



BlueNIGHTs EU project: a framework to develop Ocean Literacy experience and activities

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Introduction

The BlueNIGHTs project – financed by the European Commission under the HORIZON-MSCA2022-CITIZENS-01 action – reflects the aims of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Starting from the idea of WATER with the simple intent of expressing one's vision, in this work we present a new way to raise awareness in young people about Ocean Literacy and Scientific Research by sharing one's connection with this element through photography.

Aim

Conserving and consciously using the oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting sustainable and conscientious use of the earth's resources.

Methods

From September 2022 to June 2023, the ISMAR-CNR researchers from Bologna, La Spezia, and Naples, engaged teachers and students of the I.T.I.S. "Zaccagna Galilei" Carrara (Italy) in order to create and launch a photo contest open to the European schools entitled:

"Why marine science matters for ocean conservation?"

The project led students to improve their knowledge on the ocean, oceanographic science, scientific photography technics, web design skills, data management, photography evaluation and criteria.

Results

The students of Zaccagna Galilei institute realized a sea photo contest opened to the European school. Beginning March 10 th till May 20 th 2023, the website <https://bluenights.eu/getting-ready/marine-science-matter-for-ocean-conservation/> has been hosting photos from Italy and Portugal and posted an online photo exhibition, as well as in presence, during BlueNIGHTs multiplier events and the Researchers' European Night on 29 September 2023.



BlueNIGHTs website



BlueNIGHTs contest: some of the collected photos



BlueNIGHTs card



A lesson at school



BlueNIGHTs guys at school



BlueNIGHTs guys at port authorities
in Marina di Carrara (MS, Italy), 3th May 2023.



BlueNIGHTs multiplier events in
Forlì on the 5th of May.
ITIS G. Marconi, Forlì, Italy

Conclusions

By encouraging young ones to explore new forms of communication, merging experiences, sharing emotions has led them to understand how connected we are to the sea. This has resulted in a new awareness and sensitivity, thus allowing an interest in preserving and taking care of this vital Earth's resource: the OCEANS.)



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