



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## **The Erasmus+ BlueS\_Med project: experiences from the second training event (c2) in Crete, Greece**

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The Erasmus+ project entitled "Supporting the development of socially-inclusive Blue Challenges in schools in the Mediterranean Sea basin" (BlueS\_Med) aims at developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative approaches to integrate marine sciences, issues and challenges in the curriculum and educational activities of schools in different Mediterranean countries (2020-2023) based on four key principles: co-building, inclusivity, interactivity and sustainability. Ten partners from France, Italy, Greece, and Malta with high level of expertise in education, marine science and policy as well as ocean literacy initiatives are closely working with teachers of 14 pilot "blue" schools (applications for the EU Blue Schools certification) of their countries with pupils of primary and secondary age groups.

The project focuses on co-creating "blue challenges" (sea-related projects), throughout their development, the implementation of their activities and the dissemination of their results in order to inspire action to protect the Mediterranean Sea, alongside local stakeholders. The project will deliver five key outcomes (i.e., a framework and guidance document, a blue challenge activity proposed by each individual school, results of the monitoring and evaluation of the blue challenges, a web-based interactive knowledge platform of tested marine educational material, a road map for supporting the uptake of blue challenges in the Mediterranean Sea basin). In addition, three training events are planned and designed for both teachers and pupils, as well as four national multiplier events and one regional event that will showcase lessons learnt, best practices and way forward.

This presentation describes the second training event (C2) organized for 45 teachers and pupils of the four partner countries within the framework of the project. Ten partners participated, too. This training event took place at the premises of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Crete (Greece) between 5th and 8th of May 2022. It included workshops, labs and field work organized by the Educational Teams of HCMR (HCMR-Crete, HCMR-Athens, Cretaquarium).

Day 1: A welcome session helped break the ice between participants while an overview of roles and responsibilities was made. A guided tour at the Cretaquarium was followed. Day 2: A workshop including fieldwork on marine biodiversity of different types of beach (e.g., sand and pebbles) and lab activities focusing on plankton was performed. Presentation of the different blue challenges by the teachers/pupils by using videos, animations, presentations and games was followed. Day 3: A guided tour at the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion whereby all the marine related heritage and artwork was explained to highlight the strong links between the Greek (and



Mediterranean) culture and the sea was performed. Lab activities concerning sea currents, hydrodynamics and density stratification combined with fieldwork focusing on marine litter found on the beach were then carried out. Day 4: The collaborative work accomplished also helped to define tools and the process for monitoring and evaluation of the blue challenges. In addition, sharing experiences and practices among partners, teachers and pupils of different countries as well as the feedback from the pupils gave new insights for the required actions and steps forward concerning the project.