran Canaria	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● Casa Museo Pérez Galdós	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● Cátedra Marítimo-Portuaria PORMAR	Las Palmas	Sustainability
● Cátedra UNESCO de Turismo y Desarrollo Económico Sostenible	Las Palmas	Blue tourism
● Consorcio Casa África	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● ECCA social	Las Palmas	Training and professionalisation
● Escuela Universitaria de Turismo de Lanzarote	Tahiche	Blue tourism
● FEMEPA: Federación Provincial de la Pequeña y Mediana Empresa del Metal y Nuevas Tecnologías de las Palmas	Las Palmas	Training and professionalisation
● FEMEPA: Área profesional de la náutica de recreo	Las Palmas	Training and professionalisation
● Fundación Juan Brito	Lanzarote	Art and culture
● IATEXT: Instituto Universitario de Análisis y Aplicaciones Textuales	Las Palmas	Art and culture
● IU-ECOAQUA: Instituto Universitario de Investigación en Acuicultura Sostenible y Ecosistemas Marinos	Telde	Sustainability
● IES Noroeste	Guía	Training and professionalisation
● Marca Púrpura – Asociación de mujeres arquitectas canarias	Gran Canarias	Architecture
● Skal Internacional de Gran Canaria	Playa del Inglés	Blue tourism
● Turismo de Gran Canaria	Las Palmas	Blue tourism
● IES Pérez Galdós	Las Palmas	Training and professionalisation

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KEY MEMBERS

The following organisations illustrate the heterogeneity and transversality of the Canarian RAG. They are key members of the group, representing different areas of work, such as sustainable development, inclusive cultural industries, accessible architectural intervention, memory, and blue tourism, among others.



Training and professionalisation
Blue tourism
Sustainability

❶ FEMEPA

The *Federación de la Pequeña y Mediana Empresa del Metal y Nuevas Tecnologías de Las Palmas* [Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Metal and New Technologies Sector of Las Palmas] (FEMEPA) plays a strategic role in connecting the maritime business ecosystem with specialised training and capacity building in the nautical sector. Its activity lies at the intersection of sea and sustainability, blue tourism, and professionalisation and training, articulating a vision in which sustainability is closely linked to repair, upkeep, and transfer of technical knowledge.

FEMEPA brings together companies involved in ship repair and maintenance—painting, carpentry, engines, and electrical systems—as well as the sale of nautical equipment, sails, and accessories, grouped within AENAUTICA. This business ecosystem is strongly rooted in the port and the urban situation of Gran Canaria. It is a key component of the local blue economy. Its relevance is reflected in both the number of its members and its capacity to generate employment and economic activity in the province.

Since 2018, FEMEPA has promoted the restoration of shipbuilding carpentry training, a traditional craft that had nearly disappeared in the archipelago. This initiative addresses the need to preserve technical competences required for the maintenance and restoration of vessels, which are essential for the sustainability of value chains associated with nautical tourism. From a strategic perspective, the continuation of these skills reinforces the destination's competitiveness: High-quality blue tourism requires specialised services, technical capacity, and the conservation of a culture that reduces impacts and extends the lifespan of assets.

The collaboration with La Rochelle introduces a transnational dimension that encourages knowledge exchange and training mobility. The coordination with the municipal department responsible for maritime affairs further connects training, internships, and the productive environment, improving technical competencies and even intangible skills, such as languages in professional contexts. This approach regards training as a lever for sustainability: Sustaining the blue economy requires sustaining the knowledge that underpins it.

❷ Marca Púrpura



Architecture
Art and culture

The *Marca Púrpura* [Purple Mark] initiative contributes to the RAG by focusing on two of SEALAB's main topics, architecture and art and culture, and by incorporating an inclusive and situated perspective in the analysis of urban-coastal space. Its contribution is strategic because it brings contemporary debates—right to the city, accessibility, care, and participation—into the coastal context, linking design and culture with the real uses of public space.

