Exploring the marine meiofauna of the Azores – from discovery to scientific publication (15.7.-24.7.19)
Preliminary program:

Schedule	Monday 15.7.19	Tuesday 16.7.19	Wednesday 17.7.19	Thursday 18.7.19	Friday 19.7.19
09.00 - Morning session Lecture	Introduction to the workshop (people, facilities, schedule and aims; Ana Ricardo Costa/ Katharina Jörger) Opening lecture: Azores marine biodiversity (Ana Costa)	Meiofaunal Scalidophora (Andreas Schmidt-Rhaesa)	Intertidal and meiofaunal annelids (Alejandro Martínez Garcia)	Taxonomy and diversity of meiofaunal molluscs (Katharina Jörger)	The Proseriata (Platyhelminthes): the interest of unappealing worms (Marco Curini-Galetti)
Lab work	Laboratory set-up, handling and documentation of specimens	Sampling and handling Scalidophora	Sampling and handling Annelida	Sampling and handling Mollusca	Sampling and handling Platyhelminthes
LUNCH TIME					
14.00 - Afternoon session	Acoelomorpha – phylogenetic position, systematic and how to identify them (Ulf Jondelius)	Marine nematodes: taxonomy and ecology (Alberto Navarrete)	Geology and paleobiogeography of the Azores (Sérgio Avila)	Taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of meiofaunal Nemertea and relevant research opportunities (Jon Norenburg)	Rhabdocoel flatworms, a diverse component of marine meiofauna (Tom Artois)
	Sampling and handling Acoelomorpha	Sampling and handling Nematoda	Lab session	Sampling and handling Nemertea	Sampling and handling Platyhelminthes
DINNER					
Evening gathering	Sampling strategies and data management (Freya Goetz)	Open discussion on taxonomic highlights and interesting findings	Adressing biodiversity shortfalls in meiofauna ecology (Maikon di Domenico)	Open discussion on taxonomic highlights and interesting findings	Metabarcoding Meiofauna (Francesca Leasi)

Schedule	Saturday 20.7.19	Sunday 21.7.19	Monday 22.7.19	Tuesday 23.7.19	Wednesday 24.7.19
09.00 - Morning session Lecture	Introduction to Phylum Gastrotricha (Rick Hochberg)	Project design in individual teams (1:1 ratio of mentee/ mentor)	Individual project work and joined comparative sampling of sediment sample from other islands	Design of public outreach event at ExpoLabs Group work on public outreach	Closing lecture: Natural History of the Azores (Antonio Frias Martins)
Lab work	Sampling and handling Gastrotricha	Free day			Open day Activity Expo Lab
LUNCH TIME					
14.00 - Afternoon session Lecture	Tools and techniques to explore rotifer biodiversity (Diego Fontaneto)		Individual project work and joined comparative sampling of sediment sample from other islands	Group work on public outreach (including short presentation by students)	Open day Activity Expo Lab
Lab work	Sampling and handling Rotifera				
DINNER					
Evening gathering	Open discussion on taxonomic highlights and emerging diversity patters		Assessing estuarine meiofaunal communities in Lima estuary (NW Portugal) through metabarcoding (Maria Fais)	Social media and science communication evening – open discussion	Farewell party

Outline Summer school:

Taxonomic training:

- Lecture on meiofaunal taxa held by the respective taxonomist
- Hands-on training on sampling and extracting meiofauna
- Individual lab work in sorting, identifying and documenting meiofauna (direct assistance by taxonomist and technical support).
- Evening lectures on specific approaches or environments or open discussion on “animal highlights of the day” or evolutionary and biogeographical implications of the findings = baseline for the conception of research hypotheses

Project design:

- Individual scientific project design (1:1 ratio of mentee and mentor) – oral presentations and open discussion on project ideas and conception
- Comparative analyses of sediments from other islands
- Scientific communication and open lab day for the interested public/ high school students

Goal/ scientific output: Each graduate student participating in the workshop enrolls to contribute to a scientific publication on a selected meiofauna taxon collected during the summer school (ideally a species description of one of the key findings, but documentation of “morphospecies” collected during the workshop, faunal lists or small barcoding projects are also possible). Projects will be individually designed by the students in direct interaction with their mentor and presented in short oral presentations evaluated by the participants of the summer school. Project work will extent beyond the timeframe of the summer school.
All research publications will be compiled for a special volume on the diversity of the Azores.