



Action Plan for Portugal

Final version (21.07.22)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



NOVA SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



agência portuguesa
do ambiente

Lisbon, 5th July 2022



Part I – General Information

Project: Capitalising Good Coastal Practices and Improving Policies to Prevent Marine Litter – CAPonLITTER. PGI06172

Partners organisations concerned:

- NOVA University Lisbon – NOVA School of Science and Technology (LP-1)
- Portuguese Environment Agency – APA (PP-2)

Country: Portugal

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Part II – Policy Context

II. 1. THE ACTION PLAN AIMS TO IMPACT:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

II. 2. NAME OF THE POLICY INSTRUMENT ADDRESSED:

The CAPonLITTER Project aimed to elaborate an Action Plan that would contribute to improving the Operational Programme Sustainability and Efficiency on the Use of Resources (POSEUR) on the issue of marine litter and its impacts/origins on coastal recreational activities. However, POSEUR is in its final stage. After two years of work, the project itself showed the team that other policy instruments could also benefit from the project experience. In this context and based on the sharing of good practices among national and European stakeholders, other existing policy instruments were re-evaluated. Therefore, the Environmental Fund (Fundo Ambiental) will be the new policy instrument.

The Environmental Fund is created through Decree-Law no. 42-A/2016, August 12th. The Fund aims to support environmental policies pursuing sustainable development objectives, contributing to the achievement of national and international goals and commitments, particularly those related to climate change, water resources, waste, and the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

The Fund finances entities, activities, or projects that fulfil the following objectives, among others:

- a) Prevention and repair of environmental damage.
- b) Compliance with national and EU objectives and targets for municipal waste management.
- c) Transition to a circular economy.
- d) Protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity.
- e) Capacity building and awareness in environmental matters.
- f) Environmental research and development.

The Fund may establish articulation mechanisms with other public and private entities, namely with public or private national, European, or international funds, related to developing environmental policies pursuing sustainable development objectives.

The budget for this Fund has been published on Dispatch no. 3143-B/2022, of 14 March, and from the several notices for candidatures, two of them are directly related to the CAPonLITTER project. The first one is called "CAPonLITTER project – Supporting municipalities on the



elaboration of zero-waste plans in coastal areas". It has an allocated budget of 750.000€ and the Actions 1, 2 and 3 of this Action Plan will be based on this. The second notice referred as "Winter beach cleaning" will be the funding for Action 4, with an allocated budget of 1.000.000€.

The LP1/PP2 CAPonLITTER team was asked to construct these two notices (1.750.000€ in total), namely, their objectives and their evaluation criteria, based on all the national and international learning from the CAPonLITTER team.

II. 3. ACTION PLAN STRUCTURE

The CAPonLITTER project held three national workshops in Portugal involving a wide range of stakeholders. In the first national stakeholders' workshop, the most participating stakeholders were asked three questions, which they worked on interactively in group discussions. The three questions were:

- 1) What is the main challenge to achieving a "Zero Waste" Event?
- 2) What is the main challenge to achieving a "Zero Waste" Beach? and
- 3) What is the main challenge to achieving a "Zero Waste" Community?

The answers were unanimous, and the following priorities were pointed out:

- A. More education and culture for sustainability and the issue of marine litter.
- B. Active involvement of economic agents and citizens who must be motivated for this design, and
- C. Support infrastructures that enable more sustainable behaviours.

In this context and based on the intense sharing of experiences and good practices that resulted from CAPonLITTER, the Portuguese Action Plan defined four pivots or priorities for action. It is important to emphasise that, despite the pandemic situation that was set right at the beginning of the project - February-March 2020 - CAPonLITTER held 5 physical interregional Learning Events and 5 online ones, with the full participation of all the 9 Project Partners and their invited Stakeholders.

The four Action Plan priorities are:

- 1. Reduce marine litter from recreational activities near the coast and at sea, with the direct involvement of citizens and coastal business**
- 2. Improvement of collection infrastructures/equipment**
- 3. Promote education and literacy for sustainability**
- 4. Reduce marine litter from fishing**



All the selected actions were identified based on sharing experiences and good practices among stakeholders that intend to be replicated or adapted to the chosen local contexts and are linked to one or more priorities like the above referred.





