PartArt4OW: One Year of Building a Shared Journey for Our Waters

One year into **PartArt4OW**, the project has begun to take shape as a living, evolving platform — one that brings together **artists, scientists, citizens, and institutions** to explore how we perceive, feel, and care for the waters that connect us. Inspired by the call of Dimitris Papazoglou in *Cruise and Detour*, PartArt4OW aims to foster new ways of seeing and sensing our shared environment — spaces where art could meet scientific knowledge and civic engagement, and where local realities could resonate across borders. In this first year, we have been about **creating the conditions** for that process to unfold.

Laying the Groundwork Together

Over the past twelve months, We concentrated our main quotas but steadily building the foundations of the project. Research, impact thinking, artistic experimentation, and community engagement have developed in parallel, creating a shared language around participation and collaboration.

Preliminary and social research perspectives have helped anchor PartArt4OW in real environmental and cultural realities. Our work has been guided by the conviction that artistic processes can contribute to wider questions of policy, ecological awareness and collective imagination. We have begun to map the relational dynamics that shape our relationships to the ecological realities of seas, coasts, and river systems.

Developing our communication have played a central role in this process — not only as dissemination results, but as **document experiences, values, and invitations** that allow others to enter the project. We have produced and disseminated texts, podcasts, and documentary PartArt4OW as part of broader European initiatives and participation, and the Cruise/ Detour.

In the Spotlight: PartArt4OW Across Europe and Beyond

This year, **PartArt4OW** has continued to grow its presence across international forums, creative spaces, scientific gatherings and cultural events — demonstrating how art, science and civic engagement can come together to explore our shared waters in fresh and grounded ways. Here are some of the inspiring developments from the news feed:

Oct. In the project's timeline, the **Eco.CIP Meeting in Rome** brought partners together to discuss ecosystem-based coastal protection, with PartArt4OW presenting the photographic exhibition *Our Vanishing Landscapes: Stories and Art Through a Water Photography*. The visual display set the tone for PartArt4OW's approach of blending photo-based expression with deeper exploration of water landscapes.
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(Photo by Christopher Lubienski)

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(Photo by Christopher Lubienski)

Oct. In **European Ocean Days 2025 in Brussels**, PartArt4OW took part in the lecture **Mission Ocean Wave** program, contributing both to panel discussions and to an interactive exhibition that brought photographic and visual narratives into the heart of European policy spaces.
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Summer engagements saw the project's research and creative work featured in events across Europe. In **Latvian**, the "Colour Ink Sea: Coastal Lives, Knowledge and Memory" exhibition in Ventspils brought together photography, storytelling, community dialogue and artistic reflection — indicating the potential for PartArt4OW's visual documentary "The Stories of Place: Documenting Coastal Relationships."
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(Photo by Christopher Lubienski)

PartArt4OW also brought a unique perspective to key scientific and collaborative events. At the **Ocean Decade Conference** in Barcelona, the project presented *Unpacking Ocean Decade Outcomes: Shared*, drawing representative environmental artists to underlined and participatory engagement can complement technical and scientific efforts to support Mediterranean stewardship.
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In **London**, the project joined forces with the **TideWrit** initiative at the **Royal Geographical Society with IBG** to explore how tides shape life, culture, and memory. Between groundwork of the coast, drawing, study research and conditioning the potential of narrative and film in expanding how we understand human-ocean relationships.
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One of the year's artistic milestones was the premiere of *Blue Pilgrimage*, a documentary by Dimitris Papazoglou, presented at **Cannes Docs 2025**. The documentary — produced in collaboration with Blue Waves and the EU-SEA Collaborative — brings ocean research to life through visual storytelling and has been screened in festivals and events engaged in environmental film and sustainability discourse.
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Watch the documentary

Most recently, PartArt4OW's multidisciplinary panel international policy **Leading the Blue Economy: Art, Science and Sustainability** at the **Blue Economy Forum** offering a foundation in **marine citizenship**. There the project has demonstrated how art can inspire deep public engagement with marine environments and foster emotional ties that support ocean protection.
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What This Means for Our Community

These moments have helped PartArt4OW grow into a project that generates events, exhibitions, and accessibility demonstrated that **participation** and **art** can **act as** — it is a meaningful pathway for people, communities and institutions to engage with the ocean beyond data and policy. Our upcoming activities in 2026 will build on this dynamic around the project's reach, contributions to shared learning, and people's way for the **Film, Making Lab** and **Cruise/ Detour** that will define the next chapters of the project.

From Open Calls to Participatory Art Initiatives

Applications by country of implementation*

Every milestone of the first year has been the completion of the **first and second open calls** leading to the selection of a collaborative **Pool of Participants for Participatory Art** working across Europe.

Our participants include artists, researchers and other systems through many classes, artistic/cultural and advocacy practitioners, local ecological knowledge, environmental justice, cultural memory, and future imaginaries. Each film is rooted in a specific place, but shares a common ethos: **ecological commitment** to **participation as a (personal) ethical, and creative process**.
An overview of the growing PartArt4OW ecosystem — including PAs, organisations, and initiatives — can be explored here.

