



BLUTOPIA  
MARINE PARK



BLUTOPIA

# BSG

2025

REPORT



# LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



At Blutopia, we have always believed that the sea is far more than a destination. It is **a living system** that sustains life, livelihoods, and identity, especially in island communities such as our own. From the beginning, our vision has been not only to bring people closer to the marine environment, but also to help them understand its value, fragility, and **the responsibility we all share to protect it**. At the heart of this vision is a desire to show people how we see the sea: not simply as a place to visit, but as a living world of beauty, meaning, and connection.

This ESG Report reflects that vision. It presents the principles, practices, and partnerships that guide Blutopia's work, and shows how we aim to create environmental, social, and governance value. For us, sustainability is not separate from our work; it is embedded in the way we operate, the experiences we offer, and the role we choose to play within the blue economy.

Blutopia was founded on the belief that marine-based organisations can do more than provide services. They can educate, inspire, support science, develop skills, and build a more responsible relationship between **society and the sea**.

By welcoming students, young professionals, and collaborators from different countries, we have helped create a multicultural environment in a relatively remote area of Rhodes, where learning, exchange, and marine sustainability come together in practice.

As we continue to grow, our ambition is to strengthen Blutopia's role as a trusted actor in marine sustainability, education, innovation, and responsible governance. ”

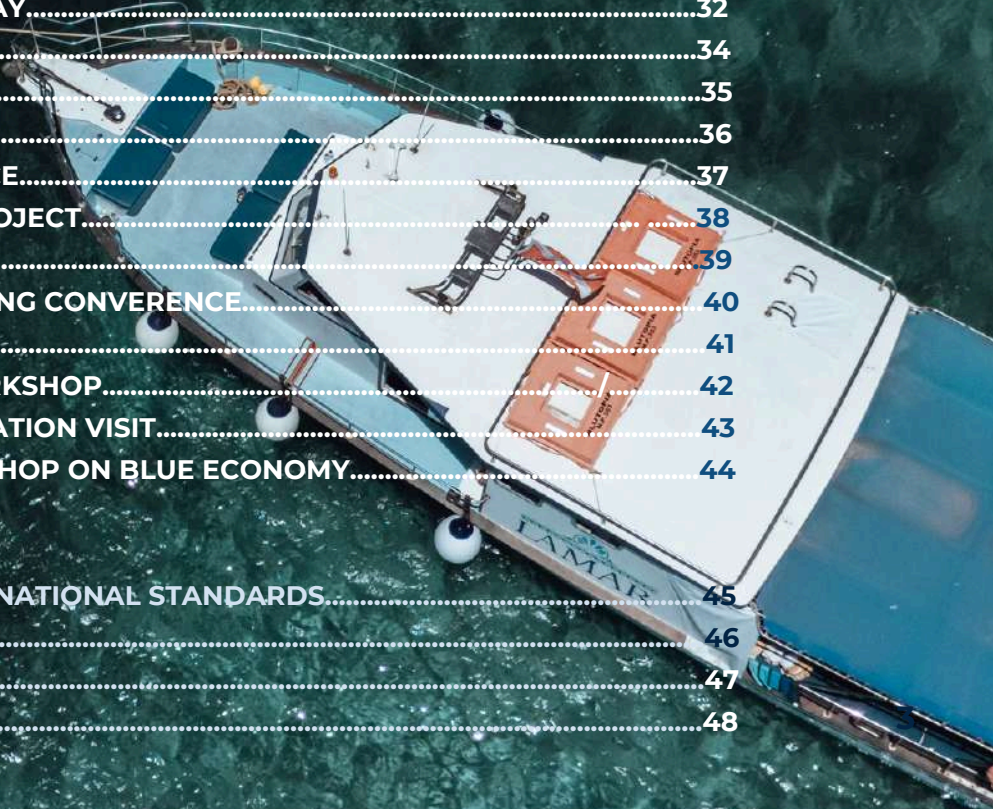


**Savvas Chatzinikolaou**

**Founder, Marine Biologist,  
Professional Diver**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHO ARE WE?

Blutopia is a **marine sustainability, education, and engagement organisation** based in Rhodes, Greece, dedicated to advancing a more informed, responsible, and meaningful relationship between society and the sea. Through science-based experiences, ocean literacy initiatives, environmental awareness actions, marine recreation, internships, and support for research and ecosystem monitoring; Blutopia works to create lasting **social and environmental value** while contributing to the development of a more sustainable blue economy. Its activities are designed not only to connect people with marine ecosystems, but also to foster stewardship, build blue skills, strengthen community engagement, and encourage a deeper public understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities linked to the marine environment. A distinctive element of this approach is Blutopia's cooperation with LAMAR, a small-scale finfish farm in Rhodes, which provides a practical example of how aquaculture, education, and tourism can coexist within **a multi-use marine space**. Within this broader vision, Blutopia serves, and continues to strengthen its role, as **a living laboratory** for marine knowledge exchange, environmental responsibility, innovation, and community-centred marine sustainability in the Mediterranean.



Education



Tourism



Research



Production



Conservation

# MISSION & IMPACT STRATEGY

EXPLORE. LEARN. DISCOVER. PROTECT.

Blutopia's impact strategy is driven by the ambition to help redefine how society relates to the sea and how marine and coastal SMEs can contribute to a sustainable future. We believe that blue economy operators should play a far greater role than service provision alone: they can become educators, stewards, innovators, and future guardians of marine sustainability. Therefore, Blutopia integrates ocean literacy, environmental awareness, scientific engagement, blue skills development, and community participation into a model that generates lasting environmental and social value. We seek to inspire a deeper sense of responsibility toward the marine environment. At the same time, Blutopia aspires to contribute to the advancement of best practices and to demonstrate how marine-based SMEs can align education, conservation, innovation, and responsible governance with long-term societal benefit. Our broader vision is to help set a new standard for the next generation of blue economy organisations, showing how coastal activities can actively protect marine ecosystems while generating educational, social, and economic value in parallel.



# 1

**RECONNECT PEOPLE  
WITH THE OCEAN**



# 2

**INTERACTIVE LEARNING**



# 3

**BLUEPRINT FOR MULTI-USE**



# 4

**CONTRIBUTE TO BLUE  
GROWTH**



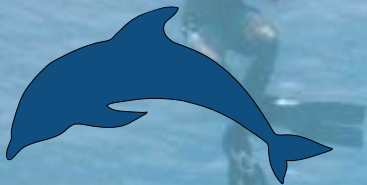
# OUR HIGHLIGHTS 2025



**6000 VISITORS**



**189 TRIPS**



**180 DOLPHIN  
SIGHTINGS**



**31% VISITOR  
GROWTH**



**3 INTERNS**



**EUROPEAN  
MARITIME DAY  
73 PARTICIPANTS**



**77 NATIONALITIES**



**PRESENTED AT 3  
CONFERENCES**



**FROM 85.7% OF  
CUSTOMERS**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**



# 1. CHALKI CLEAN-UP

On **May 10th, 2025**, Blutopia joined forces with **Aegean Rebreath**, a leading Greek NGO dedicated to marine conservation, to conduct a large-scale clean-up of the harbour of Chalki Island. This collaborative action brought together divers, volunteers, and local community members to remove marine litter from the harbour area. The clean-up targeted ghost nets, plastics, glass, and other waste that had accumulated in the harbour over time, threatening marine biodiversity and creating environmental hazards for the island. By working side by side with Aegean Rebreath, Blutopia contributed its expertise in diving operations and local engagement, helping to restore the marine environment of Chalki.