Part III – Actions

ACTION 1

Eco-Centres of the Sea. Zero-waste fishing communities.

Rationale

Fishing is one of the activities that most contributes to the increase in the amount of marine litter, namely the deposition of synthetic materials, which originates in the equipment used in fishing gear. One of the major problems of the accidental or intentional abandonment of fishing equipment, in particular fishing nets, is contributing to the worsening of ghost fishing, which consists of inadvertently trapping and capturing species. The abandonment of the most used fishing nets has a very significant impact on the degradation of coastal ecosystems due to the release of microplastics over a long period of time - 600 to 800 years, time for decomposition of the materials constituting the nets such as synthetic polymers.

Another problem that exists in fishing communities is related to a deficient collection for recycling fishing nets and other fishing gear that are lost or abandoned for various reasons. It is very rare to have collection points for recycling, so, in addition to replacing synthetic materials, it is proposed to install suitable containers for recycling in places where there is fishing activity.

This problem is particularly important in tourist locations, where traditional coastal communities still exist and where traditional fishing activity has a high socio-cultural and tourist importance. This is also a problem that was identified in other regions that are part of the CAPonLITTER, like the Canary Islands (PP9) or the Region of Crete (PP5).

The close work with some of the Portuguese stakeholders showed and explained to us this matter. The Arte Xávega (Portuguese traditional and old fishing craft) Fisherman association of Costa da Caparica 'Ala-Ala' shared in the events their difficulties in being able to correctly dispose of their waste (namely fishing nets and other gear). Another stakeholder, Docapesca, which is the entity responsible for the management of the fishing ports in Portugal, presented already good practices, like the 'Pesca por um mar sem lixo' (Fishing for Litter – Fishing for a sea without waste) project, where waste bins are offered for use in the fishing vessels and some specific areas created for waste disposal at the ports. At last, the E-Redes Project (<https://www.e-redes.esposende.pt/>), which resulted from the involvement of the fishing community of the Esposende Municipality showed that already are interesting solutions and initiatives for replacing synthetic fishing nets by sustainable ones. All of this strongly inspired the Action 1 of the CAPonLITTER Portuguese Action Plan.



Action description

The Portuguese Government, through the General-Secretary of the Environment (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action) also recognized and agreed with this rationale and, accordingly to the Dispatch no. 3143-B/2022 of 14 March, they have allocated 750.000€ to the Environmental Fund for coastal municipalities projects launched by the CAPonLITTER project. For this specific action, a funding line of 400.000€ is allocated, with a maximum of 100.000€ per project. This funding line is destined for Municipalities that create zero-waste plans for their Fishing Communities and for the infrastructure needed for implementing them.

The Action consists of monitoring if Municipalities are applying to this Notice, how are they applying and if they have success. Then, the LP1 and PP2 teams will also monitor the results of those projects.

The Environmental Fund will evaluate the eligibility of the project based on four criteria defined by the Portuguese CAPonLITTER team:

- a) Construction/installation of the infrastructures needed for the collection of fishing gear waste, synthetical materials related to the fishing activities, and single-use plastic items.
- b) Strategy for the valorisation of the collected waste.
- c) The literacy, awareness raising, capacity building, information, and empowerment of the fishing community.
- d) The attribution of an award/label/prize envisaging the recognition and incentive for the implementation of good practices by the fishing community.

The applications that make use of the future CAPonLITTER Green Book or of the Interreg Europe Good Practices platform will have a bonus on their scores. The Notice will especially value the applications that plan to install equipment for the fishing waste collection, with an appropriate design for the types of waste that will intend to receive and that allows their content to be seen. It will also highly value the applications that show that the fishing communities actively participated in the design of the equipment, that sort, recycle and reuse the collected waste items, that have a communication and information plan, empowering the fishing community to be active players on the waste reduction, and that predicts a pecuniary prize for the fisherman, vessel or campaign that implemented a remarkable good practice, to recognize it and support its implementation.

