4th ESERA SIG4 Science|Environment|Health

2024 Mini Conference in Valencia, Spain
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Strengthening pre- and in-service teachers' skills in Ocean Literacy

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Education for Sustainability is a response to the challenges of a planet whose future is, increasingly, in question. The "BlueMinds4Teachers" is a project that aims at strengthening the skills of Primary and Secondary Education pre- and in-service teachers in Ocean Literacy (OL) issues through the collaboration of marine and freshwater scientists as well as experts from
educational and social sciences, teachers experienced in the implementation of blue projects and young ocean ambassadors. The consortium of this project consolidates a working group formed thanks to several projects (e.g., BlueS_Med, BlueNIGHTS), initiatives (e.g., EMSEA), publications highlighting the importance of OL (e.g., Mogias et al., 2019; 2022; Cheimonopoulou et al., 2022; Mokos et al., 2020; 2022; Alvisi et al., 2022; Koulouri et al., 2022), in synergies with other future projects (e.g., UN Action Programmes, BlueLightS, EU Researcher's Night). As OL connects Ocean Science and Education for Sustainability this project highly falls into the general context of Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., SDG 4 and 14). The objectives of the project are: a) to bring an interdisciplinary approach of marine science issues to Primary and Secondary Education teachers by improving their competence to address OL issues and integrate them into the school curriculum towards Education for Sustainability; b) to create a permanent working group in which scientists, teachers and young ocean ambassadors can interact fruitfully and continuously to build stronger and long-lasting educational communities as well as quality, modern and innovative educational materials and tools; c) to contribute to bridging skills and knowledge gaps by integrating pedagogical and scientific approaches, to improve social learning and critical thinking as well as scientific inquiry; d) to design an interactive online training course that can be reproducible, exportable, and adaptable to local/national needs in European countries in order to improve teachers' skills in promoting OL at school (e.g., scientific approach, critical thinking, familiarization with issues such as Agenda 2030, Ocean Science Decade 2021-2030, EU Green Deal).

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