

Water, Industry and Sustainability

RATINGEN, GERMANY | 4-9 MAY 2026 | INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Students and teachers from Germany, Finland and Norway met at Adam-Josef-Cüppers-Berufskolleg for the third transnational meeting of EU4Blue – Taking Action at School. The programme combined freshwater ecology, environmental action, water infrastructure, inland shipping and collaborative educational work.



Participants from the three EU4Blue partner schools at the host school in Ratingen.

THE PROJECT CONNECTION

Ocean Literacy is not limited to marine biology. The Ratingen programme linked water with science, transport, energy, biodiversity, economics and civic responsibility.

Rivers and Responsibility

TUESDAY 5 MAY | RIVER ANGER AND RATINGEN CLEAN-UP

Investigating the River Anger

Following the welcome and the formation of international groups, participants visited the River Anger with Biostation Haus Bürgel. The excursion brought the project into a local freshwater environment and provided a practical setting for exploring river habitats and human impacts on waterways.

Taking action: the EU4Blue clean-up

In the afternoon, students and teachers took part in a clean-up activity in Ratingen. Equipped with litter pickers and collection bags, the international group removed discarded waste from the local environment. This practical action connected the project's environmental aims with visible local results and prompted discussion about how litter can travel through rivers into larger aquatic systems.



Interactive exploration of local ecosystems and biodiversity.



International participants with the litter collected during the clean-up.

PROJECT RELEVANCE

The clean-up was a practical environmental activity, not merely an excursion. It showed how young people can act locally while addressing wider water-pollution challenges.

Water for Communities

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY | MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR

Drinking water and water infrastructure

The group visited the Aquarius Water Museum and received information on the Styrum Ost waterworks. Exhibits and interactive displays provided a basis for understanding drinking-water supply, the use of water as a resource and the infrastructure on which communities depend.

Exploring the Ruhr and hydropower

An EU4Blue Biparcours walk along the River Ruhr connected the educational programme with the surrounding landscape. The visit to Haus Ruhrnatur included a lecture about the Kahlenberg hydroelectric power plant, linking flowing water with energy generation and the choices involved in sustainable resource use.



Hands-on learning about water and water engineering.



An exhibition space connecting water with everyday life.

LEARNING PERSPECTIVE

The day connected water supply, water technology, local geography and renewable energy—examples of how Ocean Literacy can be taught across different subjects.

Waterways at Work

THURSDAY 7 MAY | DUISBURG

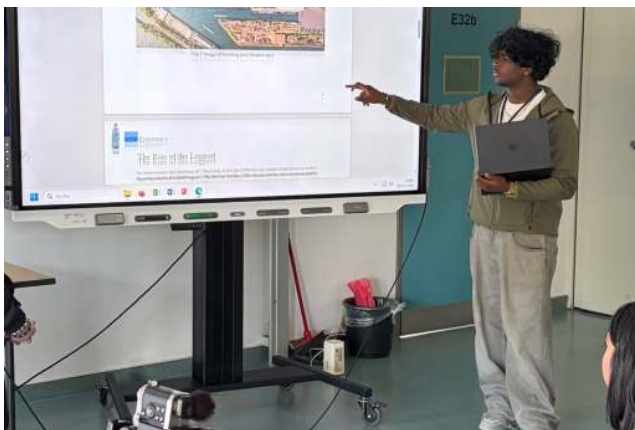
Inland shipping and international trade

The programme continued at the German Inland Waterways Museum in Duisburg, where the group explored the development and economic significance of inland navigation. A harbour tour then connected this historical perspective with the present-day role of Duisburg as an important inland logistics centre.

