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**ASSESSING THE VULNERABILITY OF THE BLACK SEA MARINE ECOSYSTEM TO HUMAN PRESSURES (ANEMONE)**

**GA 4 Enhance stakeholders participation and public awareness on environmental issues.  
AT 4.3.1 Public engagement workshops**

**“Public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans”**

**Workshop Report Template**

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## 1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to describe the workshops organized by ANEMONE partners. The workshops addressed public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans. The public engagement workshops carried out in the ANEMONE project are an essential activity to get public involved in monitoring activities and public awareness on marine environmental issues.

The report describes the results of the workshop and the feedback by the participants. It includes a general outline of public engagement in marine issues and Responsible Research and Innovation, the facilitation methodology, the participant recruitment and the follow-up actions.

## 2. Details about the workshop

Workshop Round (1 or 2)	2
Workshop Topic	Cetaceans
Date	November 21, 2019
Country	Ukraine
City	Odessa
Format of the workshop (method)	Focus Group
Partner Name	UkrSCES
Person in charge	Yuriy Denga
E-mail	<a href="mailto:lawmd@te.net.ua">lawmd@te.net.ua</a>
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## 3. Workshop topic

The problem of the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans is closely linked to major problems of biodiversity and environment conservation and sustainable development in the Black Sea region. Since cetaceans are high level predators, they occupy the top of the trophic web and have a stabilizing effect on the ecosystem in a whole.

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There are three species of Black Sea cetaceans and all of them are endemic subspecies protected at the national and international levels. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus* Barabasch-Nikiforov, 1940), Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus* Barabash, 1935) and Black Sea harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta* Abel, 1905) are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (2009), Black Sea Red Data Book (1999), The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Also included to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, Appendix II), and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

Cetaceans are mammals with unique characteristics of biology, physiology and behavior, however, their study and conservation, in particular, in the Black Sea region, is associated with a number of problems and difficulties. There are common threats to all three species of Black Sea cetaceans - epizootic with unidentified origin, pollution including chemical, marine noise and litter, depletion of the fish stock, etc. And also, there are species-specific threats: for the bottlenose dolphin it means unillegal catch for the dolphinariums and oceanariums, for the harbor porpoise it is entanglement in the bottom gill nets (especially due to the poaching) and for the common dolphin it could be the accidental death in fishing gear - trawl nets.

#### 4. Workshop executive summary

The Second Workshop of Local Stakeholders «Public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans» in the frame of ANEMONE Project was held 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2019 in the Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea, Odesa. More than 40 people were participating in the workshop and more than half of them was students and their teachers. It was used the Focus Group method to involve participants in discussion the topic. Most of the feedback on the workshop was excellent; the participants were generally very satisfied or satisfied with the organization and the topic chosen.

#### 5. Workshop implementation

##### a) Recruitment of participants

The information about the event was announced in the educational institutions. All who wished to attend the Workshop were recorded in the list of participants. Internal communication channels (partner organizations and institutions) were used to spread the news about the event. The representatives of the institutions sent the lists of participants and after we continued to get in touch with them.

##### b) Participant profile

48 people attended the UkrSCES Second Workshop of Local Stakeholders «Public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans». More than half of them (54.2 %) was a students

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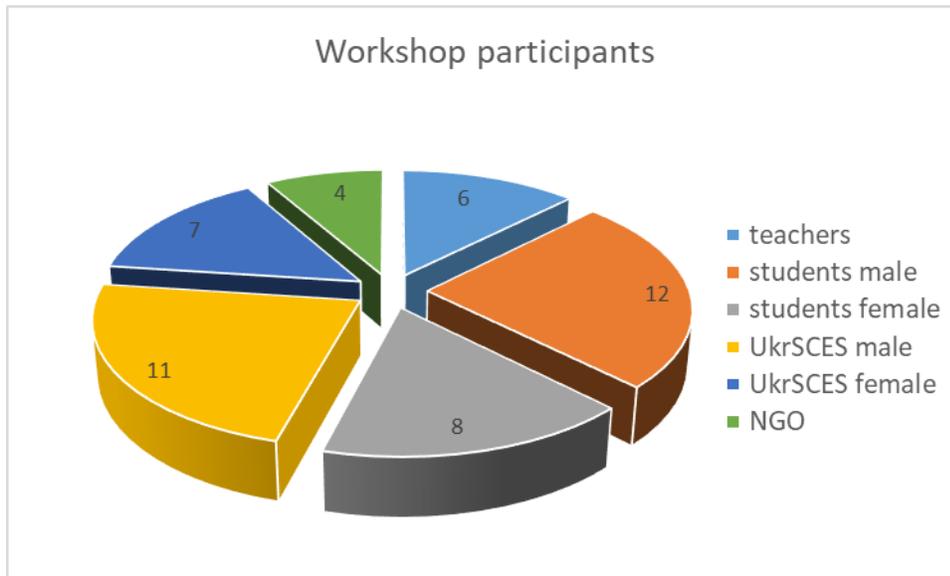


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and their teachers. In addition, there were colleagues and researchers from UkrSCES and NGO attended and participated in the Workshop.

Fig.1. The chart of the UkrSCES Second Workshop of Local Stakeholders «Public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans», 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2019, Odesa



### c) Workshop facilitation method

To involve participants in activity and discussion we used the **Focus Group** method during the Workshop.

