



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



**ECOP**  
Early Career  
Ocean Professionals

# ECOP Germany

Starting the journey

20 September 2023

Sandra Ketelhake, Cora Hörstmann, et al.

# Contents



- The UN Ocean Decade
- German National Decade Committee
- Global ECOP Programme
- ECOP Germany: Insights into the development phase
- Q&A

# Key Facts UN Ocean Decade



- Period: January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2030
  - 10 Years. 10 Challenges. 1 Ocean.
- **Main Goals** of the Decade:
  - Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Strengthening the management of our Ocean and International cooperation
  - Contributing to UN protection processes
  - Improving the scientific knowledge (capacity development & exchange)
  - Building on existing partnerships and technologies/infrastructures and create new ones
- **Core Principles**
  - Equity, inclusiveness, respect, fairness and scientific integrity
- **Conferences**
  - First International UN Ocean Decade Conference: May 31 to June 2, 2021 in Berlin, Germany
  - [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#), April 10 to 12 in Barcelona, Spain

# Vision and Mission

Vision:  
**The science we need for the ocean we want.**

Mission:  
**Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.**



Figure: Decade Action Framework

# The 7 Ocean Decade Outcomes describe the Ocean We Want:



## A clean ocean

where sources of pollution are identified and reduced or removed.



## A healthy and resilient ocean

where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored and managed.



## A productive ocean

supporting sustainable food supply and a sustainable ocean economy.



## An inspiring and engaging ocean

where society understands and values the ocean in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development.



## A predicted ocean

where society understands and can respond to changing ocean conditions.



## A safe ocean

where life and livelihoods are protected from ocean-related hazards.



## An accessible ocean

with open and equitable access to data, information and technology and innovation.

# Knowledge and Solutions Challenges



**Challenge 1:** Understand and map land and sea-based sources of **pollutants and contaminants** and their potential impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to remove or mitigate them.



**Challenge 2:** Understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to **monitor, protect, manage and restore ecosystems** and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.



**Challenge 3:** Generate **knowledge, support innovation, and develop solutions** to optimise the role of the ocean in **sustainably feeding** the world's population under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.



**Challenge 4:** Generate knowledge, support innovation, and develop solutions for equitable and sustainable development of the **ocean economy** under changing environmental, social and climate conditions



**Challenge 5:** Enhance understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and generate knowledge and solutions to **mitigate, adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change** across all geographies and at all scales, and to improve services including **predictions for the ocean, climate and weather**.

# Essential Infrastructure & Foundational Challenges



**Challenge 6:** Enhance **multi-hazard early warning services** for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, climate and anthropogenic related ocean and coastal hazards, and mainstream community preparedness and resilience.



**Challenge 7:** Ensure a **sustainable ocean observing system** across all ocean basins that delivers accessible, timely, and actionable data and information to all users.



**Challenge 8:** Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, develop a comprehensive **digital representation of the ocean**, including a dynamic ocean map, which provides free and open access for exploring, discovering, and visualizing past, current, and future ocean conditions in a manner relevant to diverse stakeholders.



**Challenge 9:** Ensure comprehensive **capacity development** and equitable access to data, information, knowledge and technology across all aspects of ocean science and for all stakeholders.



**Challenge 10:** Ensure that the **multiple values and services of the ocean** for human wellbeing, culture, and sustainable development are widely understood, and identify and **overcome barriers to behaviour change** required for a step change in humanity's relationship with the ocean.

# Key Actors of the UN Ocean Decade



- Natural, social science and humanities disciplines
- Business and industry
- Governments
- UN entities
- Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)
- NGOs and civil society
- Educators
- Early Career Ocean Professionals
- Ocean sports and recreation organisations
- Arts and cultural communities
- Indigenous and local knowledge holders

**Partnerships and active communication (co-design and co-delivery) are at the heart of the Decade.**



# German Ocean Decade Committee

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2021  
2030

Vereinte Nationen Dekade  
der Meeresforschung  
für nachhaltige Entwicklung

# Tasks of the German Decade Committee

To publicise the UN Ocean Decade in Germany, support national activities and act as a link between national and international activities.

