

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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LOŠINJ MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE

During the 2013/14 Lošinj Marine Education Centre (LMEC) was visited by a total of 9239 people. Of the total number of visitors in the past year there were 5332 individual visitors and 3907 were students who took part in lectures and workshops on the marine environment.

Due to large interest of our visitors, this summer, the Blue World Institute organized 2 special education programmes. First as result of cooperation with the Association for the promotion of biology and related sciences 'Bioteka' from Zagreb - Summer School of Biology in the Lošinj Marine Education Centre in the first days of August. The programme of Summer School had been designed for children from 7 to 12 years old, and all the participants had the opportunity to take part in interesting and original workshops. Every child had the chance to make an experiment and gain the experience of being real scientists working in the laboratory. The Summer School created a lot of interest in parents and children, and each new workshop had more and more children participating. With the encouraging comments of parents and satisfaction of our little participants, the expectations of the organizers are exceeded. Second summer education programme was developed in cooperation with tourist company Jadranka and their Family Hotel Vespera. It was 3 day programme of Little Marine School with 6 different topics on marine animals presented to children through lectures, workshops and field activities. Each participant of this program was awarded with certificate and set of Blue World's education workbooks. Both of these 2 summer programmes gained lots of interest, so we plan to continue and extend it for the next season.

In order to be more efficient and available to all our users, during the summer months we hired two students to work in LMEC.

MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE – PLANS & PREPARATION

In 2014, we worked intensely on preparing the feasibility study for the new Marine Science Centre in Mali Lošinj. Preparation for the development of the Marine Science Centre has been substantially supported by the Ministry of tourism. The Ministry financially supported the development of the conceptual design. Based on the resulting layouts, they declared this project important for the development of tourism and nominated it to receive technical aid for development of financial and tendering documentation for funding. Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, leading the EU funded project "Preparation of future programming documents and the accompanying project pipelines" accepted this nomination and is now finishing the project documentation for application to EU Structural and cohesion funds. Finally, BWI and the City of Mali Lošinj signed a collaboration agreement for future development of the Centre, should funding become approved by the EU.

We also had the opportunity to present the plans for the future Marine Science Centre on the first European interparliamentary conference on sustainable tourism which was organised in Zagreb and

Mali Lošinj. There were more than 120 participants from 24 countries. The Marine Science Centre was presented to the representatives of relevant authorities in tourism of the national parliaments of EU states, to the experts in tourism and diplomats. It is envisioned to present a prime example of the way development in tourism can serve a conservation role through educational and scientific content. We hope that the preparation stage will be over during 2015 and that we will be able to show some more news in our next Annual Report -2015 .

SEA TURTLE RESCUE CENTRE

Besides care for the injured animals we had in spring, one of the main tasks of the TRC in 2014 was to educate and inform the public. As a result we organized several different activities and events to draw the attention of the public to these fascinating creatures. In June we celebrated World Sea Turtle Day by organizing public event. In August we hosted a TV crew filming a story about the TRC and the EU NETCET project which was broadcasted in November on Croatian national television (HTV). You can check it on <https://vimeo.com/110774495>. The total number of visitors to the TRC was over 2,000 people this summer alone, we believe that 2014 fulfilled our expectations for our new little centre.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

At beginning of 2014 Blue World Institute has gained official recommendation from Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport for all the activities in educational programme. The recommendation was based on the expert evaluation of Croatian Teacher Training Agency.

During the 2014th our lectures and workshops were attended by 3.955 children and young people of different ages. Among them 2.699 were attended various lectures on dolphins and other marine animals while 496 were participating in various workshops. As part of cooperation with Austrian organization Planet Ocean, 712 young people from Austria visited LMEC during pre- and post-season months. During the school year we organized after-school activities "Little School of Natural Sciences" which were attended by 28 local children. Additionally, 20 children participated in summer education programmes.

As expected, the most of these groups visited us in May and June. However, in September, as part of "Stickermania" cooperation project with company SPAR Croatia, we organized lectures in 7 schools in Zagreb. On this occasion, lectures on dolphins were given to 750 children.

In the program of student education, such as internships and student practice, in 2014 we had 11 students in Blue World Institute, working on different projects.

The Little School of Natural Science is project funded by the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency and City of Mali Lošinj, and partnered by the local kindergarten 'Cvrčak'. During 2014 we organized extracurricular educational program for school children, which enriched the offer for children from the island. The program is attended by a total of 28 participants between the ages of 6-11 years old, divided into two groups. In total there are 17 participants in Mali Lošinj and 11 in Veli Lošinj. Over the year our educators Jelena Basta, Marinela Cukrov and Andrea Borić had multiple visits to preschool children giving lectures and organizing workshops. In addition, we organised visits to our LMEC and TRC.

Within the Little School of Natural Science, besides regular weekly meetings with the participants, we occasionally organize extra activities to mark important dates such as World Water Day, Earth Day, Day of Sea Turtles, and Dolphin Day as well as a half-day and full-day trips. The program includes a variety of topics in botany, zoology, ecology and the environment, certain content is taught through workshops, lectures, interactive games or field trips. One of the goals is to promote principles of sustainable use of nature in the local community and beyond. So, for example, on World Water Day, March 22nd, we organized public campaign called "Bag with the message" and half-day trip to Vrana Lake on Cres Island which is the source of all drinking water for the Cres and Lošinj. Earth Day was celebrated by a full-day trip to Brijuni National Park. During the trip, the children participated in the workshop called 'Tracks of the dinosaurs' with expert guidance by the Brijuni National Park educator (our own student from years before, Alena).

