Erasmus+ Project Title:

The Breath of the Earth – Carbon Dioxide as a Mediator Between Inorganic Material and Organic Life

📍 **Project Location – Part 1 (Slovenia):**

Karst Hydrology through Biological-Chemical Analysis of the Dragonja River and Exploration of Slovenian Karst-Coastal Relief

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🎯 **Objective:**

To investigate and understand the role of karst waters through biological-chemical analysis of the Dragonja River – a karst river flowing into the Adriatic Sea. The project includes exploration of the karst, coastal, and marine environment (relief, soil, plants, birds, fish, Adriatic Sea animals), identification of marine organisms, and addressing environmental challenges such as pollution and coastal degradation.

🗓️ **Duration:**

5 days, planned for **September 2025**

Day 1 – Sunday, 21 September 2025

Location: Ljubljana → Strunjan

Time	Activity Description
08:30 – 09:00	Icebreaker activities (meeting and getting to know each other at Ledina Grammar School
09:00 – 12:00	Workshop at Ledina Grammar School: - Design Thinking & Project Framing - Lecture by Dr. Kadir-Kaan Turan
12:00 – 13:00	Snack (fruits) & bus transfer to Strunjan
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch and check-in at Stella Maris (accommodation)
14:30 – 17:30	Fieldwork: - Hike through Strunjan Landscape Park (focus on cliffs and coastal features) – Dr. Volker Heck - Rock sampling
17:30 – 19:00	Free time (optional swimming and other activities)
19:00	Dinner
Evening	Social gathering with interactive games

Day 2 – Monday, 22 September 2025

Location: Strunjan → Sečovlje and surroundings

Time	Activity Description
08:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 13:00	Fieldwork: - Introduction to field techniques - Visit to Sečovlje Salt Pans (Sečovlje Landscape Park) - Biological-Chemical Water Analysis of the Dragonja River (at mouth + 2 upstream locations) Visit to the Fonda Fish Garden https://www.fonda.si/sl/fonda/ribogojnica-fonda
13:00	Lunch
14:30 – 17:30	Group work: - Analysis and comparison of water quality data - Importance of CO_2 – sea animals (shells) - Introduction to karst soils & agriculture *- Guided visit to olive grove and olive oil press (focus on sustainable production)???*
19:00	Dinner
Evening	Games and socializing + free time

Day 3 – Tuesday, 23 September 2025

Location: Strunjan → Piran

Time	Activity Description
08:00	Breakfast and transfer to Piran
09:30 – 13.00	Visit to the Marine Biology Station & Aquarium (guided tour)
13:00	Packed lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Student-led fieldwork: - Group exploration of Piran's coastline - Rock sampling & comparison with Strunjan area
17:00 – 18:30	Guided tour of historical Piran
19:00	Dinner
Evening	Storytelling Night: “From Our Regions” – Legends, myths, and local tales of coastal Slovenia

Day 4 – Wednesday, 24 September 2025

Location: Strunjan → Izola → Strunjan → Portorož

Time	Activity Description
08:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 12:00	Fieldwork: - Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism – sustainability in the Strunjan Landscape Park - Rock comparison: Piran vs. Strunjan (hands-on experiment)
13:00	Lunch
14:30 – 17:30	Visit to the archeological park Simonov zaliv (Simon's Bay) - Importance of pollinators for biodiversity and agriculture
17:30 – 19:00	Student group work: Final presentations preparation
19:00	Dinner
Evening	Free time in Portorož (beach, youth-friendly environment)

Day 5 – Thursday, 25 September 2025

Location: Strunjan → Dutovlje/Tomaj/Štanjel → Ljubljana

Time	Activity Description
08:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:00	Student presentations: Outcomes of field research and project learning
10:00	Visit to Dutovlje or Tomaj– the heart of the Karst wine region or Štnajel
12:30	Reflection session and evaluation (on the bus)
13:30	Farewell lunch (in Ljubljana)