Developing sustainable solutions in the human-sector relationship with German stakeholders.

Communicate the importance of the Ocean and the Decade.

Involving German actors and networks in the work of the Decade.

The mobilisation of resources from all sectors of society.

For more info:

<https://ozeandekade.de>

(new website to be launched at the end of September)

Follow LinkedIn-Page:

[Deutsches Komitee der UN-Ozeandekade \(ODK\)](#)



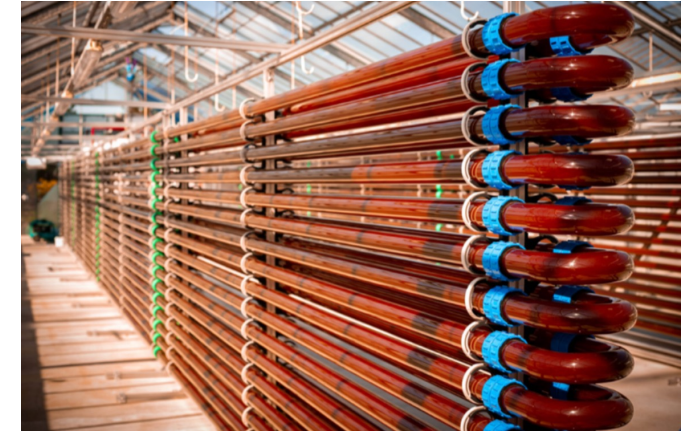
**2021**  
**2030** Vereinte Nationen Dekade  
der Meeresforschung  
für nachhaltige Entwicklung

# Working Groups German Decade Committee



## Education and Society

Contact: Gesine Meissner



## Economy

Contact: Steffen Knodt



## Media and Public Relations

Contact: Karin Lochte

## Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)

Contact: Cora Hörstmann



Note: Working groups are open to everyone who is interested.

# Levels of Decade Action

## Decade Programme

- Global or regional in scale
- Fulfils one or more of the Decade objectives
- Long-term (multi-year), interdisciplinary and typically multi-national.
- Includes component projects, and enabling activities.

## Decade Project

- Discrete and focused undertaking of a shorter duration.
- Will typically contribute to an identified Decade programme

## Decade Activity

- In support of an outcome, objective, programme, or project.
- Typically a one-off standalone activity
- Can form part of a programme or project or can relate directly to a Decade objective.

## Decade Contribution

- Supports the Decade through provision of a necessary resource
- Can be either for costs related to the implementation of a Decade Action or for coordination costs.

# Early Career Ocean Professional Programme



## Vision

To elevate and strengthen the diverse perspectives of new generations of ocean professionals through a collective voice, ensuring that knowledge is transferred between experienced professionals and ECOPs, to promote ocean sustainability for “The Ocean We Want”.



