

## Developing the Mediterranean Sea Literacy principles

**Aim of this initiative:** to provide a tool for educators, scientists, NGOs, and blue economy actors to develop a better understanding of what makes the Mare Nostrum so special.

**Methodology:** The EMSEA-Med members, according to their expertise, decided to work in groups on specific concepts of each of the 7 essential principles of ocean literacy in an effort to adapt all of them to the Mediterranean Region.

Next steps:

1. Peer-review of the MSL principles.
2. Develop the concept for the Med Sea Literacy Principles campaign.

**JOIN US IN THIS INITIATIVE**  
contact us at:  
[emsea-med@emseanet.eu](mailto:emsea-med@emseanet.eu)

Or go to  
[www.emsea.eu](http://www.emsea.eu)



*The Mediterranean Sea Literacy has been developed by the following people:*

**Melita Mokos** – University of Zadar, Croatia;  
**Giulia Realdon** – University of Camerino, Italy;  
**Monica Previati** - Underwater Bio-Cartography (U.BI.CA s.r.l.), Italy;  
**Maria Cheimonopoulou** - Hydrobiological Station of Pella, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Greece;  
**Alessio Satta** - Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation, Italy;  
**Francesca Santoro** - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;  
**Yolanda Koulouri, Christos Ioakeimidis & Martha Papathanassiou** - Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece;  
**Alba Tojeiro, Carla A. Chicote & Manel Gazo** - SUBMON - Marine Environmental Services, Barcelona, Catalonia - Spain;  
**Thanos Mogias, Theodora Boubonari & Theodoros Kevrekidis**- Democritus University of Thrace, Greece.

Photographs courtesy of Manel Gazo, Yiannis Issaris & Alain Deidun.

# Mediterranean Sea Literacy

**AN INNOVATIVE AND  
COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**



A non-profit International Organisation that aims to support marine educators in the task of making European citizens Ocean Literate.



## EMSEA - MED

In 2015 a number of participants from the Mediterranean region (Fig. 1) gathered at the 3rd European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) conference in Crete to form the first EMSEA Regional Seas Group.

EMSEA - MED aims to raise Mediterranean citizens' awareness of the specific features of this basin which is an essential precondition for delivering the wider objective of sustainable development consistent with the EU BLUEMED initiative for Blue Growth and jobs in the Mediterranean.

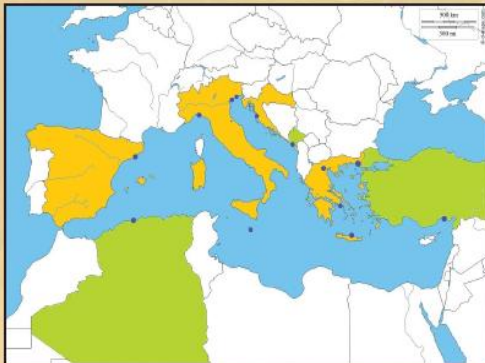


Figure 1. Countries currently involved in the MSL initiative (black dots: Headquarters of institutions; yellow: currently active countries; green: supportive countries).

## 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.