



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Ocean Literacy: recent developments

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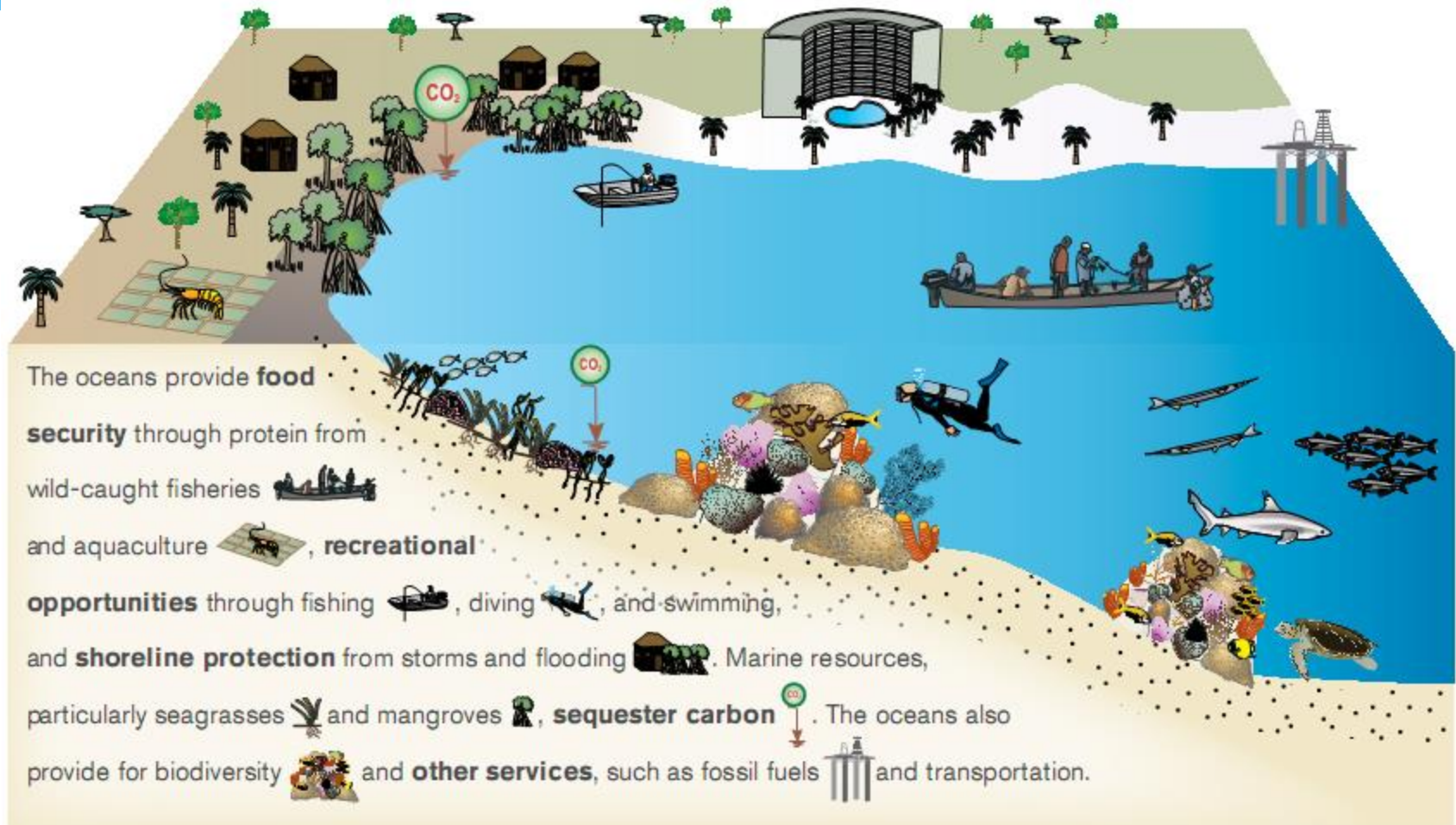
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

MonGOOS meeting, 17 November 2016

All aspects of life are deeply rooted in the ocean



Marine Ecosystem Services



Our Ocean Our Health

What does our ocean have to offer?



