

Gelavista - a developing citizen science program

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GelAvista, a citizen science program that was launched on February 2016, was created with the purpose of monitoring gelatinous populations in the Portuguese coast. This program, together with the data from the coastal station off Cascais (Portugal), has been providing the first information on diversity, distribution, abundance and seasonality of gelatinous organisms in Portugal.

The GelAvista program is crucial to identify vulnerable areas, where gelatinous populations may have large impacts on zooplankton populations, including fish larvae, with successive costs for pelagic food webs. The entire success of the program relies on the public's participation and, as such, several efforts were made in order to improve its outreach. Strategies used to reach the public, captivating and spreading information will be shared throughout the presentation, as well as the creation of the logo for the program.