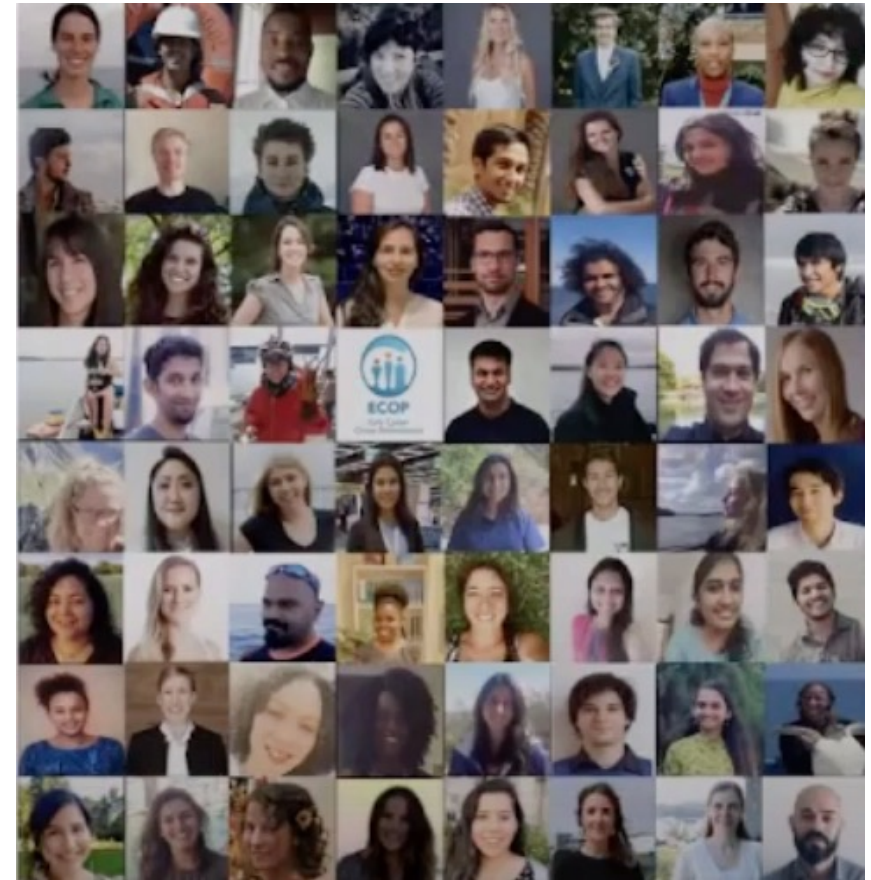
## Mission

To incorporate new ways of thinking into global ocean sustainability and stewardship challenges. The ECOP programme will achieve this by empowering ECOPs with meaningful networking and professional development opportunities to engage with each other and with local to global institutions through the framework of the UN Ocean Decade.



# Who is an ECOP?

- A person that self-identifies as being early in their career (10 years or less of professional experience)
- Within any field related to the ocean
- Not only employed/paid positions
- Note: The term “professional” is used in order to be inclusive of professionals from many different sectors of society



# ECOP Programme

## How the journey started



2021  
2030  
United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

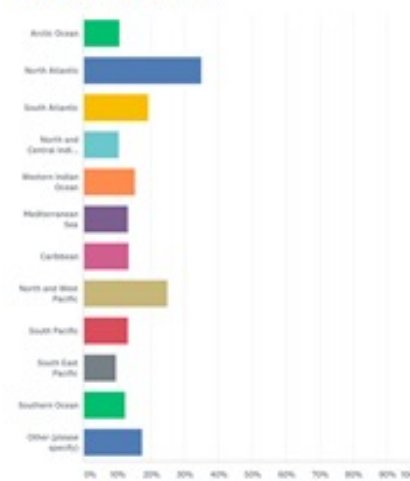


- Create a global network of ECOPs to foster **collaborations across geographies, disciplines, and sectors** to address and coordinate action towards achieving the objectives of the Decade.
- Provide **opportunities for ECOPs all around the world** to elevate their collective voice and participate in relevant ocean sustainability dialogue, particularly under the auspices of the Decade.
- Identify, create, and share **professional development opportunities** to advance ECOP careers while paving the way for the next generation, particularly for under-represented groups.
- Secure positions for ECOPs as members of working groups and structures coordinating activities related to the Decade.
- Secure **sources of funding** for ECOP related activities throughout the Decade and beyond.