Threats

PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

More than **8 million tonnes** of plastic waste enters the ocean every year.

≈ one truckload every minute

80% of marine plastic waste comes from land-based sources.

Plastic is very slow to break down in the ocean. It breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Pieces of plastic less than 5 mm wide are called "MICROPLASTICS".

Larger plastic can affect fish and wildlife through **choking, ingestion or entanglement**.

Dissolved contaminants from the water can adhere to the surface of microplastics.

Microplastics can be ingested and retained by filter feeders such as shellfish.

Although some research suggests that microplastics don't currently pose a significant health risk for humans, more research is needed.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THESE EASY STEPS...



MAKE A SEA CHANGE TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN:

[HTTP://SEACHANGEPROJECT.EU/takeaction](http://seachangeproject.eu/takeaction)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON TWITTER:
[#OUROCEANOURHEALTH](https://twitter.com/OUROCEANOURHEALTH)

For sources, see: <http://seachangeproject.eu/MarinePlastics>



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Ocean Literacy

- * Ocean Literacy means understanding the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean.
- * An ocean literate person is able to:
 - * Understand the importance of the ocean to humankind
 - * Can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way
 - * Is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources

History of ocean literacy

The screenshot shows the Ocean Literacy website. At the top, a blue banner features the text "Ocean Literacy" in a large, white, serif font, with the tagline "Understanding the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to its right. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Scientists", "Educators", "Policy Makers", "Framework", "Network", "Research", and "Getting Involved". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a heading "Welcome to Ocean Literacy" and a large image of Earth from space. Above the image is a text box that says "1 The Earth has one big ocean with many features." Below the image is a row of seven numbered buttons (1-7), with button 1 highlighted. Below the buttons is a small line of text: "Slideshow image #1 ©NASA Photo Library; all other slideshow images ©Kip Evans". The right column has a search bar with the placeholder text "search this site...". Below the search bar is a section titled "OCEAN LITERacy GUIDE" which includes a cover image of the guide. Below the cover image is a section titled "FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM" which includes a circular diagram showing the relationship between various concepts.

Ocean Literacy

Understanding the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean

Home Scientists Educators » Policy Makers Framework » Network » Research » Getting Involved »

Welcome to Ocean Literacy

1 The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Slideshow image #1 ©NASA Photo Library; all other slideshow images ©Kip Evans

search this site...

