



## ECOMARINE project: official presentation

### Building a Comprehensive Mechanism for Preserving Marine Ecosystems and Life from the negative consequences of Climate Change and the disposal of Plastic Debris



As human activity around the world causes increasing pressure to marine ecosystems, species and resources, the **implementation of efficient monitoring of the changing seas**, is increasingly being recognised as a prerequisite for the protection of marine life. **Climate change, plastic marine debris and the human-induced destruction of productive and protected habitats**, constitute **key threat factors** to the worlds' seas. With the improvements in technological and scientific tools, the **practices for monitoring marine ecosystems** are becoming more accessible, simple, and cost-efficient.

The main goal of the ECOMARINE project is to **improve the management and operation of marine conservation monitoring labs in four Higher Education Institutions** in Malaysia and India. The utmost target is to upgrade the university services offered to students, staff and society, as they cover a wide area of geographical oceanic environment. This will be done through **an in-depth capacity building and knowledge exchange programme** targeted at staff, scientists and other relevant stakeholders in Malaysia and India.

#### ECOMARINE in numbers:

- >> **3-year** project (Jan. 21 – Jan. 24)
- >> **9 institutions** from **6 countries**: EU and Asia
- >> **24 exchanges** of academic staff
- >> **78 academic staff** from Malaysia and India trained
- >> Set up of **4 Marine Monitoring Labs** (2 in India and 2 in Malaysia)
- >> More than **500 academic and professional staff** to be reached through dissemination and exploitation activities



#### MAIN TARGET GROUPS



- Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia and India
- Private and Public marine and biology research institutes and NGOs
- Education policy and decision makers at national level
- Marine conservation, Biologist and Environmental protection students in Malaysian and Indian Universities
- Academic professionals & administrative staff working in the targeted HEIs



## OUR PROGRESS

During the first nine months of the project, the ECOMARINE consortium has been performing **extensive desk research** on the specific needs of the marine ecosystem monitoring in Malaysia and India. These preparatory activities aim to compile a sound and updated knowledge base necessary for the development and delivery of the capacity building course and the preparation of the Marine Monitoring Labs. The consortium mapped the existing situation in the Partner countries in relation to marine ecosystem monitoring, and examined the existing legislation for the protection of the marine environment in both Malaysia and India. Best practices on marine ecosystem monitoring were also identified.

In addition, the **procurement of the necessary equipment** for the Marine Monitoring Labs in both countries is under way.

A **Research Protocol** is also being developed with guidelines, common tools, and templates to conduct concise research, combining both desktop and field research components.

The project consortium has also set up internal procedures related to **Quality Assurance**, internal communication and external dissemination/communication activities. The [official project website](#) has been launched as well as [social media accounts](#) on which all information and updates on the project progress will be communicated. Lastly, **2 dissemination events**

were organized locally to raise awareness about the project. Namely:

- 19/09/2021: Awareness against Plastic Dumping, Dissemination event organized by Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Malaysia
- 20/09/2021: Webinar on ECOMARINE, University of Oviedo (IMBRSea master program)



## EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Research Report** on the specific needs on the marine ecosystem monitoring in Malaysia and India.
- **Design & development of the training syllabus and e-learning platform** (including theory and field-based activities)
- **International "Training of Trainers"** targeted at staff of the four Universities in India and Malaysia
- **Installation and operation of 4 Marine Monitoring Labs** in India and Malaysia
- **National and Local Trainings** in India and Malaysia
- **Compilation of the scientific results** produced by the operation of the Marine Monitoring Labs
- **Outreach campaigns**, symposia & info days in Partner countries.



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## The consortium:



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