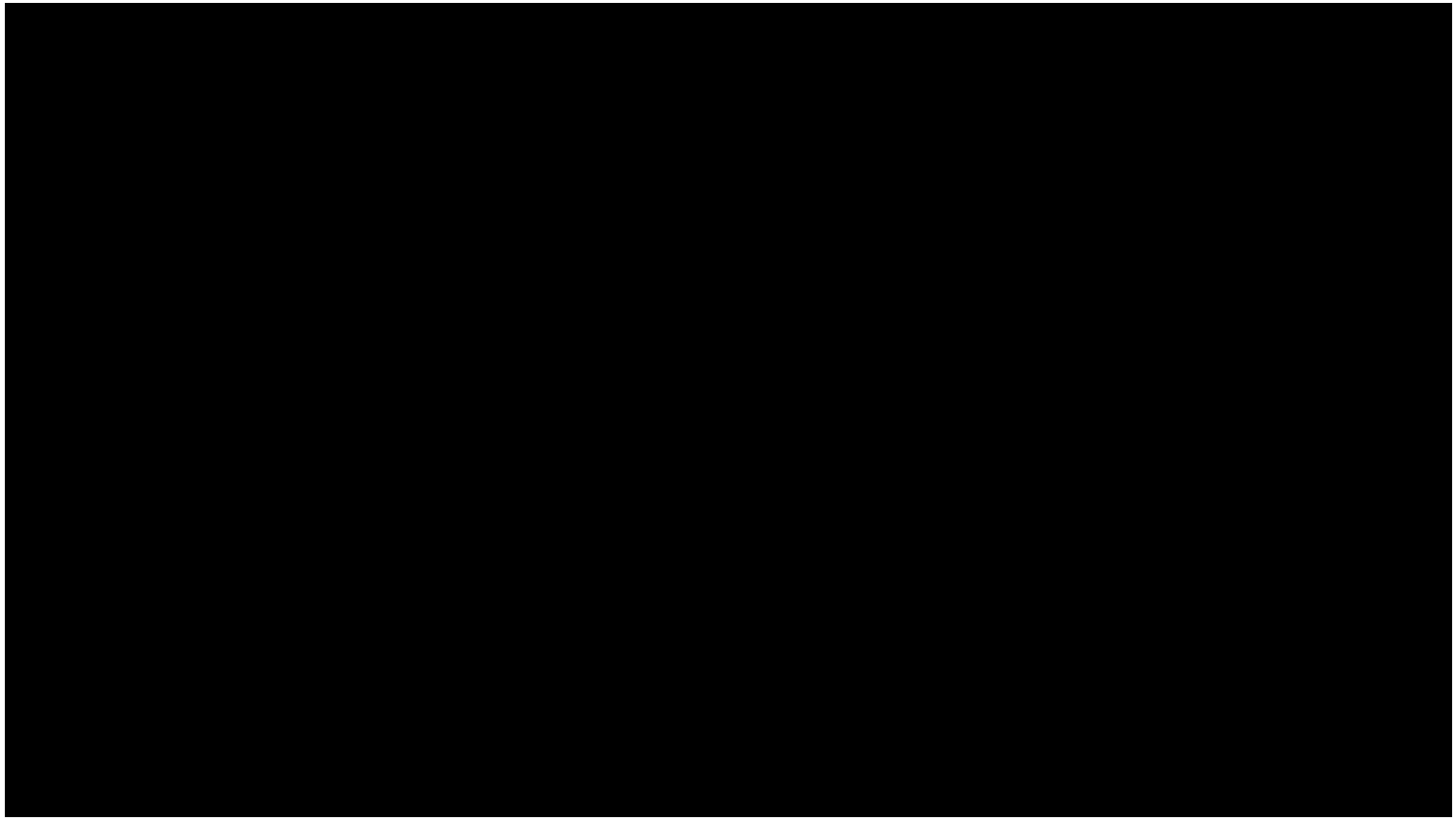
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research: Aiming Toward a Student Centered, Innovative and Interactive Teaching of Marine Sciences

Dimitris Podaras, Wanda Plaiti, Thalia Polychronaki

- The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), the largest marine science research foundation in Greece, is a governmental organization which was created from the integration of IMBC (Institute of Marine Biology of Crete (1987)) and NCMR (National Centre for Marine Research (1985)) in the year 2003.
- It’s aim is to study and explore the aquatic environment and all aspects that may affect it. HCMR carries out scientific and technological research, develops and applies corresponding experiments, tries to disseminate and implement the produced results.

