

News

EU project within the South Baltic Programme



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BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus: Implementation of eGuides with cross-border shared content for South Baltic Oceanographic Museums

TOPICS

Photo competition

The oceanographic museums are looking for the best photos of the Baltic Sea. The winners will take part in an exhibition in the European Museum of the Year 2010.

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Gdansk meeting

The latest project meeting gave lots of inspiration with museum visits in Gdansk, focussing on interactivity.

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eGuide tours for kids

To realise museum tours by eGuides for children is a complex matter. Gdynia Aquarium has conducted first tests to verify their developed tours.

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Your saltwater aquarium

Advice from the aquarium manager in Kaliningrad will help you to set up your own aquarium at home.

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VIRTUAL MUSEUMS ONLINE

End of June, the BalticMuseums partners published their innovative museum tours. Users can explore the virtual museum galleries at www.balticmuseums.net online. Impressive panoramic photographs show the various exhibitions of four museums with unusual insights. Like during a real museum visit, users can „walk“ from room to room. With the zoom function, the exhibits get very close and the usually moving inhabitants of the oceanographic museums can be watched at rest.

The virtual museums foster a spirit of discovery and increase the thrill of anticipation of the real museum visit. Over 100 panoramic images show the versatility of the four partner museums and create the desire to visit them in Poland, Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The high-resolution photographs were created with a special panoramic camera and technique so that navigation is possible in all directions. The conceptual and technical development was coordinated by the University of Szczecin, which is one of the research partners in the project BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus. Within the galleries the user can switch easily inbetween the museums, thus being a great tool of joint promotion.

www.balticmuseums.net/panorama

Picture: OZEANEUM, Stralsund





Wanted: Best photo of the Baltic Sea

There is no doubt: The Baltic Sea is beautiful. To prove that, the Oceanographic Museums announce an international photo competition. The winners will have their photo displayed in an exhibition in the OZEANEUM, Germany.

From beginning of August till 30 September 2012 the German Oceanographic Museum, Gdynia Aquarium, the Lithuanian Sea Museum and the Museum of the World Ocean in Kaliningrad are searching for the best photo of the Baltic Sea. The winners will receive five entrance tickets for the partner museum of their choice plus the presentation of their photos in an exhibition in the European Museum of the Year 2010, the OZEANEUM in the Hanseatic City of Stralsund. Amateur and professional photographers are invited to submit their most beautiful photos of the Baltic Sea online at www.balticmuseums.net. The choice of winners is public, anyone interested can vote for his favourites on the BalticMuseums website.

Submit your photo or vote for your favourite!

www.balticmuseums.net

Gdansk museums inspire team

Interactive exhibitions are in focus of the Gdansk based museums, Polish Maritime Museum and Centrum Hewelanum. During the project meeting, 11 to 13 July 2012 in Gdansk, the project team of BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus visited both exhibitions to gain further personal experience and ideas how to combine education and entertainment. Working currently on the creation of eGuide content, the museums have gathered many insights in their own work especially in preparing tours for children. One of the major topics is to share content for the eGuides. Sharing especially pictures, videos, animations and sounds will help the museums to use resources efficiently. In the meeting a suitable system to share the content among the partners was presented. The University of Szczecin had conducted research and testing with different open source tools. The preparations of the eGuide tours are ongoing, the purchasing procedures for the devices almost finished. As a further result the project partners agreed on a joint hosting solution, that will last also beyond the timeframe of the project. With many new inspirations after this meeting, work will now be continued to introduce the eGuide systems in autumn.

The next meeting is planned in Ronneby, Sweden, directly after the South Baltic Annual Conference, 23/24 October 2012.



Pictures: Above: Interactive elements fascinate in the Polish Maritime Museum / Bottom: Team in Gdansk



Calendar & Info

- 1 **BalticMuseums sharks**
Two baby sharks are born in the Lithuanian Sea Museum! They hatched from eggs given by the Museum of the World Ocean and are thus a true result from the BalticMuseums cooperation.
- 2 **Project at Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Day in Stralsund**
The BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus project was presented during the event on 30 June and 1 July as part of the Science Festival.
- 3 **International Celebrations in Lithuanian Sea Museum**
The museum celebrated the International Museum's Day on 18 May 2012, where the project BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus was presented, as well as on 8 June the International Day of the World Ocean.
- 4 **CBSS Meeting in Stralsund**
On 30 and 31 May 2012 the heads of government of the Baltic Sea states held their meeting in the OZEANEUM in Stralsund. BalticMuseums were presented with information material in the press office.
- 5 **International Baltic Day**
End of March the International Baltic Day was celebrated in the Museum of the World Ocean in Kaliningrad. Kids took part in the quiz devoted to the Baltic Sea.
- 6 **Joint exhibition in Kaliningrad**
In April the photo exhibition "Herring – Silver of the Sea" opened in the Museum of the World Ocean, prepared in cooperation with the colleagues from the German Oceanographic Museum.