OCEAN LITERacy GUIDE

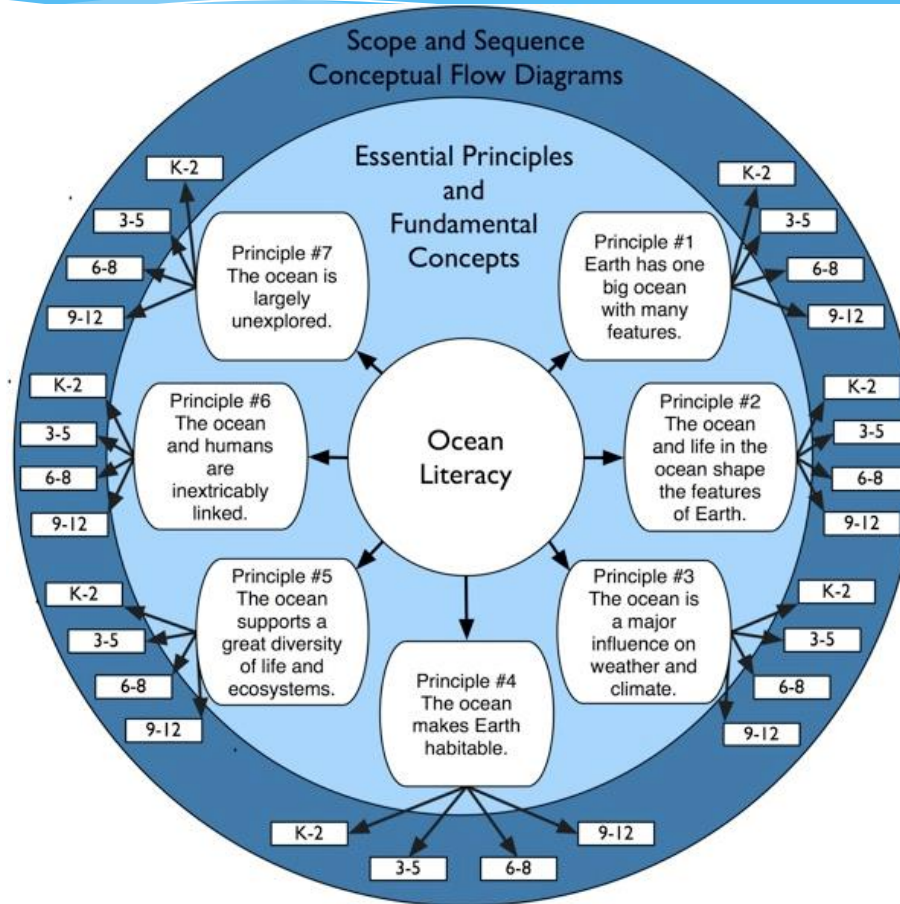
OCEAN LITERacy

The Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts of Ocean Literacy for Learners of All Ages