## IMPACT

- Removal of harmful debris improved the ecological health of Chalki's harbour.
- Positive impact on local biodiversity and community health.
- Raised awareness among residents and visitors about marine pollution.
- Highlighted the urgent need for collective action.
- Partnership with Aegean Rebreath reinforced alignment with recognised environmental actors
- Supported transparency, accountability, and impact-driven collaboration



## 2. DOLPHIN IDENTIFICATION

Blutopia launched a **Dolphin Identification project conducted by Asteria Roba**, who interned as a student from the University of Gothenburg. The approach was designed to be robust, cost-effective, and fully compatible with our existing tourism operations. Using a professional camera, Asteria documented the dorsal fins of bottlenose dolphins during our daily excursions. This method allowed us to build a comprehensive photographic database, making it possible to identify individual dolphins, model population growth and estimate the overall population size.

The data collected through this process has already yielded valuable insights. Between June 21st 2025 and September 1st 2025, we observed an **average of six dolphins per day**, with only one day recording no sightings at all. A striking pattern emerged: over 86% of these encounters took place in Makri, near the fish farm of Filosofish. This season, **we successfully identified 20 distinct dolphins**, with a maximum of 17 observed simultaneously.

**20 DOLPHINS**

**DOLPHINS PER DAY 6**

### IMPACT

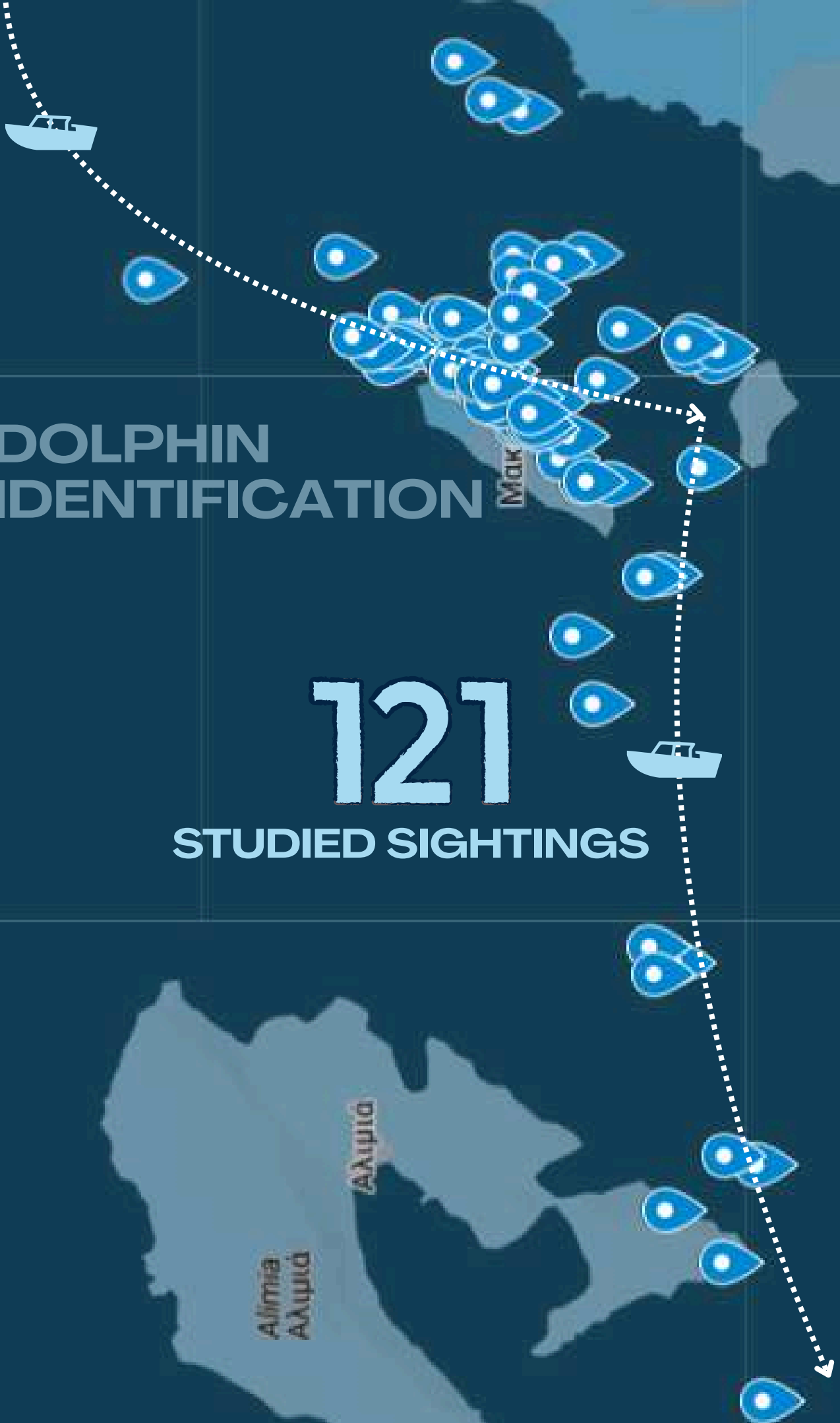
- A replicable method will allow long-term study of the pod's population dynamics
- Helps track dolphins' adaptive behaviour around fish farms
- Long-term impact of dolphin aggregations near human-made structures
- Annual observation of social, behavioural, mating, and feeding changes
- Supports evaluation of overall health of Common Bottlenose Dolphins in the Aegean



## 2. DOLPHIN IDENTIFICATION

121

STUDIED SIGHTINGS

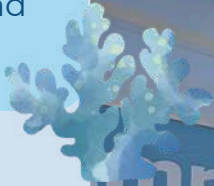


# 3. HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH

During the summer of 2024, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) carried out its annual **environmental impact assessment** for the LAMAR fish farm at Nisos Stroggyli, Chalki. Blutoxia supported the HCMR research team by facilitating access to marine sites used for diving and sample collection. The collaboration enabled sampling from a wider range of locations, enhancing the robustness of the dataset for environmental monitoring. The study followed methodologies under **Directive 2000/60/EC** and the Ministry of Environment's monitoring standards (ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΙΠΑ/121634/7242).

## BIOLOGICAL

Benthic fauna and phytobenthos.



## WATER COLUMN

Dissolved oxygen, nitrates, nitrites, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, organic carbon, chlorophyll-a.



## SEDIMENT

Grain size, total organic carbon, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, copper (Cu), and zinc (Zn).



## PHYSICAL

Turbidity and current velocity/direction.



## IMPACT

- **Good ecological and chemical status** around the farm.
- Water quality is **stable**, low nutrient concentrations.
- High levels of dissolved oxygen support **a healthy ecosystem**.
- **Exceptional water clarity:** Secchi depth exceeding 18 meters.
- Very low heavy metal concentrations.
- Benthic biodiversity remains rich and well-balanced.



