



Irish  
Ocean  
Literacy  
Network

# IOLN Membership Guide

Be part of a thriving all-island community of ocean champions



# The Network

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Since its establishment in 2016, the Irish Ocean Literacy Network (IOLN) has brought together like-minded individuals and organisations who passionately believe in the importance of the seas and oceans to the island of Ireland and its citizens.

Formally established as a company in 2023, the aim of the Network is to improve coordination, collaboration, and capacity building of the island's 'Ocean Citizens' community to help achieve a common vision – an Ocean Literate Society across the Island of Ireland.

The Network consists of a broad and diverse range of Members including **NGOs, public bodies, research and academia, education, private enterprises, and individuals** across the island of Ireland.

By working together, it is expected that collective action and coordination can help achieve tangible, measurable impact on society. Network members collaborate to advance ocean literacy across the island through **knowledge sharing, capacity building, public awareness campaigns, outreach, and advocacy.**

*“An ocean literate citizen understands the importance of the ocean to humankind; can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way and is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.”*



# IOLN Governance Structure

The IOLN has an Executive Officer, Project Officer, Board of Directors, and an Advisory Panel.

The IOLN staff lead the implementation of the Network's Strategic Plan (2024-2030), coordinating activities for the Network's annual Action Plan, developing the secretariat and managing all aspects of the IOLN's work. The staff report to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is chaired by David Murphy, with Dr. Nóirín Burke (Secretary), Heidi McIlvenny, Dr. Micheál O' Cinnéide (Treasurer) and Dave Wall as Directors.

The Advisory Panel is composed of senior management level representatives from private and public bodies from the marine and maritime sectors. and provides high-level support to the Board of Directors by sharing additional expertise and knowledge on strategic matters to maximise the Network's impact.



**Heidi McIlvenny**  
Queens University Belfast



**Micheál Ó'Cinnéide**  
Corrib Beo, Galway



**David Murphy**  
ERINN Innovation



**Dave Wall**  
National Biodiversity  
Data Centre



**Dr. Nóirín Burke**  
Galway Atlantaquaria

## Our Strategy

In November 2023, the IOLN developed a **Network Strategy (2024-2030)** in consultation with Members and stakeholders.

**Five strategic objectives** were identified to address the priorities that emerged from an analysis of the IOLN's first six years of activity as an informal network:

1. Enhance the Network capacity
2. Promote engagement and collaboration within the Network's Membership
3. Facilitate stakeholder engagement and coordination
4. Champion best practices in ocean literacy across the island
5. Establish a sustainable funding model.

Our strategy focuses on building a stronger and more sustainable Network. For our Members, this means **more resources, better support, and more impactful opportunities** to work together.



## Local Action in a Global Context

Several global initiatives are underway to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health. International frameworks, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters', are uniting stakeholders worldwide around a shared goal: to conserve and sustainably use our marine resources.

Ocean literacy is both a goal and an enabler of the UN Ocean Decade, as well as a key pillar of the EU Mission 'Restore Our Ocean and Waters'. It ensures that the knowledge generated through ocean science translates into meaningful action and societal change.

Within both frameworks, it is recognised that science alone cannot deliver ocean sustainability – people must understand, value, and actively engage with the ocean to protect and restore it.

For the island of Ireland, this is not just an environmental issue. The ocean is a fundamental part of our cultural identity and heritage, influencing everything from our coastal communities to our art, language, sports, and the economy.

The Irish Ocean Literacy Network has achieved something unique. While other countries and other EU states are still exploring how to coordinate national efforts, Ireland already has a sustainable, established network of practitioners.

The IOLN provides a neutral space for this diverse community to collaborate, share knowledge, and coordinate their work for greater collective impact.

## Become a Member

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The IOLN invites all ‘Ocean Citizens’ to join as members and, in doing so, become part of a community of ocean champions from across the island of Ireland.

The membership model is designed to support Objective 5 of the Network Strategy: Establish a sustainable funding model.

All income generated from membership fees will be used to establish a permanent secretariat, develop a range of services for Members, and initiate other actions related to achieving our mission.

The Board of Directors, Advisory Panel, and Working Groups will lead all work in a voluntary capacity.

## Why Join the IOLN?

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- **Meet and work with people** across the island of Ireland who care about our oceans.
- Take part in online and in-person **events**.
- Join **working groups** focused on specific topics you’re passionate about.
- Get free or discounted **training** to build your skills.
- Add **credibility** to your projects when you apply for funding.



# Membership Options

As a Member, you will gain access to **valuable resources, exclusive content, and a network of like-minded individuals** dedicated to making a positive impact. Whether you are looking to deepen your personal commitment or enhance your organisation's corporate social responsibility, there is a membership tier designed just for you. Together, we can make a significant difference in fostering ocean stewardship and literacy.

**Three membership options are available, depending on the type and size of your organisation:**



Membership is **FREE** for students (over 18, third-level and post-graduate students), retired, and the unemployed. For universities and academic institutions, please contact us to discuss bespoke offerings.

## Explorer

Suitable for individuals, volunteers and small NGOs\*

\*NGOs or not-for-profit organisations with <10 employees.