- HCMR is comprised of three research Institutes and two aquaria:
- Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC)
- Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters (IMBRIW)
- Institute of Oceanography (IO)
- CRETAquarium (the largest and most modern aquarium in Greece)
- Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes (the first aquarium in Greece, operating since 1963)

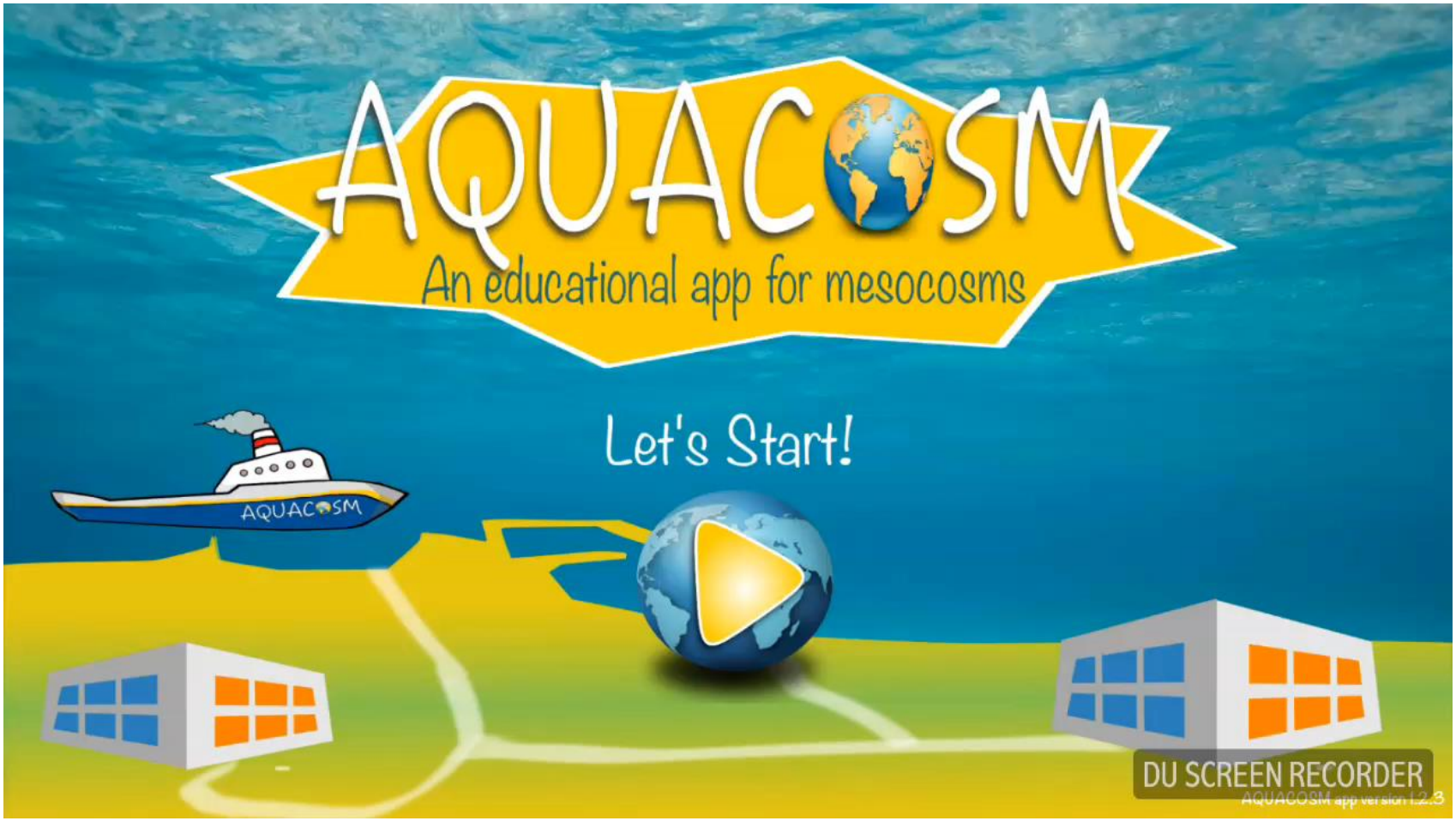
- HCMR's facilities are dispersed at 3 locations (at Anavyssos in Attica, at Gournes of Heraklion Crete - complex building of Thalassokosmos - and on the island Rhodes) and
- Dispite of the extended coastal area and the large number of Greece’s islands (more than 3000) public’s knowledge about the aquatic environment is really poor.



- In addition to its scientific role and its marine research and exploration aims, one of HCMR's fundamental goals is reaching out to the public and diffusing the scientific knowledge concerning the marine world, especially the Mediterranean, in an effort to increase awareness.

This is accomplished through its 2 aquaria with their corresponding educational department staff as well as HCMR's Education Unit (EdU), comprised by a team of marine scientists from the various institutes that devote part of their time for the realization of this goal. More specifically with student groups of Primary and Secondary Education that visit the various HCMR facilities and participate in the educational programs offered, the aim is to increase the understanding of the aquatic ecosystems' mechanisms and functions, to communicate the current problems and issues of the marine/aquatic environment as well as the effects of the various anthropogenic activities

- In addition more specialized and focused science training of under-graduate and post-graduate students is carried out through short-term rotations, or long–term thesis related work. In this educational role HCMR tries to use innovative and hands-on methods using all possible senses in order to accomplish better comprehension in a hope of contributing toward a better sustainable ecosystem management in the future... because "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968).


AQUACOSM
An educational app for mesocosms
Let's Start!
AQUACOSM
DU SCREEN RECORDER
AQUACOSM app version 1.2.3