

E COURSE ON THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Know, Feel, Act! to Stop Marine Litter: *Lesson Plans and Activities for middle level students*

23-30 JUNE 2014

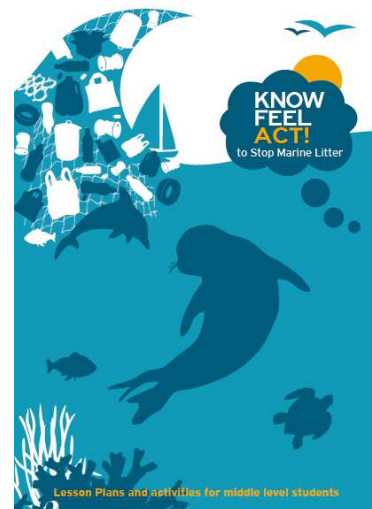
SHORT REPORT

This course aimed to introduce the newly produced educational material **Know, Feel, Act! to Stop Marine Litter: Lesson Plans and activities for middle level students** to formal and non formal European educators. The educational material has just been finalised in English language it will soon be available online in the MARLISCO project in English as well as many more European languages.

THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL “KNOW, FEEL, ACT! TO STOP MARINE LITTER”

As becomes evident by its title, the educational material has been prepared to inform, sensitise and enable European teachers and students to take action to tackle the issue of litter in our seas and coasts.

It is a joint product of the MARLISCO partnership and within the project duration (2012-2015) it will be translated and applied in the MARLISCO partner countries. It contains 17 learning activities examining the characteristics, sources, effects and possible ways to tackle the problem, addressing it from an environmental, societal, cultural and economic point of view. It has been designed to primarily serve youth aged 10-15 yrs, but can be used also by educators outside the formal schooling system.



THE 8 DAYS (16 hrs) E-COURSE

During the e-course an overview of the educational pack was presented, and effective ways it could be incorporated in real life were demonstrated. Trainers and learners jointly shaped a learning community that simulated characteristic activities of the Pack, tested their validity and appropriateness, and suggested ways to adjust them and possibly improve them. The course gave also the participants the opportunity to talk about the obstacles they face in implementing the activities and exchange views on ways to overcome them.

Course type: asynchronous

Time investment: 16 hrs (~ 2 hrs daily)

PARTICIPANTS

For this first round of the course 69 participants from 13 countries were *accepted* (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Turkey and the UK) based on their registration forms. They were coming from the formal as well as the non formal education sector but most, if not all of them, had an experience with marine litter issues either as educators, or field practitioners.

40 of them (58%) successfully completed the course,
15 (22%) never signed in, while
14 (20%) completed only parts of it.

Unfortunately, such high drop-out rates are common, and considered an integral part of e-courses, internationally, according to literature.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course has been evaluated through survey carried out by the University of Plymouth. Detailed statistic analysis of the course is beyond the scope of this report; however in the table below the averages of the responses of the 31 trainees that kindly filled it are presented. A 7-scale Likert type questionnaire was used.

	The e-course:	Average on a 1-7 scale	Average %
1	...was relevant and well linked to the EduPack "Know feel act! to stop marine litter"	6.5	93
2	...was the right level of complexity	6.0	85
3	...offered sufficient guidance on how to use the EduPack	5.9	84
4	...was appropriate and useful for non-formal educators	5.9	84
5	...was appropriate and useful for formal educators	6.3	89
6	...had an appropriate time allocation (~12-16 hrs over 8 days) in order to achieve its objectives	5.8	83
7	...gave me a good chance to voice my opinions in discussions	6.3	90
8	...offered enough opportunity to ask questions	6.1	88
9	...was well facilitated by the trainers	6.4	92
10	...contained e-tools that I may use in the	6.1	87
11	...achieved its objectives as described in the beginning	6.3	91
12	...had a satisfactory level of engagement on behalf of the learners	5.9	84

There is a high degree of trainees' satisfaction as demonstrated by the high average scores in all 12 questions. According to the trainees, aspects that may be improved in future rounds of this course are:

- It could host more trainees (depending on the facilitators' capacities)

- If done during the school year it could include a section for students.
- The 8 days schedule was considered very tight to some trainees that requested the course to last longer.
- Group work exercises in such a tight schedule have been challenging. Such exercises may be more effective if done in individual basis.
- An online forum could be set up to see how people are using adapting the pack in the future.
- A section for the "curious" who want to read more literature on ML could be added.

The course facilitators will take on, to the extent possible these valuable comments for the second round of the e-course that is to take place in autumn 2014.

During its 8-day lifetime, the 69 course trainees viewed & commented videos, studied online documents, undertook e-assignments, shared their experiences in online discussion Forums, and developed their own ideas thus forming a lively, highly engaged learning community. On behalf of the facilitators, it has been a pleasure and honour to run this e-course from which we have learnt a lot ourselves. We are certainly motivated to repeat it.

Iro Alampej, Lead Facilitator

THE COURSE ORGANISERS



Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

Established in 1995 MIO-ECSDE is a non-profit Federation of NGOs from the Mediterranean region working in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Contact MIO-ECSDE: www.mio-ecsde.org, info@mio-ecsde.org



Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES)

Launched in Johannesburg (WSSD, 2002), MEDIES is MIO-ECSDE's primal education initiative, with the objective to provide capacity building on ESD through publications, trainings and the facilitation of an e-network of educators.

Contact MEDIES: www.medies.net, info@medies.net



MARine Litter in Europe Seas: Social Awareness and CO-Responsibility

Over its 3 year duration (2012-2015) the 20 partners of MARLISCO undertake a plethora of activities on the topic of marine litter in 15 coastal countries, such as a study of its sources and trends, a collection of best practices, a survey on European's perceptions, a video contest for youth, a series of national debates and other national tailor made activities including festivals, clean ups, etc.

Read more on MARLISCO www.marlisco.eu