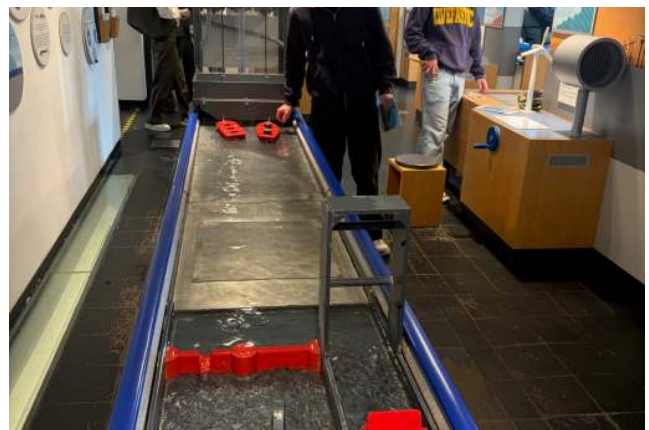
Vocational learning aboard the training vessel

The group also visited the Schulschiff, a training vessel used in inland navigation education. This visit added a vocational dimension to EU4Blue by illustrating the skills, working environments and training pathways associated with the maritime and inland-waterways sector.

Together, these experiences provided a concrete context for discussing the Blue Economy: the benefits of water-based transport, its economic importance and the environmental questions raised by shipping and logistics.



Student presentation about the Port of Duisburg and inland transport.



Hands-on exhibit illustrating water-based technology.

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTION

The programme brought together Geography, Economics, Technology and vocational education, alongside questions of sustainability and water protection.

Learning Across Ecosystems

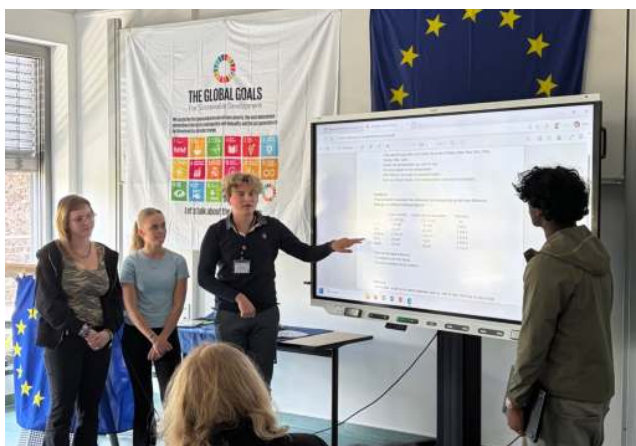
FRIDAY 8 MAY | OBERHAUSEN AND GROUP WORK

Forests and aquatic biodiversity

The Friday programme included a visit to Gasometer Oberhausen and its Forest Worlds exhibition, followed by SEA LIFE Oberhausen. These learning environments broadened the perspective from rivers and infrastructure to ecological relationships, biodiversity and the importance of protecting natural habitats.

Student-created learning resources

Students worked in international teams and presented their project results. The photographic documentation shows work on carbon emissions and travel, the Port of Duisburg and inland transport, the Ruhr region and invasive species. The activities combined research, communication and digital presentation skills with real examples from the mobility.



International students discussing transport emissions.



Students presenting a Ruhr-region learning activity.

DOCUMENTED OUTPUTS

The final presentations are visible evidence of collaborative work. The finished files and any later classroom testing should be archived separately for the project's final reporting.

Results and Next Steps

LEARNING OUTCOMES | EVIDENCE | DISSEMINATION

What the mobility contributed

- Freshwater learning: observation of river environments and investigation of water systems.
- Environmental action: a documented local clean-up carried out by the international group.
- Blue Economy: inland navigation, harbour logistics and vocational pathways on the Schulschiff.
- Interdisciplinary learning: links between water, energy, biodiversity, technology and society.
- European cooperation: joint research, group work and presentation of student-created outputs.

Presentations, certificates and closing activities

On Friday, students presented their group work and received participation certificates. A group photograph and a shared barbecue marked the conclusion of the project week. The Finnish and Norwegian groups departed on Saturday 9 May.



Participants receiving certificates at the closing session.



Certificates presented to international participants.

Explore the project and free Ocean Literacy materials: www.eu4blue.eu