



Professor Mário Ruivo Prize

"Your Ocean, Your Future"

Project Contest

What can you do to ensure that the Ocean we grow up with continues to play an essential role in our lives whilst being maintained for future generations? The Professor Mário Ruivo prize will help you put your ideas into action by supporting the development of a project that will improve how humans interact with the ocean: this can be a social experiment, an invention, a research project, etc. This Prize is intended to raise public awareness on the importance of the Ocean and Ocean-related services to humankind.

Meet Professor Mário Ruivo...

In 2015 Professor Mário Ruivo received the European Citizens' Prize, an award recognizing those who promote mutual understanding between citizens of the European Union, encouraging greater integration and transnational cooperation between Member States and contributing to strengthening the European spirit.

Professor Mário Ruivo, the former president and founder of EurOcean, is a professional biologist who studied at the University of Lisbon (1950) and the University of Paris Sorbonne (1951-54), specializing in Biological Oceanography and Management of Marine Living Resources. He was Director of the Division of Aquatic Resources and the Environment of the Department of Fisheries of FAO (1961-74), and participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (1972). He was also Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (1980-89) where he was elected Vice-President in 2003, and an Invited Professor at the University of Porto.

Professor Mário Ruivo is currently the president of the Portuguese National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development and president of the Intersectorial Oceanographic Commission of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education. In 2010, he was awarded Doctor "*Honoris Causa*" by the University of the Azores, in recognition of his career achievements.

A Little More Info about the Theme...

EurOcean has contributed to the development of the [Blue Society](#) vision that launched during 2015. A Blue Society recognizes that there is only one World Ocean and it is fundamental to the planet's

natural balance. The ocean is home to millions of undiscovered species. It provides us not only with food and transport but also essential biological, mineral and energy resources. It regulates the climate, it is at the heart of the hydrological cycle and it produces half our oxygen.

Our ocean faces major threats: climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution, overexploitation and inconsistent governance. Its tremendous potential is at risk. For example, the ocean absorbed about 93% of the combined extra heat generated by climate change between 1971 and 2010. By doing this, the ocean has already spared us a major change in temperature. But this extra heat is penetrating into the ocean, with its effects recorded up to 3000 m deep. In the long run, this will change the patterns of ocean currents, with dramatic effects on conditions across the globe.

The ocean, however, possesses immense potential for scientific breakthroughs and solutions that can help us to solve today's environmental, economic and social crises, providing that we restore and preserve the marine environment. We live in an era full of new discoveries, many of them coming from the ocean. New technologies emerge, and many are linked to maritime activities. As such, the gains we make from the ocean are constantly increasing. Europe's coasts, seas and oceans have the potential to be a major source of new jobs and growth. If we count all the economic activities in the EU that depend on the sea, this represents 5.4 million jobs and just under €500 billion every year. Through the selective use of innovative solutions and positive experiences, we can benefit from ocean resources without causing additional harm.

The Professor Mário Ruivo Prize challenges Europe's youth to confront the challenges facing us and to envisage new and innovative solutions that will support sustainable use of the Ocean for many generations to come. Such solutions might involve looking for new ways to break down negative preconceptions with respect to the sea, new ways of engaging citizens to care and take action with respect to climate change, a new technological invention that could revolutionize the way we interact with our environment. The challenge is really to dream, and to dream big...

About the Contest...

The "Professor Mário Ruivo Prize", will be awarded to an original project on the theme: "Your Ocean, Your Future". This can be achieved by designing a novel research project, implementing a community scheme, investigating a topical subject through the popular media, etc. that supports the Blue Society Principles (see www.bluesociety.org).

The Prize will run over a series of phases:

Envision It (01 October 2015 – 31 March 2016):

Entrants will conceive the project they wish to undertake within the scope of the Prize theme. A maximum of ten teams per country will be eligible, so you need to convince the selection panel why your project idea is one of the best to represent your country. During this phase potential entrants will register via the [Prize website](#), briefly describe their project and why it should be selected. Eligibility criteria are outlined below in "The Small Print".