Through initiatives such as Gender, Architecture, and City (GAC), first held in 2019, the association introduced a framework that connects architecture, urban planning, and gender perspectives within the insular urban experience. This has been complemented by the Festival of Women Architects of the Canary Islands (FMAC), launched in 2024, which highlighted professional contributions and built accessible archives that preserve memory and narrative within the architectural field.

The association has also promoted participatory methodologies—such as exploratory walks along routes connecting the port, city, and beach—by analysing mobility, accessibility, safety, and spatial quality from an inclusive perspective. These actions contributed to a broader understanding of urban sustainability by integrating social and cultural dimensions into the coastline design and planning.

Within SEALabHaus, its contribution reinforces the role of architecture as a tool for analysing and transforming coastal public space, and of art and culture as a framework for social mediation: Intervening on the coast is not only a matter of infrastructure, but of experience, belonging, and equity.



Architecture
Art and culture
Sustainability

❸ Arquitectura ANCA

Arquitectura ANCA's [ANCA Architecture] intervention in coastal areas operates at the intersection of architecture, sea and sustainability, and art and culture, demonstrating how coastal regeneration can integrate environmental criteria, universal accessibility, and the cultural valorisation of landscape. Its approach is particularly relevant as it offers a transferable model for other insular territories: small-scale interventions aimed at reconfiguring relationships between citizens, the coast, and the natural environment. The project at Playa de Charcos de Valleseco (Tenerife) is a good example of this line of work: the intervention and improvement of a degraded coastal area, the recovery of spaces for public use, the creation of new access points to the sea by removing architectural barriers, and the enhancement of the surrounding landscape. These elements directly connect with the SEALabHaus approach, in which sustainability is not limited to protection but also involves reactivating spaces and making them inclusive.

From an architecture perspective, the Valleseco Beach project emphasises the quality of public space and landscape integration. From a sea and sustainability viewpoint, it promotes a more responsible relationship with the coastline, preventing degradation through abandonment and encouraging compatible uses. From an art and culture lens, it reinforces the idea of landscape as shared heritage, in which design helps to recognise the value of place and consolidates new forms of engagement with the sea.