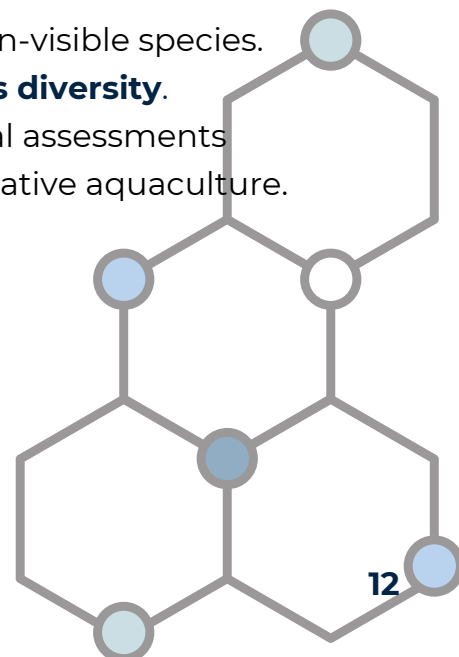
# 4. eDNA SAMPLING

One of our ongoing projects uses environmental DNA (eDNA) - a modern, non-invasive method that allows scientists to study biodiversity through **genetic material** naturally released into the environment. Fish and other organisms shed cells, mucus and waste into the water and traces of their DNA accumulate, which can be collected through simple water samples. By analysing these samples in the laboratory, we can identify which species are present in the area and monitor how their distribution changes over time. This approach enables us to assess **how the fish farm may influence local biodiversity** – whether by attracting wild species, enriching the food web, or altering community composition.



## IMPACT

- A **baseline of biodiversity** around the fish farm, including non-visible species.
- Findings revealed previously **unknown areas of high species diversity**.
- Valuable input for marine spatial planning and environmental assessments
- Annual eDNA monitoring will quantify biodiversity and restorative aquaculture.



# 5. OCEAN LITERACY

This year we implemented a new component to our trips, providing a **'post-trip report'** to our customers sent through an e-mail with the customer photos from our snorkel. This infographic provided a summary of the specific marine life we encountered that day, any memorable moments, such as dolphin calves and Mediterranean Monk Seal encounters and the value of the ocean education they received. These were created daily by our marine biologists and student interns. These post-trip reports acted as a **live account of the behaviour observed** from the marine life, such as hunting, mating or playing.



## IMPACT

- Post-trip reports help **summarise** marine education for visitors.
- Addition to ongoing data collection efforts for **observational and behavioural data**.
- Dolphin encounters were confirmed and systematically documented.
- Data collection was also validated for **rarer species**, including Bluefin Tuna, Mediterranean Monk Seal, Green Turtle, starfish, Common Sting Ray, octopus, and moray eels.

**Trip Summary**  
**Blutopia Marine Life Experience**

Date: 30/06/2025 Participants: 19  
Tour Guides: Lucy, Asteria, Matthieu & Mateo

**TRIP HIGHLIGHTS**

- Today was an exceptional day at Blutopia, we swam with dolphins and tunas on our fish farm.
- Not only did we swim with them, but we saw them follow our boat and do some impressive jumps as well.

**MARINE LIFE**

The group encountered the following species:

- 4 Common Bottlenose Dolphins
- Bluefin Tuna

**WHAT YOU LEARNED**

- Importance of aquaculture in fish production and food security.
- The opportunity to combine aquaculture and tourism for sustainable fish production and ocean education.

**MEMORABLE MOMENTS**

- We swam around LAMAR's fish farm, observed the clean waters and swam with four dolphins whilst they were hunting.
- We also observed a mother and her baby hunting and playing alongside our boat.

**STAY CONNECTED!**

- Join the Blutopia Club for exclusive content and conservation updates!
- Share your experience! Post your photos using #Blutopia on social media.
- Book your next trip with a special return guest discount!

**Thank you for exploring with us and being part of our mission to protect the ocean!**

Blutopia Marine Experiences  
'Connecting People with the Sea'



# 6. HARBOUR CLEAN-UP

This year on the 22nd of June, Blutopia organised a European Maritime Day hosting a multitude of events with the focus of marine conservation, waste collection and awareness and ocean education for the local children. Our day started with a large harbour clean-up with our dive team, collecting items such as **discarded fishing gear, boating ropes** and **general waste**. Due to the nature of the harbour of Kamiros Skala and the activities that run there, there was a wide variety of gear to collect from the harbour floor. The team then proceeded to collect, sort and weigh the waste that had been collected. This amounted to roughly **600 kilogrammes of waste collected from the harbour**. This was then picked up by the local authorities to process the waste appropriately.



## IMPACT

- Essential to keep the harbour free of operational waste.
- Raising awareness within the harbour community **encourages** responsible waste disposal.
- Spark important conversations about marine pollution.
- Establishing an annual clean-up event can help **shift community attitudes** toward better waste management.



# 7. VIDEO TRANSECTS

At Blutopia, we used the **Underwater Visual Census**—a cost-effective, low-impact, and rapid method for assessing biodiversity—along the shores of Strongili Island, directly opposite the nets of LAMAR's fish farm. In June 2025, our scientists conducted **seven transects** using this approach. Each transect involved a pair of scuba divers swimming pre-defined distances of 50 kicks, during which they recorded metadata such as depth, time, substrate type, and weather conditions, while also capturing video footage. Analysis of the transect videos revealed **eight commonly observed species**: *Coris julis*, *Sparisoma cretense*, *Thalassoma pavo*, *Oblada melanura*, *Chromis chromis*, and *Parupeneus barberinus*. Notably, the **Saddled bream** (*Oblada melanura*) and the **Dusky Spinefoot** dominated, representing 60% and 17% of the encountered species, respectively.



## IMPACT

- Monitoring and quantifying fish communities around LAMAR's fish farm.
- Evaluation of biodiversity indicators such as **species richness and abundance**.
- Reflect **ecosystem health** and help document fish aggregation processes.
- Quantification of the **Fish Aggregation Effect**, moving beyond purely observational insights.
- Findings can support environmental assessments, marine spatial planning, and conservation efforts.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 SOCIAL IMPACT



# 1. OUR ECO-TOURS

In 2025, Blutopia hosted a **record-number 6000 visitors** on over 180+ Marine Biology Trips. With 500 responses to our feedback form, **85.7% of our customers were 100% satisfied with our experience** and 99% would recommend us. We saw wild Common Bottlenose Dolphins almost every trip, except for four occasions within the six-month season. For 80% of respondents, this was their **first time participating in a marine biology** or eco-tourism experience. Providing ocean literacy to formulate environmentally aware behaviours and immerse people in an environment that needs protecting. We get the pleasure of watching a true transformation in people's understanding of the marine environment Blue Growth and conservation.

“  
I'm terrified of deep water, so I was really nervous before getting in. I honestly didn't think I would be able to do it. But our guide was absolutely amazing—so calm, patient, and reassuring the whole time.....  
Once I got in, everything changed. What started as fear turned into something completely different. It ended up being one of the best experiences of my life.  
”



“  
Life changing trip - My daughter has aspirations to be a marine biologist and I thought this trip would be beneficial. How right that turned out to be. Lucy and the student biologists were so knowledgeable about their field and very willing to share their passion when my daughter shared her ambition. To see and hear a marine biologist helped her to see her aspirations in reality!  
”



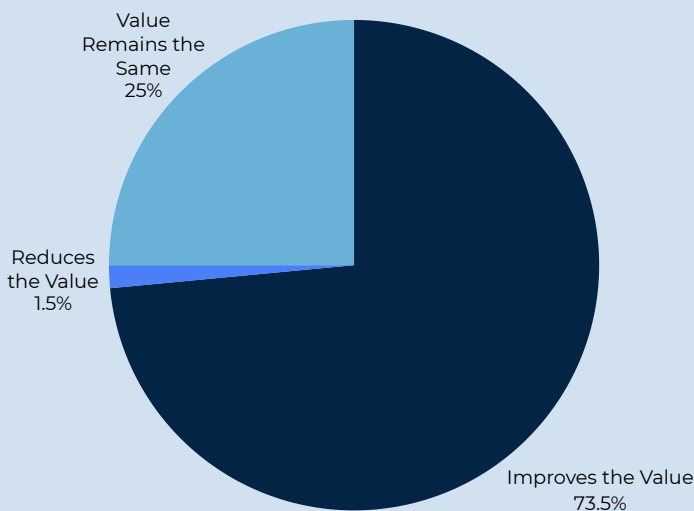
## IMPACT

- Every year, **more people are immersed** into our ocean and reconnected with the sea.
- People have become disconnected from our 'marine socio-ecological system'.
- Our experiential and immersive educational trips shift public perceptions of aquaculture – providing a 'social license to operate' and promoting Blue Growth.