LP1 – FCT NOVA and PP2 – APA teams will use the CAPonLITTER Phase 2 to monitor and report on the number of applications to the Notice and the scores and aspects to improve, being available to support the evaluation team on any matters that may surge. The teams will keep very close cooperation with the selected applications, supporting them in a successful and impactful implementation.



Stakeholders involved

- Environmental Fund Board, General-Secretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
- Municipalities that apply to the Environmental Fund Notice
- Fishing Communities, where the municipal plans/regulations are being implemented

Timeframe

	2022					2023						
	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Publication of the Notice in the National Official Journal (Diário da República).	█	█										
Publishing of the results and scores. Monitoring and reporting.			█	█								
Monitoring and support of the elaboration of the Municipal plans that were funded					█	█	█	█	█			
Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the plans										█	█	█

Costs

The costs of the plans will depend on the Municipalities applications to the Notice.

Funding

For this Notice, the Environmental Fund allocated 400.000€, supporting a maximum of 100.000€ per application. Other related initiatives may be funded using other sources, like the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (FEAMPA)

Expected impact

The aim is to reduce the gathering of marine litter from fishing activities reducing impacts on ecosystems, at least, through four Zero-Waste Fishing Communities plans:

- Reducing the number of nets, net cuttings and other fighting gear items that may go to the seas.
- Reducing the occurrence of Ghost Fishing.
- Providing adequate infrastructure for the disposal and recycling of these types of waste.
- Empowerment of fishing communities and consumers with ocean literacy campaigns, and,
- Possibility of fish sustainability certification process.





ACTION 2 Zero-Waste Festivals

Rationale

Especially during Summer, Portugal hosts many coastal festivals and events of many different types and sizes. These festivals have an impact on the coastal areas, mainly because of the plastic single-use items used there. The Portuguese CAPonLITTER stakeholders identified some of these festivals, a few already with relevant good practices.

The 'Caparica Surf Fest' is an annual surf festival at Costa da Caparica beach (Almada municipality), generating a great deal of waste, not considering the single-use plastics produced. The festival takes place on the beach, with the support infrastructure next to the promenade, and much of the waste ends up being washed out to sea.

Also in Costa da Caparica, the 'Sol da Caparica' music festival is organised in the city park, very close to the beach. Bigger than the 'Caparica Surf Fest', this festival attracts (before the COVID-19 crisis) more than 20,000 people each day, producing tons of waste, especially plastic single-use food, and beverage items.

Similar to 'Caparica Surf Fest', the Torres Vedras municipality also organizes a zero-waste surf festival, 'Santa Cruz Ocean Spirit. Since its beginning, 'Ocean Spirit' has had environmental protection actions, focused on the cigarette butts collection, distribution of reusable glasses, promotion of tap water drinking, and sorting of recyclable waste and the promotion of the best practices from the bars and vendors of the festival.

Música no Coração is a music festival producer, that organizes some of the biggest music festivals in Portugal, some of them very close or in coastal areas. Some examples are 'Super Bock Super Rock', 'MEO Sudoeste', or 'Sumol Summer Fest'. They have already tried to implement some of the good practices of the previous examples, partly funded through Notices of the Environmental Fund.

Besides the sharing of these good practices among the Portuguese Stakeholders network, these good practices have been presented in the 6th Interregional Learning Event and shared along with the Project Partners and respective stakeholders.

The good practices presented in the project's Interregional Learning Events (ILE) have inspired Action 2, too. On ILE#5, Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolitan Area, from France, presented their good practices on waste management and zero-plastic events. On ILE#6, a good practice presented by the Fisheries Local Action group Alba, in Croatia, about a plastic-free Shrimp Festival. This good practice, however, as it involves the use of glass plates/cutlery, can only be implemented in the restaurants' area of the festivals – not allowing the participants to leave this area without delivering the glasses – for legal and security reasons.



Action description

The Portuguese team and stakeholders have concluded that there are already good practices applied in different festivals that should be more disseminated and even integrated into municipal or national regulations.

