

Information for Participants - Students

Title: Water Matters – Increasing knowledge on the Importance of Good status of Water Bodies

Scientific Coordinator: Argiro Andriopoulou, MSc Biologist, IMBRIW, HCMR

Funding: "Water Management" programme of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area EEA Grants 2014-2021 (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Grants). Program Operator: Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Grants (FM EEA 2014-2021) contribute to the: (a) reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and (b) strengthening of the bilateral relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and/or Norway and the beneficiary states.

Your child has been invited to participate to an awareness campaign conducted by Mrs. Argiro Andriopoulou (Biologist MSc, technical scientific full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW), Dr. Elias Dimitriou (Geologist, Research Director, IMBRIW), Dr. Nikolaos Skoulikidis (Geologist, Research Director, IMBRIW), Mrs. Sofia Giakoumi (Ichthyologist, technical scientific full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW), Mrs. Theodora Kouvarda (Environmental Studies MSc, technical scientific full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW), Mrs. Maria Koutsodimou (Biologist MSc, technical scientific full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW), Mr. Nektarios Kypraios (technical full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW) and Mr. Konstantinos Akepsimaedis (technical full-time employee under a permanent contract, IMBRIW), on the islands of Santorini, Ios, Leros, Kalymnos, Telendos and Pserimos. This document provides all the necessary information in order to understand what this campaign is all about and why students have been invited to participate. It also describes what they need to do, as well as any known risks, difficulties or inconveniences they may encounter. Please take your time to read it, think about it, and ask any questions you want either now, or at some other time/at any time. If you decide to give your permission please sign this document.

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN?

The purpose of this campaign is to highlight the pressures on water bodies, along with the need to improve the environmental status of ecosystems and reduce the adverse effects of pollution and human activities. It also seeks to increase the understanding of the local school population on the importance/value of water resources.

2. WHO IS PARTICIPATING TO THE CAMPAIGN? WHY HAS MY CHILD BEEN INVITED?

Teachers and students of primary and secondary education, local authority officials, environmental groups and professionals living and working on the target islands of Santorini, Ios, Leros, Kalymnos, Pserimos and Telendos will be invited to participate in the campaign.

3. HOW CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE TO THE CAMPAIGN? WHAT WILL HE/SHE BE ASKED TO DO?

The campaign will take place in 2 phases. The first will focus on communication with different stakeholders on the target islands (local authorities, school units, environmental groups, etc.), as well as the organization and implementation of online activities and training seminars with the participation of mainly teachers/educators. The invitations for these activities will be sent through social media and e-mail and a declaration form of consent must be filled in, in order to participate. Participation is free of charge. For the schools interested, the activity "HCMR in your classroom" will be carried out by HCMR scientists on water topics, with online presentations/lectures (via webex) which will be addressed to students.

The second phase includes two visits to the islands in different periods of the year (Spring and Autumn 2023). During the first visit the following will be organised:

a) experiential activities, field visits, workshops etc., for the importance of good water resources status will be addressed to students, teachers and locals. Water sampling methodologies will be demonstrated, and a water monitoring station will be installed, the operation of which will be explained to students. In addition, where permitted, an alternative water collection system from fog vapors will be demonstrated and installed. In this way the participants will be familiarised with updated scientific methodologies, as well as alternative methods of utilizing and reusing water.

b) with the cooperation of local authorities, schools, cultural and environmental groups etc., a workshop on the importance of the good status of water bodies highlighting the existing pressures will take place. After the presentations, you will be invited to participate in the "round table" session, discussing and exchanging ideas and experiences on the sustainable use of water and the local water saving traditions of your islands, in order to enrich the Guide of Good Practices. Each participant's consent will be ensured, while this voluntary participation can be withdrawn any time.

c) finally, through interviews, there will be a recording of residents' testimonies regarding the saving and use of water in previous years and how these practices have been evolved. This will be implemented under the scientific guidance of communication specialists to create podcasts possibly in digital form (video) and/or presentations that will be created by the students, as well as

audiograms on sustainable water use in the past and present, also carried out in collaboration with students (after their parental consent). Nevertheless, regardless of their form, these outcomes will be connected with QR codes created for the needs of the project. These codes will be placed in points of interest (e.g. entrance gates, school units, public buildings, museums, etc.), and will be also displayed in the project's communication media.