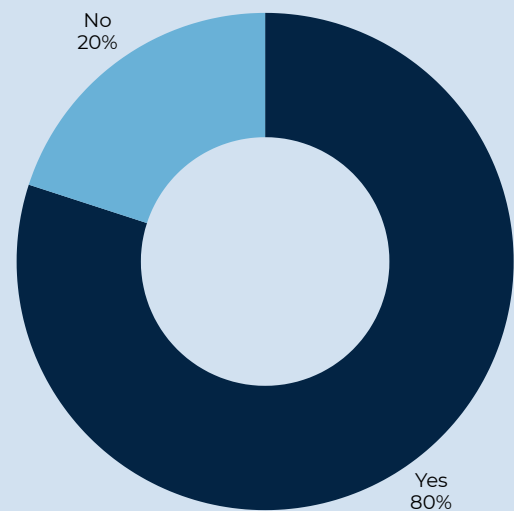


# 2. VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRE

Marine social science is an intrinsic element of our work, conducted mainly through our trips. Therefore, this year Blutopia created a marine social science study, through a **post-trip questionnaire** that analysed individual perceptions of aquaculture and our Marine Biology trips and collected data for a report on the monetisation of biodiversity. The questionnaire had five sections: **1. Customer Satisfaction, 2. Willingness to Support Biodiversity and Sustainability, 3. Aquaculture Awareness, 4. Impact & Environmental Awareness, 5. About the Individual.** This allowed us to gauge changes in visitor perceptions of aquaculture after one of our trips, their willingness to financially support marine conservation efforts and their background.



**If a portion of the trip price goes towards supporting local marine life, would this increase the value of your ticket?**



**First time on an eco-tour or marine biology trip?**

## IMPACT

- Data will be analysed and studied for a published report.
- Using this questionnaire, we bridge the gap between **science & society**.
- Almost **500 responses**, 10% of our customer base with varying backgrounds.
- Form of **Citizen Science**, expanding our commitment to ocean education.

**500**  
PARTICIPANTS



### 3. STARGAZING & STORYTELLING IN ALIMIA

As part of Blutoopia’s commitment to the community of Rhodes, a series of “**Stargazing Nights**” and “**Mythology & Storytelling Nights**” were hosted on the island of Alimia, offering local residents a unique opportunity to engage with their natural environment in a meaningful way. To ensure inclusivity and maximize local participation, residents were offered a significantly reduced price. Participants were guided through the night sky by professional astronomer **Stratos Koufos**, learning to identify constellations, planets, key celestial phenomena and the role of Rhodes in Astronomical history. Alternatively, we offered several Mythology nights with **Professor Spiros Syropoulos** who shared in-depth history on the island of Alimia.



#### IMPACT

- Prioritising **affordability** for locals, community inclusion and social responsibility.
- Few locals have interacted with spaces such as Alimia.
- Support community wellbeing, promote environmental awareness, and strengthen the connection between residents and the natural beauty of their island.
- Potential for low-impact, experience-based tourism without compromising nature.
- Residents of different ages and backgrounds gathered in a shared space, encouraging **social interaction, cultural exchange, and collective appreciation** of Alimia.



# 4. DOLPHIN WORKSHOPS

Onboard Dolphin Identification Workshops were developed to engage younger participants—particularly children—in **hands-on marine education** and conservation awareness. Hosted during boat excursions, these workshops expanded our interactive learning experience. The sessions introduced children to the basics of dolphin behaviour, species identification, and the importance of identifying individual mammals. Children were encouraged to observe dolphins in their natural habitat, identify distinguishing features such as dorsal fins and scarring and understand how researchers track and monitor marine mammals. After the snorkelling, the group were shown two sets of 9 dolphin fins, explained the concept of dolphin ID and asked to find the 9 matching pairs.



## IMPACT

- Children become active participants, enhancing overall engagement for accompanying adults and strengthening the educational impact.
- Demonstrates how tourism is a platform for education and social impact.
- Youth engagement cultivates a future generation that is more connected to the natural world.
- Brings customers closer to the marine biology research process.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



# 5. VIRTUAL REALITY DIVING

A Virtual Reality (VR) Diving Workshop was presented during European Maritime Day, offering participants an immersive introduction to the underwater world without the need for physical diving. The workshop leveraged VR technology to simulate real diving experiences, enabling attendees of all ages and abilities to explore marine ecosystems in a safe, accessible, and engaging format. This approach was particularly impactful for individuals who may face physical, financial, or logistical barriers to traditional diving, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity. Participants were guided through curated virtual dives around various major wrecks lying in the waters of Rhodes.



## IMPACT

- Powerful educational tool for younger audiences, **combining technology and storytelling.**
- Demonstrates how innovation can improve accessibility, promote environmental education, and foster inclusive participation.
- Delivers impactful experiences with minimal environmental footprint.



# 6. PLASTIC POLLUTION & ART

During our European Maritime Day, we hosted a hands-on **Recycled Art Workshop**, creating a large-scale dolphin sculpture using water bottles collected from previous activities. The workshop was designed to transform waste into a powerful visual symbol of marine conservation. The plastic bottles—retrieved over several weeks of recycling efforts—were repurposed into an artistic representation of a dolphin. Participants of all ages, with a particularly strong engagement from children, took part in assembling the installation. Guided by facilitators, attendees learned about the lifecycle of plastic waste, its impact on marine species, and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling materials.



## IMPACT

- Fostered **collaboration** and community engagement.
- Participants developed a sense of ownership and connection to the **message behind the artwork**.
- Children and adults involved decided to make smaller artworks like jellyfish and microplastic collages.
- Linked artistic expression with environmental education - experiential activities can **inspire lasting awareness**, community and impact.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



# 7. ASKLIPIOS VILLAGE CLUB

On August 31st we organised an educational and cultural trip to Alimia Island, in collaboration with the **Civic Association of the Village of Asklepios in Rhodes**. A total of **78 participants** joined us, accompanied by our 7-member Blutopia crew. The group travelled aboard four boats – Blutopia, Blunatura, Bluepearl and Poseidonas – for a full day of exploration, learning and connection with the marine environment. This trip demonstrates our commitment to combine environmental awareness, marine education and cultural heritage. During the journey, local Rhodian families and their children had the opportunity to: observe and learn about wild dolphins in their natural environment, visit our aquaculture structures in the area and discover the cultural significance of Alimia Island. Blutopia, Poseidonas and the residents of Alimia hosted a lunch for all 80 visitors and the 10-person team, where they ate fish straight from the farm.

# 78 PARTICIPANTS



## IMPACT

- Unique blend of education, culture and environmental awareness, reinforcing our belief that meaningful experiences inspire respect for nature and shared heritage.
- Importantly, this showcased the marine life, Blue Growth and historical initiatives of Rhodes to islanders .
- Critical to engage and inspire the local community who's coastal livelihood we rely on.



