

PRESS RELEASE

**BARCOLANA SEA SUMMIT 2025: THE FIFTH EDITION TO BE HELD IN TRIESTE
FROM OCTOBER 6 TO 11
WATER PROTECTION, UNDERWATER, EDUCATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP
AT THE HEART OF THE PROGRAM**

Trieste, September 26, 2025 – The Barcolana Sea Summit returns to Trieste for its fifth edition, taking place from October 6 to 11, 2025, as part of Barcolana57 presented by Generali. The event once again proves to be a benchmark for reflecting on the importance and protection of the sea and inland waters, while also exploring the role of the blue economy through initiatives dedicated to students, citizens, and businesses, with the goal of strengthening dialogue with institutions, scientists, and industry stakeholders. At the heart of this year's Sea Summit is a specific focus on the "Underwater" dimension, analyzed from regulatory, economic, and environmental perspectives thanks to the participation of leading industrial, institutional, and scientific players.

*"The importance of continuing to discuss water protection with a holistic approach – encompassing seas, oceans, rivers, and lakes – of educating new generations, and of encouraging dialogue between businesses, institutions, and citizens is central to the Barcolana Sea Summit," said **Mitja Gialuz, President of the Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano**. "In this edition, education and the direct involvement of participants through interactive pathways and the language of performance will be the key to inspiring everyone to 'stand with water'. I would like to thank the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, AcegasApsAmga, the United World College, and all the sponsors who continue to support and grow this event."*

*"Trieste and Friuli Venezia Giulia owe much to the sea – a debt that is both economic and cultural," said **Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region**. "It is thanks to this invaluable resource that our region has developed, achieving results unimaginable only a few decades ago. It is a precious heritage that we must protect together with the communities who live by the sea, work there, and generate wellbeing. Today, sustainable development cannot be conceived without taking human activities into account. That is why the Regional Administration is committed, for example, to strengthening the blue economy in collaboration with the most important public and private players in the maritime sector and with research centers across our territory, co-financing projects with significant impacts, supporting innovation, and seeking to attract investors and talents from abroad. We want to accompany this path with major investments, initiatives such as the hub that will be developed in Porto Vecchio – which could become an international best practice – and opportunities for dialogue and debate like the Barcolana Sea Summit, which grows in prestige, interest, and popularity year after year."*

The program opens with two preview days on October 6 and 7, with events organized by several partners at the Barcolana Village, centered around Piazza Unità. During the summit days, Arpa FVG (October 6–8) and Bioma (October 9–10) will dedicate their mornings to schools, with over 600 students already involved in the programs, while WWF – Miramare Marine Protected Area will organize initiatives focused on cetacean protection, also in collaboration with the Coast Guard.

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On October 8, the Barcolana Sea Summit opens its doors at the Generali Convention Center with the third edition of “Energy and Climate”, an event dedicated to high school students, organized by AEIT FVG and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region. The 2025 edition proposes a reflection on climate change from an engineering perspective, with particular attention to the themes of electrification and the digital transformation of energy, in connection with water resources and their sustainable use. The goal is to explore and present effective solutions to achieve tangible climate action. Special emphasis is placed on human capital, current challenges, and career paths linked to technology, design, electrical energy engineering, and digital systems science. A particular focus is also given to workplace safety, especially in educational and training contexts, with reference to school-to-work orientation programs that can highlight the many opportunities offered by all the “E-sectors.”

The afternoon of Wednesday, October 8, features the traditional inaugural event of the Barcolana Sea Summit. The opening of the fifth edition is dedicated to the role of education in protecting oceans, seas, and rivers and, more broadly, in building pathways that enable young people to “be part of the solution” to the environmental crisis. The spotlight will be on the educational model of the United World College of the Adriatic, which will also celebrate the opening of its academic year during the Summit.

The afternoon will be introduced by Fabio Scoccimarro, Regional Councillor for Environmental Protection, Energy, and Sustainable Development, who will focus on rivers as a strategic element in safeguarding the territory, with particular attention to actions and strategies for the management of the Tagliamento River. The program will also include a series of pitch overviews on the state of health of seas and rivers. The United World College, whose mission is “to make education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future”, will present its academic year at the Sea Summit, highlighting the educational journey of sustainability undertaken by its approximately 200 students.

Among the numerous events organized by the Regional Department for Labor, Training, Education, Research, Universities, and Family, on October 8 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a workshop titled “Blue economy: recruitment and selection of personnel in Europe with Eures”. The session, aimed at companies in the blue economy sector, will present opportunities offered by the EOJD – European Online Job Days platform for recruiting talent and professionals from abroad.

On Thursday, October 9 at 10:00 a.m., the Generali Convention Center will host an event organized by the Carabinieri, dedicated to a key theme in sustainability literature: “Urban Forests and Citizens’ Wellbeing: The One Health Concept.” Defined by the World Health Organization as an integrated and unifying approach to sustainably optimizing the health of people, animals, and ecosystems—inseparably linked—the concept will be discussed by Stefano De Carli, President of FADOI Friuli Venezia Giulia; Tommaso Sitzia, University of Padua; Marco Mencagli, author and science communicator; and Colonel Vincenzo Andriani, Commander of the National Carabinieri Biodiversity Center of Peri. The panel will be moderated by Francesco de Filippo, Head of ANSA FVG.

