

# RethinkBlue



## Call of Interest

Training School on  
Governance of blue  
economy in the Limfjord  
2025



## Overview

The COST Action [Rethinking the Blue Economy: Socio-Ecological Impacts and Opportunities](#) is pleased to announce a Training School on Blue Governance organized by the University of Aalborg. This event will be held in the [Limfjord, Aalborg, Denmark](#) from [June 2 to June 6, 2025](#). The Training School will be a [5-day sailing trip](#) on a ship that will be docking at relevant destinations in the Limfjord. There will therefore be both courses and field observations from the ship and on land. As a participant, you live on the ship and are part of a rota where you help with daily tasks on board, including sailing, cleaning and cooking.

## Context

The blue economy is commonly associated with coastlines that face the open sea; however, there are unique geographical environments where the sea intrudes inland, creating particularly sensitive ecosystems governed by the same frameworks as the ocean. One such area is the Limfjord, a body of seawater that connects the North Sea to the Baltic Sea, separating mainland Jutland from the island of Vendsyssel.

In this context, conflicts over maritime use are pronounced. Small-scale fisheries operate alongside sailing activities and energy production. The industrial sector has expanded significantly, leading to the relocation of the Port of Aalborg away from the city center. Another key port in the region is located at the western edge of the fjord in Thyborøn, where

investments in green energy production are underway. This has resulted in increased large-scale shipping activity alongside industrial development. Planned projects, including a bridge and tunnel connecting the northern and southern banks, have further divided the community between those concerned about environmental impacts and those advocating for economic growth. The training school aims to equip participants with the skills to analyze governance challenges at sea from an embedded perspective—experiencing interactions and conflicts of interest from the maritime domain rather than a land-based viewpoint. Through engagement with regional stakeholders, participants will use the Limfjord as a case study to enhance their research and refine their methodologies. By bringing together experts from diverse scientific fields, the program fosters interdisciplinary exchange. The school emphasizes hands-on workshops, reflective assignments, and teamwork, strengthening both analytical skills and camaraderie through collaborative sailing tasks.



## Blue Governance Training Program

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### Summarized program:

**Day 1: Mapping the Historical-Geographical Context of the Limfjord** (Partnering: Geodatastyrelsen)

**Day 2: The Management of the Marine Environment and Natural Resources** (Partnering: COASTAL LIFE Limfjordsrådet)

**Day 3: The Management of Coastal Areas and Climate Change Adaptation** (Partnering: Kyst Direktoratet)

**Day 4: Production and Storage of Offshore Energy** (Partnering: Thyborøn Havn)

**Day 5: Navigation – Control of Shipping Activities and Port Industrial Development** (Partnering: Aalborg Havn)

## Full program:

### Overview

This training program is designed to introduce scholars to the concept of “blue governance,” providing insights into the socio-ecological impacts and opportunities within the blue economy. The focus is on decision-making processes, examining how they lead to either conflict or cooperation. Participants will engage with a tailored curriculum based on their areas of interest, exploring economic sectors such as harbors, fisheries, tourism, energy, extraction, and transport.

### Field Observations

To bridge the gap between theory and practice, the program will offer unique "field observations" aboard historical vessels.

These hands-on sessions will take participants out to sea, providing them with direct insight into how maritime activities affect navigation and other key considerations. The ship itself, a testament to the region's commitment to preserving marine cultural heritage, will dock at various ports in Northern Jutland, facilitating exploration of coastal infrastructure and interactions with local authorities and maritime stakeholders.

### Practical Engagement

Participants will actively engage with local stakeholders, including fishers, tourism operators, and port terminal managers, while conducting field interviews and observations during docked sessions in the Limfjord. The program will also involve discussions with planning negotiators to understand consensus-building methods and how these contribute to governance outcomes.

### Thematic Focus

The core theme of the program is "conflict and cooperation" within blue governance. Using an in situ policy impact assessment approach, participants will critically assess the outcomes of different governance methods and practices, evaluating their potential applicability in the contexts they are familiar with.

### Program Delivery

The training will be hosted by LOA Foundation, with a collaborative design and delivery from



Aalborg University. Assistant Professor Nelson F. Coelho, a participant in the COST Action Rethink Blue, will serve as the key contact person for the program.

### **Theoretical Foundation**

The program draws on social science methods, governance theory, and stakeholder analysis to tackle blue economy challenges. Key frameworks include polycentric governance and co-management, which emphasize multi-level decision-making and local stakeholder involvement in managing marine and coastal resources. Participants will learn how power is distributed among government bodies, local communities, and private sectors, fostering inclusive, adaptive governance.

### **Methodology**

Participants will be introduced to qualitative research methods, including interviews, focus groups, and participatory action research. These techniques will help gather insights from local stakeholders, ensuring that governance decisions reflect the lived experiences of those most affected by blue economy activities. Stakeholder analysis tools, such as stakeholder mapping and power-interest grids, will guide the development of participatory frameworks, helping balance competing interests, such as offshore energy production versus fisheries or coastal tourism.

