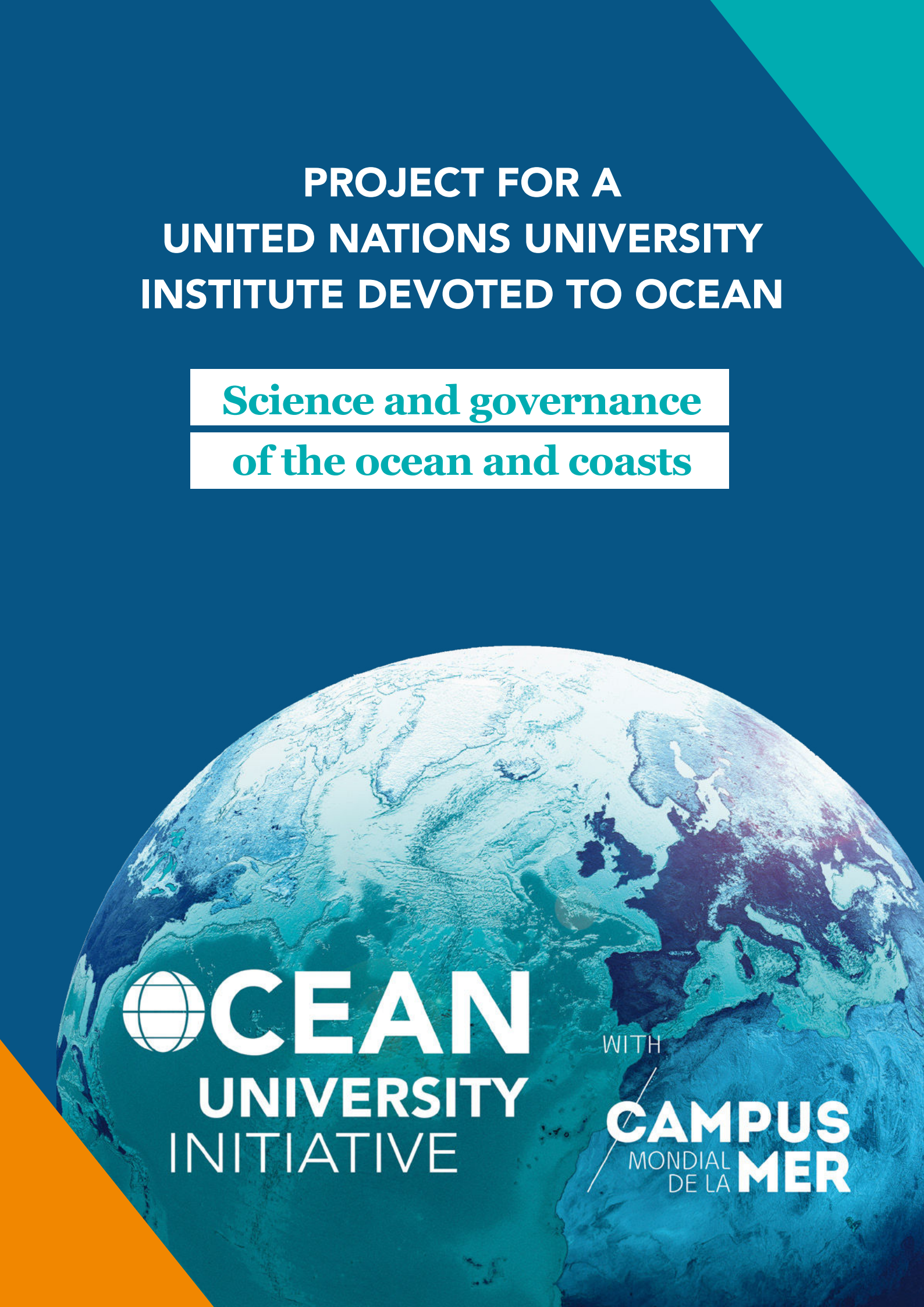


**PROJECT FOR A
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE DEVOTED TO OCEAN**

**Science and governance
of the ocean and coasts**



 **OCEAN**
UNIVERSITY
INITIATIVE

WITH

CAMPUS
MONDIAL
DE LA **MER**

WHAT IS THE OCEAN UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE?

The Ocean University Initiative was initiated by local authorities in Brittany (Region, Brest Metropolis) with the financial support of the French government and the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB). It is implemented by the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO). Its aim is to create the conditions for an institute of the United Nations University devoted to the interface between science and the governance of the ocean and the coasts.

The Ocean University Initiative implements various demonstration actions at the interface between science and policy:

- research projects in support to the implementation of the international agenda for marine conservation in the international waters (BBNJ, Deep Sea mining and conservation);
- tools for capacity building (role play game, training resources);
- communication with the publication of a series of policy briefs;
- workshops and sessions in international conferences.

To know more about the
Ocean University Initiative
ocean-univ.org



WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY?

The United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous and decentralized academic organization supported by the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO. The UNU's mission is to develop research and education actions in areas that concern the United Nations, its agencies and Member States. Officially established in 1975, on the initiative of Japan, the United States and France, the UNU is comprised of 13 institutes and programs located in 12 countries each with its own Director, advisory board and staff. The headquarters are based in Tokyo, Japan (UNU Centre), the Vice-Rectorate is located in Bonn, Germany and administrative services are in Malaysia.

