

The **ERASMUS+** project "**YOU4BLUE - Young generations for sustainable blue growth**" is an educational project for high school students, implemented on the Mediterranean islands of Sardinia, Crete and Majorca in Italy, Greece and Spain respectively. The project aims to promote a broad student experience focused on the sustainability of the seas, by highlighting that marine resources are not only important as source of food, but also as source of recreation, spirituality, sports activities, culture, etc.

In the context of WP2 – WE ALL LEARN, the scientific team of **HCMR** completed the planned **In-situ Learning Activities between December 2023 and September 2024**. A total of 23 students of **IEK MORFI** participated in the activities.

Specifically, on **December 2, 2023**, the **HCMR** team welcomed the students of **IEK MORFI** to the facilities of **CretAquarium THALASSOKOSMOS**, in Heraklion, Crete, where they carried out three (3) In-situ scientific activities.

Activity 1: BIODIVERSITY - PLAKTON

The students of IEK MORFI had the chance to explore the incredible biodiversity of microscopic plankton. They also had the opportunity to observe phytoplankton and a zooplankton by using microscopes, and stereoscopes respectively.



Activity 2: BIODIVERSITY OF FISH. The students "immersed" in the vast underwater world of the Mediterranean and its inhabitants, during a tour in **CretAquarium**. They had the opportunity to learn, observe and take photos of Chondrichthyes and Osteichthyes, non-native (alien) species and many other aquatic organisms.



«YOU4BLUE - Young generations for sustainable blue growth»

WP2: WE ALL LEARN

2.2: In-situ learning

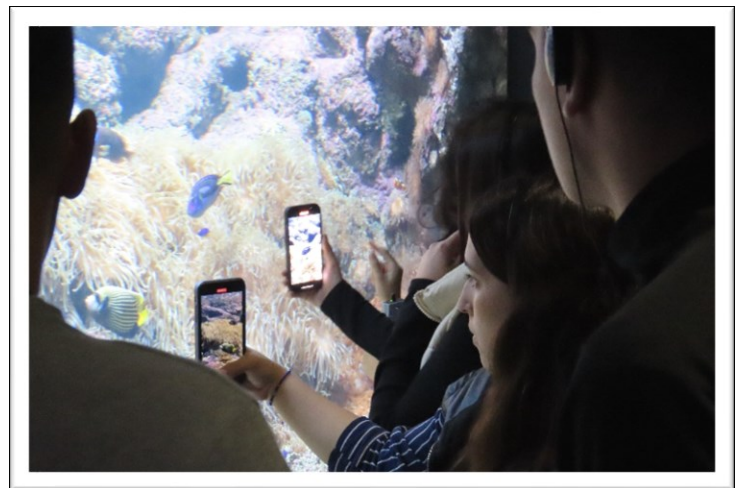
Scientific Activity 2

Biodiversity-Fish

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<https://www.instagram.com/you4blue/?hl=en>

hcmr ΕΛΚΕΘΕ



Activity 3: MARINE DEBRIS - Part 1.

The students were informed about the huge threat that marine litter consists to world marine ecosystems.

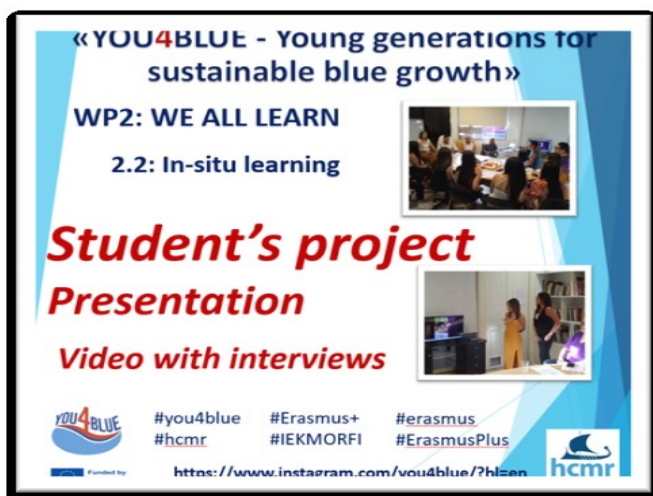
The **Scientific Activity 4: MARINE DEBRIS – Part 2 - Lesson 5** took place on **January 26 and 31, 2024**. The students of IEK MORFI watched an online presentation entitled: "Litter in the marine environment" with emphasis on plastics. During the presentation they were informed in an illustrative way about the origin of marine litter, the time of degradation, the dispersion of waste through sea currents, the effects on the marine environment, organisms and humans. They also learned about the European legislation applied with the aim of reducing the pollution problems



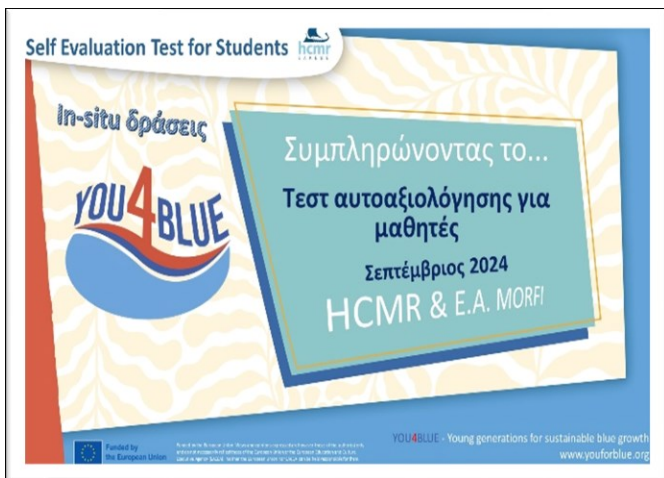
During the period **January – March 2024**, the **In-situ Scientific Activity 5: MARINE DEBRIS – FODELE BEACH** - second stage (**6th course**) followed. The students chose the beach of Fodele as a study area (case study) and carried out 2 visits. During the first one, they observed recorded (in a protocol) and photographed the prevailing situation, regarding the pollution from marine waste, as well as carried out a beach clean-up by removing the selected litter. In the second one, the students examined more thoroughly the study area, through interviews with residents, fishermen and other professionals in the area of Fodele.



During the months of **April 2024- June 2024**, the students, in collaboration with their educators and with the support of HCMR’s scientists, worked on the material they had collected from the previous courses, in-situ activities and the interviews and created a video (**Student's project**).



The video was presented to HCMR scientists at the beginning of the summer.



Finally, on **September 15, 2024**, the **In-situ Activities** were completed with the **8th lesson**, which involved the recapitulation of all the online courses attended by the students, as well as the on-site completion of a self-evaluation questionnaire. (Self-Evaluation Test from Students - time 1).

On the occasion of the upcoming trip of the 3rd Student Exchange to Mallorca, the students also were familiarized with the concept of Citizen Science approach and the application of the i-naturalist platform, which they will be using during the exchange trip to Spain.