### Global survey

1428 responses (end of March 2020)

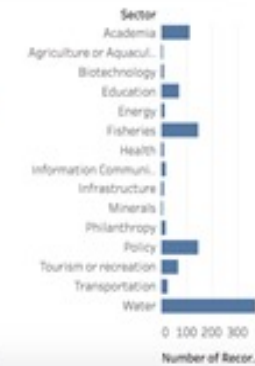
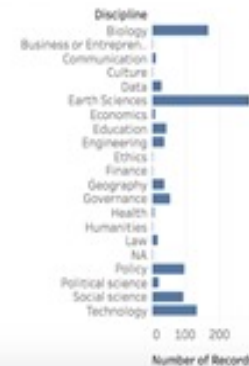
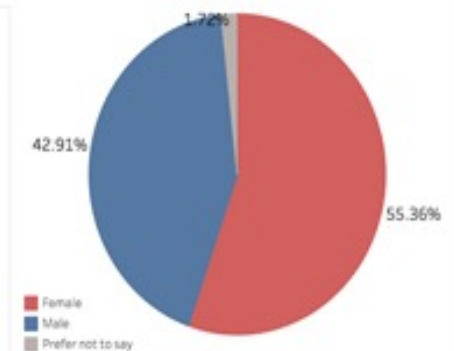
#### Ocean Basin



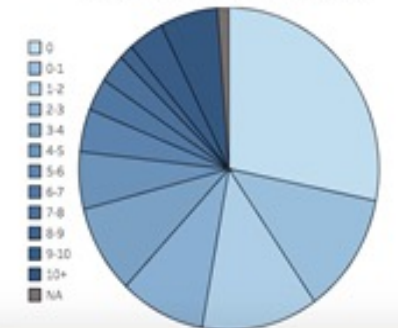
#### Where are the participants from?



#### Gender distribution



#### Years since professional degree



# Global ECOP Community

(> 3,400 members from 150 countries)



## 5 Regional Nodes

1. Africa
2. Asia
3. Caribbean
4. Central America
5. Europe

## 28 National Hubs

- Brazil
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Italy
- Japan
- Senegal
- USA
- Etc....

## 4 Task Teams

- ❖ Ocean Literacy,
- ❖ Training & Mentoring,
- ❖ Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (DEI),
- ❖ OceanBRIDGES,

