



Press Release

05 March 2014

## **Educational oceanographic cruise ANDROMEDA I: Schools & scientists aboard in the Aegean Sea**

***Twenty (20) students together with their teachers, will work like real scientists on an educational oceanographic cruise about environmental pressures in the Mediterranean, through the International Network for Environmental Education: "My school voyages with PERSEUS" (PERSEUS@School network), coordinated by the 1st Directorate of Secondary Education of Athens and implemented with the support of the research project PERSEUS, coordinated by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR).***

This is the first educational cruise organised by the PERSEUS project ([www.perseus-net.eu](http://www.perseus-net.eu)), which brings together 53 institutes from 21 countries from Europe in the period 2012-2015, to address common environmental pressures facing the Mediterranean and the Black Seas and to take action in protecting them.

The educational cruise will take place from **6 to 9 March 2014** in the Saronic Gulf and is organised by the Environmental Education Department of the 1st Directorate of Secondary Education of Athens, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), the European research project PERSEUS and the Department of Geology at the University of Patras, in collaboration with the Lavrio Environmental Education Centre and the Environmental Education Department of Secondary Education of Achaia prefecture.

A total of 20 students from 10 junior high and high schools across Greece will take part, along with 15 teachers, 20 researchers and 22 crew members who will work together on the oceanographic vessel AEGAEON (see dimensional representation of the vessel at the following address: <http://qator301.hostqator.com/~post/elkethe/>), which is a modern laboratory afloat, fully equipped with all the latest technology instruments used in modern oceanographic research.

During the expedition, the children will take up specific "scientific tasks" and will study marine pelagic and benthic ecosystems. Like real researchers, they will take part in the collection and storage of water, plankton and sediments samples and will observe biodiversity using a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). They will then process their samples, both in the vessel laboratories as well as in the HCMR facilities and will work together with the environmental teams from their respective schools through a Skype connection.

On the last day of the cruise, all researchers (both students and teachers approach will attempt to draw conclusions through an interdisciplinary approach and make proposals for the protection of the Mediterranean. You can follow the cruise live via web streaming at this link: <http://www.meteocam.gr/perseus>.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Hellenic Centre for Marine Research:** Elena Ermidou ([ermid@hcmr.gr](mailto:ermid@hcmr.gr)), + 30 2291076388

**Environmental Education Department** of the 1st Directorate of Secondary Education of Athens: Georgia Fermeli ([perival@dide-a-ath.att.sch.gr](mailto:perival@dide-a-ath.att.sch.gr), [f.georgia@gmail.com](mailto:f.georgia@gmail.com))