

Conhecer o Oceano, a navigation chart for ocean literacy in Portugal

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From the 90s onwards, significant steps were taken both in Portugal and in the European Union (EU) towards a real marine policy. Due to the relevance of the sea for Portugal, with the third largest exclusive economic zone in Europe, a National Strategy has recently been established. Disseminating knowledge about the ocean is therefore a key area for Ciência Viva, as the Portuguese agency for scientific culture.

The project 'Conhecer o Oceano' (Knowing the Ocean), is part of this strategy. This initiative is based on the North-American project Ocean Literacy that resulted from a wide consultation with scientific and educational institutions.

Ciência Viva coordinated the adaptation of this initiative to the Portuguese reality, in collaboration with research institutes of Marine and Education Sciences. A 'navigation chart', pinpointing ocean topics in the national curriculum, is an example of a support material to help educators through ocean literacy and the corresponding resources.