The UNU institutes are thematic centers which develop and implement research and training programs in their thematic area. Also, these institutes act as think tanks operating as a bridge between academia and public policy. They are dedicated to promoting international collaborative research projects and mobilizing the expertise of renowned academics. In terms of education, the UNU primarily focuses on capacity building of executives in developing countries. The UNU institutes pertain to the internationalization of Masters and PhD programs by delivering degrees or joint degrees in partnership with national universities. They represent a unique international cooperation network combining research and education.

The Université de Bretagne Occidentale is implementing the Ocean University Initiative with the support of the French government, the Brittany Region, Brest Metropolis – through the Campus mondial de la mer – and the French Biodiversity Agency.

WHY DOES THE UBO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A UNU INSTITUTE DEVOTED TO THE OCEAN AND COASTS IN BREST?



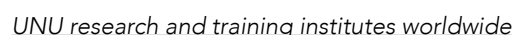
“Established in a maritime area by nature, at the heart of a research and academic environment which gathers over 7 000 scientists and academics, the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO) has developed excellence in marine science (5th Shanghai Ranking / Oceanography 2023). Founded in 1997, the European Institute for Marine Studies is a department of the Université de Bretagne Occidentale, an Earth and Space science observatory, which federates over 400 UBO, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), and Ifremer staff members and together with 200 Masters students and as many PhD candidates. Because of its scope and foundation, this research ecosystem meets the conditions to allow the UBO to support a United Nations University Institute dedicated to the science and governance of the ocean and coasts, in cooperation with the national scientific community. I am utterly convinced that this institute will be a fundamental tool to unify French skills and interests' global influence regarding the ocean, based on the United Nations University goals.”

Pascal OLIVARD

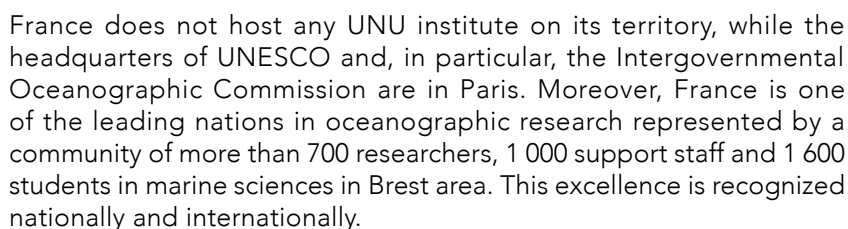
President of the Université de Bretagne Occidentale

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iuem.univ-brest.fr

UNU is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): UNU aims to cover all its 17 objectives. The issue of water management is generally addressed by an institute (UNU-INWEH), which concentrates its action mainly on continental waters. The UNU institute for sustainability studies (UNU-IAS) in Japan works at a wide range of sustainability issues. UNU-FLORES institute in Germany develops a Nexus Approach to the Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources.



- Provide the ocean, the coasts, the blue economy and communities with their United Nations University institute
- Strengthen international scientific cooperation and train an interdisciplinary community of ocean scientists
- Impact on the global policy agenda



France is also a key player in oceanographic research, which includes all subjects in earth, life, environment, human and social sciences. Whether it is basic (fundamental) research, applied research or education, the national marine and coastal science community is very active in terms of international cooperation, in developing countries in particular. The establishment of a UNU-OCEAN institute in France would aim at reinforcing cooperation in support to the international maritime agenda in the context of SDG, the Future Earth dynamic and the decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) as well as UN restoration decade.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNU INSTITUTE

- Supported by a University
- Bilateral agreement between the host country and the UNU headquarters
- Payment of an initial non-consumable contribution to the UNU endowment fund

The establishment of a UNU Institute requires the signature of an international bilateral agreement between the host country and the UNU, as well as a non-consumable initial contribution to the UNU endowment fund.

The international agreement provides the UNU institute and its staff members the benefits granted to international organizations.

The interests generated by the contributions to the endowment fund constitute baseline funding for the institute, which develop their research and academic program according to their ability to raise additional funds. These may be additional contributions to the endowment fund, financial or in-kind contributions to the operation of the institute from public or private sources, projects or services. Related national, European Union or global programmes (GEF, Belmont Forum,...) offer numerous opportunities for research and training programme development.



PROJECT STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

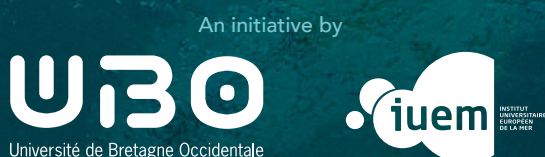
The European Institute for Marine Studies (IUEM), in charge of the implementation of the project, has been labelled as "Graduate School", under the name ISblue (Interdisciplinary School for the Blue Planet), with the support of the French Programme "Investments for the Future". This programme reinforces the European Institute for Marine Studies specialization in the ocean and coasts.

The project has strong national institutional support. Moreover, the expectations of United Nations agencies concerning such a structure dedicated to the ocean is strong. From a research perspective, the busy agenda of international negotiations related to the ocean (law of the sea, climate change, biodiversity, coastal risks, blue growth ...) generates a strong demand for international cooperation.

From the point of view of education, opportunities are:

- 1. high demand for initial and lifelong training in marine science and governance;
- 2. co-badging with a "UNU" label on Masters and PhD;
- 3. multilingual training programmes with and for the global South.

- Wide political and institutional support in France
- A project supported by the global community in natural and social marine sciences



Co-funded by



ocean-univ.org
ocean-univ@univ-brest.fr



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