



**BLUE FLAG**

**2011 EDITION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES BOOK**

**FOUNDATION FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



The Blue Flag is a programme from the Foundation for Environmental Education

The Blue Flag Programme is sponsored internationally by:



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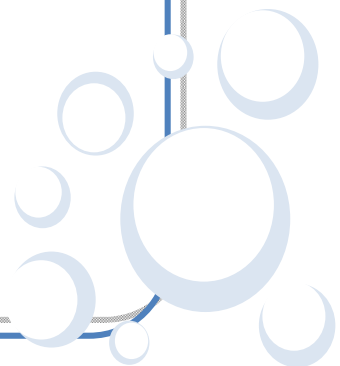
<http://www.shipmate.nl>

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with member organisations in around 60 countries around the world. ([www.fee-international.org](http://www.fee-international.org))

FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes:

- Blue Flag ([www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org))
- Eco-Schools ([www.eco-schools.org](http://www.eco-schools.org))
- Young Reporters for the Environment ([www.youngreporters.org](http://www.youngreporters.org))
- Learning about Forests ([www.leaf-international.org](http://www.leaf-international.org))
- Green Key ([www.green-key.org](http://www.green-key.org))

Through formal school education, training of staff, and awareness raising, FEE's programmes involve people of all ages and nationalities.



## WELCOME TO THE FIRST BLUE FLAG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

### Why this brochure?

This brochure has been created for two main purposes: to help beach and marina managers to organise environmental education activities which fit with their goals and capacities; and to share good ideas throughout the Blue Flag network.

### What kind of Environmental Education?

Environmental Education offers a broad framework that encompasses a number of different ideas and approaches to learning in, for or about the environment, in pursuit of sustainable development. The purpose of this guide is not to debate the different definitions, but to encourage a shared acceptance of the diversity of learning approaches. This introduction, therefore, offers a brief description of environmental education approaches and offers a simple classification to help users to navigate their way through the different activities and worksheets.

One way of understanding environmental education is to see it as education that engages learners with nature, encourages them to ask questions about the environment, and engage with environmental change. This means that environmental education is not just concerned with spreading messages about the environment, but it also provides opportunities to enhance learner understandings, question environmental problems and take action for environmental change in pursuit of a sustainable development.

Therefore, the classification we offer is tentative and open to change.

- Information-seeking or enquiry:

Learners are encouraged to ask questions about the environment and gather information or materials. This might be through surveys, counting, collecting, or measuring different parts of the beach, for example.

- Awareness-raising:

Awareness-raising is an educational activity focused on raising a learner's awareness about environmental problems, in the HOPE that they will do something as a response. An example might be an information campaign.

- Action-oriented:

Action-oriented learning is an approach based on environmental change and improvement. The learners take action on a particular environmental problem and try out one or more solutions with the aim of achieving a better environment for all. A typical example is a litter pick.

- Contact with nature / experiential / exploratory

Experiential approaches to environmental education are often based outside, in the particular environment in question, and seek to inspire learners to care for the environment by encouraging contact with nature and exploration, usually around a particular theme, such as 'the sea shore'.

### How is this brochure organised?

As you will see, the different categories overlap and are not mutually-exclusive, hence a learning sequence might actually address all four types of environmental education activity in pursuit of a sustainable development.

The same tagging system is used throughout the document, each activity answering the same questions: target group, theme, method, communication, tips, etc.

The activity sheets are organised by theme: *Biodiversity, Marine World, Marina, Special Events, and Waste*. It must be noted that although a specific "Marina" category has been included, the activities under other categories may easily be adapted for a marina.

