2019

FINAL REPORT

Education programme

Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation
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During 2019, more than 9,000 visitors visited the Lošinj Marine Education Center. There were 3,233 pupils and students who participated in marine environment lectures and workshops. There were more than 70 mentioned lectures and more than 26 workshops. It is a large number of visitors, 4,030 to be exact, who took part in lectures about the bottlenose dolphins and their endangerment and in the dolphin watching trips.

Until the summer of 2019, the Lošinj Marine Education Center continued its program of working with pupils from the local community - the Little Blue World group. Throughout the year we work with children and pupils in specially created workshops in the fields of nature, biology and environmental protection.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

During 2019 a total of 3.233 children and young people of different ages participated in a different Blue World Institute’s education programs. Various lectures on dolphins and other marine organisms were attended by 2.348 pupils, while in the workshops participated 672 of them.

Besides the Croatian schools, we also hosted foreign students from the 3 swiss high schools (Rudolf Steiner Schule Zurich, International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL) and Zurich International School) who participated in the five-day educational programs of the Institute and we had 2 groups of german high school students for one-day programs. Also, we held a one-day program for geography students from Faculty of Science of University of Zagreb. At the beginning of October, the pupils from Elementary school in Trieste visited the Blue World Institute as part of the exchange program with Lošinj Elementary school. We gave a lecture to guests from Italy on the Adriatic Dolphin Project and a workshop on dolphin identification in italian language.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GROUPS

The Blue World Institute continued the cooperation with the kindergarten „Cvrčak” from Mali Lošinj in 2019, implementing the project "Fish and fisheries for children" in order to introduce the youngest islanders to the basics of fish biology and fish species and to encourage the consumption of fish in daily diet. Funding for the project was provided by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds and the City of Mali Lošinj. 56 pre-school children participated in these educational activities. We organized workshops with introductory lectures on fish and fisheries, we were preparing fish dishes and we made a field trip to the Aquarium in Pula.
ERASMUS + PROJECT „AQUATIC LIFE LAB“ (ALL)

Members of the Blue World Institute’s education team as expert associates in the Erasmus + Aquatic Life Lab (ALL) project participated in Cyprus in a workshop and work meeting on project implementation. 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 (http://www.aquaticlifelab.eu/virtual-suite/) as a primary source of information for encouraging students to do 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.
LIFE EUROTURTLES – EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As part of the LIFE Euroturtles project, this year the Blue World Institute organized a series of different educational events to educate the general public about the biology, ecology and protection of sea turtles. In May, together with colleagues from the Croatian Museum of Natural History, we participated in the Open Day of the EU LIFE Program in Brussels to popularize the project. The event was attended by more than 10,000 people to whom we presented GSM transmitters for monitoring sea turtles and LEDs to prevent sea turtles from being caught in fishing nets. Also, a large number of children got involved in our educational activities, such as jigsaw puzzles, playing memory games and colouring books, all with sea turtle motifs and the story of their lives.
LIFE EUROTURTLES – EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the summer months, we organized three workshops on the biology and ecology of sea turtles for children and adults on the beach at the Baldrin campsite in Cres. We celebrated World Sea Turtle Day on an excursion boat where we taught a group of children about sea turtles, presenting basic techniques for dealing with injured sea turtles. Also, there were 5 turtle lectures and workshops for elementary and high school students at LMEC.
In cooperation with the Association for the Dialogue Culture Center from Rijeka for the beneficiaries of the program "My place under the sun", we secured funds and organized their visit to the Lošinj Marine Educational Center in September of 2019. "My Place Under the Sun" is a program designed to provide children with less socio-economic status with a supportive environment in which they have the opportunity to participate in activities that their parents are unable to provide, and educators and volunteers of the BWI provided them with an unforgettable Saturday with educational activities about the bottlenose dolphins in the Adriatic and their endangerment, after which they set off on a short boat ride in a search of dolphins.
OTHER COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

In March 2019, we participated in an international study called „Walk and talk for science“, where we coordinated interviews on the experience of nature in nature.

In May 2019, by the invitation of the Ruđer Bošković Institute, we participated in the EURASLIC (European Association of Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centers) conference in Zagreb where we gave a lecture on BWI’s activities and programs. Within the Info day of the INHERIT - sustainable tourism strategies to conserve and valorise the Mediterranean coastal and maritime natural heritage, organized by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Croatia, for all participants we held two expert lectures and a workshop on marine protected areas.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AND ECO-VOLUNTEERS

In 2019, 11 students from Croatia, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, and the USA participated in the internship program for students and young scientists for research and protection of marine mammals, sea turtles and other large marine vertebrates. Through their creative ideas and hard work, students have acquired skills and knowledge in the field of marine biology, but also contributed to our work.

Also, 27 eco-volunteers from different parts of the world helped us in our research work. In total, 8 ten-day eco-volunteer trainings were organized. During their time with us, they helped us to gather information about the behaviour and movement of the bottlenose dolphins and they learned how to identify dolphin individuals based on photographs of dorsal fins.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