Plan It (01 April 2016 – 31 May 2016):

The selected entrants from each country will be informed and invited to prepare a proposal for how they will execute their idea. The proposal should be described and presented by using creative means to communicate the idea. This could involve the use of multimedia tools such as short videos (max. 2 mins), prezis, e-zines, powerpoint presentations, etc.

Sell It (01 June 2016 - 30 June 2016):

With their proposals selected entrants will try to persuade the Jury to fund their project by providing a convincing reason why their idea is worthwhile. During this phase the Jury will evaluate the proposals and three teams will be selected to advance to the final stage.

Do It (01 July 2016 – 31 October 2016):

The three selected teams will compete against each other in executing their project. The team deemed to have been most successful in carrying out their plan will be selected as the overall Prize winner.

The Prize!

Over 5.000 EUR will be awarded in prizes and benefits as follows: 1,000 EUR will be awarded to each of three teams for the execution of their project (July 2016). A further prize of 1.000 EUR will be awarded to the winning team. The final Prize will be awarded in November 2016. Winners and runners-up will be invited to collect their prizes during a EurOcean event somewhere in Europe. Over 1000 EUR is set aside to cover the cost of travel and accommodation for winners to collect their prizes. For the first-place winners, two team members plus one accompanying adult will be hosted for the prize giving, in addition to one team member and accompanying adult from the other two finalist teams.

Selection of the Winners...

A Jury selected by EurOcean will evaluate the submitted entries. The composition of the Jury will be made public before the conclusion of the “Sell It” phase. If necessary, the Jury may call upon the advice of additional outside experts. The selection of the best entry will be by consensus or majority vote.

The Jury will take into consideration the creativity and originality, accuracy, visual and/or audio presentation quality, content of the message and its appropriateness to the theme. The Jury has the right to withhold the Prize, if it decides that none of the proposed entries can be taken into consideration. The decisions of the Jury will be final and no communication shall be entered into with participants, or other persons, seeking to challenge or dispute those decisions.

The Small Print...

We don't have a lot of rules for entering the competition, but there are a few criteria that entrants should bear in mind:

- 1 – The Participants must comprise a team, min. 2 members, with an age range from 11 to 16 years old (age on 31st March 2016). Each team must be supervised by an Adult Advisor of their choice, who will take responsibility for the safety of the entrants during the course of the competition.
- 2 – All entrants must be resident in a European Country or in a member country of the European Union.
- 3 – The competition entries must be provided in English, either directly or via subtitles, to reflect the international component of the challenge. Native language versions of contest submissions are also welcomed as an optional supplement to add value to the entry on a national level.
- 4 – Entrants may only submit one idea to the competition and individuals may not be named as team members of more than one team.
- 5 – The entries must be completed within the qualifying period. Entry forms must be fully completed, signed, and posted, together with a project proposal, to EurOcean by the dates specified for each phase of the competition. Entries that are lost, incomplete, damaged or late due to computer, network or telecommunications failures based on third party networks will not be accepted and correspondence will not be entered into.
- 6 – Material entered into the “Professor Mário Ruivo Prize” will be given a Creative Commons [Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike](#) license.
- 7 – Entrants must be willing to feature as well as have their ideas publicized on social media channels, websites, etc. of EurOcean and its member organisations.
- 8 – EurOcean will not be held responsible or liable for any loss, whether direct or consequential, or damage to any material submitted to EurOcean by Participants. EurOcean will not be liable for errors or omissions in any printed matter published or circulated relating to “Professor Mário Ruivo Prize”, attributed by EurOcean.
- 9 – The non-profit association EurOcean confers the Prize and the statutes of EurOcean apply to the organisation of the Prize in all phases.

What to do next...

The first step in taking part in the Professor Mário Ruivo Prize contest is to register your team and convince us why your project should be selected as one of the top ten to represent your country. You can do this by completing the online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W3HMTRB>.

Further Information...

Further information can be obtained from: EurOcean – <http://www.eurocean.org/np4/mr-prize>. If you have any doubts or questions just drop an email to Sandra and Ruth at mr.prize@eurocean.org.