2018

FINAL REPORT

Education programme

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LOŠINJ MARINE EDUCATION CENTRE

During 2018, Lošinj Marine Education Centre was visited by a total of 9776 people. Of the total number of visitors in the past year, 2530 of them were pupils and students who participated in the lectures and workshops on the marine environment, while 7246 were individual visitors.

As the separate parts of the program, different programs for continuous work in the local community were designed through group Blue World Junior. Throughout the year we worked with children and students in the specially created workshops in the field of nature, biology and environmental protection.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

During 2018 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 1,828 students, while in the workshops participated 702 of them.

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.

In specialized educational activities (specifically created workshops) within the projects “Otočki prirodoslovci” and “Fish and fisheries” 45 pupils and 42 pre-school children participated. “Otočki prirodoslovci” is an unformal educational program about nature, biology and environmental protection for children and young people and is being held throughout the school year.

The Blue World Institute in cooperation with the Kindergarten Cvrčak from Mali Lošinj conducted the project „Fish and fisheries” during 2017/2018. The aim of the project was 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.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

An extracurricular educational activity for high school students was organized through the group called “Seakeppers”. The program consisted of educational activities related to topics of chemistry and physics of the sea, habitats in the sea, large marine vertebrates, fisheries and field trips. The “Seakeppers” group successfully completes the needs of high 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.
The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, based in Monaco, is implementing the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” (ASI) project whose general objective is to establish a harmonized and coordinated monitoring system for cetacean species at the level of the ACCOBAMS area, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, with a view in particular to increase knowledge on cetacean populations and to improve conservation measures for these endangered species. Blue World Institute’s researchers participated in the aerial survey within this project and our educators joined the public awareness campaign with the project “Mediterranean Cetaceans in our schools”. The “Mediterranean Cetaceans” presentation by Blue World Institute’s Education team was presented to students of ten elementary schools at Croatian coast - Mali Lošinj, Veli Lošinj, Nerezine, Cres, Krk, Lovran, Rijeka, Poreč, Žbandaj and Split, total number of 602 children.
ERASMUS + PROJECT „AQUATIC LIFE LAB” (ALL)

Members of the Blue World Institute’s education team are cooperating with Italian colleagues from Fondazione Cetacea onlus as scientific experts in Erasmus + project Aquatic Life Lab (ALL). Leaders of the project are Italian organizations Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei and Civicamente and the aim of the project is to connect students from four high schools from Italy, Cyprus and Croatia in exchange of experiences and joint work on the common tasks related to marine biology. As a part of project activities Blue World Institute’s experts participated with Italian colleagues in development of an education platform as a primary source of information for encouraging students to research. All students involved in the project can click on the „virtual suite” section and find numerous interesting information related to marine biology, ecology and conservation classified under several main chapters. We believe that this portal and our contribution to it will serve as a valuable education tool for many future marine biologists.
In October 2018 Blue World Junior Youth Club (BWJYC) participated at the 19th Young and Mediterranean Meetings of Euro-Mediterranean Network in Nice. The representative of BWJYC presented our initiative within the local authorities to prevent and mitigate problem of litter at the beaches of the island of Lošinj.
**ACT4LITTER PROJECT**

During the last 18 months the Blue World Institute was partner organization on the ACT4LITTER project co-financed by European Regional Development Fund through Interreg Med program. The aim of the project was to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs through the development of effective and targeted measures towards reaching their conservation objectives via an ecosystem-based approach. Representatives of the Blue World Institute were participating on 3 associated partners meetings in Barcelona, Pisa and Athens. Besides third and last associated partners meeting, as one of the last project activities the ACT4LITTER Closing Regional Conference was organized on 24th of October 2018 at the Central Building of the University of Athens. The conference managed to gather many different participants from regional social, political, industrial, scientific, and NGO sector.
Many new initiatives, innovations and measures were presented as examples of the good practices. Common conclusion was that while waiting for new technological solutions for reduction of plastic present in the environment, we should concentrate on reduction and avoidance of their usage whenever possible and development of circular economy models where plastic is recycled or reused in some other forms.
With the support of the City of Mali Lošinj Tourist Board, on Sunday, 1st of July 2018 the Blue World Institute organized the 26th Dolphin Day. The Lošinj Marine Education Centre was opened all day for visitors and the program began in the afternoon. In front of the Lošinj Marine Education Centre we organized art workshops for the youngest visitors and "Sea Photo Safari" for older ones. At the same time, 96 contestants were divided into 7 teams and participated in our traditional game called "The Treasure Hunt." After the announcement of the winners of all competitions and award ceremonies, two lectures were held, lecture about Aerial survey on the distribution and abundance of bottlenose dolphins and lecture about the LIFE EUROTURTLES project, which is currently underway and is related to research and protection of marine turtles.
EXHIBITION “DIVERSITY MATTERS”

This year we celebrated World Water Day, 22nd of March and Earth Day 22nd of April by hosting travelling exhibition “Diversity matters” by Natural History Museum of Rijeka. This exhibition was produced as a part of European project “Museumcultour” (The Adriatic’s museums enrich curtural tourism) funded under the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation 2007- 2013 Programme.

Sponsored by Town of Mali Lošinj Tourism Office and Primorsko-goranska County the exhibition was placed at the main walk, Riva lošinjskih kapetana, in the City of Mali Lošinj from 22nd of March until 1st of May. Opening of the exhibition was the opportunity for Blue World Education Team to celebrate World Water Day by organizing workshop about biodiversity for 300 local elementary school children.

The workshops were focused on interactive tasks through which we tried to bring the concept of "biodiversity" closer to participants. The 4 minute long movie was recorded, where children were answering to questions about importance of biodiversity, history of life on earth, its main enemies and future actions. The workshops were also attended by preschool groups of children from "Cvrčak" kindergarten, a total of 50.
The project’s main aim is to contribute to the strengthening of cultural tourism by creating and promoting market-oriented programmes which include cultural heritage.

In the 30-minute long Eko-info broadcast on Radio Jadranka we announced opening of the exhibition and more specifically answered the question “What is biodiversity”. We pointed out the importance of involvement of general public in this issue according to the well-known slogan: “Think globally, act locally.”
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/.