As a continuation of collaboration with Texas A&M University on the development and implementation of projects involving the use of modern passive acoustic techniques, from 2nd of May till 10th of May 2019 the Blue World Institute organized a workshop on the topic of underwater acoustics within the SCOR (Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Research) Visiting Scholars Program, in collaboration with Ph.D. Ana Širović and the Department of Marine Biology from Texas A&M University of Galveston, USA. The participants of this workshop had a unique opportunity to expand their existing knowledge in this relatively new field in science. The theoretical part of the workshop included the basics of underwater acoustics, sampling methods and methods of data processing and interpretation, while in the practical part each participant had the opportunity to become familiar with the use of sound analysis program and the detection and classification of certain sounds of different whale and dolphin species. Lectures on the auditory sensitivity of other marine animals and the impact of noise on them were also an integral part of the workshop.
In 2019, the Blue World Institute became a partner organization on the marGnet project - Mapping and Recycling of Marine Litter and Ghost nets on the sea-floor, co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) as part of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) tender „Sustainable Blue Economy Call“. The main objective of this project is to raise public awareness of the problem of marine litter on the sea-floor and to promote sustainable solutions for the conservation of the marine environment. As part of the marGnet project, we held a few lectures on marine litter and its disposal at the Nautical Schools in Mali Lošinja and Bakar and at the International Coastal Clean Up Symposium in Oslo.
EDUCATION ON MARINE LITTER

The Blue World Institute, in collaboration with the Sub Sea Son Diving Center and the Tourist board of Mali Lošinj, has organized two major underwater and coastal clean-up activities on the island of Lošinj as part of the marGnet project activities. The action involved 30 divers with the technical support of 72 volunteers on boats, shore and beaches. Appropriate lectures on marine litter and its disposal, on sea turtles and the dangers posed to them by marine litter and a lecture on archaeological findings in the underwaters of island of Lošinj, with a visit to the Apoxyomenos Museum were organized for all participants of the clean-up activities. Considering the excellent results, diver’s good response and good cooperation with partners, we intend to continue organizing similar activities in order to preserve the natural heritage of our underwater world.
27th DOLPHIN DAY

With the support of the City of Mali Lošinj Tourist Board, on Monday, 1st of July 2019, the Blue World Institute organized the 27th Dolphin Day. The Lošinj Marine Education Centre was opened all day for visitors and the program began at 18:00 at the park behind the parish church in the Veli Lošinj harbour. The Blue World Institute’s team organized art workshops for the youngest visitors and „Little sea quiz” for older ones. At the same time, school age contestants were divided into teams and participated in our traditional game called “The Treasure Hunt,”. The official announcement of the winners of all competitions and the award ceremony was held in the newly opened children's playground behind the parish church. Finally, there was a presentation of the Blue World Institute’s projects - LIFE EUROTURTLES, ECOSS, SOUNDSCAPE and marGnet – that are currently underway, and a lecture related to research and protection of the bottlenose dolphins in the Adriatic.
WORLD SEA TURTLES DAY

June was marked by the World Sea Turtles Day, which we celebrated on the 16th of June on the boat in Zabodarski bay, sponsored by the City of Mali Lošinj and the Mali Lošinj Tourist Board, where around 30 children attended the event. The educators of the Blue World Institute held an educational workshop on the biology and ecology of sea turtles, emphasizing the threats to sea turtles and the measures taken to protect them, as well as the rules of responsible treatment of the marine environment that we all need to apply. Increasing quantities of plastic waste entering the sea from various sources pose a great danger to sea turtles, as well as to all other marine organisms. Therefore, it is necessary that we all try to reduce the amount of plastic we use in our daily lives and this was a specific topic we intended to draw children’s attention to.
AQUAMARINE

At the end of the year, the Blue World Institute has traditionally prepared and published a new volume of Aquamarine, a journal for dolphin adopters and members of the association, which is available on our website:

https://www.blue-world.org/resources/educational-resources/
## MEDIA APPEARANCES

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<tr>
<th>DATUM</th>
<th>GDJE</th>
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<td>Zaštita morskih komadja u Škoroćinu</td>
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<td>Potopili su kita da istorne kod Malog Lošinja. Štad sluzu kostu</td>
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<td>15.05.2019</td>
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Blue World Institute
Veli Lošinj, Croatia
www.blue-world.org
COOPERATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, SUPPORT

• In cooperation with:
  
  Grad Mali Lošinj
  Lošinj Island of Vitality
  Primorsko-goranska županija
  Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej
  Priroda Javna ustanova za sprijeljene zaštitom okoliša i prirode
  KORNATI Nacionalni park - Nacional Park
  TELAŠČICA Park prirode Nature Park
  GRAD KOMIŽA
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  Blue World Institute Veli Lošinj, Croatia
  Blue World Institute www.blue-world.org

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  Republic of Croatia Ministry of Science and Education
  Republika Hrvatska Ministarstvo turizma
  Republic of Croatia Ministry of Tourism
  Republika Hrvatska Ministarstvo regionalnoga razvoja i fondova Europske unije
  Republic of Croatia Ministry of Regional Development and Funds of the European Union
  Vlada Republike Hrvatske Ured za udruge
  Government of Croatia Office for Associations
  Fond za zaštitu okoliša i energetsku učinkovitost
  Fund for the Protection of the Environment and Energy Efficiency
  Zajedno čuvamo okoliš
  United We Care For the Environment
  Natuka 2000
  Natura 2000
  LIFE
  LIFE+
  LIFE Mediterranean
  LIFE Programme
  LIFE+ Programme
  Interreg
  Interreg Programme
  Interreg Mediterranean
  Interreg Programme Mediterranean
  EU
  European Union
  Operativni program
  Operational Programme
  Konkurentnost i kohezija
  Competitiveness and Cohesion
  Konkurentnost i kohezija
  Competitiveness and Cohesion
  Europski strukturni i investicijski fondovi
  European Structural and Investment Funds
  Europski strukturni i investicijski fondovi
  European Structural and Investment Funds

• BWI is a partner to:
  
  Vela Vrata,
  European Network Science Centres & Museums
  Ecsite
  ACCOBAMS
  Partner
  National Fund for the Protection of the Environment and Energy Efficiency
  Nacionalna zaklada za zaštitu okoliša i energetsku učinkovitost

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