

MAR MINERAL – Science and Riches on the Deep Seafloor

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MAR MINERAL is an exhibition being held in the National Museum of Natural History and Science in Lisbon, Portugal. It is part of the EU-FP7 Blue Mining project, on research of deep-sea mineral resources and their future exploitation in an environmental responsible way. The project includes a WP on dissemination and outreach.

The exhibition develops around key questions as follows:

We are 7.5 billion of people on Earth. We all have the right to the benefits of the high-tech society. Will we need new sources of raw materials?

Does the ocean floor have economic resources, capable of answering to global demand in an environmentally responsible way?

What are the scientific, environmental, economic and philosophical implications of these discoveries?

Mar Mineral develops in four main areas. At the entrance, the goal is to awaken the public to human needs. The public is then invited to dive into the depths of the ocean, to the seafloor, and to marvel at the discoveries of the last decades and their implications concerning resources. Information regarding the use of metals in our daily lives and the need to prepare for the necessity of seafloor mining is given, together with industrial breakthroughs and technological readiness levels. The last section of Mar Mineral is a comparison with the massive seafloor deposits mined on land that once originated at or near the seafloor.

The exhibition is promoting and holding conferences and debates for the general public with specialized speakers, to raise awareness in the various domains addressed in Mar Mineral.

This exhibition will have its own website and blog, and updates on the activities will be disseminated regularly through the Museum Facebook page and newsletters.

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