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Calendar 2022 "BLUE AHOLICS"- Leaving only bubbles out there

SCUBA diving is a powerful tool in order to achieve a direct insight on the underwater world. Nevertheless, the impact of divers can be detrimental for the most vulnerable ecosystems. The right training and a proper background on Ocean Literacy issues are different sides of the same objective: exploring and discovering the life below water in the most sustainable and respectful way.

This self-funded initiative is currently recognized by the IOC-UNESCO and obtained a free sponsorship in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences 2021-2030. The main purpose of this personal contribution is the enforcement of the liaison work between the research world and the wider audience. Therefore, on this perspective this proposal has been considered as a suitable Decade Action related to the achievement of the SDG 14 highlighted among priorities of the 2030 Agenda.

Currently, the initiative is hosted in the thematic Portal dedicated to the Ocean Literacy (<https://oceanliteracy.unesco.org/resource/blue-aholics-leaving-only-bubbles-out-there/>), where the digital version of the publication has been already shared, beside a brief introduction on the main purposes of the initiative (Figure 1).

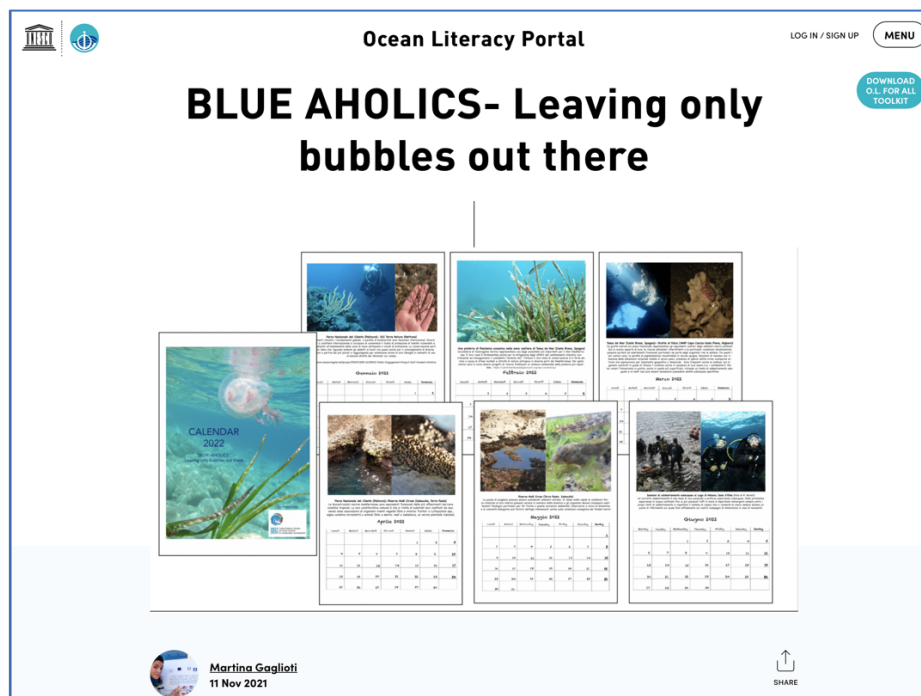


Figure 1 An overview of the webpage where the digital version of the work is currently hosted

The main goal of this publication is spreading the word on SCUBA diving education and outreach initiatives, considering them as powerful tools to cope with marine conservation aspects and related near future challenges. Therefore, the main goal has been the communication of some basic information in several ways from visual (i.e., photos) to a more specialistic and detailed language (i.e., short descriptions and external published resources), in order to intercept several representatives of different sectors of civil society and institutional contexts (Fig.1). For this reason, the structure of the publication has been conceived according to a multiscale approach, in order to be understandable both from basic level readers (i.e., primary school children, old people, not experts in general) as well as marine experts and diving professionals.

The photographic contributions have been selected from my personal archive and some minor contributions made available by few external collaborators have been considered where relevant (the two external contributors are mentioned in the back cover).