# 8. INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Every year, Blutopia proudly hosts several student interns from various relevant programmes. This year, between June and August, **we hosted three interns**—Asteria from Greece joining from the University of Gothenburg, and Mathieu and Mateo from France, who joined from ENSAIA in France. During their internship, they actively supported Blutopia’s daily marine experience tours by assisting trips and talks, promoting ocean literacy, and engaging visitors near Mediterranean small-scale fish farms. Their responsibilities included ocean education, in- and on-water safety, boat handling, customer engagement and much more. A standout contribution was Asteria’s involvement in a dolphin-ID data collection project, which aimed to assess the local bottlenose dolphin population. Furthermore, the interns were involved in our Maritime Day, our VIP trips, diving and report writing.



## IMPACT

- Students gained a deeper understanding of marine biodiversity, sustainable aquaculture and responsible business models.
- An expansive '**Blue Skill Set**', including: seamanship, SCUBA diving, science communication, research, boat handling, circular economy. Train and inspire young marine scientists whilst creating valuable partnerships with their institutions.
- Highlights how a Small Medium Enterprise in rural Rhodes can successfully **nurture young talent** for the Blue Economy.



# 9. SCUBA TRAINING

This year at Blutopia we **certified all of our student interns and returning customers** with different scuba diving certificates. Part of our internship partnership allows them to start, or advance, their diving journey. We aim to make the marine world more accessible to our students, which is why we extend this opportunity to them. Two of our student interns completed their Open Water Diving Certification with us, whilst our third intern completed their Advanced certification. Furthermore, we hosted a returning customer and aspiring marine biologist for a month, who interned to become a Rescue Diver and expand her experience in the field of marine biology. Numerous returning customers came to do speciality courses such as Deep Diving, Wreck Diving, Night Diving and Perfect Buoyancy. It remains a great success to witness Blutopia-certified divers advance their underwater skills and observe their progression over the years.



## IMPACT

- Making our interns SCUBA-gives young career professionals **relevant skills** and experience.
- Quality dive training is imperative - ensuring **responsibility and safety**.
- Our trainees are introduced to a **new world** underwater, creating demand for conservation.



# 9. DIVE IN OUR ISLANDS

Blutopia participated in the Dive In Our Islands project, in collaboration with the **Development Organisation of the Dodecanese** (Αναπτυξιακή Τράπεζα Δωδεκανήσου). The initiative aimed to promote sustainable marine tourism by recording underwater routes around the island of Rhodes using **advanced 360° cameras**. A total of six unique locations were documented, covering different habitats and depths. The team collected over 80 GB of high-quality footage and imagery, capturing both the biodiversity and seascape features of each site. In addition, a photo identification **catalogue of marine species** was developed for every route, accompanied by descriptive texts highlighting key ecological and behavioral aspects. The recorded material is being processed to create **Virtual Reality (VR) diving experiences**.



## IMPACT

- **Innovative marine tourism** and sustainability communication.
- **Visualizing underwater habitats** in an accessible digital format.
- Enhances public appreciation for marine ecosystems and responsible aquaculture.
- Scientific documentation of marine species across six locations provides a valuable **biodiversity baseline** for future monitoring and conservation.
- Form partnerships with financial institutions and leverage digitilisation for sustainability.





# ΝΑΥΑΓΙΟ ΑΛΙΣΙΜ ALISIM SHIPWRECK

36° 14' 34.93" N / 27° 46' 29.30" E

## ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ / INFO

ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗ / AREA  
ΜΕΣΟ ΠΡΟΣΒΑΣΗΣ / ACCESS  
ΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΛΙΜΑΝΙ / DISTANCE FROM PORT  
ΣΥΝΤΕΤΑΓΜΕΝΕΣ / COORDINATES  
ΕΙΔΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΔΥΣΗΣ / DIVE TYPE

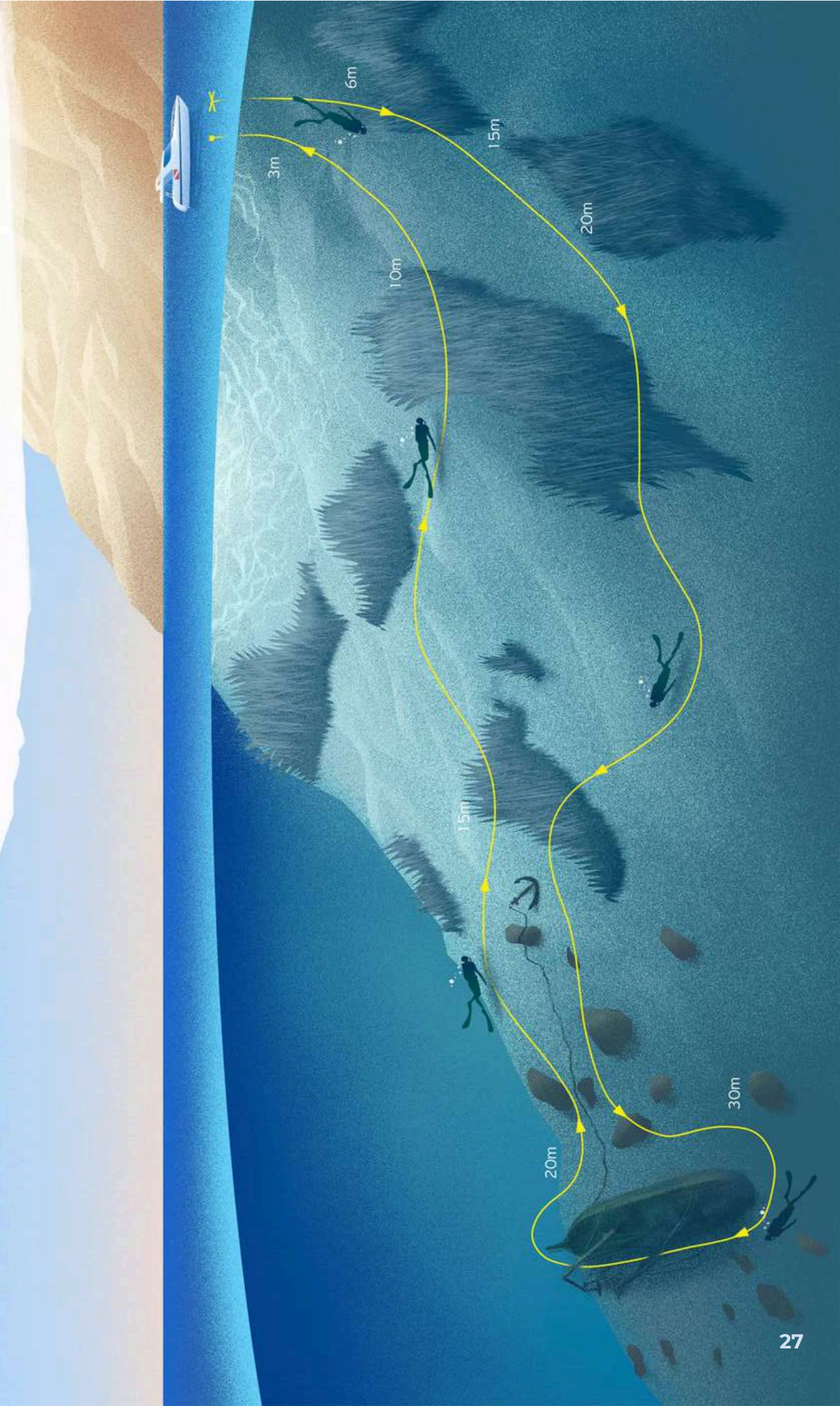
Νησος Στρογγυλή Χάλκιος, Ρόδος  
/ Stronnyli Islet Of Chaliki, Rhodes  
Σκάφος / By Boat  
4 ν.μ. (10 λ.)  
/ 4 nm (10 min)  
36° 14' 34.93" N / 27° 46' 29.30" E  
Ναύηγιο / Shipwreck

ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΔΥΣΗΣ  
/ DIVING PERIOD  
ΔΙΑΡΚΕΙΑ ΚΑΤΑΔΥΣΗΣ  
/ DIVE DURATION  
ΚΑΤΑΔΥΤΙΚΟ ΕΠΙΠΕΔΟ / DIVING LEVEL  
ΟΡΑΤΟΤΗΤΑ / VISIBILITY  
ΘΕΡΜΟΚΡΑΣΙΑ ΝΕΡΟΥ / WATER TEMPERATURE  
ΕΛΑΧΙΣΤΟ ΒΑΘΟΣ / MINIMUM DEPTH

Όλο τον χρόνο  
/ All Year Round  
50 λ. ή 50 bar  
/ 50 min or 50 bar  
Open water  
Advanced  
30 m  
17 - 28 °C  
3 m

ΜΕΣΟ ΒΑΘΟΣ / AVERAGE DEPTH  
ΜΕΤΙΣΤΟ ΒΑΘΟΣ / MAXIMUM DEPTH  
ΡΕΥΜΑΤΑ / CURRENTS  
ΒΑΘΜΟΣ ΔΥΣΚΟΛΙΑΣ / DIFFICULTY LEVEL  
ΕΝΔΙΑΦΕΡΟΝ ΘΕΑΣΗΣ / SCENERY INTEREST  
ΕΝΔΙΑΦΕΡΟΝ ΒΛΑΣΤΗΘΗΣ / FLORA INTEREST  
ΕΝΔΙΑΦΕΡΟΝ ΖΩΗΣ / FAUNA INTEREST

15 m  
33 m  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★



# 9. ST. GEORGE'S AT ALIMIA

On the 1st of May 2025, representatives of Blutopia visited the remote island of Alimia to support the **annual celebration of Saint George** at the historic church of Agios Georgios. Although this was not organised as a commercial excursion, Blutopia's presence reflected the company's close relationship with the island, which is one of the remote destinations connected to its marine activities. Blutopia is committed to remaining actively engaged with the places and communities that form part of its operating environment. By participating in this local religious and cultural celebration, Blutopia supported the preservation of Alimia's island identity and helped maintain a living connection with a remote area. The activity demonstrated that responsible marine tourism is not only about visitor experiences, but also about respect, presence, and **long-term care for the cultural and social fabric** of the places where the company operates.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened its relationship with Alimia and **showed respect** for the island's cultural and religious heritage.
- Supported **community connection** with a remote island that forms part of Blutopia's wider marine landscape.
- Demonstrated that sustainable tourism operators can contribute to **island resilience** through continuity, cultural participation, and active support for local events.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# 10. TRAVEL & HOSPITALITY AWARD 2025

*“Unique Experience Tour of the Year”*



# RINE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

### GOVERNANCE IMPACT

# 1. STAFF FIRST AID TRAINING

In July 2025, Blutopia organised a **certified first aid training program for its staff** and volunteers in collaboration with the Hellenic Red Cross. The twelve-hour course, entitled “First Aid for Citizens”, offered comprehensive instruction in essential **emergency response skills**. Participants were trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the use of automated external defibrillators, the treatment of wounds, burns and musculoskeletal injuries, the management of choking and airway obstruction, and the handling of environmental and emergency incidents. Upon completion of the examinations, all participants received official certifications, ensuring that Blutopia’s operational team is equipped with life-saving skills.



12

HOURS TRAINING

8

TRAINEES



## IMPACT

- Embeds safety and preparedness.
- Ensures eco-tourism and aquaculture operations are **safe and responsible**.
- Strengthens community trust by prioritising **human well-being** alongside environmental stewardship and transparent governance.

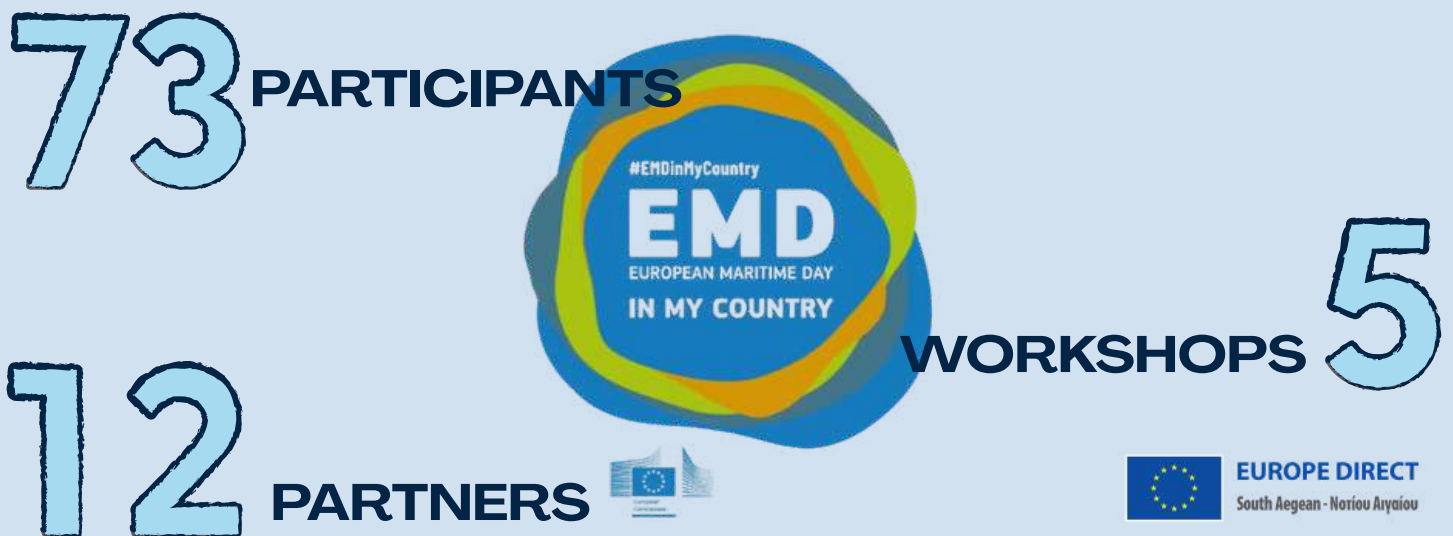


Ελληνικός  
Ερυθρός Σταυρός



## 2. EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

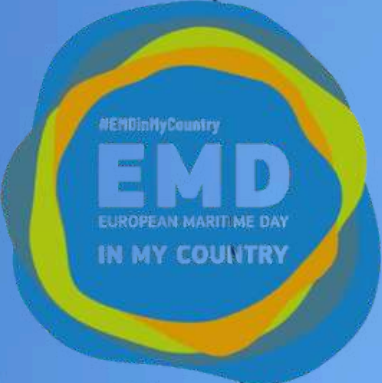
On the **22nd of June 2025**, Blutopia hosted our second European Maritime Day and gained a lot of interest and enthusiasm from local communities, stakeholders and partners. We hosted a vast amount of workshops regarding marine research, technology and threats alongside a snorkelling and diving harbour clean-up. Predominantly children got involved in SCUBA demonstrations, mini lectures and plastic pollution art. We collaborated with the bottled water companies, various catering was provided by hotels or bakeries and a local videography company. The local community groups partnered with us bringing families and residents from the neighbouring villages. Restaurants from the harbour also got involved. Furthermore, Port Police, Coast Guard and Fire Fighting services overlooked and engaged with our activities of the EMD.



