



ECOMARINE enters its final implementation year!

2nd Theoretical Training Course: 12-14 December 2022, Oviedo, Spain

The **second in-person Training Course** in the framework of the project was successfully organized on **12-14 December 2022**.

Three representatives from each of the Higher Education Institutions from Malaysia and **two representatives** from each of the Higher Education Institutions from India (10 in total) attended the intensive **3-day training**. All participants are the professionals who are going to be involved in the operation of the newly set Marine Monitoring Labs in their institutions. The sessions took place in **Oviedo, Spain** hosted by the University of Oviedo.

The training focused on **microplastics classification and quantification, the identification of invasive species** as



well as **practical data collection and analysis**. Knowledge, experience, and good practice exchange was fostered

through **interactive discussions and presentations** by the expert speakers. All participants were also informed about the exact next steps of the project which entail the **operation of the Marine Monitoring Labs in each HEI** as well as the delivery of additional trainings at the national context in **India and Malaysia**.



The **second training**, which included a **study visit** on the Asturias seaside with practical activities related to Coastal Monitoring and Mapping using drones, was very positively evaluated by the participants from India and Malaysia.

The next and final training will be a predominantly practical one, focusing on the practical aspects of marine monitoring, hosted by Archipelagos Institute in Greece.



2nd Face to Face Management Meeting 8-9 December 2022, Oviedo, Spain

The ECOMARINE consortium had the chance to hold its **second in-person transnational management meeting on 8-9 December 2022, Oviedo, Spain**. The meeting was hosted by the University of Oviedo and was held on the University's premises.



12 representatives, members of the partners' management teams from Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Germany, India, and Malaysia discussed and agreed on the **next steps, the upcoming milestones as well as management issues**.

The main points discussed were the **progress of the equipment procurement** by the Universities in India and Malaysia, the **finalization of all training materials** for the upcoming trainings, and the **preparation of the official interim report** of the project which showcases the project made so far.

Under the guidance of the Quality Assurance leader, BK Consult, partners were also involved in a thorough engagement in the **Quality Assurance processes**, the results of which would feed the official progress report.

The dates for the next transnational management meeting as well as the first practical training course in Greece hosted by Archipelagos Institute were set.



Operation of the 4 new Marine Monitoring Labs in India and Malaysia

ECOMARINE is entering its significant milestone after the finalization of the international Capacity building programme; the **practical set up and operation of the Marine Monitoring Labs in each of the participating Universities in India and Malaysia**.

After the installation of the procured equipment in the four Universities, the 12 participants to the ECOMARINE transnational Capacity Building courses will be in charge of the continuous operation of the Marine Monitoring labs so that datasets are being gathered in relation to:

- Monitoring Climate Change, Ocean Acidification and Temperature Rise, Blue Carbon and Related Ecosystem Responses
- Monitoring of productive protected ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves)
- Monitoring of the Microplastic Debris in Marine Ecosystems

The trained professionals from Malaysia and India will also organize and deliver additional advanced national trainings in their respective contexts based on the ECOMARINE materials and their newly acquired knowledge and competences. The target is to train at least 60 additional staff members (i.e. 15 per University - 30 per country).

Moreover, ECOMARINE has developed a **basic curriculum addressed** to a broader audience (targeting scientists, university students, researchers, and at a more basic level targeting school students and teachers, sea enthusiasts, fishermen, sailors and other groups of stakeholders), at a national level (in the Countries from Asia) with the target of 200 stakeholders per HEI.

Throughout the following months, the newly established Marine Monitoring Labs, fully equipped by following the necessary requirements, will operate under the guidance of the EU partners' experts. Their goal is to modernize and improve the Marine Monitoring processes in the Higher Education contexts of India and Malaysia and to contribute to the uptake of similar initiatives among relevant stakeholders in the field.

By the end of the project, detailed reports on their operation, including lessons learnt and exploitation/sustainability opportunities will be developed.

Save the dates!



- 09 - 15 May 2023, Samos, Greece
Practical Training Course
- 8 May 2023, Samos, Greece
3rd Face-to-face Partners Meeting
- Summer 2023
National level trainings in India and Malaysia

ECOMARINE Outreach Activities

One of the main aims of the project is to sensitize relevant professionals, stakeholders and the general public on the impact of climate change and on issues related to marine conservation. To this end, the ECOMARINE consortium has undertaken significant efforts towards disseminating the results of the project. The ECOMARINE website, as well as the ECOMARINE Facebook and Twitter pages have been active in promoting relevant information. Also, individual partners have undertaken initiatives towards promoting the project in relevant events, thus ensuring outreach to already interested target groups. For example:

ECOMARINE AT THE "CLIMATE CHANGE AND DESERTIFICATION" PROGRAMME, CYPRUS

The Oceanographic Centre of the University of Cyprus participated in the educational programme entitled "Climate Change and Desertification" organized by the Environmental Education Centre (EEC) Athalassa of the Education Unit for the Environment and Sustainable Development (EPEA) of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (MESY).

On the 6th of December 2022, the Oceanographic Centre welcomed the members of the Environmental team of the of the Regional High School of Kokkinotrimithia. During the visit, where the Ecomarine project was presented, among other projects, the students had the chance to learn about the activities of the Centre regarding the biological, chemical and physical oceanography. They, also, had the opportunity to get engaged in experimental procedures related to sea level rise and ice melting.



COASTAL CLEAN-UP PROGRAMME (05-04-2023), INDIA

Marine Monitoring Laboratory, from the department of Marine Living Resources (MLR) Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, in India, has organised a coastal clean-up programme near Rishikonda Beach, Visakhapatnam on the 5th of April 2023 from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. Rishikonda (Rishi Hill) is an important tourist place 10 km away from Visakhapatnam city known for its panoramic beauty and shallow water for swimming.

Under Water Seabed the clean-up programme was organised from the shoreline to 10m. depth in a stretch of 10m² area down to 5m depth to 10m depth. A team of divers headed by Mr. Subhash, Platypus Escapes Pvt Ltd. was engaged for under water operation on outsourcing basis. A team of 12 members from Platypus, 30 from the Teaching staff, Research fellows, students and 10 beach visitors participated in the event.

One metric ton of garbage was collected from the seabed out of which 0.2 MT plastic and 0.8 MT fabric material. The garbage collected was handed over to Municipality for recycling.





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