Additionally, a brief explanatory text has been provided in order to elucidate the photo content and in almost all cases some additional resources accessible through QR codes are provided. In this case the external resources are focused on the main topic of the correspondent images and are represented by personal research

contributions, external links to different digital resources or some relevant works published in the last few months from other colleagues engaged in marine research field.

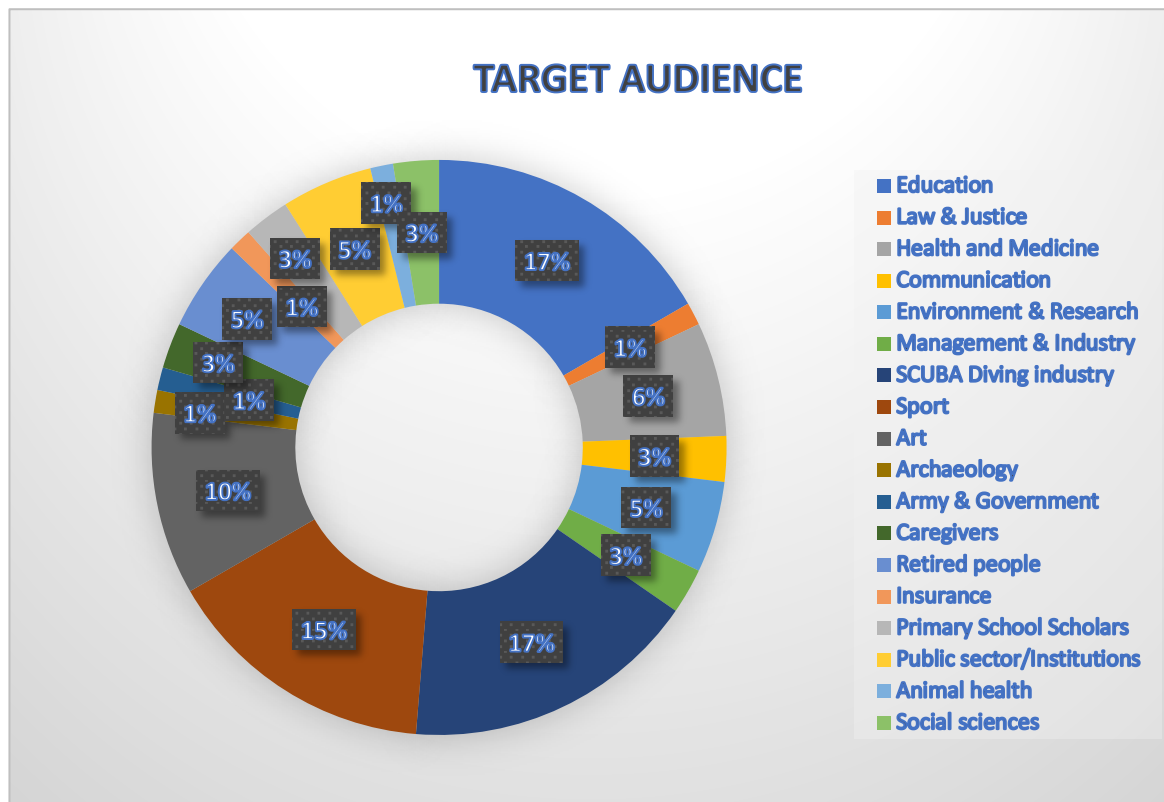


Figure 2 A pie chart showing all the target sectors engaged in the initiative

According to the most successful past experiences (i.e., Med Sea Life in A Warming World-Calendar 2021 Outreach initiative), once again, beside the oral communication, relevant efforts dealt with the distribution of hard copies among interested stakeholders. This approach confirms to be effective: in two weeks around 100 copies have been delivered upon request (Fig. 3).



Figure 3 A summary image showing the most relevant supporters of the initiative and some photos shared from the target audience once received the shipped hard copies.

A great THANKS to all the official and unofficial supporters of this work and very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!!