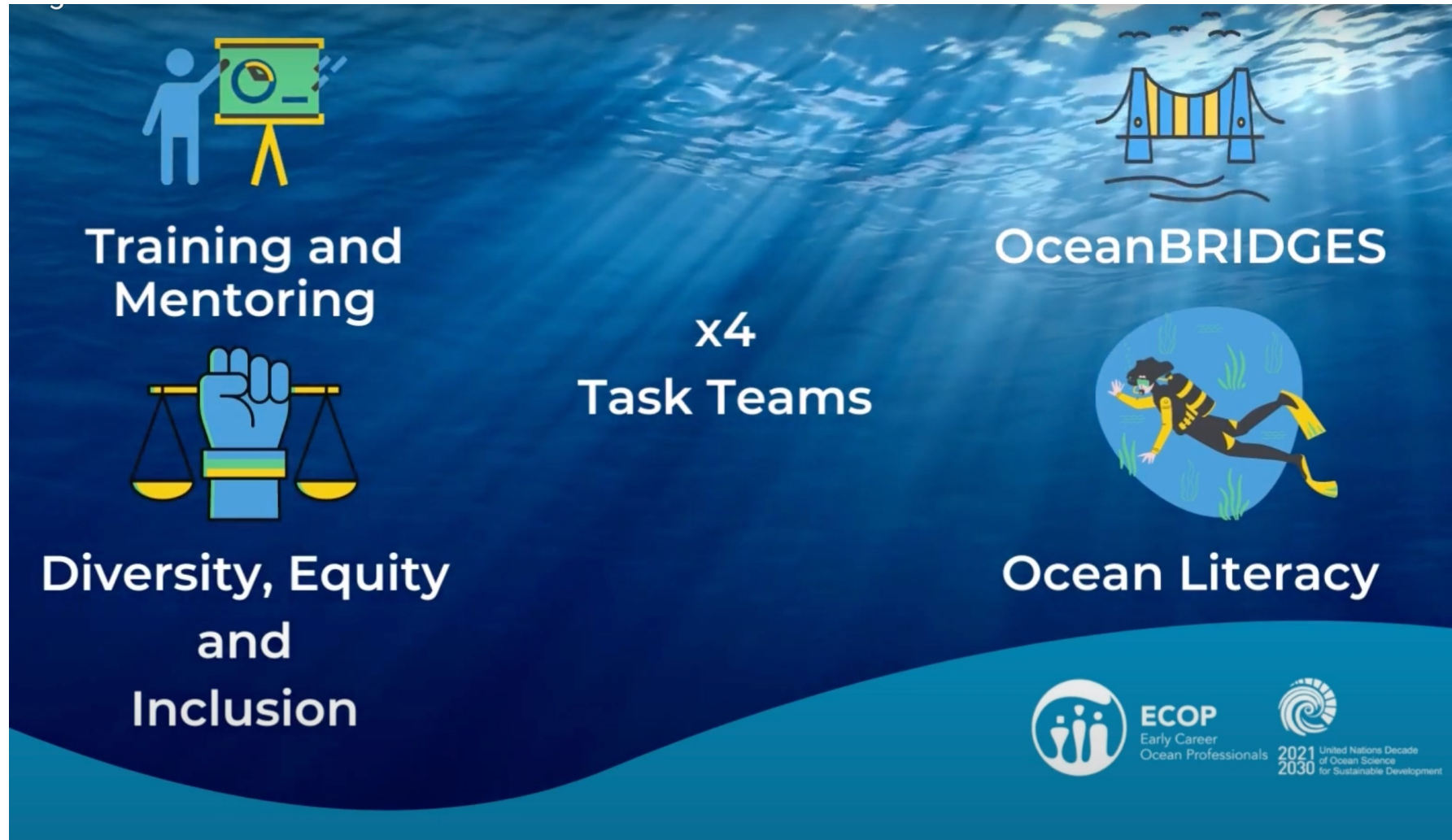



## 8 Endorsed Projects







# ECOP Programme Task Teams





  
**Training and Mentoring**

  
**Diversity, Equity  
and  
Inclusion**


**x4  
Task Teams**

  
**OceanBRIDGES**

  
**Ocean Literacy**

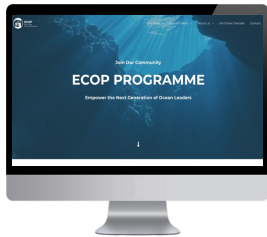


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# Get in touch



## Website:

<https://www.ecopdecade.org/>



**Email to:** [ecop.oceandecade@gmail.com](mailto:ecop.oceandecade@gmail.com)



Subscribe to our  
**monthly newsletter**



Join the ECOP group on the  
**Ocean Decade Network**



**Twitter:** @OceanDecadeECOP



**LinkedIn:** @Early Career Ocean Professionals



**Instagram:** @ecop\_programme



**Facebook:** @ecopprogramme



**YouTube:** @ecopprogramme

# ECOP Programme

## Regional and National Nodes

### ECOP Programme Global, Regional and National Node Coordinators



**Evgeniia Kostianaia**

ECOP Programme Global Coordinator  
& Consultant at IOC-UNESCO & P.P.  
Shirshov Institute of Oceanology,  
Geophysical Center, Russia



**Anthony Ndah**

Africa Node Coordinator



**Raphaël Roman**

Asia Node Coordinator



**Ashley Bowes**

Canada Node Coordinator



**Dr. Dayne Buddo**

Caribbean Node Coordinator



**Xochitl Édua Elías Ilosvay**

Central America Node Coordinator



**Kotaro Tanaka**

Japan Node Coordinator



**Yushi Morioka**

Japan Node Coordinator

# ECOP Regional Nodes

## Exemplary contents



### Goals and Objectives

## United States ECOP Node

### Join the U.S. Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) node

#### About Us

We are an affiliate of the Global ECOP program. The U.S. node addresses key requirements identified by U.S. ECOPs within the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

#### Our Mission

Listen to and identify the needs of diverse ECOPs, and empower them to become future leaders in ocean sustainability.

