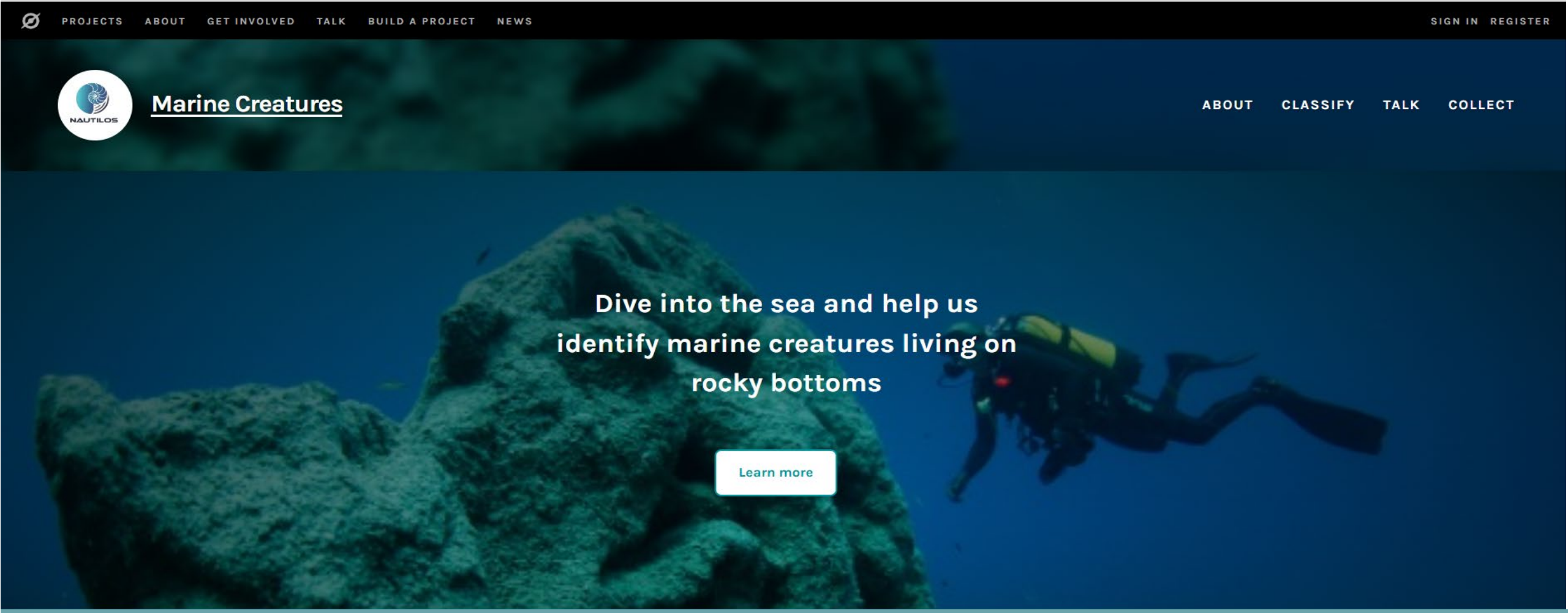


Study marine biodiversity using an online Citizen Science tool - Marine Creatures

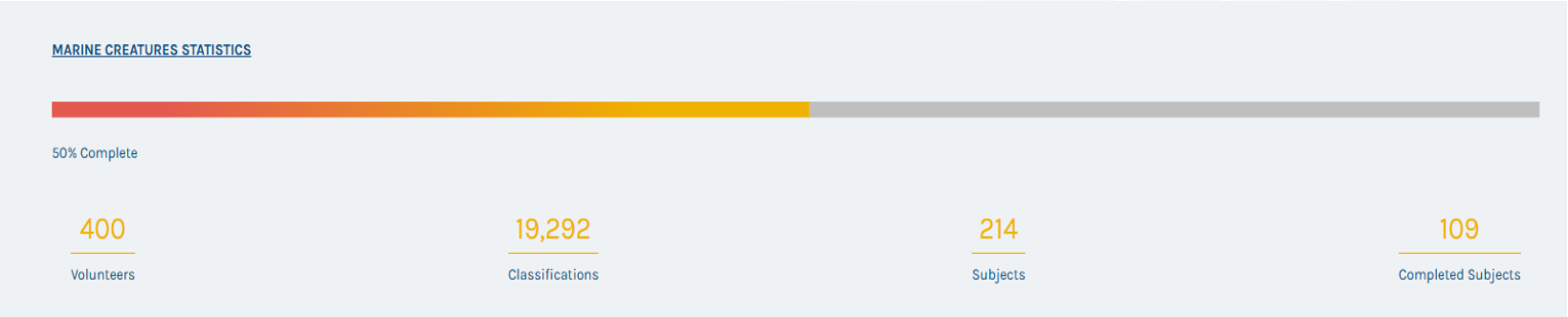
Dr Eva Chazinikolaou

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - Nautilos WP leader for Citizen Science

Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

Aims of the project

- Engage the public in scientific research
- Bring experts and volunteers effectively together
- Create awareness for marine biodiversity
- Train citizens on collecting quality data



WORDS FROM THE RESEARCHER

"Our aim is to assess the quality and status of the marine benthic biodiversity. Citizen scientists make this possible by helping us annotate underwater images!"

- "Marine Creatures" launched in September 2022 – ongoing
- 1,378 volunteers engaged in the project - 400 registered users
- 19,292 contributions – 8,705 contributions from registered users

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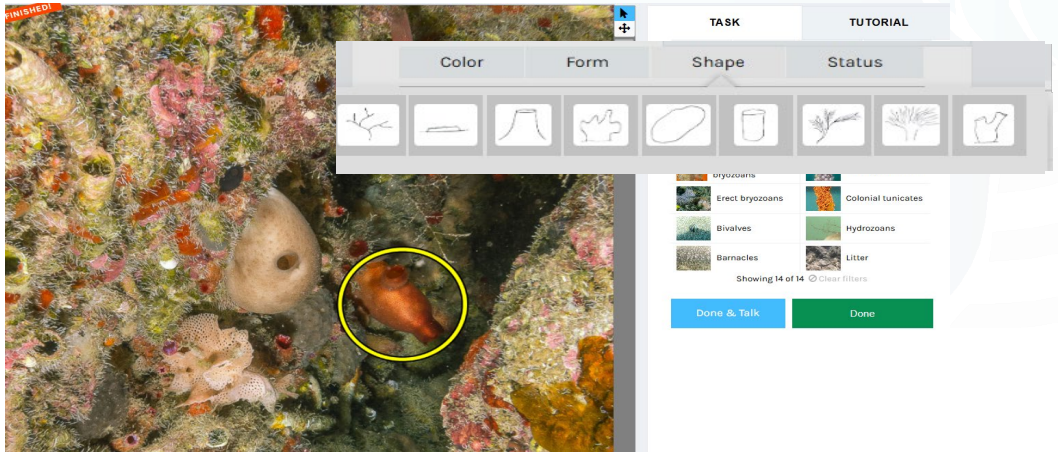
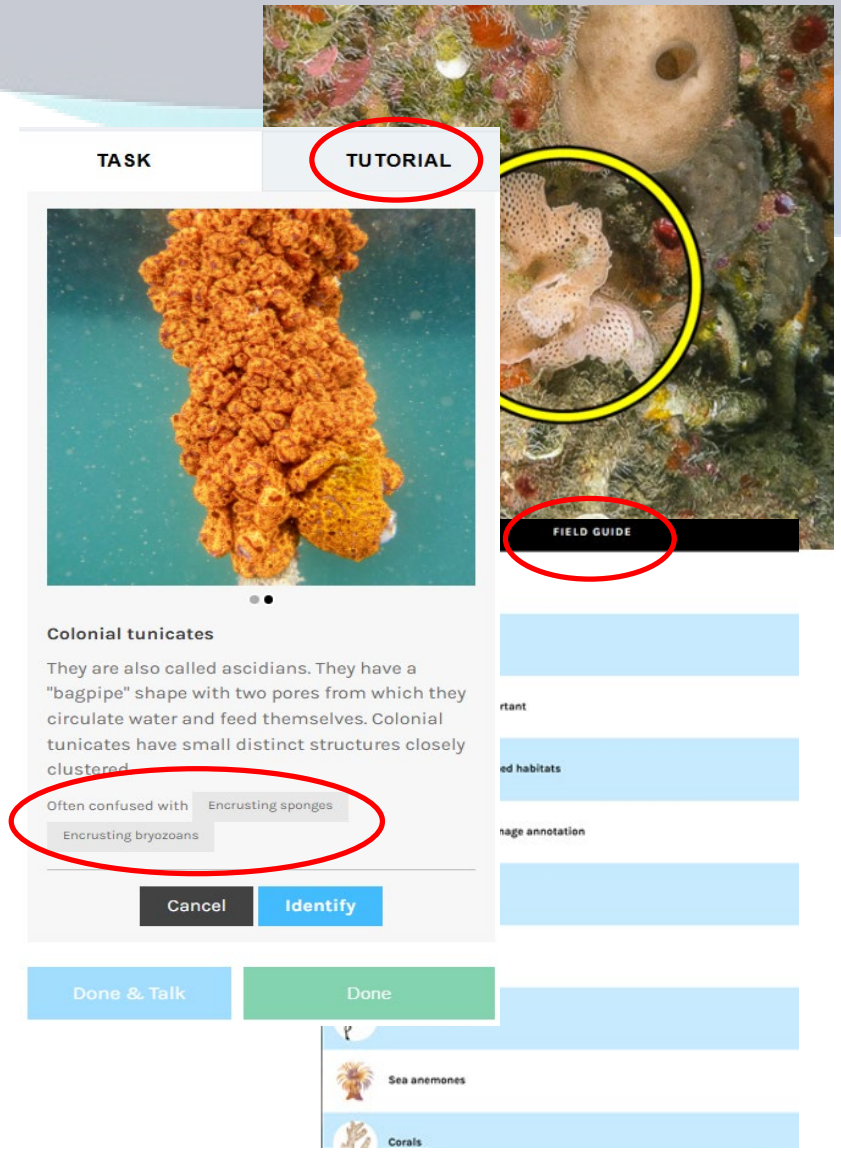
Content created