Webinars of phase 1 will last approximately 2 hours and will be implemented from February to March 2023. During the first visit of phase 2, the student activities will last approximately two hours, while the workshops will take place in-between 2-5 April 2023 (Leros), 30 April to 5 May 2023 (Ios, Santorini) and 15-20 May 2023 (Kalymnos, Pserimos and Telendos) respectively. The duration of the second visit to the islands cannot be calculated, as the results of the program will be presented (developed digital material, Good Practices Guide, etc.) which will be different for each of them. However, it is scheduled for fall 2023.

4. ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS FROM MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION TO THE CAMPAIGN?

Participant students will benefit in many ways, as they will gain a greater understanding of the mechanisms associated with sustainable water management in the past and present, as well as in terms of developing skills with technology and technological literacy, cultivating responsible attitudes and taking responsibility.

5. DOES MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION TO THE CAMPAIGN INVOLVE ANY HAZARDS?

There are no known risks associated with this awareness campaign. However, a possible inconvenience may be the cancellation of field visits in case of bad weather, as well as the time required to complete the individual/group interviews.

6. DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?

The participation of your child in the campaign is absolutely voluntary. You may refuse to give your permission without any reason or excuse. However, if you agree, please read carefully and sign this consent form. Even so, you can withdraw your permission without any reason or excuse and without any consequences. In this unlikely event, the data collected from your child's participation will be deleted within one (1) month and will not be used. In such cases, you can contact Mrs. Theodora Kouvarda, dorak@hcmr.gr, tel. 22910 76317.

7. HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

For field visits of phase 2, general information (i.e. island, region, number of participating students, etc.), will be provided by schools, after written consent from parents/guardians. Activities will be recorded digitally in audio/video files, in a way that does not reveal the identity of the children. These files will be posted on the social media of the program. All faces will be covered.

For individual/group interviews, if there is cooperation with small "journalists" (students), the necessary parental consent will have preceded. Your child's face will not be shown if you do not want to, but his/her voice will be heard. Participant names will not be used unless explicit consent has been given beforehand. All these files are necessary for the creation of podcasts and video-testimonials for the sustainable use of water, the uploading of activities to social media and as proof for the achievement of the result / performance indicators that have been declared in the proposal. The hardcopies of the files will be kept in a locked drawer. Each of them will have a code and there will be a "key" linking the names to the codes. Electronic files containing identifiable information will be password protected and this will also be the case for the computer where they will be saved. All personal data will be destroyed after a period of twelve (12) months.

The data may be used in similar campaigns in the future. They may also be used in scientific publications, conference announcements and for the posting of the program activities on social media. Results will be presented in a summary form and your child's name will not be identified, unless you have given your permission to disclose such information, as for example in the case of the interviews.

8. WHO IS FUNDING THE CAMPAIGN?

This campaign is funded by the Public Investment Program, project code 2022ΣΕ77510007, sub-project 1 of the action "Increasing knowledge on the Importance of Good status of Water Bodies", which has been included in the "Water Management" Program of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area, period 2014-2021 (EEA Grants 2014-2021, Ref. No.: 1091/10/05.01.2023 - 993A4653Π8-96Π, under the code ΟΠΣ5166526) and national resources.

9. WHO HAS AUTHORISED THIS CAMPAIGN?

The campaign has been authorized by the Committee for Research Ethics of Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Ref. No. 74/2023/27.03.2023).

10. WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION/CLARIFICATIONS?

For more information you can contact the scientific coordinator of Water matters Mrs Argiro Andriopoulou (e-mail: roulan@hcmr.gr, tel.: 22910 76317) or Mrs Sofia Giakoumi (e-mail: sgiakoum@hcmr.gr, tel.: 22910 76415, 6977406188).

11. WHERE CAN I SUBMIT COMPLAINTS?

For any complaints you can appeal to the Committee for Research Ethics of HCMR (ehde@hcmr.gr). Regarding any complaints on your personal data management, you can contact Personal Data Processing of HCMR (Computer Studio SA, Tel.: (210) 9761865, Fax: (210) 9708067) and the Personal Data Protection Authority (complaints@dpa.gr).