The Portuguese Government, through the General-Secretary of the Environment (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action) also recognized this and, accordingly to the Dispatch no. 3143-B/2022 of 14 March, they have allocated 750.000€ to the Environmental Fund for coastal municipalities projects launched by the CAPonLITTER project. From this budget, a funding line of 100.000€ will be allocated to this specific action, with a maximum of 25.000€ per project.

The Action consists of monitoring if Municipalities are applying to this Notice, how are they applying and if they have success. Then, the LP1 and PP2 teams will also monitor the results of those projects.

With these plans, it is desired that each municipality has a concrete plan and set out rules that guide the event's promoters on implementing the good practices already identified in the context of the CAPonLITTER project or others.

The Environmental Fund will evaluate the eligibility of the project based on four criteria defined by the Portuguese CAPonLITTER team:

- a) The creation and implementation of strategical municipal plans and the respective regulation to implement zero-waste coastal events that can impact coastal areas.
- b) Elaboration of Good Practices Guides for producers and users of the zero-waste coastal events that can impact coastal areas.
- c) The literacy, awareness raising, information and empowerment of the producers and users of the zero-waste coastal events that can impact coastal areas.
- d) The recognition, incentives, and promotion of the implemented good practices.

The applications that make use of the future CAPonLITTER Green Book or of the Interreg Europe Good Practices platform will have a bonus on their scores. The Notice will value the applications that clearly state objectives, targets, and performance indicators, that are co-constructed with the organisers of the events and even the users, that address not only the single-use plastic waste but also cigarette butts and other types of waste, that do the dissemination of the guides on innovative and dematerialized ways, that have awareness raising, literacy and empowerment actions, and that set an award/price or other kind of reward to recognize the implemented good practices,

LP1 – FCT NOVA and PP2 – APA teams will use the CAPonLITTER Phase 2 to monitor and report on the number of applications to the Notice and the scores and aspects to improve, being available to support the evaluation team on any matters that may arise. The teams



will keep very close cooperation with the selected applications teams, supporting them towards a successful and impactful implementation.

Stakeholders involved

- Environmental Fund Board, General-Secretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
- Municipalities that apply to the Environmental Fund Notice
- Entities involved in the organization of Coastal Events, where the municipal plans/regulations are being implemented.

Timeframe

	2022					2023						
	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Publication of the Notice in the National Official Journal (Diário da República).	█	█										
Publishing of results and scores. Monitoring and reporting.			█	█								
Monitoring and support on the elaboration of the Municipal plans that were funded					█	█	█	█				
Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the plans										█	█	█

Costs

The costs of the plans will depend on the Municipalities applications to the Notice.

Funding

For this Notice, the Environmental Fund allocated 100.000€, supporting a maximum of 25.000€ per application. Other related initiatives may be funded using other sources, like the ‘Sê-Lo Verde’ fund, also part of the Environmental Fund.

Expected impact

- The creation of, at least four, municipal strategic plans for zero-waste coastal events and their implementation.
- Considerable reduction in waste production during these events.
- A cleaner environment that generates better well-being.
- Dissemination of good practices and their implementation in other municipalities and events after 2023.





ACTION 3 Zero-Waste Beaches

Rationale

It is estimated that up to 80% of marine litter sources are land-based due to: inadequate municipal waste management, undersized wastewater treatment plants, industrial waste disposal, coastal tourism, and users of coastal areas. Municipalities are authorities with responsibility in waste management and with competence in the maritime public domain, so they can and should take a leading role in solving the problems at these sites.

This action is inspired by the German good practice presented by the Clean Baltic Coalition, entitled "How Municipalities Can Reduce the Use of Single-Use Plastics on a Local Level", as well as by the law of the Balearic Islands for waste and polluted land, a regulatory instrument contributing to the prevention of marine litter. Both these practices constitute guides with examples of good practices to be implemented in coastal regions, in order to reduce the use of single-use plastics and, ultimately, prevent marine litter.

