



ERASMUS +: BlueS_Med project

2020-1-FR01-KA201-080531

*Supporting the development of socially inclusive
Blue Challenges in schools in the Mediterranean Sea basin*

Multiplier Event GREECE

Summary report

Date: 18th March 2023

Country: Greece

Venue: HCMR premises at Anavissos, Attica



DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Overview

The Greek multiplier event was held on 18th of March 2023 and hosted by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in its premises in Anavissos of Attica (near the capital of Athens). The meeting, entitled “The educational voyage of the Mediterranean Blue Schools in Greece”, was co-organized by the HCMR and Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) in close collaboration with Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education of Athens and Attica. The event was addressed to teachers and pupils of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as professionals related to Environmental Education/Education for Sustainability in general and Ocean Literacy in particular.

Objectives

The meeting aimed at communicating the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative approaches for integrating Ocean Literacy issues into the Greek school curricula, textbooks, and educational activities, as well as the innovative "Blue Schools" network in Europe.

Activities

The one-day agenda of the meeting was comprised of the following axes: An introductory presentation of Ocean Literacy background, its flourishing and diffusion in the world, as well as its appearance in Greece, a detailed presentation of the Blues_Med project, as well as the EU Blue schools network, and a presentation of an educational material entitled “Med_Educ”, designed and produced by the HCMR in collaboration with other research centres.





Next, four projects of the corresponding participating Greek schools (two elementary schools from Alexandroupolis, one from Crete, and one middle school from Korydallos, Athens) were presented and communicated to the participants in detail. Finally, the meeting closed with the presentation of handcrafts and board games developed by the elementary school of Gournes, Crete, a demonstration of a digital application on the beach by the environmental team of Korydallos middle school, and a guided tour around HCMR premises.





Participants

60 people participated in the meeting.

Pupils: 20 secondary education pupils from the 8th junior high school of Korydallos of Attica who actively participated in the project, and about 30 elementary and secondary education teachers, including six teachers who have been involved in the four Greek blue challenges of the project.

Partners: 4 representatives of HCMR and DUTH were also present.

Other stakeholders: There were also 6 representatives from :the Institute of Educational Policy, a legal body attached to the Greek Ministry of Education, as well as administrative officers responsible for Environmental Education programmes in the area of Athens and Attica.



RESULTS OF THE EVENT

Feedback

During the event, real interest was expressed by the participants through several questions, and fruitful discussion was followed concerning Ocean Literacy, EU Blue Schools network, the framework and results of the BlueSMed project, the educational material provided by MED EDUC and the blue challenges of the Greek schools. Different points of views for several issues were arisen and given in general, and there was a positive response from all the participants for developing marine science issues and integrating Ocean Literacy in the Greek educational system.

Challenges

Most of the teachers who participated in the event developed “blue projects” through different school subjects with their pupils. However, it seems that they are not adequately aware of the Ocean Literacy Framework and the EU Blue Schools network. There were several teachers saying “...we develop this kind of blue projects...”, “we would like our work to be rewarded...”, “we would like to participate in a wider network...”. In addition, there is lack of sources for several marine science issues which seem to be essential for the teachers as well as support by marine scientists and environmental educators.

Key messages

In conclusion, most of the participants are very positive and eager to learn more about Ocean Literacy issues and participate in the EU Blue Schools Network. High level officers from Environmental/Sustainable Education and the Institute of Educational Policy are willing to integrate Ocean Literacy and EU Blue Schools Network issues in school curricula, textbooks and educational activities. Finally, dissemination and communication of the principles and concepts of the Ocean Literacy Framework and the criteria for participating in the EU Blue Schools Network should take place in training events and workshops targeting Greek teachers and educators.

ANNEXES

Agenda

Attendance sheets