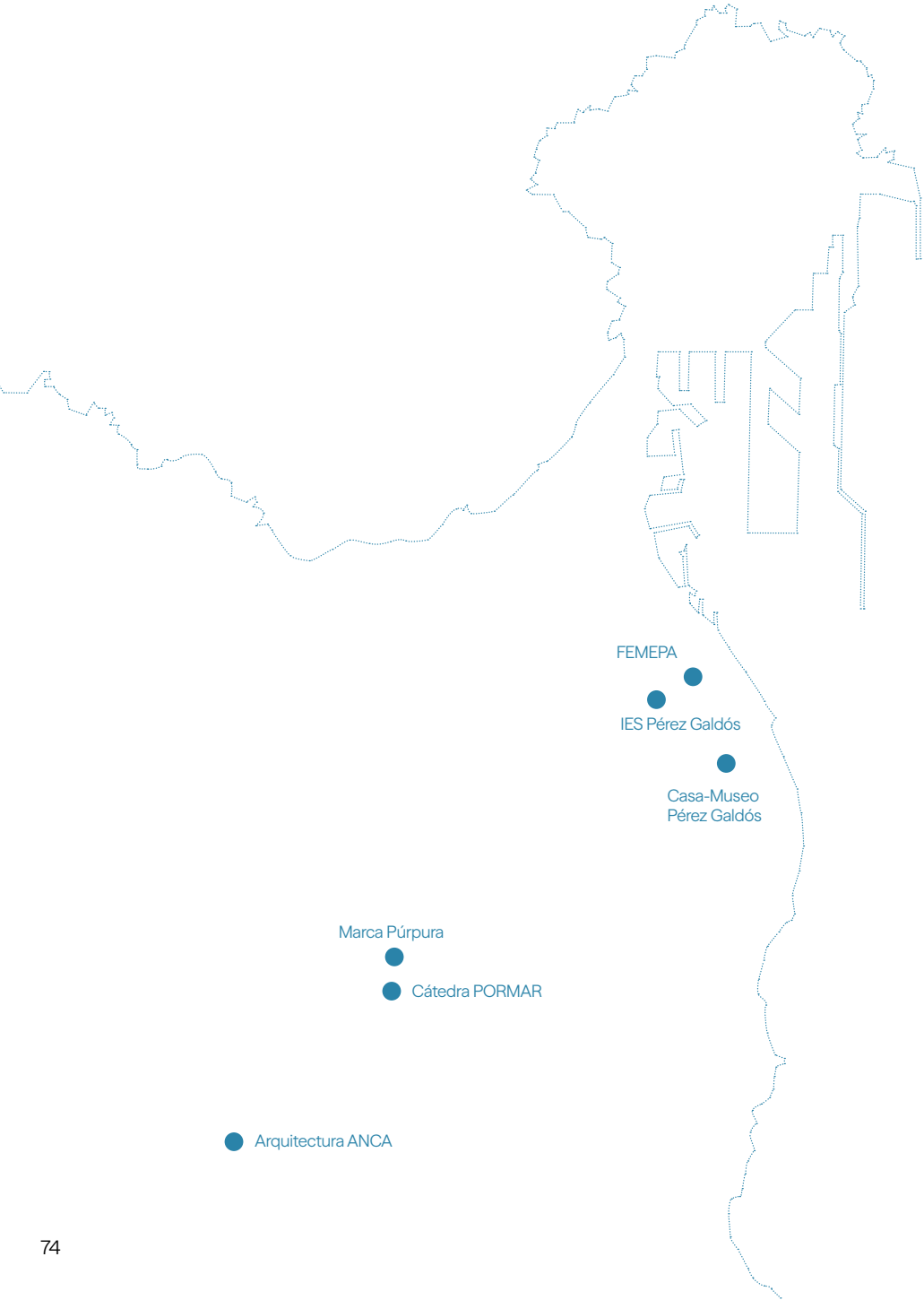


Training and
professionalisation

❹ IES Pérez Galdós

The *Instituto de Educación Secundaria Pérez Galdós* [Pérez Galdós Institute of Secondary Education] (IES) develops initiatives aligned with art, culture, and sustainability, integrating education, artistic creation, and collective memory as tools to strengthen the link between communities and their land. Its contribution is strategic for two reasons: It introduces younger generations to reflection on the sea and expands the concept of sustainability to include intangible heritage and community narratives.

The project *Conservar: memoria familiar del IES Pérez Galdós* [Preserving: Family Memories of IES Pérez Galdós] combines photography, historical archives, and oral narratives around the intergenerational relationship with the coastal environment. The methodology includes research into family memory and school archives, documen-


FEMEPA
IES Pérez Galdós
Casa-Museo
Pérez Galdós
Marca Púrpura
Cátedra PORMAR
Arquitectura ANCA

tation of the island's intangible heritage, and the staging of results through photography and storytelling. It integrates old family photographs, contemporary studio portraits, and handwritten accounts collected from historical school records, reinforcing the documentary and symbolic value of the process.

The project also includes an exhibition and installation dimension: recorded testimonies projected onto a shelf filled with jars containing portraits, creating a screen of memory that transforms conservation into an active cultural experience. Sustainability is thus understood not only as care for the environment but also as care for memory—preserving the stories and bonds that shape identity.

The school radio station Onda PG broadcasts this content through podcasts and supports the communication of SEALabHaus principles within the educational context, broadening impact and reinforcing student participation as cultural and environmental content producers.



