



4th International Learning Event

The role of local communities, how to improve awareness of beach-users and the citizen science in preventing, managing and monitoring marine litter in coastal sites.

2nd December 2020, 9:30 – 13:00 (CET)

Online event via Zoom platform.

Host: IU-ECOQUA, Univ. of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)

PRESENTATIONS' SUMMARIES

(V. 1st Dec 2020)

Stakeholders presentations – session 1

Moderator: Mrs. Inmaculada González (IU-ECOQUA, ULPGC; CAPonLITTER project partner).

'Gewässerretter' - A strong clean-up partnership between NABU and German water sports associations.

Mr. David Pfender, expert for Oceans without plastics at NABU (Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union).

Short summary: Nature conservation and water sports are working together to combat the increasing littering of seas, rivers and lakes. On the platform www.gewaesserretter.de garbage can be documented and reported to get data on the garbage load of domestic waters. Cleaning actions can be planned, applied and balanced and it gives information as well as practical advice around the topics of garbage in waters, garbage avoidance and preservation of resources.

Speaker invited by: German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt, UBA – PP8).

OBAM – Observatorio de Basura Marina: stakeholders' involvement for monitoring marine litter in Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve.

Mr. Tony Gallardo, Management Director, Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve.

Short summary: The main objective of the Marine Litter Observatory is to monitor the amount of marine litter present in the marine areas protected by the Natura 2000 Network, as well as the marine area of the Fuerteventura Island Biosphere Reserve. Synergies between different groups, from the fishing sector to tourism, including all the associations active in the fight against plastic have been established through this initiative.

Speaker invited by: IU-ECOQUA (ULPGC- PP9).



Creando con Ciencia Project: scientific monitoring of microplastics pollution on the coast of Fuerteventura linked to citizen science and environmental education.

Mrs. Yanira Cáceres, president at AVANFUER and linked to the Youth Department of Fuerteventura Island Council.

Short summary: The project was born in 2018 through the volunteering of a group of young people with multidisciplinary profiles (marine biology, environmental education...), as a result of activities of coastal action and cleaning together with the NGO AVANFUER. In addition to the waste cleaning activities, we felt the need to collect information on plastic pollution on the island's beaches. We started a systematic monitoring of marine litter, focusing on the microplastics in 6 sandy beaches of Fuerteventura with different characteristics and a higher degree of exposure to currents. The activities are open to the public, transforming the project into a tool for citizen science and environmental education. Through participation tools, both face-to-face and digital (@creando_con_ciencia) we disseminate good practices for reducing plastic in homes. To date, more than 50 scientific sampling activities have been carried out on the beaches of Fuerteventura with the participation of more than 500 volunteers and we have diagnosed the abundance and characterization of the plastic present in various beaches of Fuerteventura.

Speaker invited by: IU-ECOQUA (ULPGC- PP9).

ReMed Zéro Plastique, a network aiming at reducing marine litter in the Mediterranean.

Isabelle Poitou (Director at MerTerre, CAPonLITTER project partner) and Ms. Anne Settimelli, founder and director of the NGO Explore & Preserve, and member of the ReMed network.

Short summary: We will present our collaborative platform 'ReMed Zéro Plastique' of citizen science. 'ReMed Zéro Plastique' is a network that brings together and federates, in the South East of France, any organization or stakeholder who wishes to contribute to the reduction of marine litter ending up in the Mediterranean Sea (NGO, public actors, managers, schools, companies, business groups, etc.). Ms. Anne Settimelli will complement this presentation by testifying about her use of the ReMed platform and its utility to prevent, manage and monitor marine litter in coastal sites.

Speaker invited by: MerTerre (PP7)

The role of local communities in rising public participation in prevention of plastic litter.

Mr. Boyan Savov, Bulgarian Coastal Association.

Short summary: Collecting data from the sea and using innovative monitoring and modelling techniques.