- Meet and work with people across the island of Ireland who care about our oceans.
- Take part in online and in-person events.
- Join working groups focused on specific topics you are passionate about.
- Get free or discounted training to build your skills.
- Receive our newsletter with the latest news and opportunities.
- Promote your projects through our website, newsletter, and social media channels.
- Get your name or logo featured on our website and in our annual report.
- Receive an official certificate and a digital badge for your website.
- Add credibility to your projects when you apply for funding.
- Boost your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) profile and initiatives.

**€100 per year**



# Navigator

Suitable for Small Enterprises\* and Medium - Large NGOs.

\*Small Enterprises with <50 employees.

- Meet and work with people across the island of Ireland who care about our oceans..
- Take part in online and in-person events.
- Join working groups focused on specific topics you are passionate about.
- Get free or discounted training to build your skills.
- Receive our newsletter with the latest news and opportunities.
- Promote your projects through our website, newsletter, and social media channels.
- Get your name or logo featured on our website and in our annual report.
- Receive an official certificate and a digital badge for your website.
- Add credibility to your projects when you apply for funding.
- Boost your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) profile and initiatives.

**€250 per year**



# Voyager

Suitable for Medium Enterprises, Corporates and Public Bodies.

- Meet and work with people across the island of Ireland who care about our oceans.
- Take part in online and in-person events.
- Join working groups focused on specific topics you are passionate about.
- Get free or discounted training to build your skills.
- Receive our newsletter with the latest news and opportunities.
- Host an exclusive webinar for your team with an IOLN expert on a topic of your choice.
- Get one-to-one support to help you plan and run your own ocean literacy event.
- Share your project with a 'Member Showcase' profile, featured on our website, social media, and in our newsletter.
- Get your name or logo featured on our website and in our annual report.
- Receive an official certificate and a digital badge for your website.
- Add credibility to your projects when you apply for funding.
- Boost your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) profile and initiatives.

**€2,500 per year**



## Our Working Groups

By working together on our Strategic Objectives, it is expected that collective action and coordination can help achieve tangible, measurable impact on society.

This will be supported by investing in the professional development and capacity building of Network Members to ensure that they have the skills, knowledge and critical mass necessary to achieve their strategic goals. This involves creating a repository of best practices, skill-sharing opportunities and research findings that can be shared among Network Members, building their advocacy capacity and enabling them to effectively engage with policymakers and advocate for marine protection.

To facilitate this, the IOLN has established the Working Groups to focus on specific work topics – Training and Capacity building; Regional Action and Activism; Campaigns; and Education.



## Join a Working Group

### Education

Unites ocean educators to promote learning in all settings and works to integrate the ocean into the national curriculum.

### Capacity Building & Training

Strengthens the skills and knowledge of our Members by identifying their needs and developing targeted training initiatives.

### Regional Action & Activism

Empowers local communities to become champions for ocean conservation by connecting them with network Members to foster collaboration and support.

### Events, Campaigns, & Celebrations

Creates engaging all-island events and campaigns to connect our Members, celebrate key moments like World Ocean Day, and showcase excellence in ocean literacy.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

The Board and Advisory Panel of IOLN invite interested parties to consider sponsoring the Network. Contributions will enable the Network to operate a professional and stable secretariat and mobilise the ecosystem of actors to enable the community to help achieve our vision.

By supporting IOLN in their objectives and activities, you will be recognised as a **'Champion of Ocean Stewardship'**, contributing to tangible "on-the-ground" actions to help address UN SDG 14, the Decade of the Oceans and Mission Ocean Seas and Waters.

Sponsorship tiers provide **exclusive benefits, increased visibility, and opportunities for strategic collaboration**, ensuring a meaningful contribution to IOLN while enhancing your organisation's brand and CSR initiatives.

The Network is also keen to discuss bespoke benefits and tailored collaboration with potential sponsors. If this is of interest, please reach out to us to arrange a call to discuss.

### Gold

€5,000 per year

Voyager Membership Status and Benefits, PLUS:

- Two Sponsor Showcase interviews/articles on website and newsletter.
- Listed as Gold Sponsor on all network collateral and at IOLN events.
- Social media tags with all content releases.
- Option to bring own banner.
- Shout-out thank you by organisers.

### Platinum

€10,000 per year

Voyager Membership Status and Benefits, PLUS:

- Two Sponsor Showcase interviews/articles on website and newsletter.
- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on all network collateral and at IOLN events.
- Social media tags with all content releases.
- Option to bring own banner.
- Shout-out thank you by organisers.

# Membership Registration & Payment

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To sign up as a Member of the Network, please complete the online Membership Registration Form.\*

Please make payments by bank transfer to:

**BIC: AIBKIE2D**

**IBAN: IE69AIBK93740138877054**

**Address: AIB Bank, Upper Salthill Road, Salthill, Co. Galway**

\*Please include your name/organisation's name as the reference on the transaction.

If you require a proforma invoice please email [info@ioln.ie](mailto:info@ioln.ie).

## Get in Touch

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 [www.ioln.ie](http://www.ioln.ie)

 [cat@ioln.ie](mailto:cat@ioln.ie)

 Irish Ocean Literacy Network

 [iolnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/iolnetwork)



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