VERSION 2.0 MARCH 2015

FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM

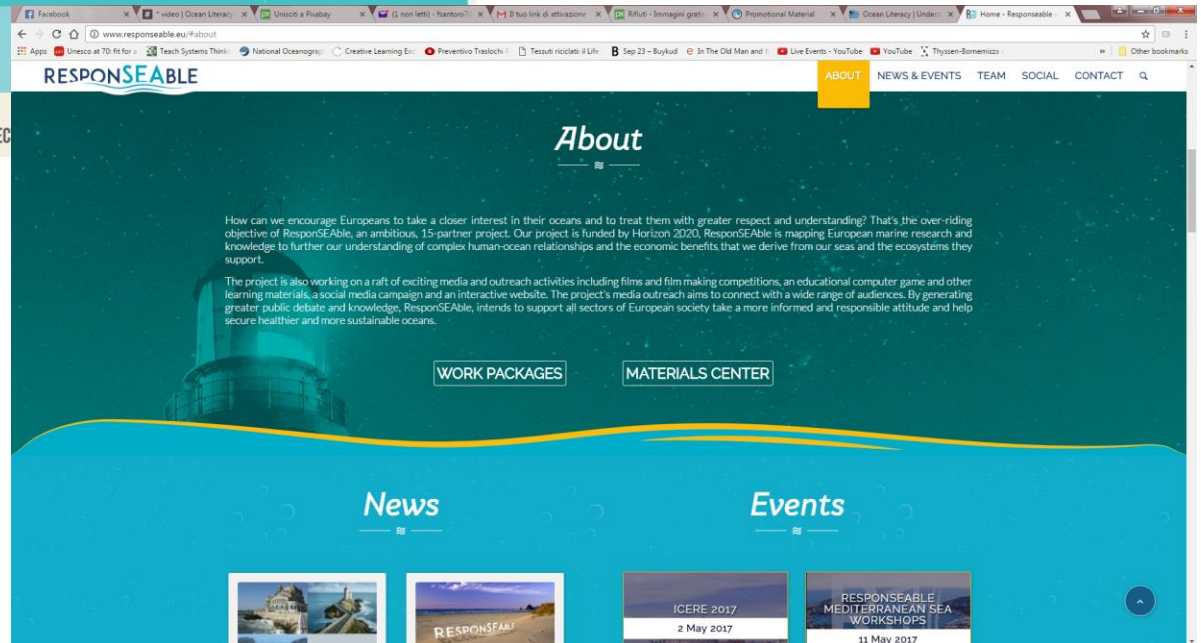
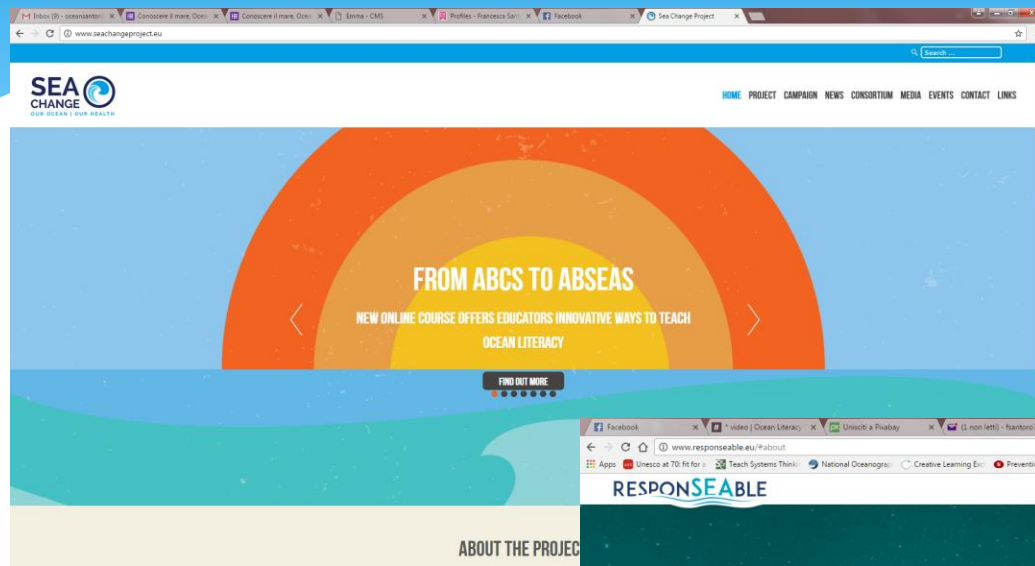
Ocean Literacy



Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance



Sea Change & ResponSEAbLe



Some outputs



COURSE

From ABC to ABSeas: Ocean Literacy for all

COURSE INFO

Francesca Santoro 8 Nov '16 5 Weeks Free Certified

Virtual Classroom:

TRANSLATION

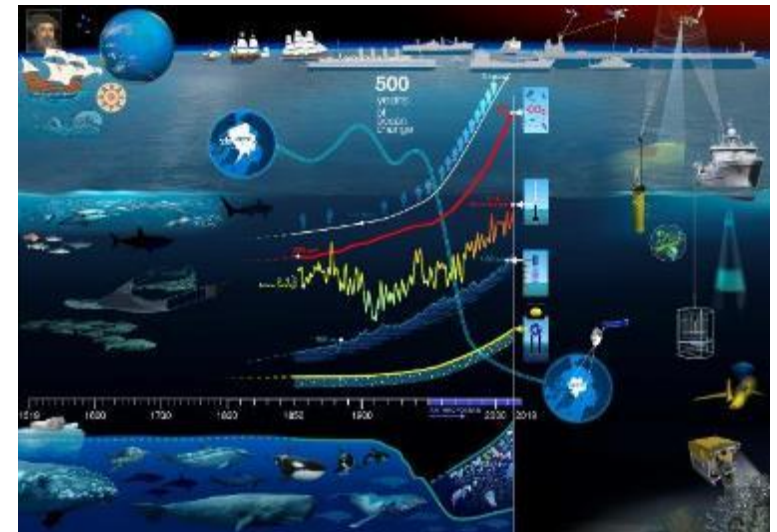
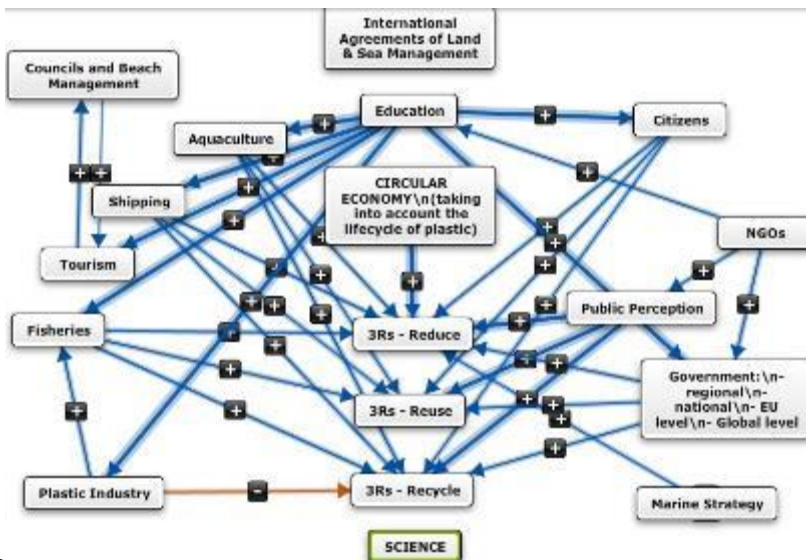
COURSE OVERVIEW

