

Save the dates!

1st Training Course: 9-11 Sept. 2022, University of Cyprus

The first Practical **Training** Course has been scheduled! Three representatives from each of the four Higher Education Institutions from India and Malaysia (12 in total), all professionals who are going to be involved in the operation of the newly set **Marine Monitoring Labs** in their institutions, will travel to Cyprus for an intensive **three-day training course** to be hosted by the project coordinator, the University of Cyprus. The training event will take place on **9 – 11 September in the premises of the University of Cyprus in Nicosia**.

The training will focus on marine monitoring methods as well as the theoretical aspect of the monitoring procedures, and data collection and analysis.

ECOMARINE Transnational Capacity Building Programme

In the framework of the ECOMARINE project, a **comprehensive set of trainings, combining theory and practice** is foreseen, targeted at the professionals and staff of the four partner Universities from India and Malaysia who are going to work in the respective Marine Monitoring Labs. The trainings will take place in Europe (Cyprus, Spain, and Greece) to foster knowledge exchange and promote the capacity building of the staff from the two partner countries. In total, 12 professionals from the partners countries will be trained in person, and they will then act as multipliers for knowledge exchange in their local and national contexts.

- The first training course will focus on theoretical aspects and will take place in **Nicosia Cyprus**, hosted by the University of Cyprus (project coordinator) on **9-11 September 2022**.
- A second 3-day theoretical training course will take place in the premises of the **University of Oviedo in**

Important Dates

- 9-11 September 2022, Cyprus
1st Practical Training Course
- 12-13 September 2022, Cyprus
1st Transnational ECOMARINE Partners' Meeting
- 12-14 December 2022, Spain
2nd Practical Training Course

Spain on 12-14 December 2022. It will mainly focus on marine monitoring climate change on sea and blue carbon.

- A **10-day practical training course** will focus on the practical aspects of marine monitoring, data collection and analysis and will also include study visits in Marine research centres; this will take place in **Samos Island in Greece** and will be hosted by the Archipelagos institute. The practical training is foreseen in spring 2022.

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WP2 – Development of ECOMARINE Training Material and Syllabus

Under the coordination of the University of Cyprus and with the contributions of all partners, according to their expertise and experience, a **course syllabus is being developed with a modular structure**. More specifically, 3 e-courses are being developed:

- I. **e-course #1:** Monitoring of marine plastics and microplastics
- II. **e-course #2:** Monitoring & Managing Marine Ecosystems
- III. **e-course #3:** Monitoring Climate Change at Sea and Blue Carbon

The structure for each topic within the unit/chapter includes:

- 20-30 minutes video-recorded lecture (this also includes the ppt you will develop to teach the material)
- Q&A live session
- Assignment (personal or group)
- Assessment

The courses will be targeting undergraduate students (upper classmen) following degrees in biological sciences, environmental sciences, or even better marine biology. The courses can also be attended by early graduate students (1st or 2nd year MSc students or PhD students). For the development of the course material and content, three specific Working Groups have been set among the respective consortium partners, to ensure the most efficient delivery of material and relevance of the content.

1st ECOMARINE face to face Transnational Meeting 12-13 September, Nicosia, Cyprus

The ECOMARINE consortium will have the chance to hold its **first in person Transnational Management Meeting on 12-13 September in Nicosia, Cyprus**. After 18 months of regular online meetings, representatives from all partners from Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Germany, India, and Malaysia will have the chance to meet face to face and discuss the next steps of the project, its upcoming milestones and management issues. The transnational partners meeting will take place after the scheduled 1st practical training course, also hosted by the University of Cyprus.

D 1.2. Equipment Purchase Proposal for the Marine Monitoring Labs in Malaysia and India

As evidenced in the results of the first phase of the project, all institutions from the partner countries do face similar barriers regarding the implementation and operation of robust Marine Monitoring Labs. For this reason, the ECOMARINE project has foreseen **the purchase and procurement of specific set of equipment** that will be used for the efficient operation of the Marine Monitoring Labs that are going to be set up in the four institutions.

A complete list of the necessary equipment has been formulated under the coordination of the EU expert partner, Archipelagos Institute, and after close consultations with each of the four partner institutions in Malaysia and India.

The procurement process in all four institutions is well underway, with only some equipment items still pending, due to the fact that they need to be complied with the protocols for Habitat Mapping and Blue Carbon.