### **Skills and Networking**

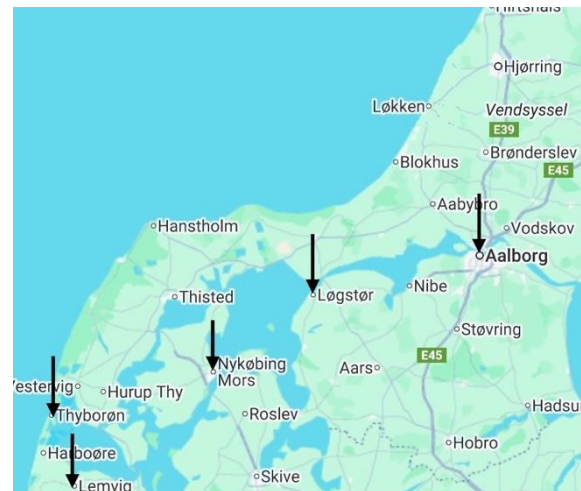
This program will equip participants with skills in conflict resolution, enabling them to mediate between stakeholders with competing interests. It will also emphasize the importance of fostering transparent, resilient, and adaptive blue governance structures. Networking opportunities will facilitate collaboration among diverse actors in the blue economy, promoting both economic growth and social-ecological sustainability in the Limfjord region.



## Objective

Participants will:

- Gain practical understanding of spatial conflicts between industries and private sea users
- Conduct observations and fieldwork from the ship
- Analyze Blue Economy strategies, focusing on natural resource management, coastal protection and producing energy at sea.
- Develop competencies in mapping and navigation.



## Who Should Apply

- Students or researchers from all academic fields focusing on a sector of the blue economy (for example, marine energy, ports, shipping, coastal protection, and seafood production)
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs), Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP), PhD candidates, and postgraduate students
- Researchers with an interest in **Blue Governance and sustainability**
- You must be a member of the COST Action CA22122: Rethink Blue  
If you are not a member yet, you must apply for membership by 15 March. To become a member, visit this webpage <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22122/>

## Application Requirements

Applicants are requested to submit:



Motivation Letter



Curriculum Vitae (CV)



Optional Documents

For example a letter of support from your supervisor or institution



## APPLY HERE

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**The Application Deadline:** ~~15 of March 2025~~ extended to **20 of March 2025 at 10:00 CET**

**Notification of Acceptance:** 5 of April 2025

Submit your application via this Google Form Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQvN8ekoaEk\\_Eubkeb-Mq5JA9iHzOK4sFtunJ\\_v3hAKu4NnA/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQvN8ekoaEk_Eubkeb-Mq5JA9iHzOK4sFtunJ_v3hAKu4NnA/viewform?usp=dialog)



## Evaluation Criteria

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Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance to the Training School's goals.
- Relevance of the applicant's research interest
- Potential contribution to the COST Action's objectives.
- Demonstrated interest in related topics.
- Active participation in RethinkBlue COST Action CA22122 activities



## Funding

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Selected participants may receive funding to cover travel and daily allowance to cover e.g. accommodation, local travel and subsistence, as per [COST guidelines](#).

Please note that the school takes place on board a ship and includes both board and accommodation. This means that your daily allowance will be partly spent on a fee for staying on the ship and food on board.

1. Those course participants who have been selected receive a grant from COST, which includes a daily allowance (and flights).
2. The daily allowance is paid to participants regardless of any declared expenses (so no need to submit receipts).

3. The value of the daily allowance is such that it can help reimburse costs for the full stay (LOA membership fee, accommodation on board the ship, daily meals, local transportation).
4. To receiving the grant from COST, participants must sign a presence sheet every day.
5. Payment to LOA is made in advance, upon confirmation of acceptance to the course *and* invitation from COST to the platform.
6. Should selected participants fail to comply with the requirement in point 4, they shall not be reimbursed from any costs already incurred.

## Venue and Accommodation

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The Training School will be held at the Barkentine ship LOA – a three-masted sailing ship – built in 1920. The ship has room for approximately 30 people including staff. Therefore, you should expect the facilities to be simple and space limited, including sleeping quarters and bathrooms. Participants must bring their own sleeping equipment. Dietary considerations are limited and all participants sleep in the same room. If you are accepted to the school, you will receive a detailed packing list. As a participant, you'll be part of a rota where you'll help with tasks on board the ship, such as sailing, cooking and cleaning. No sailing experience is required as the crew will teach you the necessary skills.

Find out more about the ship LOA here: <https://loa.dk/english/loa-s-story-in-short>

*“LOA is a training ship where you as a guest will learn a lot about life at sea, as you will be part of the shift-team and participate in the ship's operation and daily life. You will be trained in practical seamanship and learn about the daily maintenance of the ship” – LOA*





## Program Highlights

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- Observations and fieldwork from sea
- Visits to coastal cities relevant to the program. This includes “the mussel town” Løgstør, Thyborøn, Nykøbing Mors and Lemvig.
- Interactive lectures from experts in sectors such as biodiversity, offshore energy, mapping and resource management.
- Networking opportunities with local stakeholders.



## Contact Information

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The Training Schools content is curated by [Assistant Professor Nelson F. Coelho](#) (Centre for Blue Governance, Aalborg University)

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