



The Plastic Busters Project

Project Profile

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The project “**Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter project**” is an initiative led by the University of Siena and being coordinated with fifteen other partner institutions from the Mediterranean region.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea through the promotion of the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention - IG.21/9). The main objectives and activities focus on: a) addressing the marine litter related knowledge gaps via monitoring, assessment and mitigation; b) developing and implementing concrete actions to prevent, reduce, identify convergence areas and remove marine litter; c) developing actions to enhance the awareness of stakeholders and catalyse change in their perceptions and attitudes towards waste.

The project was presented to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and labelled by the 43 UfM Member countries at the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on February 17, 2016. ‘Plastic Busters’ is indeed in line with the recommendations of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (May 2014) and the UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy (November 2015) underlying the importance of joint regional de - pollution and pollution prevention efforts. Following the labelling by UfM, the University of Siena, the UN-SDSN and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), took the initiative to organize a series of meetings in Siena, Italy to support the project consolidation and coordination in view of launching its fund raising campaign and, as soon as possible, implementation.

The meeting will be devoted to the consolidation, lobbying and enforcing between the network of Plastic Busters consortium members and interaction with stakeholders and potential Donors.

PROJECT AREA

The project activities will be implemented at regional level in the Mediterranean Sea, and will include pilot actions to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter, which will serve as best practices to be replicated in a basin scale.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A comprehensive assessment of the status (amounts, composition, and impacts on marine species & human health) of marine litter;
- A hotspot analysis/mapping of marine litter accumulation areas in the Mediterranean;
- A set of comprehensive recommendations developed based on sound scientific evidence and findings;

- Strengthened involvement and participation of 50-60 regional marine litter experts ;
- At least 10 demonstration projects showcasing specific prevention and mitigation actions;
- A comprehensive assessment of the status of implementation of the regional plan on Marine Litter;
- A package of updated measures to fully tackle marine litter towards a litter free Mediterranean;
- Awareness campaigns carried out in at least 15 countries of the Mediterranean.

WORK PACKAGES:

WP 1 – Coordination and Management of the activities in the project and dealing with the monitoring and sustainability aspects (*Leader: University of Siena SDSN-MED, MIO*)

WP 2 – Information Gaps and data collection (*Leader: University of Siena SDSN-MED*)

- 2.1- Monitoring the presence and effects of plastic debris in marine ecosystems**
(*Task Leader: University of Siena SDSN-MED, Ifremer and UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL designated laboratories*)
- 2.2- Plastic debris accumulation areas and their variability information mapping**
(*Task Leader: SOCIB*)
- 2.3- Detecting the effects of marine litter on marine trophic webs and fishery resources**
(*Task Leader: ISPRA*)
- 2.4 – Investigating the impacts of plastics on human health**
(*Task Leader: SDSN-MED*)

WP 3 – Design and implementation of demonstration projects showcasing actions to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea (*Leader: MIO-ECSDE*)

WP 4 – Assess the status of the implementation of the regional plan at national, sub-regional and regional level, identifies and prioritizes as appropriate additional prevention and mitigation measures to tackle marine litter in the region (*Leader: UNEP/MAP*)

WP 5 – Awareness raising and education for sustainable development (*Leader: MIO-ECSDE, Fispmed, University of Siena –SDSN-MED*)

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of the project include all key stakeholders that should be involved in the project activities in order to ensure their effective implementation. These include stakeholders from the following sectors:

- Regional authorities, municipalities & local authorities, including port authorities;
- Decision making bodies at local, national and regional level ;
- Coastal and Marine industry (Commercial fishing, Shipping, Aquaculture, Coastal Tourism);
- Waste management sector (Waste collection and transportation, Waste separation, Waste disposal to landfill, Waste recycling, Sewage treatment);
- Environmental NGOs ;
- Educational community (Educators & students) and the wider public ;
- The industry sector (including plastics industry).

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- University of Siena (SDSN - MED Solutions) (IT) (Lead promoter)
- UNEP/MAP along with its network MEDPOL designated monitoring laboratories
- MIO-ECSDE, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (GR)
- IFREMER, Institut Français de Recherche Pour L'Exploitation de la Mer (FR)
- SOCIB, Balearic Islands Coastal Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (ES)
- ISPRA, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Laboratory of Ichthyology and Marine ecology (IT)
- Biochemistry and Environmental Toxicology, Higher Institute of Agronomy, University of Sousse (TN)
- IWRS, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (SI)
- CNR, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Consorzio Lamma (IT)
- HCMR, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (GR)
- ISOTECH (CY)
- Consorzio Mediterraneo (IT)
- ECNC Land & Sea Group (ES)
- University of Bologna (IT)
- FispMed

PROJECT DURATION 4 years

TOTAL COST 8 810,800 Euros

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