### Where to find this brochure?

You can download this brochure (fully or by theme) on the Blue Flag international website:  
[www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org)



# Recyclable Waste Race

Target group: Children visiting the Marina

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: No time limitation

Country: France

- **METHOD:** Children are divided in two groups. Both groups compete to win the Recyclable Waste Race. Wearing t-shirts in different colours identifies each team. First, one team member has to pick up waste with a hand truck. Then the player must run to the “waste reception centre”. Here he has to choose the right waste disposal (ex: paper disposal if he is carrying a book) so that the waste can be recycled. The second player of each team can now start the race and recycle another waste. The first team who has correctly recycled all the waste wins!



- **MATERIAL:** T- shirts (2 different colours), different types of recyclable waste (paper, wood, electronic devices, metal, food), two hand trucks and some waste disposals.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be posted at tourist office, environmental education centres or on the Internet.
- **TIPS:** Some kind of registration is needed to organise groups by age and number of kids.

# Anti-pollution Training

Target group: Staff working in the marina

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 1-2 hours

Country: Greece

• **METHOD:** Staff members get informed about what they should do in case of a pollution accident in the marina. After having been taught in theory what detailed procedure they have to follow, they are asked to participate in an anti-pollution training exercise and implement the emergency plan that has been designed for such a case.

The exact time of the training exercise should not be pre-announced, so as the effectiveness of the staff's intervention, in case of pollution emergency might be well-tested.



- **MATERIAL:** Mock polluting material.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Port Police officials.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The marina staff should be taught what they should do when a pollution accident takes place. Port police officials could help a lot in this.
- **TIPS:** Try to get the boat- owners who might be in the marina at the time of the training exercise involved in the anti-pollution training exercise.

# Bird watching in a Wetland

Target group: Boat owners

Type: Contact with nature

Duration: 2-3 hours

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** Boat-owners attend a presentation organised in the marina about the birds met in the nearby wetland. Afterwards, they are invited to join a visit to the nearby wetland for bird-watching. So, boat-owners, during their visit, will enjoy nature beauties as much as bird-watching.



- **MATERIAL:** A poster with pictures and names of the birds met in the wetland, goggles and boots.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** The wetland guide.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The visit to the wetland can be posted on the information board of the marina. It can also be announced at the presentation about the birds.
- **TIPS:** Remember that recorded sounds of the birds met in the wetland may be heard during the presentation. This can make it more lively and interesting. It could be even more interesting if each bird presented was matched with the sounds it makes.

# ECO Quiz

Target group: All Marina Visitors & Staff

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: About 1 minute

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** Boat-owners are handed out a Quiz focusing on environmental issues. They can play with it and test themselves in how environmentally aware they are. They can see whether they are fully informed or whether there are still things about environmental issues to know. A key with information concerning the issue tackled in each question of the Quiz is also provided for them to check themselves about the environmental knowledge they have acquired so far.
- **MATERIAL:** A quiz
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** A local printers' house.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The quiz can be available at the reception office of the marina and can be delivered to the boat-owners upon their arrival. The staff can also "play" with it.
- **TIPS:** Remember to pinpoint your concern about the protection of the environment upon the boat owners' arrival and kindly ask them to contribute in this effort.

## How well are we environmentally informed?

1. How much energy was used in order to produce an aluminium can, weighing 15 grams?

- Capable for operating a TV set for 3 hours.
- Enough!
- I don't know

> Floros Marina recycles aluminium dropped in the blue bins located in various sites of the facility.

2. A glass bottle may produce light for a room for:

- Five minutes
- Eight hours.
- It cannot do that.



> Floros Marina recycles in special bins inside stores every glass bottle purchased from the stores, in cooperation with the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation.

3. How many years does it take for a plastic bottle to start decomposing?

- 40 - 50 years.
- 400 - 500 years.
- Plastic bottles are immediately decomposed.



4. How many years after burial does it take for a plastic bag to get decomposed?

- One year.
- 2 years.
- 10 to 50 years depending on its environment.

> Floros Marina recycles plastic dropped in the recycle bins located in various sites of the facility.

5. What do you believe that a garbage bin contains?



6. How many trees do you believe that we are saving for each ton of paper we recycle?

- One.
- Seventeen.
- None.