### IMPACT

- Displayed the **willingness and enthusiasm** from local communities and businesses to be a part of marine conservation initiatives.
- Establish **partnership** for operational efficiency and reputation within the local community.
- Blutopia as a **lead** actor in marine conservation in Rhodes.
- Managed to gather various stakeholders and individuals for the purpose of **restoring the Southern Aegean**.





# 3. CIRCLE THE MED FORUM

From June 3–5, 2025, Blutopia proudly participated in the **8th Circle the Med Forum**, held at the Acropolis Museum in Athens and co-organised by Interreg Euro-Med. This year’s forum brought together **leaders, practitioners, and policymakers** working toward a more circular and regenerative Mediterranean economy. Blutopia was invited to speak in the roundtable session focused on redefining the role of fish farms in the Mediterranean. We presented our vision of fish farms as **multi-functional marine spaces**: spaces that offer educational experiences, enhance marine biodiversity, support sustainable tourism, and act as guardians of the marine environment. In short, **lighthouses of sustainability**.



## IMPACT

- Showcase the work happening at Blutopia and LAMAR.
- **Connect** with key European and regional leaders.
- Sparked promising ideas for **future collaborations** for sustainable development, marine conservation, and stakeholder-driven innovation.
- Inspires **sustainable action** through multi-use marine spaces.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# 4. FAMENET TRIP

During the FAMENET Seminar on “Youth Engagement and FLAGs” in Rhodes and Chalki (May 20–22, 2025), Blutopia hosted a **field excursion for FAMENET delegates**, including development bank representatives. FAMENET is the European Commission’s support unit under **DG MARE**, established in 2022 to aid implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and community-led local development (CLLD) under the EMFAF (2021–27). Departing from Kamiros Skala, the group learned about ANDO’s **EU-funded investment in Blutopia**—an integrated aquaculture, ecotourism, and education initiative.



130 DELEGATES



## IMPACT

- Witnessed product of **EU funding**: fish farms as marine sustainability lighthouses.
- Integrated biodiversity protection, visitor engagement, and local economic value.
- Real-world demonstration of CLLD and EMFAF impact.
- Showcased multi-use marine-space with **measurable social and environmental returns**.



FAMENET

# 4. BlueAquaEdu

Blutopia, in partnership with the BlueAquaEdu (EMFAF) project, hosted two **Summer Schools** in Rhodes. More than twenty-one students and twelve professionals from various European universities participated in this intensive training session, whilst over hundred applied. This event was dedicated to sustainable aquaculture and **Blue Skills development**. As part of the programme, we organised field visits to the LAMAR fish farm, providing participants with first-hand experience of **sustainable practices**. Students observed daily operations, environmental monitoring and responsible production methods while learning about the mutually beneficial synergy of aquaculture and tourism. The activity emphasized experiential learning through **direct interaction with professionals** in the field, aligning with BlueAquaEdu's mission to promote practical training and knowledge exchange among **future blue economy leaders**.



## IMPACT

- Reinforced our commitment to **transparency, partnership, and governance** excellence in sustainable aquaculture education.
- Connected European **students and experts** with real-world practices.
- Contributed to improving Blue Skills and promoting environmental stewardship.
- Blutopia as a **model in educational collaboration** for the private sector.



European Maritime, Fisheries and  
Aquaculture Fund  
(EMFAF)



# 5. SUN & BLUE CONFERENCE

On November 20-22 November 2024 Blutopia participated in the Sun&Blue Congress in Almería, Spain, a **leading international event** dedicated to sustainable tourism and the blue economy. As an invited speaker, our Dr. Anastasios Baltadakis joined a **high-level round table discussion** addressing the future of marine eco-tourism and sustainable aquaculture. Additionally, Baltadakis was invited to speak at a **workshop on Blue Jobs**, where he presented career opportunities for young professionals in sustainable aquaculture, eco-tourism, and marine conservation. The Congress gathered experts, policymakers, and innovators from across Europe, providing an excellent platform to showcase Blutopia's expertise, exchange best practices, and strengthen its international visibility.



SUN&BLUE ▾ CONGRESS ▾ SIDE EVENTS AWARDS BLUE BOOK PARTICIPATE ▾ PREVIOUS EDITIONS ▾

## Speakers



### Anastasios Baltadakis

Lead of the marine life experiences at Blutopia Marine Park

Anastasios (Tasos) Baltadakis is a Marine Biologist with a Ph.D. in Sustainable Aquaculture from Stirling University's Institute of Aquaculture. With extensive experience in environmental impact assessments and sustainable aquaculture development, Tasos has dedicated his career to promoting eco-friendly practices within the growing blue economy. Currently, he serves as the Research and Development Director at LAMAR, a fish farming company, and also manages Blutopia Diving Center. His work focuses on developing small-scale fish farms as sustainability hotspots, contributing to regional development and supporting the broader blue economy's sustainable growth.



## IMPACT

- Significantly raised Blutopia's profile within the **European blue economy network**.
- Blutopia emphasized the importance of linking eco-tourism and aquaculture with education, blue skills development, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Blutopia's as a **frontrunner in ocean literacy** and youth engagement.
- Opened pathways to **future partnerships** and EU-level collaborations.



# 6. AA-AGORA PROJECT

Under the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters”, Blutopia participated in A-AAGORA, a Horizon Europe-funded project, as **a technical advisor to the South Aegean Region**. In this role, Blutopia supported regional participation in European knowledge exchange, best-practice sharing, stakeholder engagement, and blueprint development for more sustainable marine and coastal management. Blutopia’s contribution was especially linked to its **expertise in eco-tourism, ocean literacy, public engagement, and multi-use marine space development**, helping showcase how marine and coastal SMEs can support sustainability transitions at regional and European level.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened Blutopia’s role as a contributor to European **best-practice exchange** in marine sustainability.
- Reinforced its position as a technical and practical actor supporting **sustainable marine governance**, eco-tourism innovation, and community-centred engagement.
- Highlighted how marine and coastal SMEs can support **regional sustainability transitions** by connecting education, stewardship, and responsible marine use.



# 7. BlueMission MED

On 16 December 2025, Blutopia participated in the Innovation Hub Meeting for the **Protection of the Marine Environment**, held in Athens, where Dr. Anastasios Baltadakis presented Blutopia as a best practice example. The event was organised in the framework of the BLUEMISSIONMED and BLUE ECOSYSTEM programmes by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), with technical support from VERIMPACT. The meeting focused on national perspectives and available tools for implementing the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, while strengthening links between science, innovation, and sustainable development. Within this context, Blutopia's participation highlighted its role as a practical example of how **marine-based SMEs** can contribute to marine protection, sustainability, and public engagement.



## IMPACT

- Reinforced Blutopia's **visibility** as a recognised best practice in marine sustainability and public engagement.
- Strengthened its connection to **national and European discussions** on ocean restoration, innovation, and sustainable development.
- Supported **knowledge exchange** and the creation of future partnerships contributing to the protection and restoration of the marine environment.



