 EU-project: Marine Mammals science education

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The decline of young people’s participation and interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is of international concern. To increase young people’s interest in natural science and in order to prevent shortage of specialists in the STEM area, nine scientific educational and research institutes and NGO’s from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark joined forces for the project “Marine Mammals” in September 2016, as part of Horizon 2020 funded actions.

One focus of this project is to provide learning materials for school teachers and students. The material is developed by an international team of experts consisting of marine scientists, educational researchers and teachers. The materials will be based on current research questions and will introduce scientific topics as well as different research methods to students. Often seen as ambassadors for oceans and at the same time threatened by anthropogenic impacts such as noise and plastic pollution present in the oceans, marine mammals were chosen as key animals for this project.

Developed materials will be introduced to teachers in teacher trainings and to secondary school students participating in summer schools in each participating country. Thereby their interest, understanding and enthusiasm for STEM subjects and topics can be increased. All materials will be published on SCIENTIX, ensuring free access. Furthermore, expedition boxes, developed within the project, can be borrowed for independent project work in schools. These expedition boxes will include tools and instructions for hands-on activities. Other planned extracurricular activities such as digital posters and podcasts will be additionally developed to arouse students’ interest in natural sciences.



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