

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

2017

FINAL REPORT

Education programme



Plavi svijet Institut za istraživanje i zaštitu mora

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EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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LOŠINJ MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE

During 2017 Lošinj Marine Education Centre was visited by a total of 10.280 people. Of the total number of visitors in the past year, 3.374 of them were pupils and students who participated in the lectures and workshops on the marine environment, while 6.906 were individual visitors.

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 projects „Island Environmentalists“ and „Little Marine School“. All together 174 pupils participated in the project activities.

Throughout the year we worked 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.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

During 2017 a total of 3.374 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 2.200 students, while in the workshops participated 1.000 of them. 174 students were involved in the "Little Blue World" and "Little Marine School" programs during the summer months.

During the year 2017, besides the Croatian schools, we also hosted foreign students from the Halcyon high school from the UK and the International School of Zug and Lucerne (ISZL) from Switzerland who participated in the five-day educational programs of the Institute.

The Blue World Institute in cooperation with the Kindergarten „Cvrčak“ from Mali Lošinj started a new project in October 2017. The aim of the project is to educate children on fish biology, fish species, fisheries and importance of the fish food in our daily diet. Project funding was provided by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds and the City of Mali Lošinj.

As part of the project "Little Marine School" funded by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds and the City of Mali Lošinj, we have drawn the attention of pupils on the bird species that inhabit the Cres-Lošinj archipelago. During a one-day trip, we visited the Griffon Vulture Rehabilitation Center Beli, where children were given clarification on the aspects of biology and ecology of important bird species and the reasons for their preservation and the benefit of implementing community protection measures. Center Beli was rebuilt in 2016 and its operation is important since the island of Cres, Krk and the nearby island of Prvić, are the last residence of griffon vulture in Croatia.

This year we also established the "Seakeepers" group as an extracurricular educational activity for high school students from the island of Lošinj. The program consists of educational activities related to marine biology and protection of the sea in the form of lectures, workshops and field trips. The "Seakeepers" group successfully completes the needs of children for quality educational activities on the island of Lošinj and contributes to raising the environmental awareness of young people that live on the island.

25th DOLPHIN DAY

The Blue World Institute did celebrate 25th Anniversary of the Dolphin Day! This special occasion was marked by a two-day program that was packed with interesting events highlighting the longevity of our work on the research and conservation of dolphins and entire marine environment.

On the first day of the celebration, on 30th of June we presented the work of the Blue World Institute through lectures on the Adriatic Dolphin Project, LIFE Euroturtles project and a retrospective of the past 25 Dolphin Days. On the same evening, we presented the exhibition of designer jewellery from the recycled materials by Nenad Roban and the bench in front of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre made by our friends from the Centre for Healthy Growing "Idem i ja".

On Saturday morning, July 1st, we set up art exhibitions, the children's drawings exhibition and the exhibition of students from the School of Art from Zagreb. All these activities took place in Veli Lošinj, while at the same time we began painting the facade of the kindergarten "Cvrčak" in Mali Lošinj in cooperation with the artists – Slaven Kosanović Lunar and Farid Rueda.

The afternoon hours were reserved for educational games for children "Treasure Hunt", art workshops, swimming competitions and the water polo tournament.

In the evening, we introduced the Art Collection of the Blue World Institute at the Lošinj Marine Education Centre. The collection consists of works by eight renowned artists: Tomislav Buntak, Vice Tomasović, Zdenko Bašić, Andrea Resner, Vojin Hraste, Slaven Kosanović-Lunar, Sebastijan Dračić and Vendi Vernić, who recognized the value of the Blue World Institute's work and decided to donate their works on the theme of the sea as a support to our work. In the evening we had the concert by the Rundek Cargo Trio.

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 <https://www.blue-world.org/resources/educational-resources/>.