

## PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ProBleu and SHORE Highlight the Importance of Water and Ocean Literacy in School Communities on World Ocean Day

**Barcelona, Spain - June 8, 2024** – In celebration of World Ocean Day, ProBleu and SHORE reaffirm their commitment to enhancing ocean and water literacy within school communities. Recognized globally on June 8, World Ocean Day calls for crucial ocean and climate action, uniting organizations and individuals in conservation efforts.

ProBleu and SHORE, together with their sister project BlueLightS, are part of the ambitious 2030 EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters". These projects offer vital resources, guidance, and financial grants to support the growth of the Network of European Blue Schools. In partnership with the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA), these initiatives have already attracted applications from thousands of schools, aiming to expand the network from 130 to over 1300 Blue Schools across Europe by 2030.

Jaume Piera, from ICM-CSIC and General Coordinator for ProBleu, highlighted the role of citizen science in this educational endeavour. "Citizen science not only engages students in hands-on scientific activities but also enhances their understanding of the complex issues facing our oceans today," said Piera. "By actively involving students in data collection and analysis, we bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and community action, empowering young minds to contribute to ocean conservation."

As the coordinator of the SHORE project, Prof. Dr. Afşin ÇETİNKAYA emphasized the importance of empowering youth to become eco-citizens and agents of change and reducing our carbon footprint. Currently, our world is facing serious threats such as climate crisis and environmental degradation. Therefore, every individual needs to be aware of the protection of natural resources, sustainability, and our environment.

As global coordination for World Ocean Day continues to grow since its inception in 2002 and official recognition by the United Nations in 2008, ProBleu, SHORE and BlueLightS stand at the forefront of educational transformations that are crucial for the preservation of our planet's aquatic environments.

For more information about World Ocean Day and to join the movement, visit [WorldOceanDay.org](https://WorldOceanDay.org).

**About ProBleu:** This project actively promotes citizen science, engaging children, youth, teachers, and school communities across 44 countries. Its core objectives encompass expanding the Network of European Blue Schools (NEBS) and the integration of ocean and water literacy into educational curricula, all while offering funding opportunities of up to €10,000 per project in four calls over three years to encourage school participation in the NEBS. The consortium is formed by Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC), Eartwatch, Kaunas University Technology, InovaMais, Plymouth Marine Lab and Ocean Conservation Trust. Website: <https://probleu.school>

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**About SHORE:** SHORE aims to empower youth to become agents of change, expand the Network of European Blue Schools, promote the objectives of the EU's Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters", advocate for open schooling methodologies, implement blue curricula internationally, and train professional educators on blue education. Website: <https://shoreproject.eu>

**About BlueLightS:** The project empowers European children and youth to enhance resilience and sustainability in rivers and seas through collaborative projects in schools, fostering dialogue between education communities, and piloting innovative changes in educational systems. The initiative aligns with the EU's goal of restoring oceans and waters by 2030, serving as a crucial component for its success. Website:

**About EMSEA:** EMSEA is a membership organization, representing academia, researchers, NGOs, companies, formal (schools) and informal (science) education institutes, engaged in increasing ocean literacy in society. Our mission is to act as a hub for the European marine education community to promote and deliver ocean literacy across society by working with scientists, teachers, policymakers, and the public. Website: <https://www.emseanet.eu/>

**About NEBS:** A European Blue School brings the ocean into the classroom. The Network of European Blue Schools aims to empower schools and teachers who are agents of change for the ocean and support them in educating the new generation of more aware, responsible, and engaged ocean-literate citizens. Website: [https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/ocean-literacy-and-blue-skills/ocean-literacy/network-blue-schools\\_en](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/ocean-literacy-and-blue-skills/ocean-literacy/network-blue-schools_en)



Picture: Children engage in an ocean conservation activity by ProBleu, promoting environmental awareness among young students in Barcelona.