

**BLUE WORLD INSTITUTE OF MARINE  
RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION**

**2016**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Education programme**



Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation

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# EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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## LOŠINJ MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE

During 2016. Lošinj Marine Education Centre was visited by a total of 7.762 people. Of the total number of visitors in the past year, 4.057 of them were pupils and students who participated in the lectures and workshops on the marine environment, while 3.705 were individual visitors.

As the separate parts of the program, different programs for continuous work with students in the local community were designed - through a group called the Little Blue World. Throughout the year we work with children and students in the specially created workshops in the field of nature, biology and environmental protection.

The main part of the educational program is the "Education on the Marine Environment" that ensures quality education on the marine environment highlighting the need for its conservation. The program is implemented through a permanent exhibition of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre and the Turtle Rescue Centre.

As the separate parts of the program, different programs for continuous work with students in the local community were designed - through a project called the "Our treasure island". All together 161 pupils participated in the project activities.

Throughout the year we work with children and students in the specially created workshops in the field of nature, biology and environmental protection. As a complement to this program, during the summer months the "Little Marine School" is held, where we try to make our educational activities available for children who have not been able to join our work during the school year due to the other commitments and for children who are spending their holidays on the island of Lošinj

Given our successful collaboration with Bioteka – an organization for the promotion of biology and related sciences, their scientific team moves its scientific laboratory on the island of Lošinj during the summer months, complementing the offer of summer educational programs. Biotekas' "Summer Science Camp" abounds with a variety of topics in the field of biology; from studying the world invisible to the naked eye and how it looks under the microscope, through studies of fossils to various chemical experiments and discovering the connection between all living beings. All participants of the program had the opportunity to become scientists for a week.

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## SEA TURTLE RESCUE CENTRE

The Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in Sunčana Bay in Mali Lošinj was opened for visitors from June to September 2016. Due to the large interest of children we introduced two educational programs during the summer months - "Little Marine School" and "Two-days Summer Science Camp" in cooperation with the organization Bioteka from Zagreb. Within these programs workshops in Croatian, German, Italian, English and Slovenian were held in the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. Our program was attended by about 50 children.

We celebrated another World Sea turtle Day. Children of all ages arrived to enjoy numerous art and learning activities including painting their own ceramic sea turtles and engaging with researchers about the anatomy and mysterious life history of these magnificent aquatic reptiles.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

During 2016 a total of 4.529 children and young people of different ages participated in a different Blue World Institutes' education programs. Various lectures on dolphins and other marine organisms were attended by 3.471 students, while in the workshops participated 586 of them. In the collaboration with the Austrian organization Biostation, 261 Austrian high school students watched a documentary about dolphin research in LMEC, 161 students were involved in the "Little Blue World", while another 50 participated in the "Summer Science Camp" and "Little Marine School" programs during the summer months.

This year we made some changes in the Lošinj Marine Education Centre. Within the project "Development of interactive educational content in Lošinj Marine educational Centre" funded by the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency, the new educational sensory artificial rocks was made. It shows several different habitats in the sea and marine organisms that use this habitat. In addition to attractive appearance and interpretation of the new elements of the marine environment, the new rock dimensions 200x80x170 cm is also going to be used as didactic tool for learning. Special

attention was dedicated to the textures of the materials used for building it and the credibility of the tactile experience of the rock and sea creatures on it in order to provide equal opportunities for education of visually impaired people.

The new short educational documentary was made about the life and research of sea turtles in the Adriatic and methods of scientific research of bottlenose dolphins in the Adriatic Sea as part of the Adriatic Dolphin Project which is being implemented in the area of Cres and Losinj archipelago. . By using animation new educational film was designed to be even more interesting children and young people.

The basis of Education Center consists of educational info-panels of the most important habitats and species in the Adriatic as well as the threats and conservation . As part of the project we have designed and created a new info-panels, one part is in the classic form and the other is in interactive digital format in the form of new application for touchscreen computers available to all visitors to the Centre.

The project "Our treasure island", which is funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, is a comprehensive education program about the environment for elementary school children from the island. The concept and activities of the project were carried in four parts:

1. Extra-curricular activities („Little Blue World“) for children;
2. Lectures and workshops for all 3rd grade students ;
3. Specialized integrated educational days for students from district schools ;
4. Little Marine Schools

Students who participated in the workshops were introduced to the basics of marine biology and ecology. They learned about habitats in the sea by using the interactive artificial rock where sea organisms are distributed per zones in which they live, and by using applications they learned interesting facts about habitats and species. Particular emphasis was placed on practical work and causal connection of facts and phenomena.

By participating in these activities, users have gained new knowledge in the field of biology, ecology and environmental protection, and expanded their interests and concern for the nature. Equipping and modernization of interactive educational content on biological diversity of the Adriatic and the need for its preservation and protection in the Lošinj Marine Education Centre directly contributed to the realization of the priorities of the tender on the promotion of education for environmental protection and sustainable development to a very large number of users.

In addition to the learning in nature, this project gave the possibility to students from remote islands and smaller communities to know each other and socialize.

The success of the implementation of project activities (lectures and workshops) we followed through direct communication with students and their teachers and parents, but also the implementation of

internal evaluation short questionnaire that we. All the parents, educators and teachers were extremely satisfied with the activities of the project "Our treasure island". Project was evaluated as a very successful project and all users expressed the desire and interest for continuing the project activities upcoming school years.

During the implementation of the projects successful cooperation with the local radio station "Radio Lošinj - Radio Jadranka" was achieved. All significant events and activities related to the projects were reported on the radio. Furthermore, all important activities during the implementation of the project were regularly reported in the news on the official website of the organization [www.blue-world.org](http://www.blue-world.org) and on its FB profile.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> DOLPHIN DAY

On Friday, 1st of July 2016, Blue World Institute celebrated 24th Dolphin Day which was held under the sponsorship of the City of Mali Lošinj, Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj and Primorsko-goranska County.

The morning program in front of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre in Veli Lošinj gathered around 15 kindergarden and preschool children. For them we organized art workshops during which they painted models of dolphins and other marine inhabitants. In the afternoon in Rovenska bay was held a swimming competition and a waterpolo game.

In the late afternoon in front of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre in Veli Lošinj art workshops for the youngest visitors of 24th Dolphin Day were organized. At the same time, 64 school children competitors divided into 8 teams started following the map of Veli Lošinj in the traditional, exciting "Treasure hunt" game. In order to unriddle the hidden treasure teams had to fulfill 9 different tasks such as the quiz, marine animals memory game, identify individual dolphins based on the scars on their dorsal fins, the maze game, the pictiary game, etc. In addition to the tasks, at each station were hidden additional leads with various riddles.

After the announcement of the winners and award ceremony, a pre-premiere of the Blue World Institute's new educational documentary film was held.

## 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 Blue World Institute which is available on our website <http://www.blue-world.org/en/education/publications/aquamarine/>.