Picture: Actor reading the eGuide texts in the NMFRI Gdynia Aquarium

Gdynia Aquarium tests eGuide tours for children

While a real guide can explain and answer questions, a guided tour for kids with an electronic system is a real challenge. The eGuide needs to be prepared in every detail and attract the kids' attention in every single moment. Tests in the NMFRI Gdynia Aquarium have revealed strengths and weaknesses of the current concept that are now further worked on. The testing group was 3 to 11 years old.

The new navigation system was proposed for the youngest recipients. The kids can easily find points of interests by clear symbols. This method of navigation does not cause any confusions and the path resembles a stalking game. Changing the order of points of interest, makes the trip even more interesting. While touring the Aquarium, children perform both intellectual and movement tasks, which do not require any interference in the museum exhibition. The text was developed for children aged 6-10 years, but the tests show that also other children get along with the eGuide very well. Even parents enjoyed to go through the story with their children. However, to prepare games and information for children as a general group proves to be difficult, as the youngest ones might be scared and the older ones bored by the same story.

Tests were performed in different ways: by a person who was reading the text and was animating the group, for the children themselves or children with parents and with the use of a laptop as an eGuide device prototype. However, final conclusions can be drawn only from tests with eGuide iPods, where kids can enjoy a self-guided tour. Working with the children provided the museum with many insights and will help to adjust the tours before the final release.



Picture: Panorama picture: Lithuanian Sea Museum



Your own Saltwater Aquarium

Advise from aquarium specialist Elena Tomilova (Museum of the World Ocean, Kaliningrad)

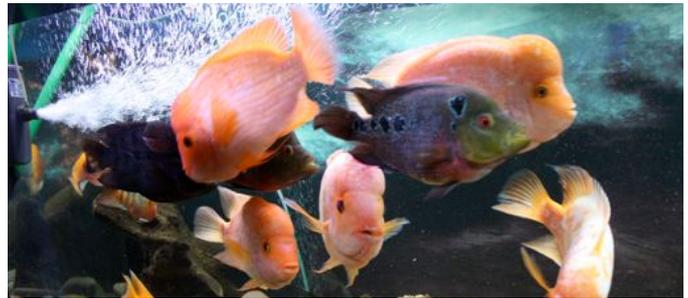
Everybody has certainly thought about the greatness of our planet whose surface is covered mostly with water. A half of all the vertebrates inhabiting the Earth is fish. Humankind has always been attracted to mysteries of the water world. People's attempts to recreate a part of the underwater world led to the invention of the aquarium.

Cold or warm, freshwater or saltwater fish have their own needs and demand certain conditions. There are saltwater and freshwater aquariums, each of them having specific requirements. So you should follow certain rules.

Filtration systems. Freshwater aquariums require only a small filter or an external filter for mechanical cleaning and water is transparent. But seawater aquariums require a system for water filtration and regeneration to reduce water consumption and thus the amount of costly sea salt. Filtered water undergoes mechanical cleaning (large particles of dirt are removed), biological cleaning (treatment of harmful and toxic substances by bacteria) and chemical cleaning (various absorbents chemically remove undesirable elements). In order to get rid of nitrates (final product of biological processing) you should change 5-10% of water every week or install a denitrifier that enables to restore nitrates to free nitrogen in anaerobic conditions. A flotator should not be ignored as well. This device is applied in saltwater fish keeping. A flotator removes albuminous contamination and reduces filter workload.

Lighting. A precisely rated lighting creates not only a striking effect but it is vital for numerous species of polyps, including corals. If you keep both fish and corals you should light your aquarium with halogen lamps combined with blue and white daylight lamps.

Water. Physical and chemical parameters of seawater fluctuate insignificantly that is why sea inhabitants are less capable of adapting to changes in contrast to freshwater dwellers. Therefore water in a sea aquarium must have stable parameters and no significant deviations. Seawater preparation demands deionized water without salt ions and other undesirable impurities



that can accumulate in the aquarium and break the biological balance. Water examination should be carried out every day in accordance with the following hydro chemical properties: PH KH NO3 NO2 Ca Mg PO4, salinity and temperature. Don't forget about micro additives needed for invertebrates to feed and grow their organism.

Nutrition. 90% of sea inhabitants in contrast to freshwater ones get to an aquarium from wild nature. The main task is to feed hydrocoles with a fodder whose composition is the closest to natural food. Lack of some elements can lead to depression of activities and finally to death. Fish should not be overfed and fodder remains should be removed immediately.

Flow. A good flow is that of 5-10-fold of aquarium volume per hour. Each aquarium area should be washed in order to prevent a so called dead zone. Sediment is removed through a filter, water is enriched with oxygen and fish have an opportunity to train their muscles.

And finally I would like to say that whatever aquarium you keep you should systematically take care of it. You should be patient and love your inhabitants. And only then you can get success in fish keeping.

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