A focus group is a common technique for engaging groups, both within organizations and in the public sphere. It typically consists of a small number of participants, usually about six to 12. The participants are brought together and led through discussions of topics by a moderator.

Within a focus group, a moderator poses a series of questions intended to gain insight about the way the group views the topic. Focus-group moderators should pose questions in a way that does not lead group members to provide desired responses, but rather honest and insightful responses

In our case, we distributed all participants (students and teachers) around the 3 tables. Each table had its own subject for discussion and their own moderator (lecturer in our case):

1. Black Sea cetaceans. Causes of death. Moderator Karina Vishnyakova Ph.D, UkrSCES, BioEcoLinks NGO
2. Dolphin's Biology. Moderator Pavel Gol'din Ph.D, Associate Professor, I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, UkrSCES, BioEcoLinks NGO.
3. Keeping Dolphins in Captivity. Moderator Kateryna Polyanska Ph.D., (Environment People Law (EPL)

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The discussion at each table lasted no more than 45 minutes. Then the participants invited to share results from their conversations with the rest of the whole group. These results were reflected visually using flip-chart's paper and markers.

#### d) Workshop organization

The Second Workshop of Local Stakeholders «Public involvement in the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans» was held 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2019 in the Assembly Hall of Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea, Odessa. The workshop Agenda was following:

11:00	Registration of participants
11:15	SESSION OPENING
11:15	Opening speech - Viktor Komorin - Director UkrSCES Presentation of the ANEMONE project - Yuriy Denga - UkrSCES
11:30	SESSION 1. Introduction to the theme of the Black Sea cetaceans Session topic presentation.
11:30 - 12:00	Black Sea cetaceans. Causes of death - Karina Vishnyakova Ph.D, UkrSCES, BioEcoLinks NGO.
12:00 - 12:30	Dolphin's Biology - Pavel Gol'din Ph.D, Associate Professor, I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, UkrSCES, BioEcoLinks NGO.
12:30 - 13:00	Keeping Dolphins in Captivity - Kateryna Polyanska Ph.D., Environment People Law (EPL)
13:00	Coffee Break
13:30	SESSION 2. Discussion of the problems of the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans. Work in focus Groups. 3 groups for the discussion
14:15 - 14:45	Presentation of the discussion results by the participants.
14:45	Time for feedback
15:00	Conclusions. Closing

The materials used for the workshop:

- project materials (Agenda, List of participants, GDPR statement, Certificate of attendance, presentation, Leaflet ANEMONE), scotch, scissors, laptop, camera for picture, projector, flip chart and flip chart paper, markers for paper
- folders for the participants (Agenda, feedback questionnaire, flyer, pens, paper for notes)

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- coffee break (coffee, tea, snacks, eco-friendly disposable tableware (paper or wood), water)

#### e) Workshop dissemination

The information on the workshop was distributed in next ways:

- a press-release was created and sent by e-mail to the local media
- an informational announcement about the event was posted on the official page of UkrSCES (Facebook) and on the official web-site of the UkrSCES

#### f) Workshop implementation challenges

There are no challenges during the implementation of the workshop.

#### g) Participants feedback

Most of the feedback on the workshop was excellent; the participants were generally very satisfied or satisfied with the organization and the topic chosen. Only a few feedbacks were with the reviews marked neutral or not satisfied.

### 6. Workshop running

Each participant of the workshop had an opportunity to express his opinion on the topics presented as well as in the process of discussion. The workshop moderator tracked the time and the staying near the table. Also, the workshop moderator was participated in the discussion with the participants and helped them if there were any questions. The group of each table recorded all the comments. After the topic discussion the participants had an opportunity to present the results of their work to all groups. The UkrSCES experts provided their comments and discussed the topics presented.

### 7. Workshop impact

Thanks to this workshop, the participants, firstly, learned about the existence of the ANEMONE project, its main tasks and planned results.

Secondly, participants received important information about the problem of cetaceans conservation in the Black Sea region: they learned about the species composition of cetaceans, their biology, physiology and ecology, threats that are danger for the populations; learned more about the ethical and commercial component of the keeping dolphins in captivity, and also they discussed possible ways of solving this problems for the Black Sea.

It is also important to note that the participants, besides knowing the useful information, have also independently discussed the problem of cetaceans conservation in the groups.

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## 8. Workshop follow-up in my organization

In order to attract the public to our work we plan:

- inform stakeholders about Project activities through external communication channels (Facebook page of the Organization, official website, distribution of press releases to mass media)
- inform society through direct communication with educational institutions, scientific institutions and other partner organizations
- inform local authorities through writing of official letters and asking to support our activities.

## 9. Lessons Learned

- The Focus Group method is effective for engaging participants in a live discussion, it helps participants engage in dialogue to quickly and easily establish communication in the group. We realized that this method should be used in our future activities.
- Youth is the driving force behind change. They need to be involved in environmental activities (for example, beach litter monitoring and its cleaning). We also need to enhance their awareness of environmental issues for the formation of their environmental consciousness and behavior.
- We realized that such format of ecological events should be carried out more often in order to attract a larger audience.

## Conclusions

In general, the event was successful. We were able to raise the awareness of the participants in the Black Sea cetacean conservation issues. Participants were informed about the aim and purpose of the ANEMONE Project.

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