Also on Thursday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m., the Generali Convention Center will host the first session dedicated to the Underwater theme, curated by Arpa: “Noise CleanUp training event: the issue of underwater noise and shared strategies for a healthy marine environment.” This panel will address the problem of underwater noise in the context of monitoring activities carried out by ARPA FVG and the European INTERREG Italy-Croatia project “UNDERSEA – UNDERwaterER Soundscape bEeyond AIS”. The project provides tools for monitoring, assessing, and mitigating anthropogenic underwater noise in the Gulf of Trieste and the Adriatic Sea. The event will also present a new app for estimating recreational boat traffic, as an example of citizen science.

Great anticipation surrounds the project presented by AcegasApsAmga together with the “Smart Water Management” network of integrated water service operators in Friuli Venezia Giulia, developed in partnership with Barcolana. The initiative brings to the Sea Summit the theatrical performance “Fiumi Scomparsi” (Vanished Rivers) featuring Marco Paolini, Paolo Fresu, and Rajeev Badhan. The show, to be staged at the Generali Convention Center at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 9 (free entry), was created to rediscover and narrate the deep bond between the city of Trieste and its waters. Through a blend of artistic languages – theatre, live music, and video projections – the audience will embark on an emotional journey into the stories of Trieste’s rivers, now buried beneath urban expansion. Marco Paolini, in addition to narrating, will interact with images and music, giving voice and presence to the rivers’ stories and their social and environmental implications, supported by the scenic and technical contributions of Rajeev Badhan. Paolo Fresu will enrich the performance with evocative trumpet solos that heighten the atmosphere and emotions, while Badhan also directs the production, contributing filmed interviews and images projected on large screens in dialogue with Paolini and Fresu. The performance will be introduced by Mitja Gialuz, President of Barcolana, and Carlo Andriolo, CEO of AcegasApsAmga, who will reflect on the theme of water management and the importance of using new languages – theatre, music, and multimedia – to engage citizens on increasingly pressing issues such as the impact of climate change on cities.

The Sea Summit program also features a spectacular event: a video mapping projection on the façade of Trieste’s City Hall. An Ocean’s Song, a “Video Projection Experience” presented by the Schmidt Ocean Institute, Deep Blue Racing Team, and 11th Hour Racing during Barcolana, will transform the façade into a giant cinematic screen (see attached press release).

The 12-minute installation, narrated by Claudio Santamaria and Greta Scarano, will take the audience on an emotional journey into the depths of the ocean. With extraordinary imagery provided by the Schmidt Ocean Institute, the Ocean itself will find a voice and tell its story, accompanying spectators from the surface to the deep. The narrative unfolds in five chapters – Prologue, Descent into the Abyss, The Ocean Floor, Ascent, and Farewell/Closure – enriched by monumental graphics, data, insights, and breathtaking images of marine creatures and underwater landscapes.

Finally, the Generali Convention Center will host the Carabinieri Biodiversity Corps Village, which will showcase the activities of its dedicated units in schools and nature reserves. The village will be open on Wednesday, October 8 and Thursday, October 9, alongside an information booth by M.A.R.E. TC FVG on the “Underwater Generation” and career opportunities in the blue economy (open on the morning of October 8).

<p>Con il patrocinio di</p>  <p>Sotto l'alto patrocinio del Parlamento europeo</p>	<p>Comitato organizzatore</p>   	<p>Institutional Partner</p>               
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The Barcolana Sea Summit will conclude on the morning of Friday, October 10, in the Salone di Rappresentanza of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, which will host two key panels on the Underwater theme. The double objective is to reflect on the activities carried out within the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region while also taking a broader look at the industry, regulations, and the development of the National Underwater Hub. The concept of Underwater represents a strategic field that combines scientific research, industrial development, and environmental protection: from discoveries that expand knowledge of marine biodiversity, to new technologies applied to energy, safety, and transportation, to economic and social impacts and legal frameworks for seabed regulation. It is a rapidly growing sector with the potential to influence the future of multiple industries at once. For this reason, it must be approached with global management that prioritizes ecosystem protection and a clear regulatory framework, alongside exploration and technological advancement.

The Summit's closing session will synthesize the discussions and provide an international outlook on the topic, with contributions from Senator Roberta Pinotti, President of the National Underwater Dimension Hub Foundation; Admiral Cristiano Nervi, Director of CSSN – Italian Navy and operational body of the Hub; Jessica Battle, WWF Senior Global Ocean Governance and Policy Expert; Paola Severino, President of the Luiss School of Law; and Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO and General Manager of Fincantieri.

The 2025 edition of the Barcolana Sea Summit is held under the high patronage of the European Parliament. The Organizing Committee includes the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano, and AEIT – Italian Association of Electrical, Electronic, Automation, IT, and Telecommunications Engineering. Institutional partners are: the Ministry for Sport and Youth, the Ministry of Tourism, Coesione Italia 21-27 Friuli Venezia Giulia, Io sono Friuli Venezia Giulia, Eco FVG, Municipality of Trieste, Harbor Master's Office – Coast Guard, Port of Trieste, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Fondazione CRT Trieste, University of Trieste, Arpa FVG, Mare FVG, Miramare Marine Protected Area – Ministry of Environment and Energy Security – WWF, United World College of the Adriatic O.N.L.U.S. The event is also organized in partnership with Generali, Fincantieri, Gruppo Hera – AcegasApsAmga, TAL – Transalpine Pipeline Company, JustOnEarth, ITS Ecology, Confindustria Cisambiente, Cluster Reply, Generali Convention Center Trieste. The main media partner is RAI.

ALL DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE WWW.BARCOLANA.IT
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