This first *Ocean Literacy MOOC* aims at sensitise and enable teachers and students to incorporate **ocean literacy** into educational programmes.

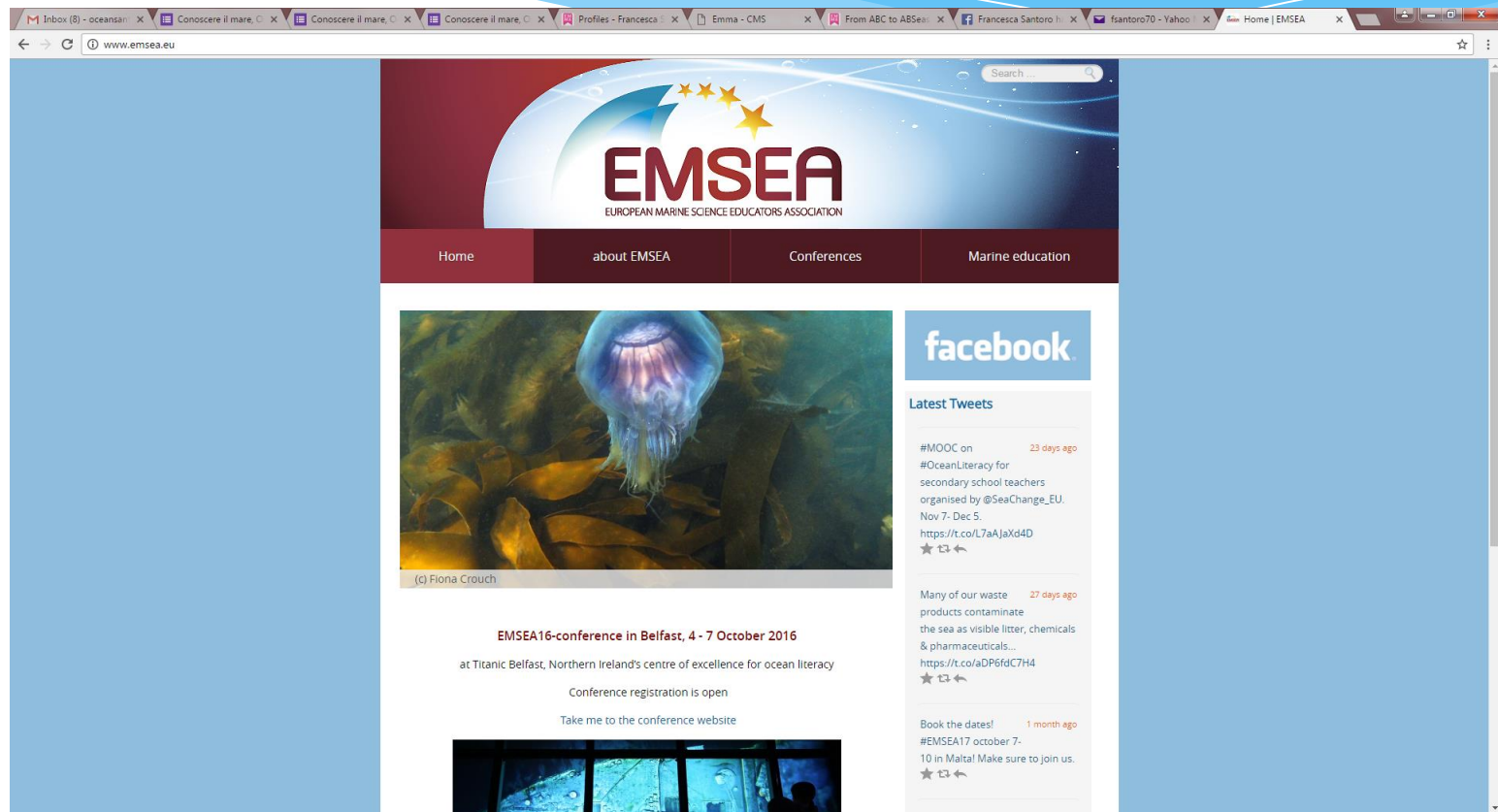
Education in its broader understanding (in both formal and informal settings) serves as a high potential channel to reach young citizens. As a lack of sufficient 'Ocean Literacy' has been identified in many countries, this clearly presents a barrier for citizens to engage in ocean responsible behaviour or consider ocean-related careers.