Marine Creatures

- **Identify** the sessile benthic organisms on the underwater photos
- **Three habitats**: ports, natural sea caves and artificial reefs
- **Organisms**: Macroalgae, Sponges, Hydrozoans, Sea anemones, Corals, Polychaetes, Bivalves, Barnacles, Bryozoans and Tunicates
- Use the field **guide** and the **tutorial** to get trained
- **Pop-out** windows with photos and short description
- **Tips** for easily confused taxonomic groups
- **Filters** to narrow down search: colors, forms, shapes and status

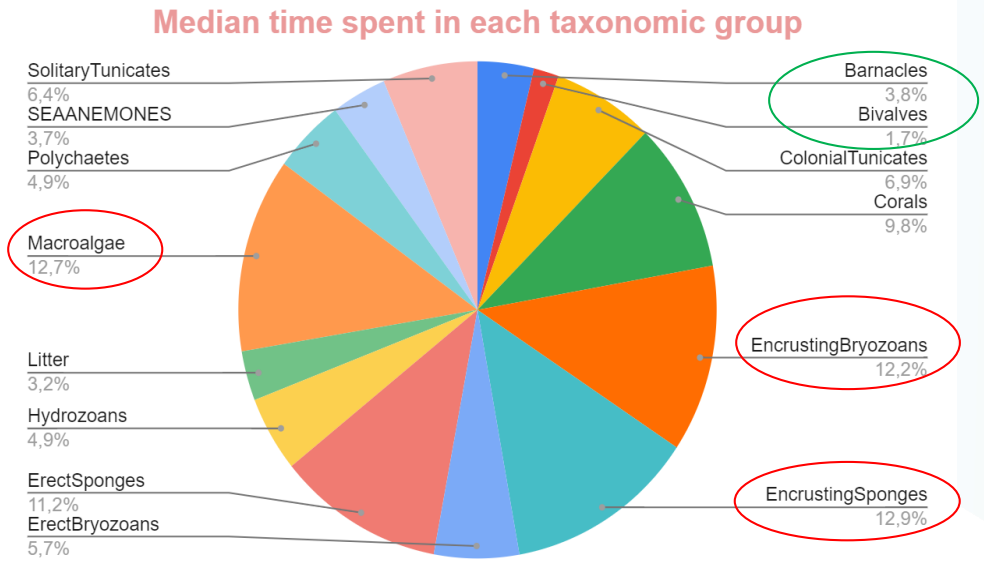


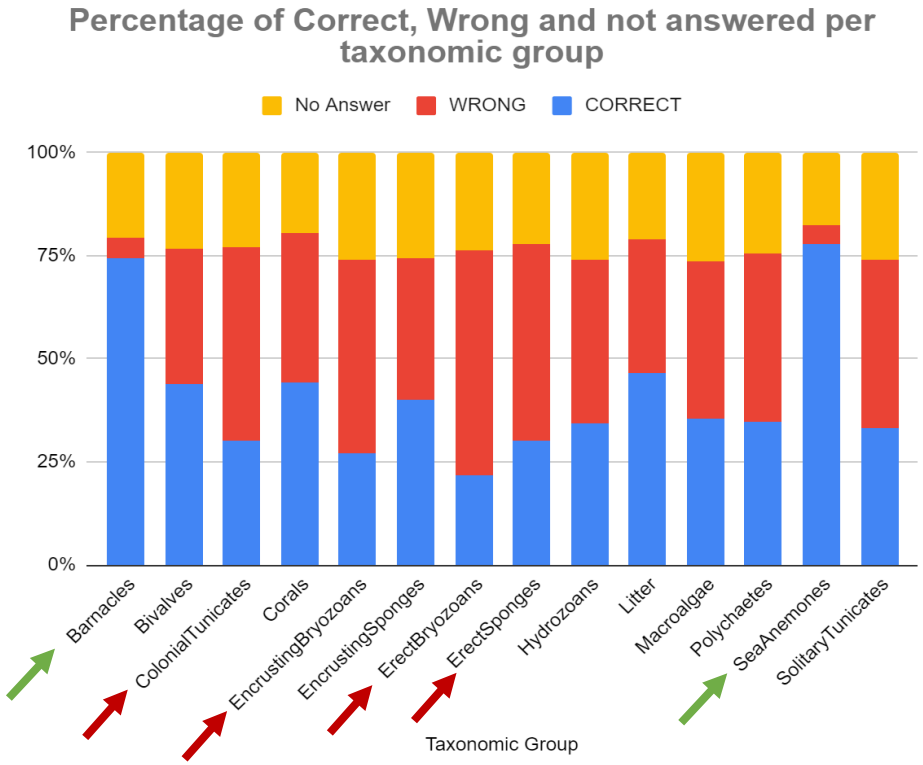


Analysis of results

- Data were collected on 6/3/2024 completing a period of 18 months
- How many users? How many classifications? Time devoted?
- Which one is the most time-demanding taxonomic group?
- Which one is the most difficult taxonomic group?

Statistics	
Total Users	1,378 (400 for RU)
Total number of classifications	19,292 (8,705 for RU)
Average number of classifications per user	13,9 (34 for RU)
Median time (<30mins) spent	0:05:27 (0:12:10 for RU)





GOOD SUCCESS RATES

Barnacles
Sea anemones

MANY MISTAKES

