

RethinkBlue COST Action Mentorship Programme - Joint Publication

Call for Papers (Open Access book) – *Rethinking the Blue Economy: New Perspectives*

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We are pleased to announce a call for abstracts for a joint publication in the form of an open-access edited book. The aim of this joint publication project is twofold: first, to support young and early career researchers in the publication of a high-quality book chapter; and second, to allow young researchers to gain hands-on experience of the publishing process, from writing the paper, going through the review process, and publication. In addition, the mutual engagement with each other's contributions will allow contributors to gain a broader and deeper understanding of the research currently being carried out on different aspects of the Blue Economy, and together to rethink and develop a future research agenda.

Call for Abstracts

Given the deepening polycrisis due to human-induced climate change and biodiversity collapse, there is growing interest in the Blue Economy as a vehicle for fostering a more sustainable utilization of ocean resources while addressing social vulnerability and building social-ecological resilience in coastal zones. This edited book explores the potential impact of the Blue Economy in reimagining our relationships to marine and coastal ecosystems and examines the range of activities that both encourage environmental restoration while also moving beyond current extractivist economic growth models. Key research questions running throughout the book are, (1) what are the positive and/or negative impacts of Blue Economy developments to human well-being, social equity, and the economic and environmental sustainability of coastal societies? And (2) what are the potential opportunities for innovations and synergies across different sectors relating to the Blue Economy?

Broadly engaging five key themes, we welcome submissions related to

1. maritime occupations
2. food security & sustainable blue consumption
3. port cities & coastal communities

4. fisheries governance & emergent activities
5. climate change & natural hazards

Relevant **keywords** include, but are not limited to: Blue Economy, maritime governance and policy, socio-economic transformations, economic and environmental sustainability, coastal societies, islands, seafood, fisheries, shipping, emergent maritime activities, maritime occupations, seafaring, coastal and maritime tourism, climate change and natural hazards, community, citizen participation.

We seek submissions from Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs, *i.e.* under 40 years old) or early career researchers (ECRs, *i.e.* PhD students, or post docs, lecturers, or assistant professors with up to 7 years of experience post-PhD) who are members of the RethinkBlue COST Action (CA22122). While co-authors may be at various stages of their careers, first authors must be YRIs or ECRs.

Note: All authors (first authors and co-authors) who are interested in participating in this project but who are not members of the RethinkBlue Action, must apply for membership (see <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22122/>) prior to the abstract submission deadline. Only abstracts from Action members will be accepted; abstracts from contributors whose Action membership is under review may be accepted conditionally.

We welcome submissions from all disciplines engaging in Blue Economy themes and using related methodological approaches. While empirical contributions are preferred, theoretical, review-based, and methods papers will also be considered.

Abstract Submission Requirements

During the submission, you will be asked to provide the following details:

1. **Abstract:** 200–300 words clearly outlining the purpose of your research, the approach (*e.g.*, theory / methods used), and (if available) the principal (expected) results, and the major (expected) conclusions.
2. **Keywords:** up to five keywords
3. **Outline of paper (to be uploaded as a PDF file):** please provide a brief outline (about 1 page) of the key points/themes/research questions that you wish to address in your paper, including proposed headings and subheadings.
4. **Status:** Brief description of the current status of the paper (*e.g.*, literature started / completed; data collection started/completed).
5. **Context:** Brief information about the project that the manuscript emerges from (*e.g.*, PhD project). If applicable, please include PhD supervisor names and the funding source for the project.
6. **First Author / Corresponding Author:** Name, affiliation and contact details of the first author (who will also be the corresponding author of the paper).
7. **Co-authors (if applicable):** Names, affiliations and contact details (email, telephone, address) of co-authors.
8. **Bio:** A short biography (200 words) for the corresponding author.

9. **ORCID:** ORCID IDs for the first author and (if applicable) co-authors. (If you do not have an ORCID yet, please use this opportunity to create one for yourself at <https://orcid.org/>)

Timeline & Deadlines for Initial Submission

- **5 January 2025:** Deadline for submission of abstracts **17:00 CET**.
- **3 February 2025:** Notification of selected abstracts.

Preliminary timeline for the publication process:

- **February to July 2025:** Authors write first draft. During this period, to support the authors in their work and provide tips and insights regarding the publication process, webinars will be organized to cover topics related to scientific writing, review and publishing, among others.
- **Summer 2025:** Manuscripts will be sent for peer review to fellow contributors and editors. All authors (first authors and, if applicable, co-authors) will review one or more submissions from other contributors. Participation in the peer review process is mandatory for all first authors; co-authors are encouraged to participate.
- **September 2025:** Writing retreat to refine and revise submissions (date and location to be announced). It is expected that the first author will participate in the retreat. Funding for first authors will be available in accordance with COST procedures and the RethinkBlue Action's budget.
- **Autumn 2025:** Authors revise their manuscripts in light of the peer review feedback, with additional feedback from the editors if/as needed.
- **December 2025:** Deadline for final revisions, with a second review round for near-final drafts. All authors (first authors and, if applicable, co-authors) will review one or more submissions from other contributors. Participation in the peer review process is mandatory for all first authors; co-authors are encouraged to participate.
- **End of 2025 / Beginning of 2026:** Submission of the edited book to the publisher.
- **From Beginning of 2026:** Review of the manuscripts following the publisher's procedures, with guidance and support provided by the editors.
- **Late 2026 / early 2027: publication of the edited book**

Important Considerations

This is a phased process, and final inclusion in the book will depend on the quality, feedback, and final revisions of the manuscript. While the editors will support authors in delivering high-quality manuscripts through advice and feedback, please note that the editors reserve the right to exclude manuscripts at any stage during the process, for instance if the authors do not meet the expected deadlines, do not participate in mandatory activities, or do not deliver manuscripts of sufficient quality. Moreover, manuscripts may be excluded if they do not meet the standards of the book publisher's reviewers.

In addition, please note the following:

- **Mutual Feedback:** A collaborative spirit of constructive discussion and feedback is essential throughout the process.
- **Peer Review:** All contributors will actively participate in peer review. Each contributor will review one or more other submissions at several points during the process.
- **Participation in Webinars:** Attendance at webinars is expected for first authors.
- **Writing Retreat:** Participation in the September 2025 writing retreat is expected for the first author.
- **Working Language:** Please note that the publication will be in English. Correspondence and submissions must be in English. It is the authors' responsibility to ensure that the quality of writing in their manuscript is of a high standard of English.

Length and Format of Selected Papers

We anticipate the final chapters to be approximately 6,000–7,000 words. More specific formatting and submission guidelines will be provided upon acceptance of abstracts.

Submission Instructions

Please submit your abstracts and brief outline **by 17:00 CET, 5 January 2025** here:

https://response.questback.com/nordlandsforskning/rethinkblue_mentorship_book

We look forward to receiving your submissions and fostering a collaborative and dynamic process toward the final publication.

Contact

For any questions or further details, please contact the editorial team at mentorship-book@rethinkblue.eu.