

**Activity Report submitted on the 28th of April 2023 for SDG 14: Life below Water, within the IAU HESD Cluster
University of Bergen**

Side-event UN Ocean Conference Lisbon 2022: UiB organized a side-event during the UN Ocean conference '*Scaling up action and building effective partnerships for SDG14: the essential roles of higher education and business*' - co-sponsored by the Government of Ireland, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Office of High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the International Association of Universities (IAU), The Partnering Initiative (TPI), and the University of Bergen (UiB). The side event showed how multi-stakeholder partnerships centred around the SDGs can be put into practice by finding common goals and denominators. However, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to partnerships. The path towards transformation for a more sustainable future starts with collaboration and discussion, therefore, this session invites the participants in the room to engage and will conclude with a call to action.

One Ocean Expedition: UiB has been a central partner in the One Ocean Expedition, a global circumnavigation of the globe with the tallship Statsraad Lehmkuhl - an Ocean Decade action. Our main leg was from Valparaiso in Chile to Palau, with visits to Tahiti and Fiji and lasted for four months - from May to end of August. UiB also had courses and activities on other legs of the expedition.

The SDG200 Ocean-Climate-Society: Sustainability summer course (see [this link for a description of learning outcomes and course](#) content) was held onboard the tallship with 86 students following the course. As one can imagine this was a very rich experience for the students at the personal level - see the videos and podcasts available on this page <https://oneocean.uib.no/> to get an impression of what it was like for the students. The students were from a broad range of disciplines and therefore the whole course was an exercise in multidisciplinary dialogue and understanding, while a large part of the learning experience included work on deck and to sail and take care of the ship.

IAU HESD SDG14 Cluster meeting in Cape Town in January 2023: UiB invited the SDG14 and SDG13 IAU HESD Clusters for a workshop in Cape Town, following a summer school integrated in the One Ocean Expedition. The workshop asked how to teach and integrate SDGs in higher education with a focus on SDG 13 and 14, and we invited all university representatives in IAU's Global Cluster on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development. This group had never before had a chance to meet physically, but with support from UiB this became possible. Drawing on the vast expertise and experience of the participants from different disciplines, institutions, and countries, we discussed the general principles and practical tools to teach sustainability effectively, and how to promote student learning and engagement with the SDGs. This has become an important research field, with at least two international journals dedicated towards the theme, and it is a central focus for universities all over the globe. Universities are key institutions for progress on the 2030 agenda and SDGs; and the IAU HESD Cluster global network of universities are instrumental to achieve and realize our common responsibility for each of the SDGs in higher education, research and community engagement. We are currently working on a report from the workshop. We combined this group with the participation of South-African students that took part in the SDG200 course across the Pacific, and also a South-African consortium of universities working to establish a joint national Masters program in Ocean Sciences through a 3-year EU Erasmus+ project 'South-African Masters program in Ocean Science' (SAMOS). The application was submitted successfully, with UiB as a partner, and hence hopefully bridging the network into a new form of collaboration.



[One Ocean Week](#): As the One Ocean Expedition arrived back home in Bergen, it was time for the One Ocean Week - a whole week of festive to celebrate the ocean. This week the King, the Crown Prince, the prime minister of Norway and several ministers came to Bergen to attend the celebration. About 150 smaller and larger events about ocean sustainability took place during the week, and about 40000 people were present at the arrival of Statsraad Lehmkuhl. University of Bergen held a series of events during the week: <https://www.uib.no/en/news/161750/uiib-events-during-one-ocean-week-2023>. It is difficult to describe the atmosphere in Bergen these days, but it certainly highlighted the ocean as an important habitat for life and as a key economic area for Norway and Bergen. The trade-off between use and protection of the ocean was at the core of the discussions taking place.

[SDG-conference in Bergen](#): As a regular part of the UiB contribution to SDGs, we held our SDG-conference over two days February 9-10, and a [Day Zero](#) on the 8th. The headline for the online event was: A just transformation to a sustainable future.

UiB continues to staff the project [Shaping European Research Leaders for Marine Sustainability \(SEAS\)](#). SEAS is a career and mobility fellowship programme for 37 postdoctoral research fellows within marine sustainability. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement. The University of Bergen's SEAS program brings together a variety of aspects of marine sustainability, involving all 7 UiB faculties, and many academic and non-academic partners. The SEAS project now has 15 post-docs recruited, and the second batch of 22 more post-docs are now underway.