To overcome this, it is recommended to develop education to provide the capacity to **understand environmental issues**, to **participate in decision-making processes** and to **bring about changes in behaviour**.

Ocean Literacy can be seen as a way of incorporating scientific literacy in practice in **education**, whereby scientific literacy not only refers to a person's knowledge of science but also to his or her ability to **use this knowledge in making socially responsible decisions**.



European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA)



Adapting OL principles to the Med

What makes the Mare Nostrum special?

- The Mediterranean Sea is not only considered the cradle of civilization, but it has also great environmental, social and economic importance
- Hot spot for biodiversity
- Mediterranean brand
- First world tourist destination



Adapting OL principles to the Med (2)

Ocean Literacy - An understanding of the ocean's influence on you - and your influence on the ocean.

A framework made up of 7 essential principles, developed in the United States and now adapted for the Mediterranean Sea.

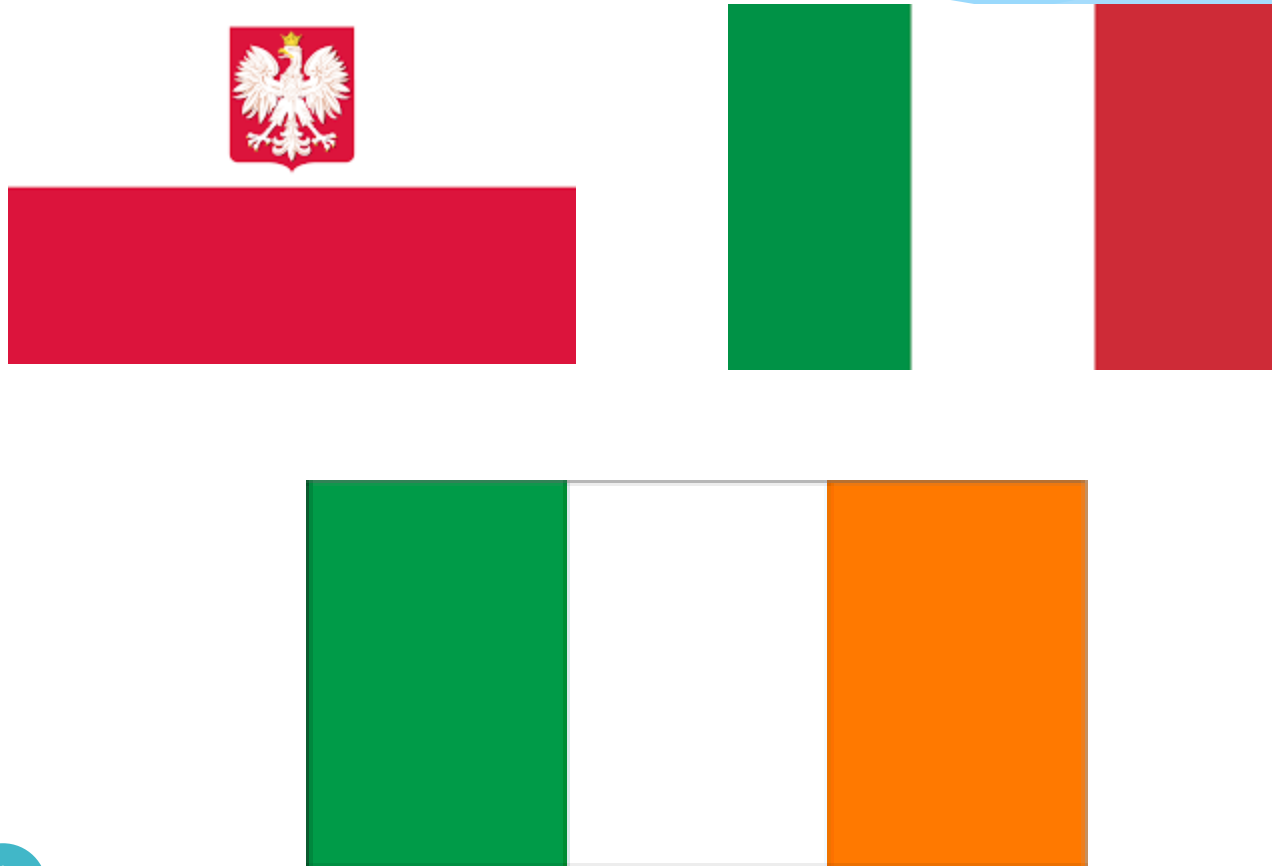
Ocean Literacy (OL) Principles

- OL 1** The Earth has one big ocean with many features.
- OL 2** The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.
- OL 3** The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
- OL 4** The ocean made the Earth habitable.
- OL 5** The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
- OL 6** The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
- OL 7** The ocean is largely unexplored.

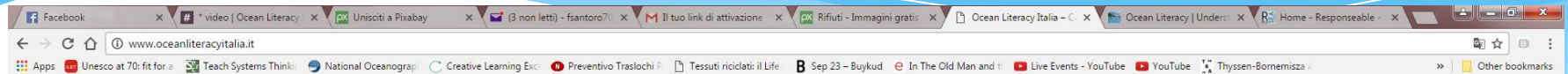
The Mediterranean Sea Literacy (MSL) Principles

- MSL 1** The Mediterranean Sea, almost enclosed by land of three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia) with many unique features, is connected to the one big ocean of the Earth.
- MSL 2** The Mediterranean Sea and its living organisms shape the features of the Mediterranean basin and its adjacent land masses.
- MSL 3** The Mediterranean Sea has a major influence on climate and weather of the Mediterranean region.
- MSL 4** The Mediterranean Sea made the Mediterranean region habitable through its richness of life and its influence on the mainland which then became a cradle of world civilization.
- MSL 5** The Mediterranean Sea is a marine biodiversity hot spot, with a high level of endemism.
- MSL 6** Culture, history, economy, lifestyle, and well-being of its inhabitants are inextricably connected to the Mediterranean Sea.
- MSL 7** A considerable part of the Mediterranean Sea is yet to be investigated.

