

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Stone Soup Leadership Institute Acknowledges FLAD's support for Global Blue Job Shadow Day 2026: Connecting Blue Economy Leaders in Portugal & U.S.**

**LISBON, Portugal — January 22, 2026** — The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is pleased that FLAD (Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento) announced a grant award for the Global Blue Job Shadow Day (GBJSD) on February 2, 2026. This event will feature a global exchange between business, education, government, and youth leaders from Portugal and the United States showcasing best practices in Blue Economy workforce development.

Honored guest speakers in Lisbon: Salvador Malheiro, Secretary of State for Fisheries and the Sea and Marisa Lameiras da Silva, Director General for Maritime Policy will share Portugal's vision of being a leader in the Blue Economy. In Peniche, João Rito, SEAentia will share his success with the Blue Economy Pathway: Aquaculture and Sergio Leandro at Polytechnic of Leiria will share his plans for the Blue Learning Labs.

The U.S. hubs from Newport, Rhode will feature Blue Tech leader Dr. Tobias Stapleton, Blue Venture Forum and Water Management in Marin, California.

The Institute thanks FLAD for its leadership and confidence in this high-impact initiative, which strengthens Portugal-U.S. collaboration and bridges the gap between its sector silos and its vision with strategic investments.

### **Global Blue Job Shadow Day is Designed to Close that Gap**

With Portugal's maritime heritage and leadership, the nation is poised to dominate sectors like Aquaculture, Blue BioTech, Blue Finance and Offshore Renewables. However, there is a critical bottleneck: a shortage of young, skilled talent — a gap that threatens long-term growth. Portugal's Blue Schools and Ciencia Viva's Ocean Literacy initiatives have built a strong foundation to educate students to Protect, Manage, Harvest, and Restore our oceans.

### **Building the Blue Economy Generation**

**Miguel Roque**, the Institute's Blue Economy Youth Ambassador, emphasizes that this initiative "opens doors, expands horizons and inspires Portugal's youth to become champions of the Blue Economy. Just imagine if these young people could become the foundation for Portugal's Blue Economy – they could make an incredible contribution in Portugal's economic revival."

"At a time when international collaboration matters more than ever, the Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day demonstrates how Portugal and the United States can work together to empower young people to help build a more sustainable world," says Marianne Larned, Founding Director Stone Soup Leadership Institute

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### **About FLAD**

FLAD – Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento strengthens cooperation between Portugal and the United States through strategic support for education, innovation, culture, and sustainability initiatives.

*FLAD's mission is to contribute to Portugal's development through its relationship with the United States.*

*Since its creation in 1985, FLAD has been a bridge between the two countries, taking Portuguese people further through scholarships and research grants, awards, support, programs, conferences, and other events.*

**Learn more:** [www.flad.pt](http://www.flad.pt)

## **About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute & its History with Job Shadow Day**

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a global non-profit organization founded in Massachusetts in 1997. Its mission is to develop educational tools, training and initiatives that connect business, education, government leaders to empower their young people to become leaders of a more humanistic and sustainable world. The Stone Soup Model embraces the principles of Design Thinking, Systems Thinking and Healthy Communities to develop innovative initiatives to address complex issues in their communities. [Case Studies](#)

The **Global Blue Job Shadow Day™** is a strategic way to engage the business community to collaborate with the education community to develop customized workforce development initiatives. First developed with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in the early 1990s, the Job Shadow Day has reached millions of students. The Institute refocused to design Green and Blue Job Shadow Days, aligning workforce development with global sustainability priorities.

### **EVENT RSVP**

[info@GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org](mailto:info@GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org)

### **For More Information**

[www.GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org](http://www.GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org)

**Stone Soup Leadership Institute**  
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[www.blueeconomygeneration.org/portugal](http://www.blueeconomygeneration.org/portugal)