#### Get Involved

- Access our slack channel to connect with other ECOPs around the world
- Take part in social media campaigns
- Learn about relevant events, webinars, and job opportunities

CONTACT US AT

in coordination with Latin American and US regions.

### ECOP Asia Partners



Join the (WAMSS) EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONALS (ECOP) Network Programme

**ENHANCING CAPACITY AMONG AFRICAN EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONALS (ECOPS) FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT DURING THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE**

UN OCEAN DECADE EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONALS (ECOP-AFRICA) SIDE EVENT

Enabling collaborations among Early Career Ocean Professionals in Africa

20 AUGUST 2023

Featuring ECOP Programme's  
 Dr. Anthony Ndah - Africa coordinator  
 Evgeniia Kostianala - Global Coordinator  
 Plus many more ECOPs and experts from the African Continent

For more info visit: [ECOPDECADE.ORG](http://ECOPDECADE.ORG)

ECOP Italy is a network

- Promote ocean activities
- Inspire younger generations
- Share experience and knowledge
- Support and spread awareness
- Share job and career opportunities
- Raise our voices to be involved in policy making
- Promote the transdisciplinary approach
- Promote initiatives and projects

ECOP Canada  
 the diverse voices  
 network of ocean  
 needs outlined

1. Adapt to climate change
2. [Re]build coastal resilience
3. Develop sustainable blue economies
4. Support marine and coastal ecosystems
5. Support ocean governance and leadership

...capacities for ECOPs in Africa to network and actively engage in the ocean conservation agenda

...organizations, research institutions, businesses, government

...capacity development in Africa and its sub-regions.

...nt related activities for its members such as on-line

...responsible early career ocean citizenry, sound co

...concerns.

...neral success of the ECOP Global Programme

...to fill these needs.

...tories and Aquariums in the field of mar

...costs to allow Caribbean ECOPs to p

...areer mentors for Caribbean ECO

ons to promote

# ECOP Germany

## Draft Vision & Mission



### Vision:

**A strong network of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) in/from Germany that significantly contribute to achieving the outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.**

### Mission:

**To unite early-career ocean professionals to build a significant link between science, industry, and society. This includes**

- ECOPs have a voice of the UN Ocean Decade (outreach)
- To foster cross-generational exchange and participate in decision-making processes at all levels of projects and programmes related to the UN Ocean Decade. (ECOP representation in e.g. the National Committee)
- To support the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade in Germany (together with the German Ocean Decade Committee), Europe, and worldwide.
- ???

# ECOP Germany

## Guiding Questions for next steps



- Where do you think the Ocean Decade network can help to support ECOPs in/from Germany?
- Based on the Ocean Decade Outcomes & Challenges, what is your personal vision and mission for ECOP Germany?
- What would/could the ECOPs in/from Germany would/could do? What activities do you envision?
- Where do you see gaps in ECOP representation (within our network or in general)?
- What mechanisms can help to improve this representation?
- Who are possible partners?
- Which other ECOP networks do you know, and how would their goals differ from ours?

# ECOP Germany

Starting the journey for our national node



- Join networking/national group via this form: <https://forms.gle/MTy6EE8AGEfRSq5F7>
- Fill in survey so that we can identify and address the needs and priorities of ECOPs at a national scale (open until 15 December 2023)
  - English version: <https://forms.gle/iPGAHhSycciNXtc5A>
  - German version: <https://forms.gle/SUuxxx2zTEZeHVyu6>
- Share information within your (ECOP) networks
- Join the networking meeting after lunch (13:15 – 14:00) at the Info table 😊



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# Thanks for your attention!

Do you have further questions?

## Contact info

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Sandra Ketelhake ([sketelhake@geomar.de](mailto:sketelhake@geomar.de))