Along with the youngest citizens on the islands, we are also trying to involve their parents in the project activities. With our partners from kindergarten 'Cvrčak' we organized a volunteer action to renovate the inner courtyard of the kindergarten in September. By participating in these activities, participants can gain new knowledge in the fields of biology, ecology and environmental protection, and expand their interest and concern for nature. At the closing event held for parents in LMEC on the 30th May, children and their parents expressed great satisfaction with the program of the Little School of Natural Sciences. When the school year ended, during the summer holidays most of the users of the project continued to participate in educational programs of the Blue World Institute. Many of them were involved in activities around the World Sea Turtle Day and our traditional Dolphin Day. Due to the large interest of users and joy that the work on the projects gave us we continued with the Little School of Natural Science into 2015.

As part of these activities, throughout February and March 2014 we discussed the topic of negative effect that our everyday life has on the environment and what each of us can do to change that. Emphasis was put on use of plastic bags and their disposal. On the 22nd of March (World Water Day) in Public Library of Mali Lošinj we organized a small public event where children drew and wrote messages on cotton bags. In the event, a total of 25 children prepared 50 colourful bags with important environmental messages. All the bags were placed on the walls of the library as an exhibition until Earth Day (22nd April). The exhibition was open to the public and we estimate that around 1.000 library visitors saw it in that period. The project report was then send to the international competition "Med'olympiades" organized by the Network of organizations dealing with education for the environment throughout the Mediterranean, where it won first prize. The project leaders Marinela Cukrov and Jelena Basta were hosted in September in Monaco at award giving ceremony as part of the annual meeting of members of the Euro-Mediterranean network (Reseau Euro-Méditerranée).

In cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports during 2014 we successfully completed the project "the Sea connects" in partnership with Blue World Vis. The aim of the project was to organize a series of lectures and workshops on marine life for the children in three Croatian counties. In total, 768 children from 50 elementary schools and special care institutions were included. From Primorsko-goranska County 23 groups of children were involved in the project, in the Splitsko-dalmatinska County 24 groups and in the City of Zagreb three groups of participants from special care institutions were included in the project.

The first workshops for children were conducted in March, in Zagreb where we visited the Centre for Education 'Dubrava' and the Centre for Education 'Vinko Bek' and organized a lecture and workshop for children and young people with special needs. In order to try to bring a touch of the sea into their institutions, we presented to our new friends dolphins, sea turtles, starfish, shellfish and other sea inhabitants, whose models and shells we brought with us. In addition we brought jars of sea water,

sand, stones and all that 'sea items' that don't normally belong in Zagreb. Reactions were amazing and the happy faces of the participants motivated us to continue with our work. In the next stage of the project, workshops were organized for children from the Kvarner and Dalmatian islands (some of the very small islands in some cases) and ultimately for several groups of children from Rijeka and Split area. Participation in lectures and workshops in this project helped the participants to better understand the basic nature of marine ecosystems, as well as the human impact on the sea and the possible consequences of this influence. In short, the project has brought the sea little bit closer to all the participants.

As children from other communities on the island of Lošinj and neighbouring islands would not be left out, in collaboration with Elementary School Mario Martinolić from Mali Lošinj we created another project for regional schools of the archipelago "Our Island's Living World". During 2014, we visited regional schools in Veli Lošinj and Nerezine but also on the islands of Ilovik, Susak and Unije. In each school we organize lectures and workshops for these children, with the goal of familiarizing them with our island's living world. The Project is being financially supported by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds and the City of Mali Lošinj.

In order to attract more school groups to come and visit us, in 2014 we printed special brochure on our education programmes certified by Ministry of science, education and sport and distributed them to all elementary schools around Croatia.

22nd DOLPHIN DAY

With the support of the City of Mali Lošinj Tourist Board, on Tuesday, 1st of July 2014 the Blue World Institute organized a unique event for all the islanders and visitors of Lošinj Island – the 22nd Dolphin Day. As normal, the majority of the activities in the program were aimed at the participation of children. The whole day was filled with laughter, music and colour, through the many workshops hosted in Sunčana Bay and Veli Lošinj harbour. The program started in the morning in front of the new Turtle Rescue Centre in Sunčana Bay where around 50 children participated in various workshops and games. The same program was transferred in the afternoon hours to Veli Lošinj harbour, in front of our LMEC where even more children came to join us. For all ages, several art workshops were offered – chalk drawing, marine animals collage and most popular the hand-painting of small terracotta turtles. At the same time, around 100 school-age children organized in 7 teams started competing for this years "Treasure Hunt". The competing teams had 8 different tasks – whale & dolphin memory, marine creatures hangman, jumping over the rope, looking for hidden turtle models, identification of dolphins by dorsal fin photos, cutting paper shapes of dolphin's, turtles and sharks, memorizing words, and recognizing fish species. After the game, while waiting for the results, the storytelling workshop and further "Stories form the Sea Foam" were performed by the NGO "Telling you a story" from Pula. Additionally, the afternoon in Rovenska Bay in Veli Lošinj several teams participated in our annual water-polo tournament organized in cooperation with the Waterpolo Club Lošinj. After the announcement of winners and the awards ceremony for the participants of the "Treasure Hunt", around 100 visitors listened to the open-air lecture on dolphins in front of the LMEC.

AQUAMARINE

At the end of the year we were busy with preparation, publication and sending of a new issue of Aquamarine, newsletter for dolphin adopters, members and associates of the BWI which is available on our website http://www.blue-world.org/media/files/Aquamarine_2014_EN_web_hq.pdf