Creation of national networks for OL



Ocean Literacy Italia



Ocean Literacy Italia

Capire come il mare influenza la nostra esistenza e come noi influenziamo l'esistenza del mare

[Obiettivi](#) [Cosa significa Ocean Literacy](#) [I Sette Principi](#) [Chi siamo](#) [Contatti](#)

Siamo pronti a partire!

Stia nascendo una nuova rete italiana che si occupa di promuovere la conoscenza del mare

[Continua a leggere](#)





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ENGLISH GAEILGE

A⁻ A A⁺

 **Marine Institute**
Foras na Mara



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Education & Outreach


[Education & Outreach Overview](#)

[Explorers Education Programme](#)

[Sea for Society / Blue Society](#)


Explorers Education Programme



Explorers Education Programme Overview

The Explorers Education Programme provides fun lesson plans, resources and activities for primary school teachers to inspire their student's interest and knowledge in our ocean, marine environment, species and seashores.

The Explorers Education Programme is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.



[Explorer Explorers Mission Statement And Goals](#)

The Explorers Education Programme™ aims to build on Ireland's marine and maritime heritage by increasing awareness of the value, opportunities and social benefits of our ocean wealth and identity.

What are the current needs?



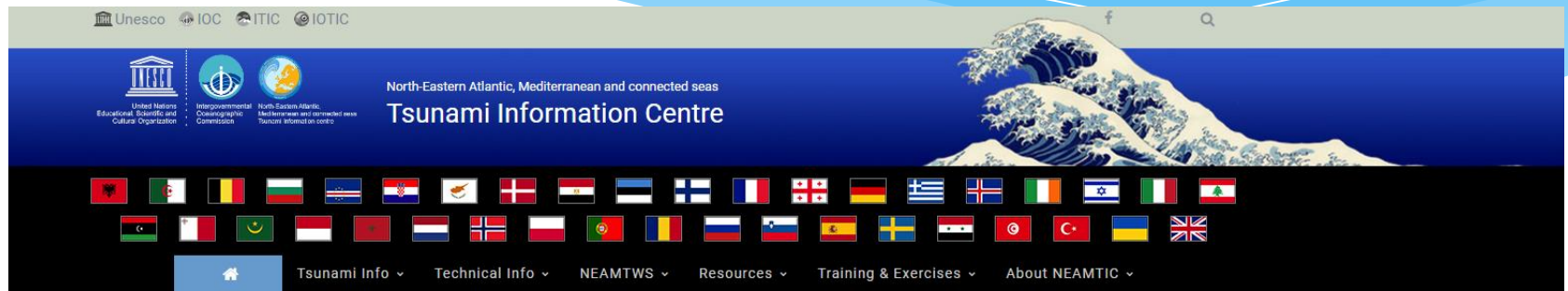
What are the current needs?



The way forward

- * Reference
- * Quality
- * Hub
- * Synergyes
- * Partnerships

Example



Recent News



> More news

Upcoming Events

ICG/NEAMTWS Task Team and Steering Committee Meetings, 20-21 March 2017

The Task Teams and SC meetings will discuss about the ICG/NEAMTWS workplans for 2017-2018; NEAMWave17 to be conducted in the 4th quarter of 2017; the World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 Nov 2017 and preparations for the next ICG/NEAMTWS Session.

Venue

UNESCO1 Rue Miollis, 75015 Paris MEETING...

[Read more →](#)

Other events of IOC Tsunami unit can be found at IOC Tsunami Calendar.

Tsunami Information

NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) Links

[Recent Tsunami](#)

[NOA](#) (Greece)

[CENALT](#) (France)

[INGV](#) (Italy)

[KOERI](#) (Turkey)

Conclusions

- * Ocean literacy concept is evolving
- * Several initiatives exist
- * Need for a better connection with policy-making and blue economy
- * Need for hub or one-stop-shop

Many Thanks
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