

“Ride the Wave”: building a sustainable future through Ocean and Climate Literacy.

A journey concluded, new horizons await.

We are delighted to announce the conclusion of the Ride the Wave project in August. This initiative was made possible through the award of the Erasmus+ KA210-SCH program, having received approval from INDIRE, the National Institute for Documentation, Innovation, and Research for Education, referee for Erasmus programs in the field of education.

The 17-month project engaged four partners from two nations, Italy and Greece, encompassing two environmental associations and two Vocational Nautical Institutes.

The project was coordinated by the environmental organization Marevivo. The partners were HELMEPA (Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association), the Nautical Institute G. Da Verrazzano in Porto Santo Stefano, Italy, and the 1st Vocational High School of Konistres, Greece.

The primary objective was to disseminate scientific knowledge, fostering a deeper understanding of the relationship between Climate and Global Oceans, the Ocean's influence on the climate crisis, threats to marine biodiversity, and solutions for protecting marine ecosystems and services. Additionally, the project aimed to highlight the pivotal role that seas and oceans play in climate mitigation and their impact on our planet and lives. We also dedicated substantial attention to the opportunities available to young individuals through European programs in the Blue Economy sector.

More than 120 Italian and Greek students were involved in the project. These students took an active role in developing their projects at the end of each educational program phase.

The Italian Institute created "*Art for the Sea*" a mural art project which combines science, artistic expression and environmental education to inspire positive change and promote sustainable practices.

The Greek Institute, on the other hand, undertook "*EPAL Konistres' Students Interview with Personnel of EPE SA*", a collective project where students had the opportunity to conduct in-depth interviews with key members of an anti-pollution company in Piraeus. Both projects have been adopted by their respective institutes to successfully apply for membership in the European Blue Schools Network.

It is worth mentioning that, prior to the school activities, the series of three webinars on "Promoting Ocean and Climate Literacy in Nautical High Schools and Local Communities" were conducted. These webinars led to the implementation of the Local Sea Network (LSN), an alliance among local organizations across Europe, aiming to collaborate on short and medium-term actions related to Ocean and Climate Literacy initiatives.

As final output, a toolkit has been created with the aim of transferring and implementing project activities in other Italian, Greek or European nautical Institutes, with necessary adjustments to suit local contexts. Everyone will find the toolkit available in English, Italian and Greek languages.

For all the project partners, Ride the Wave served as a powerful tool to raise awareness about the importance of protecting Mediterranean habitats and landscapes, as well as our shared traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

We are proud of the achievements of Ride the Wave and look forward to continuing our efforts to promote Ocean and Climate Literacy and environmental awareness in the future.