

Case Study: Miniboat fleet

An example of awareness-raising action toward a young public through a European project: iFADO minifleet.

information on the data collected through sensors installed.



Screenshot from Educational Passages – Path Analysis Tool

1. Miniboats: effective awareness-raising tools.

In the context of the iFADO project, the miniboat has been proven as an effective tool for raising awareness of ocean issues. In fact, it's an original tool that arouses curiosity, thereby furthering the primary objective of raising awareness.

The involvement doesn't end with the construction of the boat, since it's also possible to follow its trajectory and get

For example, by following "[iFADOIII - Buche Salado II miniboat](#)" - launched on the May 5 2023 by [PLOCAN](#), you can track the boat's progress, wind speed and wave height. All boats can be tracked like this.

It's a tool that can be used to popularize scientific data for a novice audience, i.e., in this case: schoolchildren, but also a wider public since the data is freely accessible. Thanks to this tracking, it is also possible to predict the boat's route. This is how the miniboat TUGA da Costa Azul launched on the 17th of March 2022 off St Vincent Cape

(Portugal) to be picked up in Morocco after 20 days at sea!



TUGA da Costa Azul recovered in Morocco.

2. Involvement of young people

From building the boat to launching it, to monitoring its progress and arrival, the students are fully involved.

The collaborative construction of the boat is already a way of taking ownership of the project, and it's also an opportunity to integrate various notions into the school curricula of the 4 schools involved. Setting up the miniboats at Saint Vincent's secondary school in Brest, for example, enabled pupils to develop communication tools in French, build a compass rose in geometry, draw the contest of the miniboat sail in plastic arts and study the history of oceanography.

Over and above their involvement in the field, the students feel concerned by current environmental protection issues. They understand the importance of the ocean and can appropriate themselves the data collected by the sensors on the miniboats.



Miniboat Galway sailor – Kilglass School in Galway & Marine Institute



Miniboat iFADO II - IES Eusebio Barreto in La Palma & PLOCAN



Miniboat Kraken – King Edward VI School in Southampton & National Oceanography Center



Miniboat Korrigan – Collège Saint Vincent in Brest & Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique.



Miniboat TUGA da Costa Azul - Agrupamento de Escolas de Sampaio & Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera

3. Sharing knowledge on a common theme: the ocean

This project brought people together around the fact that we all share the same ocean. It has brought together diverse organizations, all working towards the same goal.

It's a collaborative effort involving [Educational Passages](#), a not-for-profit organization that spreads ocean and environmental literacy. Their Miniboat program offers an extraordinary way for people of all ages to learn crucial skills, discover maritime careers, and build connections that will last a lifetime.

Also involved is the European [iFADO project](#), funded by the [INTERREG Atlantic Area programme](#), which aims to combine the conventional monitoring programmes, satellite data, emerging technologies and numerical modelling to develop tailor-made and innovative products.

Last but not least, the key players in this initiative are the students from the schools involved.

It's an action that brings people together around a major issue.

As a result, students from all the schools involved have been able to increase their knowledge in several closely related and interconnected fields.

During the launch of the miniboat KES KRAKEN, the students were visited by scientists and had the chance to learn about aspects of marine science like ocean currents, microplastics, marine autonomous robotic systems and climate change.



NOC scientists visited the school.

4. Europe-wide communication tool

Miniboats are an awareness-raising tool with real communication potential.

They provide a means of communicating about preservation issues and sharing oceanographic data.

It's a form of communication that's effective on a small scale - in the schools concerned - but also on a much larger scale: Europe.

In fact, the miniboat launches took place all over Europe. The iFADO project has a lot to do with this, bringing together five

European countries: France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the UK.



iFADO Miniboats on educational passages
[dedicated webpage](#)

5. Conclusion

Miniboats are tools that enable strong collaboration between different players linked to the same subject, following Educational passages' credo of "Build, Launch, Track, Learn, Connect". These are the steps involved in exchanging and sharing data and knowledge. Through Educational Passages, the iFADO project and its partners, as well as the schools involved, are working hand in hand to achieve a common goal: to raise awareness among the younger generation and enable real communication around ocean monitoring data and its challenges.