

Report on the activity in the framework of the European Inventor Network

Name of the alumnus who implemented the activity

Enrico Davoli

Short description of the activity

The activity aimed at conveying to students that pollution is not an abstract concept from another planet but is part of their reality. Raising awareness among children about the problems in their world, close to home, through collaboration with "scientists" will lead to responsible awareness towards the environment.

The intervention was directed at both teachers and students from two schools near Lake Endine. The alumni member trained the teachers on environmental issues, specifically sampling microplastics, and explained to the students what would be done and how. The alumni member accompanied the students to Lake Endine to collect microplastics following the EPA's microplastic beach protocol, a standardized approach for community science microplastic sampling on beaches. The children were provided with the tools to collect the samples, including gloves, ropes to mark the sampling areas, and filters.

Collected samples were analyzed by infrared spectrometry (IR) to classify microplastics. The results were presented to the students in the presence of their teachers and the city's Mayor.

Date and place of the activity

27 March: Training of teachers and students training

9-12 April: Sampling from the Endine Lake

17 May: Presentation of data and discussions

Audience (number and age of the participants)

About 120 students (11-12 y.o.) and 6 professors

Outcomes and achievement

During data reporting, we had two presentations in the city council chamber at the presence of students, teachers and the city's Mayor.

Professors asked for the full study protocol in order to be able to replicate the work next year.

Pictures and videos have been sent by email.

Recommendations

As mentioned, the activity was successful, and professors asked for the study protocol to be able to replicate the work next year. We believe that this citizen science approach, dedicated to students, creates great opportunities for raising awareness about environmental problems.

Attachments:



