RIDE THE WAVE

OCEAN AND CLIMATE LITERACY FOR NAUTICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Protect the Ocean | Ride your Future

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 16 January 2023

Experts in Greece and Italy share best practices on ocean and climate literacy

While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are gradually making their way into the policy environment, the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are increasingly becoming evident in the Mediterranean basin.

In November 2022, experts from Greece and Italy, as well as other EU countries and Canada, joined the **webinar series "Promoting Ocean and Climate Literacy in Nautical High Schools and Local Communities"**, to share inspiring environmental education initiatives from the Mediterranean region, North America and the Arctic as part of the "Ride the Wave" Erasmus+ project.

Case studies in ocean literacy and environmental education were presented and practical knowledge was exchanged between experts on the global communication of ocean science and its role in promoting ocean literacy, links between marine science and Blue Economy sectors, such as tourism, the value of Marine Protected Areas on the preservation of biodiversity as well as the role of NGOs and other organizations in promoting environmental education among the general public.

The webinars were organized by the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), MAREVIVO, and two Nautical High Schools, "G. Da Verrazzano" in Porto Santo Stefano, Italy and the 1st Vocational High School of Konistres in Evia, Greece and hosted more than 100 participants attending as well as expert organizations such as Acquario Mediterraneo dell' Argentario, Cooperativa Ziguele, G.Eco, Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR), Hydrographic Institute of the Italian Navy, International Ocean Institute (IOI) – Canada, MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES, and the Tsakos Enhanced Education Nautical School (T.E.E.N.S).

Participants and other stakeholders active in the protection of the sea and environmental education will continue to cooperate through the development of a "**Local Sea Network**" of organizations, which are directly or indirectly supporting the blue Economy Sector. The aim of the network is the exchange of good educational practices that could be adapted locally in different geographical and cultural contexts, and the development of common initiatives and integrated actions towards protection and conservation of our seas. The first step will be the development of a tailor-made educational program for Nautical High Schools, which will be tested as a pilot in Spring 2023 in both Italy and Greece, accompanied by a replicability toolkit to support non-expert educators.

Note to editors:

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