



EMSEA 2017 Conference

Malta

7th-10th October 2017

University of Malta

Abstracts booklet

The European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) is an informal non-profit organisation which provides a platform for ocean education and promoting ocean literacy within Europe. The rationale of **EMSEA** is educational and scientific.

GOALS

The particular goals and activities of EMSEA are the following:

- Stimulate dialogue between European and international marine educators and scientists;
- Provide training and teaching materials to support marine educators;
- Raise educators awareness of ocean issues and the need for a sustainable future for our coasts, seas and oceans.

ACTIVITIES

- to organise workshops and conferences for marine educators;
- to build a web portal with links to providers of marine educational and research-based materials;
- to provide a forum for members feedback and communication.

Further information about EMSEA can be gleaned through www.emsea.eu

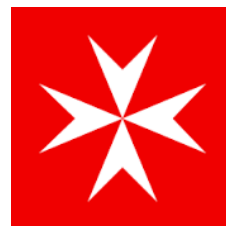


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Mediterranean Sea Literacy: adapting ocean literacy principles to the Mediterranean region

The Mediterranean Sea region is the cradle of modern civilization, a biodiversity hotspot, the most visited touristic area and home to over 460 million people. Increasing stresses due to tourism, fishing, coastal development, pollution, shipping and climate change are threatening the fragile Mediterranean Sea ecosystem. Sustainable development of the Mediterranean region is integrated in the most important development plans concerning this area e.g. Mediterranean Action Plan, Plan Bleu. Mediterranean Sea Literacy (MSL) was developed as a tool in order to understand the services provided by the Mediterranean Sea, its connection to people and to help understand the need for sustainable development in this region. It was developed following the form of Ocean Literacy principles. A draft version of MSL consists of 7 principles and 46 concepts which describe different aspects of the Mediterranean Sea and its connection to people and society:

1. The Mediterranean Sea, almost enclosed by land of three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia) with many unique features, is connected to the one big ocean of the Earth.
2. The Mediterranean Sea and its living organisms shape the features of the Mediterranean region and its adjacent land masses.
3. The Mediterranean Sea has a major influence on climate and weather of the Mediterranean region.
4. The Mediterranean Sea made the Mediterranean region habitable through its richness of life and its influence on the mainland which then became a cradle of world civilization.
5. The Mediterranean Sea is a marine biodiversity hotspot, with high level of endemism.
6. Culture, history, economy, lifestyle, and well-being of its inhabitants are inextricably connected to the Mediterranean Sea.
7. Even though the Mediterranean Sea has been explored for many years, there is still much to discover and learn about it.

Mediterranean Sea Literacy provides fundamental knowledge about the Mediterranean Sea to educators, teachers, scientists, NGOs, blue economy and business sector, policy makers and general public, thus helping to raise awareness and achieve a blue and sustainable Mediterranean region at all levels of society.