> Floros Marina recycles the paper it produces in cooperation with a non-profitable organization.

7. Which materials do we recycle in blue bins?

- Clean packages made of plastic, glass, paper, or aluminum.
- Dirty packages made of plastic, glass, paper, or aluminum.
- Only paper.



> Floros Marina has been cooperating with the Municipality of Palea Falira for the collection and recycling of the packaging materials collected in the blue bins.

8. The energy that can be saved on an annual basis by recycling packaging materials and paper is equal to the energy consumed by the city of Athens in:

- Four days.
- Four months.
- Four years.

> Floros Marina provides facilities for recycling packaging material, paper, glass bottles, bulbs, electrical and electronic devices, ink cartridges, batteries and condensers, as well as wastes produced by vessels, such as bilge water, lubricant oil, waste, etc.



# Eco-code

Target group: All Marina Visitors & Staff

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: -

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** Boat-owners are handed out an ECO-CODE focusing on environmental issues. They can read it and test themselves in how environmentally aware they are. They can see whether they are fully informed or whether there are still things about environmental issues to know.
- **MATERIAL:** An Eco-code leaflet
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** A local printers' house.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The ECO-CODE can be available at the reception office of the marina and can be delivered to the boat-owners upon their arrival. The staff can also get it.
- **TIPS:** Remember to pinpoint your concern about the protection of the environment upon the boat owners' arrival and kindly ask them to contribute in this effort.

**SOME ADVICE**

I'm doing something for the environment. A few simple things we can do in order to reduce our purchases:

- we use a shopping list and we buy only the things we need,
- we buy products that can be reused,
- we pick a general cleaning product for the house.

In order to reduce waste with hazardous substances:

- we carefully read the ingredients of the product we buy,
- we do not buy and we avoid products harmful for humans and for the environment,
- we buy non-toxic products as much as possible,
- we use alternative cleaning products, such as vinegar or lemon.

For reducing the garbage reaching the landfill:

- we do not throw away without thinking,
- we rent, share and borrow instead of buying new stuff,
- we sell or give away to friends and neighbours everything we no longer want,
- we make presents and cards for our loved ones, instead of buying them,
- we grow vegetables and flowers in our garden,
- we buy second-hand books.

In order to reduce packaging:

- we prefer packaging made of recycled materials or recyclable packaging,
- we choose products that have been packaged in a manner that facilitates their use and consumption,
  - we avoid products with large and bulky packaging,
  - we do not purchase lots of single-use products (paper tissues, kitchen paper, etc),
  - we buy products that are sturdy with a large life cycle,
  - we carry our own bags when we go shopping.

Some ideas for reusing stuff we keep at home:

- We mend our clothes, repair our toys and appliances.
- We reuse old envelopes, sheets of paper printed only on one side, empty plastic bottles of water or soda.

