

Marine ecological lexicon – teaching ocean literacy in primary schools

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OŠ Petra Preradovića, Zadar



Primary School Petra Preradovića Zadar



- Oldest primary and lower secondary school in the city of Zadar. The main school is attended by almost 600 students in 24 classes including a class for students with specific educational needs.
- It is one of 10 schools in Croatia with an integrated Regional Education Hub.
- The school has been awarded the STEM School Label Expert level, it is a Platon Research School and an eTwinning School.
- The school has most recently achieved the European Blue School label.

About us:



Margarita Morić

Margarita Morić, biology teacher, holds Master's degree in Ecology and Nature Protection, worked as consultant for GRI Sustainability reporting, founder of the NGO Green Window (part of the CDN).



Anita Šimac

Anita Šimac, Mathematics teacher mentor. Scientix STEM ambassador, eTwinning ambassador, Microsoft Innovative Education Educator and trainer. Head of the county professional council of mathematics teachers in the city of Zadar.

Ocean literacy and climate change education are slowly becoming part of the school curricula.

The primary objective was to educate primary school students about marine conservation, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity, understanding of climate change and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the oceans.

Ocean literacy in classroom

What were the steps:

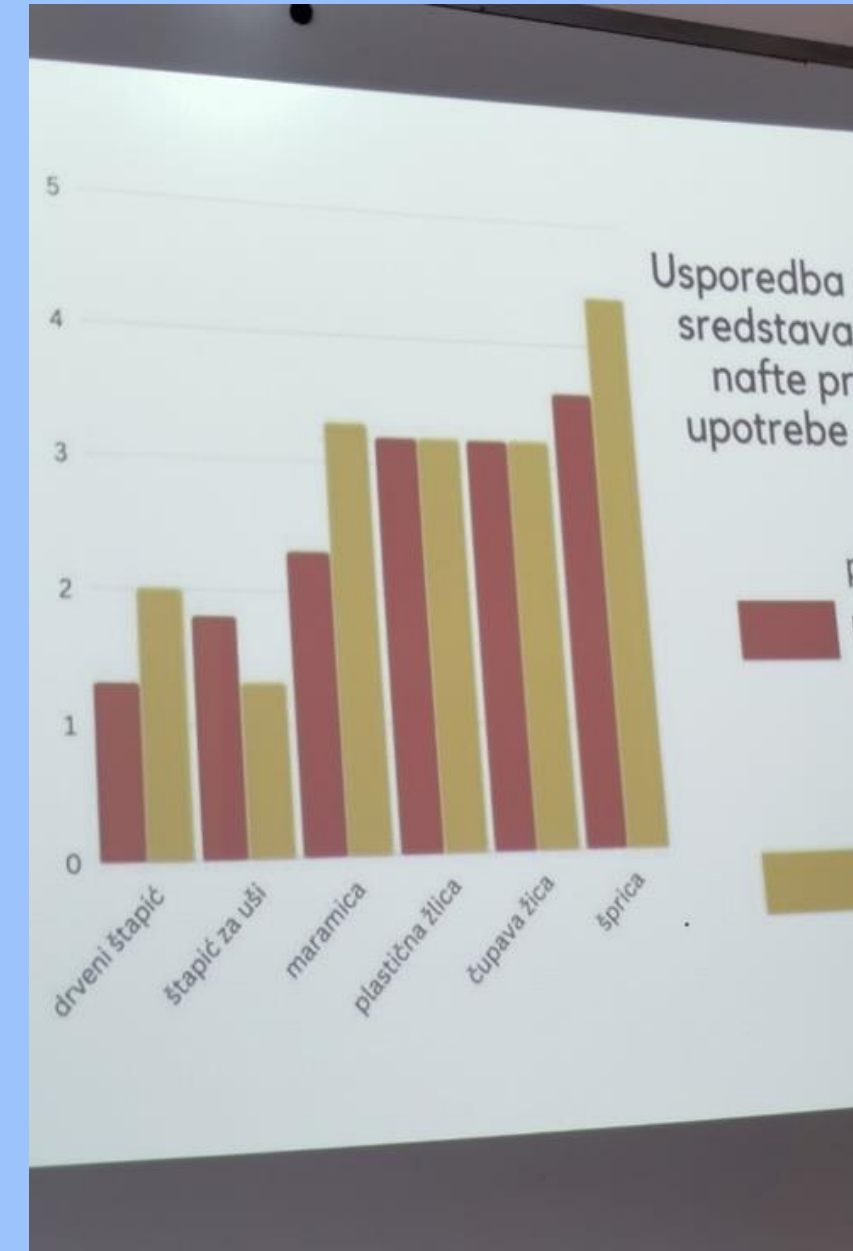
01 Workshops –
microplastics and
oil pollution