Sustainability

❺ Cátedra PORMAR

The *Cátedra Marítimo-Portuaria* [Chair of Maritime and Port Studies] (PORMAR), established by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), promotes blue tourism, sustainability, and professionalisation and training from a structural perspective: enhancing competences and knowledge in the maritime sector, a key area to the Canary Islands' economy. In a territory where maritime connectivity is essential, the maritime-port system requires qualified professionals capable of integrating management, logistics, sustainability, and quality standards.

The training promoted by the chair targets undergraduate and master's students as well as active professionals, addressing the needs identified by both the maritime sector and academia. Through technical port visits, practical workshops, and advanced seminars, it connects theory and practice and facilitates applied learning in fields such as maritime management, sustainability, and port logistics.

Within SEALabHaus, this contribution is strategic for consolidating sustainable blue tourism. In this regard, sea-related tourism depends on efficient infrastructure, responsible governance, and professionals capable of incorporating environmental criteria into decision-making. The professionalisation of the maritime-port system thus becomes an enabling condition for a competitive and responsible Atlantic coastline.

❻ Casa Museo Pérez Galdós



Art and culture

The *Casa Museo Pérez Galdós* [Pérez Galdós House-Museum] contributes to the art and culture axis as both a heritage institution and an active cultural venue. Its relevance within the RAG lies in its ability to address current issues—including the relationship with the sea—through accessible cultural formats that are appealing to diverse audiences, particularly from an educational and intergenerational perspective.

Beyond conserving and promoting the work of Benito Pérez Galdós, this institution develops activities that connect literature, city, and maritime environment, reinforcing culture as a mediator between memory and present concerns. Within this framework, the initiative entitled *Si los peces hablaran...* [If Fish Could Talk...], held on 22 April 2025, was conceived as an interactive musical programme for children. It combined music, storytelling, and environmental education to raise awareness about ocean protection and encourage responsible habits.

Such programming fosters the museum's strategic role within SEALabHaus by using art and culture as tools to raise awareness and as a space for the contemporary interpretation of the coastline. Culture appears not as a mere complement but as a tool for building citizenship, raising awareness, and sustaining—at a symbolic and educational level—the relationship between community and sea.

UDC
University of A Coruña

Conclusions: The Atlantic Community as a Transferable Model

The Atlantic Community is both a key outcome of the SEALabHaus project and a forward-looking framework for transnational cooperation in maritime contexts. Designed to be more than a project-specific network, the Atlantic Community offers a transferable model based on co-design, shared learning, and multi-actor collaboration. This model aligns with the core values of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) and is capable of supporting long-term territorial transformation.

The Atlantic Community's transferability lies in its combination of flexible governance and place-based engagement. By articulating Regional Action Groups (RAGs) as spaces of situated knowledge and connecting them through transnational encounters and a shared digital environment, this initiative facilitates the circulation of ideas, practices, and experiences across regions. At the same time, it remains responsive to local specifics. Besides, this multi-level configuration enables diverse institutional and cultural contexts to participate without imposing a uniform structure.

A defining feature of the model is its process-oriented approach. Rather than prescribing fixed solutions, the Atlantic Community promotes experimentation, learning by doing, and collective intelligence as ways of addressing complex maritime challenges. Through the progressive application of the participatory principles set out in the NEB Compass—from consultation to co-development and, where possible, shared responsibility—the model gradually empowers regional actors and consolidates collaborative practices over time.

Looking ahead, the continuity of the Atlantic Community will depend on its ability to maintain these dynamics beyond the formal end of the SEALabHaus project. The relationships, methodologies, and shared references established through RAGs, regional seminars, and the transnational forums provide a solid foundation for ongoing cooperation and knowledge transfer. As a living framework linking maritime culture, sustainability, and innovation through inclusive, design-led processes, the Atlantic Community has the potential to serve as both a project legacy and a source of inspiration for future initiatives that address shared maritime challenges in an integrated, value-driven manner.



SEALabHaus partners at the Maspalomas lighthouse in Gran Canaria in 2025. Photo: SEALabHaus.

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