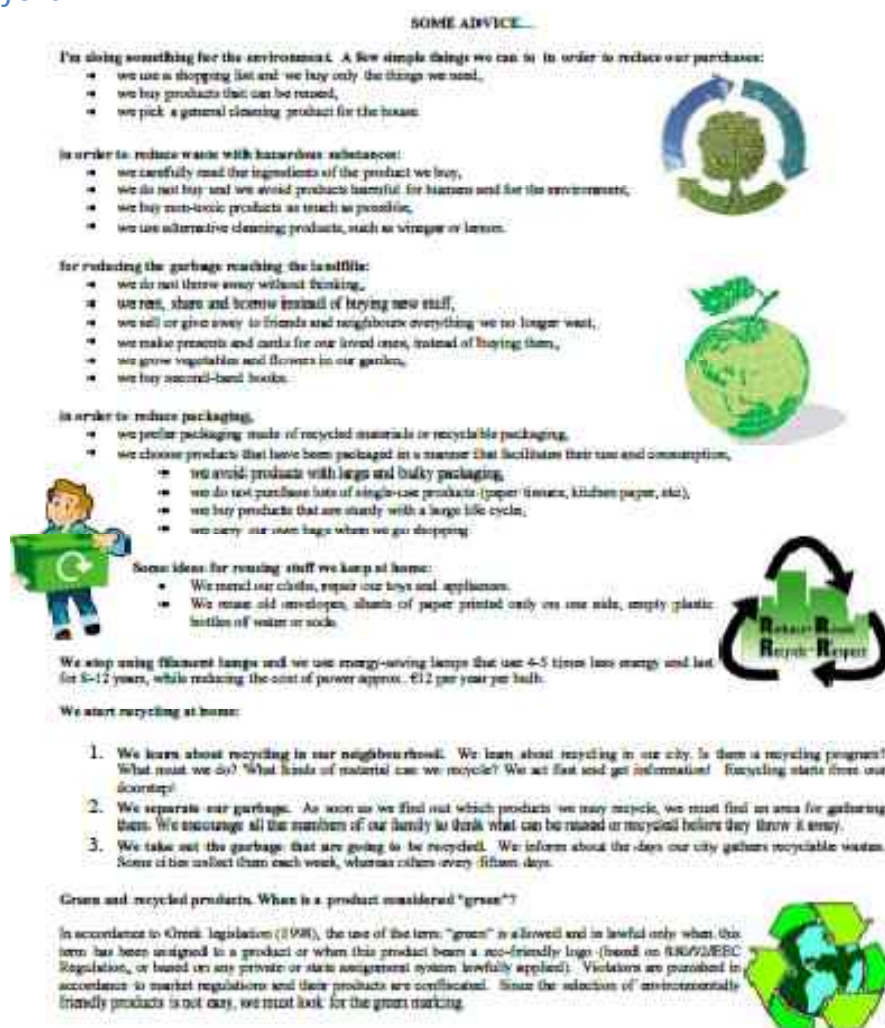
We stop using filament lamps and we use energy-saving lamps that use 4-5 times less energy and last for 8-12 years, while reducing the cost of power approx. €12 per year per bulb.

We start recycling at home:

1. We learn about recycling in our neighbourhood. We learn about recycling in our city. Is there a recycling program? What must we do? What kinds of material can we recycle? We act fast and get information! Recycling starts from our doorstep!
2. We separate our garbage. As soon as we find out which products we may recycle, we must find an area for gathering them. We encourage all the members of our family to think what can be reused or recycled before they throw it away.
3. We take out the garbage that are going to be recycled. We inform about the dates our city gathers recyclable wastes. Some of them collect them each week, whereas others every fifteen days.

Green and recycled products. When is a product considered "green"?

In accordance to Greek legislation (1198), the use of the term "green" is allowed and is lawful only when this term has been assigned to a product or when this product bears a eco-friendly logo (based on EN1302/CEC Regulation, or based on any private or state assignment system lawfully applied). Violators are punished in accordance to market regulations and their products are confiscated. Since the selection of environmentally friendly products is not easy, we must look for the green marking.



## Guided Visits on the River

Target group: school children

Type: Contact with nature

Duration: 1-2 hours

Country: Italy

**METHOD:** *The environmental education project takes place, for free, in the two marinas on the river Tagliamento in Lignano Sabbiadoro. The activity takes place according to a series of stages: the children leave the meeting point by bicycle and arrive at the dock at Marina One in which they are welcomed by the staff that provides all the equipment suitable for children to deal with a boat trip (life-jacket), then a rescue explanation of how to stay safe in the boat.*

*The children are divided into two groups on the boats led by competent and responsible operators, departing from and arriving at the Marina One and Marina Punta Verde.*

*During the boat cruise, lasting about an hour, along the banks of the Tagliamento river, in the direction of its delta, the children have the opportunity to experiment the surrounding environment and to learn about the ecology of the flora and fauna of the River. They can observe birds and other typical animals from the boat by a binocular; then they can also take picture to make a report of the journey.*



**MATERIAL:** *boats, life jackets; binocular; camera.*

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *environmental educators.*

**COMMUNICATION:** *the websites of the Marina One and Marina Punta Verde and publication in the newspaper Messaggero Veneto.*

# Children's discover and learning barrel

Target group: Children of all Marina Visitors

Type: Experiential

Duration: ½ or 1 day

Country: Netherlands

- **METHOD:** Children can get a learning barrel. The children can take it with them at the boat.



