Terms of Reference

All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador programme

December 2020 – December 2021

Background

In August 2019, the Co-Chairs of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation and the Belém Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Cooperation launched an Ocean Youth Ambassadors programme to enable the next generation to become actors of change in their communities by promoting stewardship of a sustainable development for the Atlantic Ocean. The first cohort of Youth Ambassadors in 2019 were challenged to campaign and drive change in their own communities, an effort that is delivering inspiring results focused on 'sharing, connecting and acting'. Following the success of the first Summer School in August 2019, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, launched the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Forum in Brussels in February 2020. The Youth Forum aims to empower early-career ocean youth in the larger All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. The idea is to equip a broader community of early-career ocean youth with the skills, education and training to enable them to drive movements of positive change and sustainable development along and across the Atlantic Ocean. The Youth Forum will, as part of education and training pathways for career development, integrate science and citizen engagement, communication and outreach and will become a major vehicle to promote young people's competences and skills. The Ambassadors programme is a part of this larger effort.

For more background information please see:

All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Website: https://allatlanticocean.org/main
All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AllAtlanticYouth
All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador's Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/allatlanticyouth
Social Media Hashtags: #AtlanticAll #AtlanticYouth

All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors

All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors are dedicated individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds, who promote sustainable development and stewardship of the Atlantic Ocean. They are currently either in training or education programmes, or in the early stages of their profession. Within the context of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, Ambassadors will develop campaigns and communication strategies to reach out to local communities, students and civil society, engage decision makers as well as work with local media to conserve and protect the Atlantic Ocean for future

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generations. In developing online or local campaigns and events, Ambassadors will be integrated into the collaborative Atlantic pilot actions and supported by All-Atlantic research and innovation projects.

The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors will take part in a Summer School in June 2021 (tbc) where they will engage with political, social, economic and scientific leaders to develop the necessary skills to become actors for change in their own communities and possibly beyond.

The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors are appointed for a preliminary period of one year, with the option of continuing their successful collaborations, subject to evaluation. Ambassadors continuing into a second year of their appointment will be invited to assist in the training, coaching and supporting of the following generation of Ambassadors.

The mission of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth programme:

To encourage / inspire actors for change for the Atlantic Ocean who can empower communities to become ocean guardians.

Engagement of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors in the 2020-2021 All-Atlantic Ocean Youth programme:

1. **Farewell and new cohort announcement (December 2020)**

Official farewell of the 2020 cohort of All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors followed by a welcoming announcement of the new cohort of Youth Ambassadors at the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum in December 2020, hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa and co-hosted by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, European Union and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil. Members of the 2020 cohort will be invited to mentor the new cohort of Ambassadors.

2. **The All-Atlantic Induction Training (February 2021)**

The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors will be invited to participate in the All-Atlantic Induction Training, taking place virtually in February 2021, hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, European Union and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil. The All-Atlantic Induction Training aims to inform the selected ambassadors about ongoing activities within the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance and the pilot actions to come. Our ultimate objective is to build an Atlantic Community of a fully engaged young generation to create a ground swell of activism to support an Ocean aware society. Detailed contents for the All-Atlantic Induction Training will be published separately.

3. **The All-Atlantic Summer School (June 2021)**

The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors will be invited to participate in the All-Atlantic Summer School, envisaged to take place in the Azores in June 2021, depending on the Covid-19 situation. The All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors will engage with political, social, economic and scientific leaders to develop the necessary skills to become actors for change in their own communities and possibly beyond.

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4. **Atlantic Opportunities**

In addition to the Induction Training and the Summer School **the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors will**:

- Develop campaigns and actions within the context of the list of "All-Atlantic Opportunities" and showcase, in the Ambassador's community, possible activities and solutions addressing the sustainability challenges faced by the Atlantic Ocean and by local communities whose well-being and livelihoods depend on the Atlantic. The list of "All-Atlantic Opportunities" will be given to the newly selected youth ambassadors.
- Become fully embedded in the activities of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, including its communication activities, and take part in its collaborative pilot actions.
- Become embedded in activities of and receive support from the selecting organisation.

Application Process

Each AANChOR - Coordination and Support Action (CSA) and the former AORA-CSA partners, including the Belém and Galway Co-Chairs, are invited and encouraged to select a candidate to represent their country/region according to an internal selection process. The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance is an evolving initiative. As organisations join the Alliance, the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors programme will be expanded.

The internal selection process should be as clear, open and transparent as possible so as to ensure that the successful candidates meet the criteria outlined below. Each AANChOR-CSA project partner eligible to select an All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador must appoint one person of contact, who will be responsible for the internal selection process and throughout the engagement period of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador. The respective person of contact needs to be named within the outlined selection deadline to KDM/JPIO.

