

Training Workshop – 22nd April 2014

A training workshop for the Life+ project Migrate was held at the MEPA premises St. Francis Ravelin on the evening of the 22nd of April. The seminar was given by Ms Carmen Mifsud, the Project Manager and Mr Ricardo Sagarmínaga from KAI Marine Services, the projects main partner. The audience comprised of interested individuals such as divers, MEPA interns, boat users and NGO's associated with turtle protection.

The workshop took place over 2 hours with Ms Mifsud introducing the project, its aims and actions being carried out. Next on the agenda were marine turtles: identifying them, differentiating species and how to help and handle injured turtles and what one should do if an injured turtle were encountered at sea. The audience were interested at this due to their connection with the sea and how they could help. Following Ms Mifsud, Mr Sagarmínaga presented the project from the partners scientific point of view, showing how the boat based surveys are carried out and what action is taken to collect and process the data from cetacean and turtle sightings. The survey being carried out this year was spoken about with great interest from the audience regarding the possibility of volunteering and carrying out the survey on the boat.

Throughout the lecture members of the audience seemed very interested in helping the project in various ways such as the offering of sightings data gathered from on board their own pleasure boats, or giving the project team contacts within the yachting and diving community for the possibility to give members the lecture which was given, enabling a greater awareness of the project. Finally Attendees to the lecture were shown how to record the sightings on data forms available from the project website and told where to send such data, for the inclusion in the results enabling a wider range of results.

All around the workshop went well, with the audience seeming interested throughout the entire 2 hours. At the end they were offered to sign up and be notified of forthcoming lectures being held.