- **MATERIAL:** A waterproof small barrel. In this barrel there is a landing net, a magnifying glass, a glass bell, fathometer, map of the lake, map of fishes and animals and a book with instructions and orders.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be posted at the marina office or environmental education centre. There is a poster in Dutch.
- **TIPS:** Make a competition. Children deliver the questionnaire. At the end of a period of time the child who gave the best answers gets a price or a certificate.



# Leaflets about Refuelling

Target group: All Marina Visitors

Type: Awareness-raising

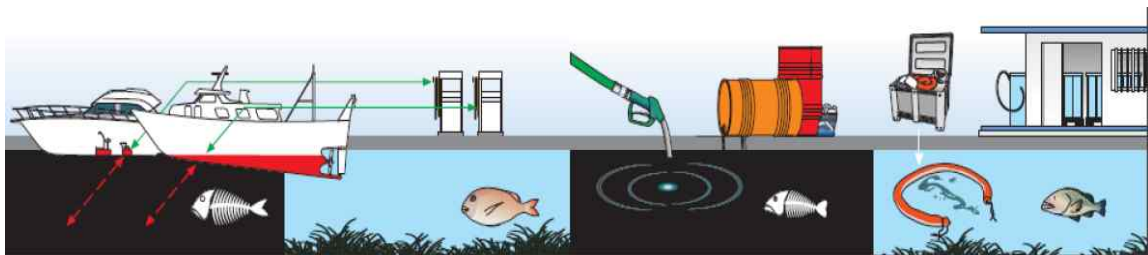
Duration: 1-2 hours

Country: Spain

- **METHOD:** the marina gives to its visitors leaflets related to Good Practices. The leaflets talk about the “Refuelling in the Gas Station”:  
Refuelling is an operation that can produce water disposals if we do not take the proper precautions. The fuel can fall on the deck and end up in the sea. We must bear in mind that the chemicals and the heavy metals of the fuels have devastating effects in the sea life.

## How must we do the refuelling?

- Slowly to avoid the fuel of making bubbles.
- With absorbent materials in hand to use in case of accidental leaks.
- Installing systems to recover the fuel that pours out.
- Installing a detention deposit on the deck.
- Knowing the amount of fuel we can refill. Using visual levels.
- Notify the station staff if you notice any accidental disposal, and ask for absorbent materials if required.



- **MATERIAL:** Good Practices leaflets
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Every marina visitor
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity will be offered in the marina's reception and in the informative panels of the marina.
- **TIPS:**

