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Design, development and implementation of an educational tool for evaluating Mediterranean Sea Literacy of school students in the Mediterranean Sea region

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In 2020, the “Mediterranean Sea Literacy” (MSL) guide was published by members of the EMSEA-Med Working Group (EMSEA-Med WG), adapting Ocean Literacy (OL) principles and concepts to the specificities of the Mediterranean Sea. The MSL principles and concepts, serving as guidance for research, education, informed decision-making, and improved citizens’ lifestyles, are expected to raise awareness and create a Mediterranean-Sea-literate society, aiming at environmental protection, conservation, restoration, and a blue innovative and sustainable economy of the Mediterranean Sea region. The EMSEA-Med WG has so far investigated knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of elementary and middle school students towards ocean sciences issues within the framework of OL revealing moderate knowledge and positive attitudes and behaviour. As the MSL guide has recently been published, the investigation of relevant content knowledge of students concerning the Mediterranean Sea would be of great importance. This pilot study constitutes the next step in promoting OL in the Mediterranean Sea region. Members of the EMSEA-Med WG (marine educators and scientists) from Greece, Italy, and Croatia designed and developed a structured questionnaire based on the principles and concepts of the MSL guide and therefore relevant to Mediterranean Sea issues. Preliminary results of validation and implementation of this questionnaire aiming at investigating for the first time content knowledge of students around the Mediterranean Sea revealed evident lack of knowledge, and therefore the need for adapting the OL framework to the specificities of different regional seas.