



PartArt4OW First Demo Day Showcased Groundbreaking Participatory Art, Science and Ocean and Water Initiatives

PRESS RELEASE

Badalona, 21 February 2025 – Six pioneering Participatory Art Initiatives (PAIs) gathered in Badalona (Barcelona, Spain) at the headquarters of Fundación Épica La Fura dels Baus on 19-20 February for PartArt4OW First Demo Day, presenting innovative projects that bridge creative expression, marine science, and community engagement to address critical ocean challenges.

From Sustainable Paint to Underwater Soundscapes: Art Meets Ocean

Actions

The two-day event transformed the headquarters of the internationally - renewed Fundación Épica - La Fura dels Baus into an immersive exhibition space where artists, scientists, and communities showcased how participatory art can drive environmental awareness and tangible solutions for ocean and water sustainability by means of emotional connection and awareness.

"These initiatives demonstrate that art is not just a tool for communication, it's a catalyst for innovation and change," said Chiara Certoma', coordinator of the PartArt4OW project. **"From patented sustainable materials to virtual reality experiences that make invisible pollution visible, these projects are redefining how we engage with ocean challenges."**

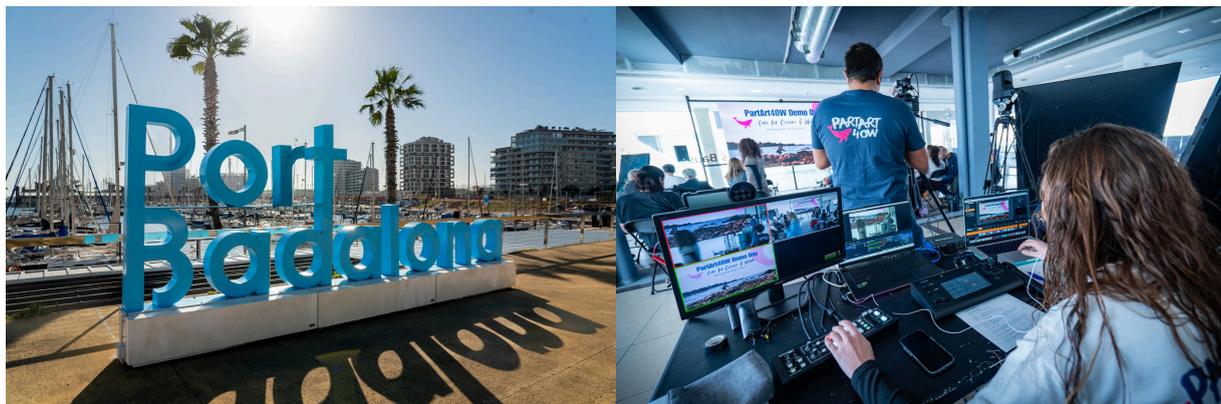


Image 1 (left): Sign of Port of Badalona, where the headquarters of Épica la Fura dels Baus is located. Image 2 (right): Setting up the big screen for the PAIs presentations.

Breakthrough visions on Display

Among the standout presentations:



Image 3: From Seatizens Biomurals, Jacek Wielebski paints a mural with the shellcrete paint.

Seatizen Biomurals unveiled a revolutionary, sustainable paint developed from crushed mollusc shells, including mussels and other bivalves. The bio-based material has been patented and is set for commercial launch, proving that artistic experimentation can yield market-ready environmental solutions.





Image 4: From Sea of Sounds, a participant experiences the VR set.

Sea of Sounds created a powerful virtual reality installation that immerses visitors in underwater soundscapes, revealing how shipping traffic noise threatens marine mammals that depend on acoustic communication for survival, navigation, and hunting. The experience makes the invisible crisis of ocean noise pollution tangible and urgent.



Image 5: From Tidal Orchards, Shona Cameron presents their achievements.

Tidal Orchards presented a handcrafted shoreline tool for cultivating seaweed for human consumption, accompanied by professional photography, participant-written poetry, and project sketches documenting the community's creative journey from concept to implementation.





Image 6: From Art of the Dredge, 5 screens displaying sections of their video-documentary.

Art of the Dredge displayed documentary excerpts across four vertical screens, weaving together technical realities of maritime dredging with intimate human stories from affected coastal communities.



Image 7: From Posidonia Art Reef, a miniature replicate of the designed underwater sculpture.

Posidonia Art Reef showcased a miniature model of their planned underwater sculpture, a fusion of ecological restoration and artistic intervention designed for installation on the Mediterranean seabed.





Image 8: From Kyiv Whale Ecohub, Valeriy presents their achievements.

Kyiv Whale Ecohub shared a moving documentary capturing their participatory process in Kyiv, offering a powerful testimony of environmental action and community resilience in challenging social contexts.

All of the PAIs gave a presentation sharing their beautiful and impactful experiences with us.

If you want to find out more about our PAIs, go to our website: <https://partart4ow.eu/pais>

Scaling Impact: From Local Action to Global Influence

A panel discussion on Thursday afternoon explored pathways to amplify the PAIs' impact through scalability, replicability, and transferability. Participants identified enabling conditions needed to ensure these community-driven innovations can inspire and influence ocean conservation efforts beyond their original contexts.

Friday's Mutual Learning Exercise brought all PAIs together to reflect on the collaboration between scientists and artists. Teams openly shared achievements and challenges from their interdisciplinary processes, generating valuable insights to strengthen the next two cohorts of PartArt4OW-supported initiatives.

Building a Movement for Ocean Stewardship



The First PartArt4OW Demo Day concluded Friday afternoon, marking the culmination of intensive exchange, reflection, and celebration among Europe's emerging community of ocean-focused participatory artists and scientists.

The next Demo Day is scheduled for late July 2025, when the second cohort of Participatory Art Initiatives will present their progress.

About PartArt4OW



PartArt4OW has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Mission Ocean Programme HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-01 Under Grant Agreement No 101157247.

PartArt4OW (Participatory Art for Society Engagement with Ocean and Water) is a Horizon Europe project under the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030." The initiative supports 19 Participatory Art Initiatives across Europe that combine artistic practice, scientific knowledge, and community engagement to enhance ocean literacy and inspire action for marine conservation.

Through three open calls, PartArt4OW provides funding, mentoring, and networking opportunities for interdisciplinary teams creating innovative approaches to ocean and freshwater challenges—from ecosystem restoration and pollution reduction to sustainable blue economy practices.

Project Duration: September 2024 – February 2027

Consortium Partners: Sapienza University of Rome (Coordinator), T6 Ecosystems, Fundación Épica La Fura dels Baus, Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, Regenera Network, Raw-News

Website: www.partart4ow.eu

Social Media: [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#)

Hashtags: #PartArt4OW #MissionOcean #OceanArt #ParticipatoryArt



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High-Resolution Images & B-Roll Available

Professional photography and video footage from the Demo Day exhibition are available for media use upon request.

Notes to Editors

Participatory Art Initiatives are community-driven projects that engage citizens, artists, and scientists in co-creating artistic works addressing ocean and water challenges. Unlike traditional art projects, PAIs emphasise collaborative processes where communities actively shape both creative decisions and environmental outcomes.

EU Mission Ocean and Waters aims to restore ocean and freshwater ecosystems by 2030 through lighthouse demonstrations, research, innovation, and citizen engagement across Europe's marine basins.

For interviews with PAI teams or project coordinators, please contact Carolina Dopico (Head of Communications) at contact@partart4ow.eu.