Speaker invited by: Union of Bulgarian BlackSea Local Authorities (UBBSLA - PP4)



Stakeholders presentations – session 2

Moderator: Mrs. Yaiza Fernández-Palacios (IU-ECOQUA, ULPGC; CAPonLITTER project partner).

The SeaFloor Plastic Survey and how to protect our oceans from plastic waste.

Ms. Natividad Sánchez, Campaign Director, Plastics, Oceana Europe

Short summary: She will present on their research regarding the Seafloor Plastic Survey, an often hidden impact of the marine litter which is dumped into the Mediterranean each year. She will provide an overview of the methodology used, their findings and finally some solutions that they advocate for with local stakeholders to prevent plastic waste.

Speaker invited by: Zero Waste Europe (AP6).

Green Habits for a Sustainable Labin Area.

Mr. Robert Mohorović, City of Labin.

Short summary: The presentation will cover the project "Green Habits for a Sustainable Labin Area" which purpose was to build and raise awareness of citizens and guests of Labin and municipalities of Labin area about the importance of responsible municipal waste handling, waste prevention, proper household waste separation, composting and reusing objects in order to reduce the amount of waste disposed at landfills and consequently the amount of waste which ends on coastal sites.

Speaker invited by: Istrian Regional Energy Agency (IRENA - PP3)

Amarsul Eco Praias 'Let's recycle by the sea' - a campaign that invites the population to be more sustainable".

Mrs. Susana Silva, Communication and Awareness Manager at Amarsul.

Short summary: The EcoPraias campaign returned in 2020 for another edition to "recycle by the sea" on the Peninsula of Setúbal, in Portugal. Promoted by Amarsul, the campaign encouraged citizens who visited the beaches, as well as commercial establishments that explore the beaches, to be more sustainable, adopting good practices to separate waste and increase the use of existing recycling containers.

Speaker invited by: Nova University Lisbon - NOVA School of Science and Technology (FCT-NOVA - LP1)

Challenges and Solutions in marine litter faced by Municipality of Platanias with specifically geomorphological and population diversity.

Mrs. Katerina Litou, International & European Relationships Studies, MSc in Business Administration, Scientific Contributor of EU Projects HORIZON Platanias Municipality.

Short summary: The Municipality of Platanias has to face two basic challenges about marine litter. As it is one of Crete's most touristic areas, with long, sandy coastline and remote attractions, it has emerged as one of the most favorite tourist destinations in the whole country, attracting thousands of visitors every year. This high seasonal fluctuation due to tourism, accumulates a large waste mass mainly on the coastline of the Municipality. Furthermore it is a region with a geomorphological diversity where due to extreme weather conditions (such as floods of 2017, 2019), thousands km of load-bearing materials are transported from the inland to the coastline. The beaches of the region along with other neighboring areas of high natural value, have joined the European NATURA 2000



network. These areas include *Caretta caretta* sea turtle nesting beaches. This is an important parameter that the Municipality of Platania takes seriously into account in the coastal waste collection. The cleaning operations of the beaches performed mainly by manual means in order to avoid the compression of the sand by wheeled vehicles. In this framework the presentation includes: Good practices followed by the Municipality; Studies and Projects in progress; Awareness campaign on cleanliness and recycling for citizens.

These main pillars in progress: the citizens' awareness along with the infrastructures and studies, contribute to the vision of the Municipality of Platania for a Green Destination, an attractive, accessible, safer and healthier environment to live, work and enjoy!

Speaker invited by: Region of Crete (PP5)

Plasticus maritimus: an invasive species. The role of art and creativity in ocean literacy.

Mrs. Ana Pego, marine biologist, an author and a beachcomber.

Short summary: Since 2012, Ana has been mainly dedicated to projects within environmental education, combining science with art to inform people about marine life and raising awareness of the preservation of oceans (namely the issue of plastic waste). As a result, she created Plasticus maritimus, the name of the invasive species that started to inhabit the oceans.

Speaker invited by: Portuguese Environment Agency (APA - PP2)