02 Educational lectures
from NGOs – Healthy
Seas and Aurelia

03 Creation of the
mural and marine
lexicon

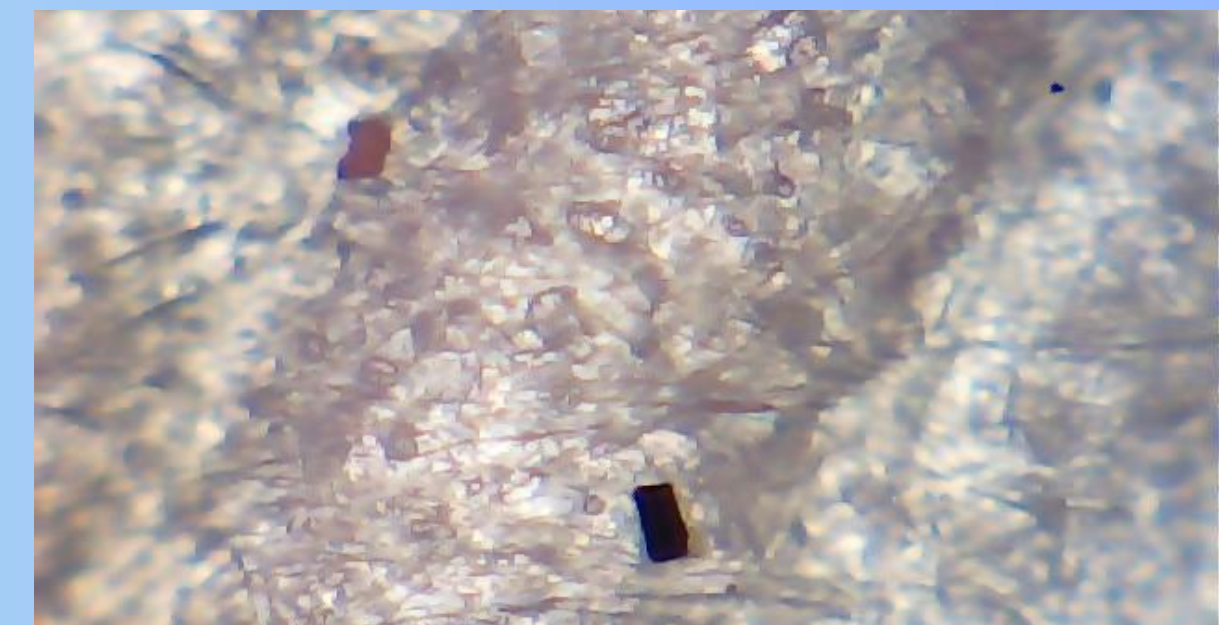
1. Workshop: oil spill pollution

- Staging oil spill in marine environment using cooking oil and food coloring
- Using different absorbent materials (e.g., cotton balls, sponges, paper towels) and skimmers (e.g., spoons, spatulas, strainers) for oil clean up



1. Workshop: microplastics

- Sea samples were taken from shore next to the school
- Using vacuum filtration particles of microplastics were filtered and observed under the microscope



2. Educational lectures: Healthy seas

- Lecturer Velimir Vrzić talked about the work of volunteer divers who collect discarded fishing nets from the sea, freeing entangled marine organisms. The nets are then recycled into different items (socks, bags, etc.).



2. Educational lectures: Aurelia

- Lecturer Ivana Zubak Čižmek introduced students to the most common species of organisms living in the Adriatic sea



3. The mural

- Recycling and plastic waste reduction initiative
- Collection of bottle tops and transformation into a mural



3. Marine ecological lexicon

The goal was development of an interactive digital book, “Marine ecological lexicon”.

- students created drawings and texts on their chosen topics and recorded audio descriptions.



- This project also involved community engagement and outreach through workshops for kindergarten children and their teachers as well as colleagues in school.



In conclusion, climate change and ocean literacy can be taught in simple, entertaining ways, and the gathered knowledge can then be shared across different levels of education, or through peer-to-peer interactions.

Thank you for your attention