Erect bryozoans
Erect sponges
Colonial tunicates
Encrusting bryozoans

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Marine Creatures

Benefits

- broader pool of data
- large scale research
- cost-effective means
- time-efficient means

Importance

- engagement in research
- contribution to discoveries
- sense of accomplishment
- fostering public trust

Restrictions

- non reliable data
- low quality data
- misunderstanding of the task
- volunteers may be biased

Improvements

- Field guide
- Tutorial
- Discussion forum
- Support from experts

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Marine Creatures

Thank you for your attention!

Scientific team

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Photo contributors

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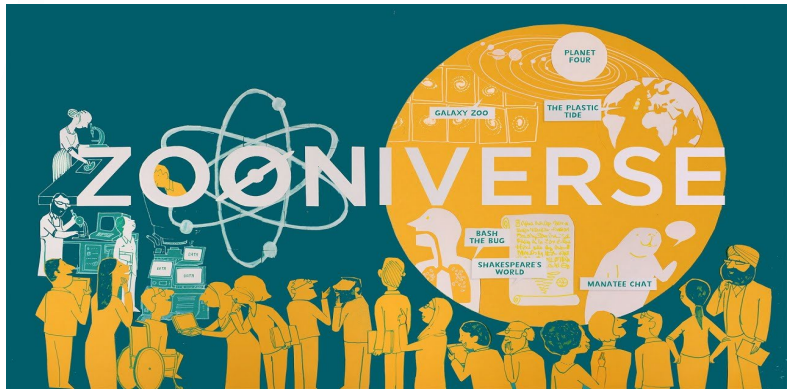
Volunteer programmer

Mr. Peter Mason

Visit us!

- ✓ Platform created 2009 (15 years)
- ✓ 848,691,668 online classifications
- ✓ 2,789,085 registered users
- ✓ 499 projects



hcmr ΕΛΚΕΘΕ

iMBBC ΙΘΑΒΒΥΚ

ZOONIVERSE

NAUTILOS

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