PartArt4OW Ecosystem

In **northern Sweden**, *All of the Ocelot* investigates the hidden social and ecological costs of industrial forestry, exploring how **forest ecosystems, indigenous knowledge, community archaeology, and personal narratives** intersect to shape how infrastructure shapes both ecosystems and cultural lives.
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In **Italy, Ukraine**, the film *Where the Fish Remember* explores the Black Sea's wetlands, which sculpture life in a living **Water Story Lab**, where shared science, environmental memory, and creative practice intertwine to confront freshwater pollution, drainage and land conversion that by the Black Sea.
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In **Cornwall, Bluewise district (Penzance)**, *Tombolo Blue Wave* brings seaweed, community and artistic together to ask how **coastal spaces that tell stories** of biodiversity, **community and resilience**, using sustainable materials and collaborative practices to bridge art and ecological thinking.
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On the **Isle of Skye (Scotland)**, *Tidal Orchestra* **is** charting a **living intertidal ecosystem** through sound, movement, and shared attention, bringing together artists, researchers and cultural traditions and community stewardship — and offering open-source models for regenerative coastal living.
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In **Mykonos, Italy**, *Photosynthesis and Poetry* creates art and marine conservation as vehicles to create ecosystems that act as **artistic artificial reefs**, supporting marine biodiversity and coastal resilience, while inviting local engagement through symbiotic, slow and critical experience.
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Finally, from **Rovinj, Croatia**, *Sea of Sounds* introduces audiences to the acoustic world of underwater **ecosystems through artistic listening practices**, combining educational workshops and exhibitions that explore ocean noise pollution and biodiversity with deeper emotional and aesthetic connection to the sea.
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Each of these films will **showcase their work at all three PartArt4OW Demo Days**, offering contexts that provoke, inspire and prepare — from early experimentation to evening screenings. Together, they illustrate the breadth of creative engagement emerging across Europe's rivers, coasts and inland waters.

A Growing Network of PartArt4OW Ambassadors

Over the past year, **PartArt4OW** has been strengthened by the involvement of a growing network of ambassadors — people who have helped carry the project's communication and outreach activities with support the project by attending its events, visibility and dialogue across Europe and beyond.
Our ambassadors have helped share the project's **participatory** and **Europeanness** ambitions through their own networks and practices. They have carried PartArt4OW to artistic communities, scientific spaces, educational environments and cultural platforms, contributing to the project's growing visibility and the participatory ecosystem generated by the project.
Ambassadors have also helped shape the project's collaborative space, PartArt4OW Ecosystem, which supports the project's values in practice: **participation**, **reciprocity**, and **shared learning**. Through this platform, ambassadors have been engaged with the project's themes through exhibitions, research, storytelling, events and informal exchanges, enriching the ecosystem with multiple perspectives and lived experiences.
The growing ecosystem includes two main groups — **art participants**, who contribute to the project through the **Selling Lab** and **Demo Days** opening spaces for artistic exchange and public encounter, and **ambassadors** who support visibility by helping connections across disciplines, territories and communities.
Discover the PartArt4OW Ambassadors here.

PartArt4OW Ambassadors Network

Learning Through Connection

PartArt4OW has developed a number of spaces with others. Throughout the year, the project has organised and hosted **exchanges, events, research, and relation-aligned attendance**, strengthening its access across the European landscape. These moments have helped PartArt4OW grow as a shared space for learning and exchange, allowing **relationships**, perspectives, and artistic practices to develop beyond the boundaries of a single project. These encounters landscape PartArt4OW's **ethos** of **open, participatory, and collaborative**, where collaboration and openness are essential to pathways toward.

What Comes Next: Selling, Sharing, Reflecting

As PartArt4OW moves into its next phase, the project remains committed to **relation, reciprocity, and experimentation**.
Over the coming months, the project prepares a shared space for the **Selling Lab**, offering an invitation to artists open for encounter, the Selling Lab will extend its spaces towards locations connected to film, creating opportunities for exchanges, conversations, and shared reflection around the films. The Selling Lab will develop as a space where **trust communities, artists, scientists, and participants** can meet in equal footing, exchanging perspectives through shared **reflection**.

Running in parallel — and in dialogue with the Selling Lab — are the **three PartArt4OW Demo Days**, which form a continuous thread throughout the project. These days will be open to artists, participants, collaborators, and the wider public. Each Demo Day, planned for **December 2026**, will bring the journey to a specific place, inviting participants to **share their work, encounters, and early questions**, opening a space for dialogue and cross-learning among initiatives, practitioners, and communities. The Demo Days will be hosted in three very different locations. Its first open present and discuss their evolving work, allowing experiences from different contexts to meet and mutually inform one another.
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Each Demo Day will **gather artists, participants, and collaborators** in a shared space of **reflection, dialogue, and exchange**, creating conditions for encounters across disciplines, backgrounds and perspectives. These **encounters** can shape more just and sustainable futures.

We invite you to stay connected as the story unfolds. 🌊

With Warm Regards,
The PartArt4OW Team

Take Up Lurkers

Explore PartArt4OW Ecosystem

Joint PartArt4OW Ecosystem!

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