The goal is, therefore, to support Portuguese Coastal Municipalities to create Zero-Waste Beach plans aiming, among others, for the implementation of the EU Plastics Strategy, to address the waste issue and, more specifically, some items of marine litter highlighted by the monitoring program of marine litter on beaches in Portugal. This will raise awareness in the citizens and private sector, targeting the more problematic groups which still have inappropriate behaviours and that need a behavioural change. Through a combination of policy-oriented measures, public awareness campaigns, monitoring activities and the assistance to identified target groups, from the private to the municipal sector, in switching to plastic-free alternatives (e.g., hotels, rural tourism, and ecotourism houses, airlines, cruise ships).

Action description

The Portuguese Government, through the General-Secretary of the Environment (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action) recognized the importance to support these kinds of municipal plans and therefore, according to the Dispatch no. 3143-B/2022 of 14 March, they have allocated 750.000€ to the Environmental Fund for coastal municipalities projects launched by the CAPonLITTER project. From this budget, a funding line of 250.000€ will be allocated to this specific action, with a maximum of 62.500€ per project.

The Action consists of monitoring if Municipalities are applying to this Notice, how are they applying and if they have success. Then, the LP1 and PP2 teams will also monitor the results of those projects.



With these plans, it is desired that each municipality has a concrete plan and set out rules, guidelines and initiatives that encourage the implementation of good practices envisaging the reduction of waste on its beaches and the impact of it, especially the good practices that were already identified in the context of the CAPonLITTER project or others.

The Environmental Fund will evaluate the eligibility of the project based on four criteria defined by the Portuguese CAPonLITTER team:

- a) The creation and implementation of strategical municipal plans for zero-waste beaches.
- b) Elaboration of Good Practices Guides for the operators and users of beaches.
- c) The literacy, awareness raising, information and empowerment of the managers, operators, and users of the beaches.
- d) The recognition, incentives, and promotion of the implemented good practices.

The applications that make use of the future CAPonLITTER Green Book or of the Interreg Europe Good Practices platform will have a bonus on their scores. The Notice will value the applications that clearly state objectives, targets, and performance indicators, that are co-constructed with the managers, operators and even the users of the beaches, that address not only the single-use plastic waste but also cigarette butts and other types of waste, that disseminate the guides on innovative and dematerialized ways, that have awareness raising, literacy and empowerment actions, and that recognize the implemented good practices, for example, through the prizes or awards.

LP1 – FCT NOVA and PP2 – APA teams will use the CAPonLITTER Phase 2 to monitor and report on the number of applications to the Notice and the scores and aspects to improve, being available to support the evaluation team on any matters that may surge. The teams will keep very close cooperation with the selected applications, supporting them in a successful and impactful implementation.

Stakeholders involved

- Environmental Fund Board, General-Secretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
- Municipalities that apply to the Environmental Fund Notice
- Beach managers, operators, and users, where the municipal plans/regulations are being implemented.



Timeframe

	2022					2023						
	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Publication of the Notice in the National Official Journal (Diário da República).	■	■										
Publishing of results and scores. Monitoring and reporting.			■	■								
Monitoring and support on the elaboration of the Municipal plans that were funded					■	■	■	■	■			
Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the plans										■	■	■

Costs

The plans' costs will depend on the Municipalities applications to the Notice.

Funding

For this Notice, the Environmental Fund allocated 250.000€, supporting a maximum of 62.500€ per application. Other related initiatives may be funded using other sources, like other funding lines of Environmental Fund or even other instruments like the future successor of OP SEUR.

Expected impact

- The creation of, at least four, municipal strategic plans for zero-waste beaches and their implementation.
- Considerable reduction in waste production on the Portuguese beaches
- A cleaner environment that generates better well-being.
- Dissemination of good practices and their implementation in other municipalities and events after 2023.
- Increased awareness of local problems and improved behaviour of the general population with a consequent significant reduction in many types of problematic waste for the region.





ACTION 4 Winter Beach Cleaning

Rationale

During winter months, long stretches of beaches are not cleaned. At this time of the year, high tides bring a lot of waste, such as fishing nets, traps, ropes, and packaging, to the shore. If they are not collected and placed safely from the next tides, all this waste will return to the sea.