# Brochures about Global Warming

Target group: All Marina Visitors

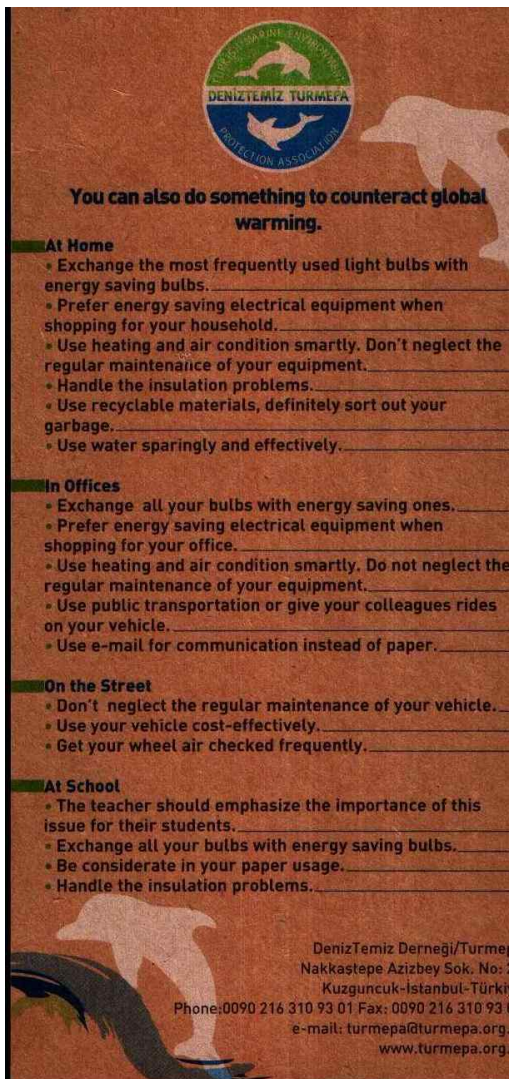
Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: -

Country: Turkey

MARINA

- **METHOD:** Brochures had been prepared about what individuals can do against Global Warming and had been distributed to visitors of the marina.
- **MATERIAL:** Brochures
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** TURMEPA (Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association).
- **TIPS:** One day after brochures had been distributed to people staying in the marina, a questionnaire could be applied to them about Global Warming to determine if the brochures were effective or not in raising awareness. Thus a good environmental education activity could be done.



# Art workshop with ecological topics

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Target group: Children

Type: Awareness-raising/Action oriented

Duration: 2-3 hours

Country: Croatia

- **METHOD:** Educators can teach children, why is it so important to segregate waste. Children can draw something on a paper, cut it with scissors, and paste on a plastic bottle. The aim of this activity is to encourage children to think about environment, and how they can contribute to environment preservation.
- **MATERIAL:** Papers and pens in different colours, plastic bottles, glue, scissors.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Art professor
- **COMMUNICATION:** Time and date of activity might be posted in marina.
- **TIPS:** Could be linked to special days.

# Environmental Education for Children

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Target group: (School) Children

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: half a day – 1 day

Country: Croatia

- **METHOD:** Children from school and kindergarten are invited to visit marina. Marina employees can talk with them about what they can do to save environment. They also show to children all garbage collected from the marina and sea (paper, glass, plastic) and dangerous waste. They can show to children how they treat dangerous waste. Children become more aware of the importance of waste separating.
- **MATERIAL:** Video materials, presentation, brochures (optional)
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Invitation letter to schools and kindergartens.
- **TIPS:** It is better to include as many schools as you can, especially International Eco-Schools.

# Maintain of green surfaces in marina

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Target group: All marina visitors

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 2-3 hours

Country: Croatia

- **METHOD:** Marina staff (gardener, maintenance) show to all visitors presentation about different sorts of flowers and trees planted in marina. They teach them about different methods of planting. They give to all visitors few plants, gloves and watering can and they also show them how to do the planting. After the planting it is necessary to water the plants.
- **MATERIAL:** Different sorts of plants, gloves, watering can.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired, local environment association.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Time and date of activity might be posted in marina.
- **TIPS:** It is better to organize this activity over the weekend, because of higher participant response.



