



*World Environment Day, 5 June 2014
Raise your voice, not the sea level!*

The Vama Veche - 2 Mai Marine Reserve Junior Rangers started training for the summer season

On **5.06.2014**, the rangers of the Vama Veche - 2 Mai Marine Reserve performed a training session for the 2014 summer season. This event was organized with the occasion of **World Environment Day**, by the **National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" Constanta**, together with its long-term partners - the **Balkan Environmental Association (B.E.N.A.)**, the **European Environmental Association (AEM)** and the **Natural Sciences Museum Complex in Constanta**.



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Given that in 2014 the theme chosen by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to celebrate World Environment Day was the sea level rise, the event started with a brief outline of the causes leading to this phenomenon. Later on, the practical training of rangers was approached.

The National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” Constanta is custodian of the “Vama Veche - 2 Mai Marine Littoral Aquatory” Marine Reserve (also Natura 2000 protected site). In their endeavor of exerting custody, NIMRD’s experts are supported by the members of the Junior Ranger ecologist club, from Elementary School no. 2 in 2 Mai. Ever since the establishment of the group, students have been attracted in raising the awareness of tourists on the importance of the marine reserve. The Junior Rangers received ID badges from the Custodian, are properly trained and equipped for beach patrolling actions.



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The training course was focused on the analysis of a questionnaire set on tourist perception in the Vama Veche - 2 Mai area, which the young ecologists will fill-in throughout the summer season. One batch of questionnaires was filled-in demonstratively and discussions were held on the major problems on the beach neighboring the reserve. The conclusion was that the most disturbing issue in the area is litter on the beach/in the water. During the summer holiday, the Junior Rangers will distribute and fill-in these questionnaires together with the tourists in the Vama Veche - 2 Mai area, then they will be centralized by the Custodian, in order to have an overview of the way in which nature protection merges with modern tourism.



Attention was also drawn by the importance that European projects NIMRD is partner in give to environmental education and awareness raising: EU FP7/PERSEUS (Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern European Seas), EU FP7/COCONET (Towards COast to COast NETworks of marine protected areas) and EU FP7 MareFrame (Co-creating Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions).

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The training session concluded with graduation certificates awarded to the Juniors Rangers, and later on the young ecologists visited the Natural Sciences Museum Complex.



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