



EMSEA CONFERENCE 2019

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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info@futurismo.pt

Mediterranean Middle School Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviours Towards Ocean-related Topics: An EMSEA-Med Pilot Study

Cheimonopoulou, M.^{1*}; Mogias, A.²; Realdon, G.³; Mokos, M.⁴; Koulouri, P.⁵; Previati, M.⁶; Boubonari, Th.²

¹ Hydrobiological Station of Pella, Ministry of Rural Development, and Food, Greece; ² Democritus University of Thrace, Greece; ³ University of Camerino – UNICAM earth Group, Italy; ⁴ University of Zadar, Croatia; ⁵ Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology & Aquaculture, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Crete, Greece; ⁶ Underwater Bio-Cartography (U.BI.CA s.r.l.), Italy

Ocean Literacy (OL) is of paramount importance nowadays as the life-giving ocean is seriously under threat. Children who are considered to be the “living arrows sent forth” should have the opportunity to become citizens able to make informed and responsible decisions about the ocean. Members of the European Marine Science Educators Association from Greece, Italy, and Croatia performed a pilot study evaluating knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours towards ocean-related topics in middle schools of their respective countries. A structured questionnaire, comprised of three sub-scales namely knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours, was administered to 430 students (grades 7-9). Demographics such as gender, participation in school environmental education programs, and membership in non-governmental organizations (NGOs), were also taken into consideration. The results of the study revealed that the relative frequency of correct answers in the knowledge sub-scale was 52.4%, indicating moderate knowledge level, with the Croatian students slightly prevailing. On the contrary, students shared rather pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours with mean values of 3.81 and 3.39 respectively in a five-point Likert scale, with the Greeks prevailing in the former case and the Italians in the latter. Participation in environmental education programs and in NGOs appeared to influence all sub-scales. Mediterranean Sea has been inextricably connected to the life of the people living by its coasts and beyond for millennia, therefore, evaluating and comparing not just student's knowledge, but also attitudes and behaviours will help to better promote OL in the Mediterranean region, and contribute to its future sustainability.

*The views and opinions in this abstract are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of her institution