



European Marine Citizen Science Week

14–20 September 2026

Information for organisers

Many coastal areas across Europe are still not fully documented. Through local marine citizen science activities, we can raise ocean awareness, support learning, and contribute to FAIR-oriented biodiversity data.

During one week, **14 to 20 September**, organisations, researchers, schools, and citizens will help document marine and coastal life by observing species, taking photos, and sharing observations.

European Marine Citizen Science Week 2026 is an event initiated by the EU-funded project BioEcoOcean and coordinated by Uppsala University together with participating organisations and local partners across Europe.

Each organisation that wants to participate can help spread the word and, if possible, create an activity that fits its local context, such as a beach walk, school activity, guided field activity, snorkelling, or diving activity.

*Together, we increase our knowledge about
marine biodiversity – one observation at a time."*



About BioEcoOcean project:

bioecoocean.org



About European Marine Citizen Science Week:

bioecoocean.org/european-marine-citizen-science-week



Event contact:

mcs@bioecoocean.org



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Suggested timeline



Download the MINKA app and prepare your local activity.

15–30 Aug

Prepare your communication material. You can find visual guidelines and relevant material in Trello.

1–14 Sept

Reach out, spread the word and invite participants.

14–20 Sept

Run your activity and support uploads. Analyse your collected data in MINKA and give feedback to participants.

20–30 Sept

Summarise data and share results with participants and local organisations. Upload relevant data to open global biodiversity databases.



MINKA platform:

minka-sdg.org



Visual guidelines and relevant material:

<https://trello.com/invite/b/6a87070a62fa8fd2ad7bcef7/ATT1884a42a2afc433ded9713e43a9c8d386D1D05A1F/european-marine-citizen-science-week-2026>



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Activity preparation

If you want to engage citizens in your local community, consider organising a local activity.

Before the event

1. Choose the purpose of your activity, your activity format and decide what participants should look for and what data you want collected.
2. Select a safe location, date and time.
4. Invite participants and share information about how to join.

During the event

1. Welcome participants and explain the purpose of the activity.
2. Bring useful equipment, such as trays, nets, magnifying glasses, microscopes or species guides if you have a guided event.
3. Give a short safety briefing and explain how to take care of nature.
4. Support participants in the field, show what to look for and how to take useful photos.
5. Help participants upload their observations in MINKA and identify taxa.
6. End with a short wrap-up: What did we find? What did we learn?

After the event

1. Review observations in MINKA.
2. Summarise the results: participants, observations, species or groups and interesting findings.
3. Share a short thank-you and results update with participants and partners.
4. Use the results to show how local observations contribute to marine biodiversity knowledge.



Keep it fun and easy to join

A good event does not need to be big, it needs to be easy to join, fun, safe and clear. When participants feel supported, curious and included, even a small activity can make a big difference and become part of something larger.

How to use MINKA

MINKA is the observation platform used during European Marine Citizen Science Week. Participants can use the app to document marine life by uploading photos and observations from the field.

Step by step

- 1** Download the MINKA app
- 2** Choose language (there are limited languages to choose from)
- 3** Learn how to upload images
- 4** Find out the taxa – you can use MINKA's AI if needed
- 5** Upload your observations
- 6** Observations that reach Research-grade will be shared with global biodiversity databases



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Safety and risk disclaimer

Local organisers are responsible for planning and running their own activities during European Marine Citizen Science Week. They are also responsible for safety arrangements, permissions, and making sure activities are suitable for their participants and location.

Participation is voluntary and takes place at each participant's own risk. Make sure participants understand that they are responsible for their own safety and should follow local rules, weather warnings, safety instructions, and guidance from the local organiser.

Local organisers should also ensure that participants do not enter unsafe areas, disturb wildlife, damage habitats, or collect organisms unless this is clearly allowed and supervised as part of an organised activity.

Photographs and geographic information are collected during the project for research, through the MINKA platform. No personal data are collected for this purpose. Please make sure participants are informed that, by taking part, they consent to their observations being used for research and biodiversity documentation.



Tip: Use the Code of Conduct to share information on how participants can take care of nature while making observations.

Communication

The communication material can be adapted for each local event. Please use the English examples as a starting point, translate your communication material into your local language, and add local details, contact information and partner logos to your local communication material.

You can find visual guidelines and templates in Trello. European Marine Citizen Science Week 2026 is an event initiated by BioEcoOcean, so please keep the BioEcoOcean logo in all material. This helps participants see both the shared European event and the local organiser behind each activity.

- 1 Choose the relevant material you need for your activity.
- 2 Translate your communication material into your local language.
- 3 Add organiser and partner logos and keep the BioEcoOcean logo.
- 4 Keep the text short and easy to read.

Start spreading the word in early September!



More info about the event:

bioecoocean.org/european-marine-citizen-science-week



Communication material:

trello.com/invite/b/6a87070a62fa8fd2ad7bcef7/ATTI884a42a2afc433ded9713e43a9c8d38601D05A1F/european-marine-citizen-science-week-2026



Tip: Use links for registration, MINKA download and to reach the local project website.



Recommended channels: your website, email, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, school networks and local partner channels.



For questions, communication material and registration of interest don't hesitate to reach out.

Event contact: mcsw@bioecoocean.org



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