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## Introduction

It is a common practice that science is presented out of context and thus it seems irrelevant to peoples' lives. As a result many of young learners easily lose interest. If a young person's own motivation is disrespected, even the most careful preparation on the part of the educator will lead to a failure.

Anything which is important to us is related to oceans, from air breathing, water drinking and using, food, entertainment. It comes from or can be shipped by the ocean. No matter how far from the shore people live, oceans affect their everyday lives.

### Warsaw Science Day

- Venue: National Soccer stadium in Warsaw.
- Date and duration: 4 June 2016, all day long event.
- Provisional attendance: thousands of people, 57% women, 43% men, close to 60% people below 34 years old.
- Observation: Majority of participants were interested in science on the daily basis. Majority of participants showed interest in natural sciences. About half of participants came for the first time. Average time spent at the Picnic by participants estimated to c. 1.5 hours.

## Study description

We describe two cases of initiatives of non-formal type of activities, that promote marine issues among young learners.

The main focus is put on two particular events, the Warsaw Science Day, from June 2016 and the Sopot Science Fair, which took place on 27 May 2017. Prior to the all day long events, which were held in the town center, we worked together with teachers and school children, both in school and outside the classroom. Then their works were presented during the events, and became a part of the presentation stand.

### Sopot Science Fair

- Venue: Central Square, Sopot, a seaside resort.
- Date and duration: 27 May 2017, all day long event.
- Provisional attendance: over a thousand people.
- Observation: Much smaller scale. Majority of participants were families. The greatest interest was observed among children of all ages. Unlike in Warsaw, here we had mostly "accidental" visitors, however, many of them were from different countries, so English was used on a regular basis.



## Some conclusions

- We have to realize that science education, research, innovation and practices must become more adapted to the requirements and ambitions of the modern society and reflect its values. They should provide society with the science that they need and support citizens of all ages and talents in creating positive attitudes to scientific endeavors.
- It is possible to increase understanding of science through mobilization activities, and active participation of the general public "in" science.
- Learning science in informal environments is a vast yet developing area of study and practice that supports a broad range of learning experiences.
- Informal environments can stimulate science interest, build learners' scientific knowledge and skills, and perhaps help people navigate and connect with their world by educating them to be more comfortable and confident in their relationship with science.