In general, the foreseen equipment for the Marine Monitoring Labs comprises of both field equipment (that will be deployed at sea for data collection) and equipment that will be used in the University laboratory for the processing of the collected data and samples. The equipment for each Lab is grouped into the following categories: Climate change and blue carbon, seagrass mapping, microplastics in seawater and microplastics in sediment.

ECOMARINE Dissemination activities

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:

1) Awareness Raising Event by Andhra University, June 6, 2022

One of the Indian partners, Andhra University organised a very successful **awareness raising event in India on the issues of antipollution and ocean microplastics**. Professor Janakiram Pasupuleti, part of the ECOMARINE project team participated in the event.



Awareness rally

Public attended

Students community participated

Around 1000 people from various institutions, morning walkers and citizens participated voluntarily in the **awareness rally**. The event covered an area of about 5km along the coastal road. All the banners and placards depicting captions, such as “SAY NO PLASTICS-SAVE MARINE LIFE, SAVE THE EARTH, SAVE OCEANS FROM PLASTICS, were displayed and slogans were also raised by all the participants. Sri G. Lakshmisha IAS, Commissioner GVMC announced the complete ban on usage of plastic carry bags in Visakhapatnam from 5th June 2022 onwards. Shopkeepers or whoever uses plastic carry bags will be penalized.

The programme was organised by the staff of EC’s Eco Marine Project on marine plastics

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 Dr. K. Umadevi, Co-PI
 Ms. S. Geetha, Project Assistant
 Mr. D. Chandra sekhar, Project Assistant

Mr. M. Hari, Field/Lab Assistant

Venue: R K Beach to YMCA Beach, Visakhapatnam

2) Participation in THALASSA2022- University of Cyprus, 20-21 May 2022

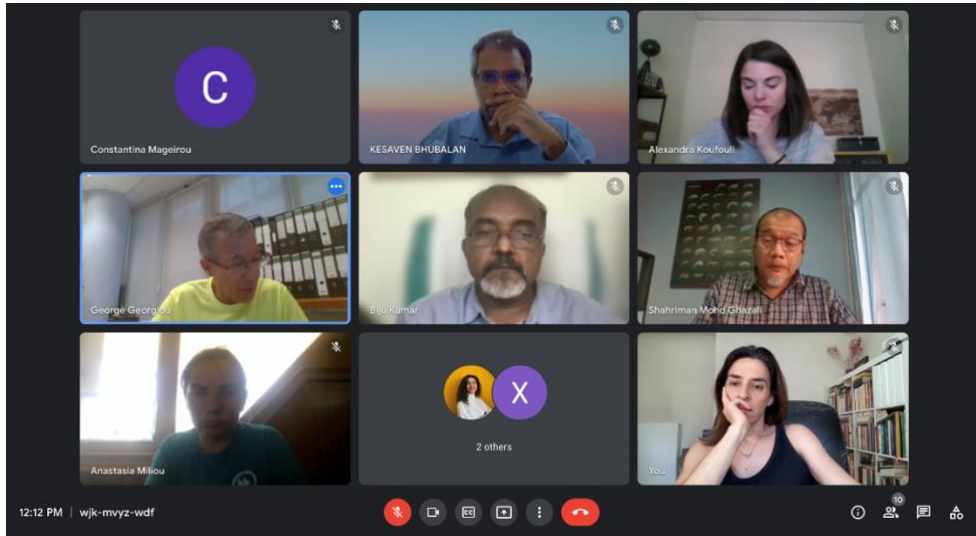
The Oceanography Center, University of Cyprus, participated with a kiosk in THALASSA2022, an annual event co-organised by the Shipping Deputy Ministry of Cyprus and the Municipality of Limassol, on 20-21 May 2022. The motto of the two-day event was 'Sea to Live|Experience Shipping'. Hundreds of people, including 300 high-school students, visited the fifty kiosks of the participating organisations. The Oceanography Center had the opportunity to present the ECOMARINE project to the visitors.



3) An additional **Press Release** is foreseen during the summer 2022, utilizing the ECOMARINE's project results for call for action regarding combating climate change and its impact on marine ecosystems globally.

Next Steps

The next steps of ECOMARINE entail the finalization of the procurement and purchase of the equipment as well as the finalization of course syllabus and the organization of the transnational capacity building events in Europe. The consortium will continue to hold monthly management meetings to reach common understanding and agree on the next steps to be undertaken.



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