# Water preserving

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Target group: All marina visitors

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: 2-3 hours

Country: Croatia

- **METHOD:** *This activity starts with brainstorming (What can we do for our environment? Why is it so important to preserve our water?) Stickers “Protect water, every drop is important” are given to all participants. They can be written in English and German or any other language. After brainstorming participant need to post stickers on info board, taps, and showers and in toilets. They can post stickers also on their boat, when they come back home in their house etc.*
- **MATERIAL:** *Stickers, glue.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators, voluntaries, family members.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *Time and date of activity might be posted in marina.*
- **TIPS:** *Could be linked to special days.*

# What is hiding in the Marina

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Target group: All Marina Visitors and children institutions

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 1-2 hours

Country: Denmark

MARINA

- **METHOD:** *Divers from the local Diving School will dive down to the bottom of the harbor and take up what they consider to be of different dirt and junk. There will then be told about the degeneration of various types of waste and how to sort waste.*
- **MATERIAL:** *Diving equipment, garbage bags and something to drive bigger things on the environmental station.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *local diving club, the local partner who is responsible for collection, distribution and management of garbage,*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *invitations for institutions for children, poster on the marina for informing the locals and guests/tourists, local tourist office and invite the local press to cover the event - at the same time maybe an Add in the local paper.*
- **TIPS:** *Let the kids come up close to see the findings and maybe have an Environmental educator or a Physics teacher to talk about the findings and maybe do some experiments or something active with the kids like garbage sculptures.*

# “Clean Marina” Day

Target group: Boat owners, divers and marina visitors

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: One day

Country: France

MARINA

- **METHOD:** *The marina has organized a « Clean Marina » day. The aims of this activity were to clean up deep-sea in the Marina area, prevent and reduce pollution, and promote environmental education. Seventy volunteers have participated in the cleaning activity (boat owners, divers and marina visitors). 3,5t of waste has been collected from deep-sea and then recycled. Supermarket caddy, plastic bags, bottles, bicycles, chairs, tires and other devices have been found. Also, a big waste sculpture has been created to increase marina visitors' awareness of pollution and environment protection.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Three boats, diving equipment and waste disposals.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Diving schools and clubs, environmental associations.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *The activity might be posted at the Marina, the city hall, environmental education centres or on the Internet.*
- **TIPS:** *It is recommended to organise the activity some time before the big cleaning day to select the volunteers and organise them by groups.*

# Garbage Collection Campaign

Target group: Boat owners & Staff

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 2-3 hours

Country: Greece

MARINA

- **METHOD:** The staff and the boat-owners are given a leaflet with pictures of different types of materials the garbage is made of and their life period next to each. This is because the participants in the campaign should be aware of the long lasting period some materials need to sustain until they decompose and disappear. As long as both the staff and the boat owners get informed about it, the marina management organises a garbage collection campaign in order to raise awareness about the need to respect nature and not to degrade its beauty with garbage all around. So, the staff and the boat owners are actively involved in this campaign by joining the garbage collection sally.



- **MATERIAL:** A leaflet with pictures and the life period of the garbage materials next to each, plastic gloves and plastic bags for the garbage to be put in.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** The cleaning services of the local authorities and local people living close to the marina.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The cleaning campaign can be posted on the information board of the marina and the information board of the Town Hall. It can also be announced on the radio and the local TV channel.
- **TIPS:** Remember that the more publicity the event is given the better the results will be.

# Environmental patrimony protection exhibition

Target group: Marina visitors

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: No time limitation

Country: France

MARINA

- **METHOD:** The Marina with the support of Brittany's Geological and Mineralogical Society (SGMB) has organized an exhibition to promote the geological patrimony and the environmental protection of the "Presqu'île de Crozon". Because of its geological and mineralogical richness a big game reserve project was created. In this specific region you can still appreciate the traces of the Palaeozoic Era. The Marina's concern is not only to protect this particular geological patrimony but the environment in its diversity and richness.



- **MATERIAL:** A place to welcome an exhibition about the local environmental patrimony, big-character posters to display the information and pictures.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Geological and mineralogical associations, researchers and museums as well as environmental protection associations.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be posted at tourist office, environmental education centres, museums entrance or on the Internet.
- **TIPS:** It is recommended to post the opening hours and to have somebody who gives information about the exhibition and the local patrimony to the public.

The first version of this brochure has been produced by a Blue Flag working group composed of Blue Flag National Operators, Environmental Education experts and the International Blue Flag Coordination.

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