# 8.3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL DIVING CONFERENCE

In November 2025, Blutopia participated in the 3rd Diving Conference held in Athens at The American College of Greece. The conference focused on technical diving, underwater exploration, safety, innovation, and the **future development of diving activities in Greece and the wider Mediterranean**. The event gathered diving professionals, instructors, scientists, underwater explorers, and stakeholders from across the diving sector. Blutopia participated as part of the **broader diving and marine sustainability community**, contributing to discussions surrounding responsible diving practices, marine awareness, and the role of diving in environmental education and eco-tourism. The conference provided an important platform for networking and knowledge exchange between professionals involved in marine recreation, underwater research, technical diving, and conservation-oriented activities.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened Blutopia's **engagement with the professional diving community** and reinforced its commitment to safety, responsibility and sustainability.
- Supported **knowledge exchange** with relevant experts and organisations.
- Increased the **visibility** of Blutopia within the national diving sector.
- Reenforced the role of diving as a **tool for ocean literacy**, environmental stewardship, and meaningful public engagement with the marine environment.



# 9. BOOT EXPO 2025

In January 2025, Blutopia participated in BOOT Düsseldorf, one of **the world's largest international exhibitions** for diving, marine tourism, and water-based recreation. Blutopia was represented under the kiosk of the South Aegean "12 Islands" Prefecture, promoting Rhodes and the Dodecanese as destinations for sustainable marine tourism, diving, and ocean-based experiences. Through discussions with visitors, tourism professionals, divers, and international stakeholders, Blutopia showcased its conceptual framework. The exhibition provided an **important platform** to present Rhodes not only as a tourism destination, but also as a region actively connected with marine sustainability, biodiversity, and responsible blue economy development.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened Blutopia's **international visibility** within the marine tourism sector whilst promoting the Dodecanese as destinations for sustainable, experience-based tourism.
- Created opportunities for **networking, future collaborations, and knowledge exchange** with stakeholders from across Europe.
- Demonstrated how regional tourism promotion can integrate environmental awareness, ocean literacy, and responsible marine activities.



**boot**  
Düsseldorf

# 10. EUSAIR TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

In December 2025, Blutopia participated in the EUSAIR Pillar 1 Technical Workshop entitled “Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture in EUSAIR: Ecosystemic Services, Applied Research, and Ecotourism”, organised under the EUSAIR Facility Point initiative. During the event, held online and coordinated through the Adriatic-Ionian cooperation framework, Dr. Anastasios Baltadakis presented Blutopia and LAMAR as a practical example of **how small-scale Mediterranean aquaculture can be combined with eco-tourism, environmental education, and marine sustainability**. The presentation focused on Blutopia’s multi-use approach, highlighting how floating fish farms can evolve beyond food production and contribute to biodiversity awareness, ocean literacy, citizen engagement, and sustainable tourism experiences. The workshop brought together researchers, institutions, and aquaculture stakeholders from across the Adriatic-Ionian region to exchange knowledge and discuss innovative approaches to sustainable aquaculture and blue economy development.

11:05-11:35	Greece - Combining production with eco-tourism in a floating fish farm - Anastasios Baltadakis LAMAR S.A and Blutopia Marine Park P.C.
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## IMPACT

- Strengthened its visibility within **macro-regional discussions** on sustainable aquaculture and marine innovation.
- Demonstrated how marine tourism, education, and aquaculture can **coexist within the same marine space** while creating environmental, social, and economic value.
- Reinforced Blutopia’s position as an **emerging best-practice** example for ecosystem-based aquaculture and eco-tourism integration in the Mediterranean, while supporting international dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration across the Adriatic-Ionian region.

# 11. IOWA SOYBEAN PRODUCERS VISIT

During the summer of 2025, Blutopia hosted a delegation from the **Iowa Soybean Association** in Rhodes as part of their international study visit focused on **aquaculture supply chains and sustainable feed sourcing**. The group visited Blutopia and nearby fish farming operations to better understand how soy-based feed ingredients are connected to Mediterranean aquaculture production. During the visit, participants were introduced to Blutopia's multi-use model, where aquaculture, eco-tourism, ocean literacy, and environmental stewardship coexist within the same marine space. The exchange created a valuable bridge between **global agricultural production** and responsible seafood farming, highlighting how feed sourcing, fish nutrition, biodiversity awareness, and sustainable tourism are all connected within the wider blue economy.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened international knowledge exchange between the **agriculture and aquaculture sectors** and created a meaningful dialogue around **sustainable feed sourcing** in seafood production.
- Increased the visibility of Blutopia as a practical example of how small-scale Mediterranean aquaculture can be linked with education, environmental awareness, and responsible tourism.
- Demonstrated how marine-based SMEs can connect food production, sustainability communication, and cross-sector collaboration to support local blue economy development and global supply-chain awareness.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# 10. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BLUE ECONOMY

In July 2025, Blutopia participated in the International Workshop on Blue Economy in the Black Sea Region, organised within the BLUE GATES project in Constanța, Romania. The event brought together universities, researchers, policymakers, tourism stakeholders, and blue economy professionals from across Europe and the Black Sea region to **discuss innovation, sustainability, blue skills, tourism, and future blue careers**. As part of the “Blue Careers” panel, Dr. Anastasios Baltadakis represented Blutopia Marine Park and presented the organisation’s approach to attracting and training young talent within the Blue Economy. The presentation highlighted how small marine-based enterprises can contribute to education, environmental stewardship, and **professional opportunities for young people** through immersive and science-based marine experiences.



## IMPACT

- Strengthened international visibility within discussions surrounding blue careers, sustainable tourism, and marine innovation.
- Created opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking with institutions and stakeholders from the wider Black Sea region.
- Demonstrated how marine tourism operators can contribute to youth engagement and inspire future professionals to pursue careers connected to the sea.



# INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Throughout this report, Blutopia demonstrates how collaboration between aquaculture and tourism can support the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by integrating environmental education, economic opportunity and marine conservation. Most of our work encompasses the SDG 14 (Life Below Water) through marine conservation, sustainable resource management and marine literacy. At the same time, our tourism and outreach activities create a variety of societal opportunities. Our efforts include food production, sustainable business models, research and quality education - hence our impact proudly relates to a variety of the SDGs.



Furthermore, we are proud to be part of the European Union **Mission Charter 'Restore our Oceans and Waters'**. In the European context, our work and activities are considered a blueprint for multi-use marine space, highlighting the novel and unique synergy of aquaculture and tourism. Our previous and future impact aims to commit to the Mission Charter and witness sustainable growth in the Mediterranean in the next decade.



# IMPACT GOALS 2026

# 1

Expand our **outreach** on the island of Rhodes:

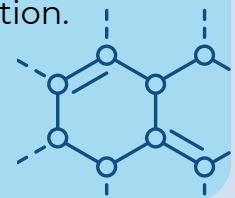
- School programmes & lectures
- Hotel events
- Beach cleans or harbour clean-ups



# 2

Establish replicable and long-term **scientific protocols**:

- Forming a year-round study of the fish aggregation.
- Creating valuable Citizen Science Projects/Workshops.



# 3

**Increase of 15% in reach** of our eco-tours:

- Increase number of available trips daily/weekly.
- Expand marketing efforts and roles.



# 4

Create valuable **partnerships** for Blutopia:

- Approaching universities for research, interns or consortium partnerships.
- Attending various conferences in relevant fields.



# 5

Formulate pro-active plans for **operational sustainability**:

- Reduction of 30% of plastic bottle waste from visitors.
- Proper waste management.



# COLLABORATORS

We are incredibly grateful to all organisations, companies, universities and funding bodies that have allowed Blutopia to make meaningful impact in 2025.



A special mention to Stratos Koufos and Spyros Syropoulos.

# OUR TEAM 2025

Naturally, our work is not possible without the dedication, enthusiasm and passion from our employees and interns.





BLUTOPIA  
MARINE PARK