Internal Selection Process:

a. Publish a call for All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors via a webpage, social media, newsletters, etc.;
b. Review the applications and select 1-2 potential candidates;
c. Conduct an informal interview with the candidate(s);
d. Organize a meeting between the selecting partner and the potential Ambassador(s) to explain the context of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the expectations of the candidate(s) as well as any support that the selecting partner can offer the candidate. This meeting is to be organized on behalf of the selecting partner, within their own respective capacities and guidelines.
e. Each AANChOR-CSA and the former AORA-CSA partner may select up to two candidates. Names should be submitted to KDM/JPI-Oceans, who are managing the Youth Ambassador programme on behalf of the AANChOR-CSA consortium as a whole;
f. The application process will be supported by the Healthy Oceans and Seas Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation on together with the Horizon 2020 funded AANChOR-CSA project.

Duration of Appointment and institutional setting

Ambassadors will be appointed for a preliminary period of 1-year beginning in December 2020. Ambassadors may continue their 'assignment' to enable successful collaborations where these were

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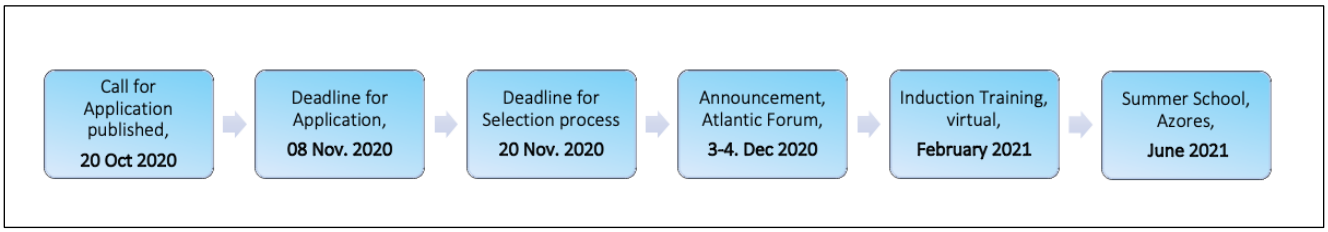
initiated. Ambassadors continuing into a second year of their appointment will be invited to assist in the training, coaching and supporting of the following generation of Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors should continue their relationship with the selecting institution as before, but with the flexibility to participate in the All-Atlantic Youth Ambassadors programme and relevant activities of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. The Ambassadors will maintain active communication with their selecting institution and the Alliance, especially the Belém and Galway Co-Chairs building bridges between the different institutions wherever possible.

Anticipated Timeline:



Selection criteria of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors

Each selecting organisation will select the best candidate according to the following criteria:

- Knowledgeable and passionate about the ocean and seas, including their functioning and relevance for life in the planet, as well as the major environmental and societal threats that currently affect them.
- Interested in youth issues, science diplomacy, policy making, public engagement, education and training.
- Good communicator, and willing to use social media/blogs/videos/performances and writing articles to inform others.
- Between the ages of 18 – 30 years (as of 1 June 2020).
- Confident English speaker and comfortable with public speaking.
- Able and willing to take part in the virtual Induction Training in February (tbc), 2021.
- Able and willing to take part in the Summer School in June (tbc), 2021.
- Participate in relevant events and meetings in person & virtually.
- Committed to giving time to this programme from December 2020 and beyond.
- Be a self-starter and become a team with the other All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors.

Primary Functions of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors (non-exhaustive):

- To become actors for change for the Atlantic Ocean.
- To develop communication and action campaigns together with the supporting CSA to the implementation of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, the AANChOR-CSA and its pilot joint actions, or any other activities carried out as part of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. Where approved by AANChOR-CSA the costs associated with these campaigns will be covered. In this regard, the Ambassador will be in close contact with the partners responsible for the pilot actions as well as those responsible for the Youth Ambassadors programme (KDM, JPI Oceans).

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Concrete products to be delivered by the end of the term will be jointly identified by the Ambassador and the relevant AANChOR partners.

- To reach out and engage local communities and learn of the challenges of those living by and for the Ocean.
- To support the visibility of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance and its activities through dedicated social media as well as other channels.
- To maximise impact of activities through the development of content (e.g. articles, videos, blogs, performances). The communications WP of AANChOR-CSA will support these efforts as relevant.

Supports provided for the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors (non-exhaustive):

- Support from and close collaboration with the selecting organisation.
- Travel and conference fees will be covered by the AANChOR-CSA project upon prior approval if the selecting partner is an AANChOR-CSA project partner.
- Virtual Induction Training (Date TBC).
- Summer School (June 2021).
- Other events under the umbrella of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

Funding:

Costs of the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors activities (e.g. conference fees) selected by AANChOR-CSA partners can be covered by the AANChOR-CSA project, provided this is agreed between KDM/JPI Oceans and the project Coordinator (FCT) and approved by KDM/JPI Oceans. Costs related to activities within the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador programme from all other All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance partners, must be covered by the respective selecting partner.

Please note, that there is no stipend or monetary compensation involved for the work and time invested by the candidates or selected Ambassadors to the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors programme.

Required documents from candidates:

A completed application form

Appendix:

1. Application Form
2. Flyer

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