This action is inspired by the Croatian good practice (Blue Bag Initiative), where bags are made available, through periods of time, and everyone interested can get one and collect marine litter. Moreover, as the marine litter collected on the blue bags needs to be deposited in large collection bins, the good practice from Fuerteventura, entitled "Clean Ocean Project - Playa Pallet Project", where wooden boxes made from used pallets are used as bins for marine litter at the adherent beaches, was also inspiration for Action 4 - Winter Beach Cleaning.

The German good practice "Beach Waste Management - the example of the island Spiekeroog" was an inspiration for this action too, since it also involves the use of boxes to collect marine litter - and it raised awareness to additional the attention that needs to be paid to these bins during winter months, so they do not get destroyed due to extreme weather events and energetic waves.

Action description

From the inspiration of the good practices gathered throughout Phase 1 of the CAPonLITTER project, like the ones above, the Portuguese Government, through the General-Secretary of the Environment (Ministry of Environment and Climate Action) opened a Notice to support these kinds of actions and fund municipal, NGO's or local non-profit organizations plans and initiatives, not only during the summer season and on the most frequented beaches but during wintertime, and in beach with lesser access and use. That is stated in the Dispatch no. 3143-B/2022 of 14 March, where 1.000.000€ was allocated from the Environmental Fund to the funding of these plans and initiatives.

The Environmental Fund will evaluate the eligibility of the project based on FIVE criteria defined by the Portuguese CAPonLITTER team:

- a) Typology of the project.
- b) Promotion and dissemination of the cleaning action and environmental awareness raising.
- c) Treatment of the collected waste.
- d) Action plan - Execution and frequency.
- e) Installation of cage bins for big marine waste items in beaches.



The applications that make use of the future CAPonLITTER Green Book or of the Interreg Europe Good Practices platform will have a bonus on their scores. The Notice will value the applications from consortiums that includes Municipality and Local Non-Profit Organizations with Environmental NGO, that disseminates and promotes their results envisaging the awareness raising and behaviour improvement tips, that sorts, recycles, reuses and identifies the collected waste, that predicts at least monthly beach cleanings, especially in the four legal categories of beaches (urban, periurban, seminatural and natural) and that predicts, besides their installation, plans, the maintenance plan of the cage bins, and paths for the final destiny of the sorted waste, along the dissemination of the information through websites and social media.

LP1 – FCT NOVA and PP2 – APA teams will use the CAPonLITTER Phase 2 to monitor and report on the number of applications to the Notice and the scores and aspects to improve, being available to support the evaluation team on any matters that may arise. The teams will keep very close cooperation with the selected applications, supporting them towards a successful and impactful implementation.

Stakeholders involved

- Environmental Fund Board, General-Secretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Climate Action
- Municipalities, Environmental NGO and other Local Non-Profit Organizations that candidates to this Notice.

Timeframe

	2022					2023						
	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Publication of the Notice in the National Official Journal (Diário da República).	█											
Publishing of results and scores. Monitoring and reporting.		█	█	█								
Monitoring and support for the projects that were funded				█	█	█	█	█	█			
Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the projects									█	█	█	█

Costs

The costs of the plans will depend on the Municipalities applications to the Notice.

Funding

For this Notice, the Environmental Fund allocated 1.000.000€.





Expected Impact

With this measure and, based on the results of the already implement good practices that served as inspiration, a substantial reduction in the return of marine litter is expected. Increase in citizen science and awareness, as well as cleaner shorelines are also expected outcomes.



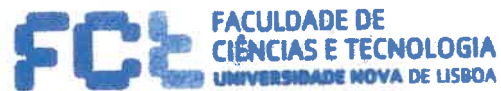


Date: 21/07/2022

Name of the organisation(s):

- NOVA University Lisbon – NOVA School of Science and Technology (LP-1)

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):



Professor Doutor José Alferes, Dean

Date: 21/07/2022

Name of the organisation(s):

- Portuguese Environment Agency – APA (PP-2)

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

Dr. Nuno Lacasta, President of the Board