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Regional Stakeholders Workshop #1 (CROATIA) – English Summary and Results

February 2020

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Title: Regional Stakeholders Workshop #1 (Croatia) – English Summary and Results

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Place: IRENA-Istrian Regional Energy Agency, Rudarska 1, Labin (Croatia)

1. Planning and logistics

1.1. Introduction

The Croatian 1st Regional Stakeholders Workshop, of the CAPonLITTER project, was organized by PP3 – Istrian Regional Energy Agency (IRENA). With the title “To the coast without litter”, it took place on 31 January 2020, at the premises of Croatian Chamber of Economy in Pula, Croatia. The event started at 10:00 and ended around 14:00, after an offered lunch.

1.2. Communication

A specific poster and programme for Regional Stakeholders Workshop was proposed by LP. PP3 selected relevant stakeholders which were invited by email. Email contained all information about the event, a small description of the project, the program, and, a link to pre-register to the event. Some stakeholders were contacted by phone close to the date, to urge them to confirm their presence at the workshop.

1.3. Venue

The meeting room of the Croatian Chamber of Economy in Pula was selected to host the Regional Stakeholders Workshop. This meeting location was selected as it has good location with easy access and due to the reason that the City of Pula represents the biggest and most important city of our region. Since in our region it was very difficult to find a meeting room to meet the requirements of the participatory process toolkit, this room was selected as the most convenient one to hold the workshop. The layout of the conference room is divided into two parts, the lobby, and the main room. At the lobby, the registration was made, and at the end of the meeting the lunch was served. The main room was used for the buffer activity space and where the main activities of the workshop were done.

1.4. Registration

The registration was made in the entrance room, with the help of one staff person. Table 1 presents the profile of the participating stakeholders.

Table 1 - Profile of the participating stakeholders.

Category	Number of participants
Packaging and Goods Producers	0
Distributors and retailers	3
Consumers	0
Waste Management Services	1
Political and Coastal Management Authorities	5
Civic and Non-Governmental Organizations	1
Academia and Research	
Total of Stakeholders	10
Staff	3

2. Workshop activities

2.1. Buffer activity

After the registration, the participants were invited to participate in the Buffer Activity. As there was less participants than expected, three questions were displayed at smaller posters, where the participants could write and paste their post-its with the answers, individually, to start the thinking process and collect their inputs.

Figure 1 presents the results of the first question “What is the biggest challenge on setting a zero-waste beach?”. Inadequate beach management, spread use of single-use items and poor infrastructure were highlighted as main challenges. Proper behaviour and need for better waste management services were also mentioned.

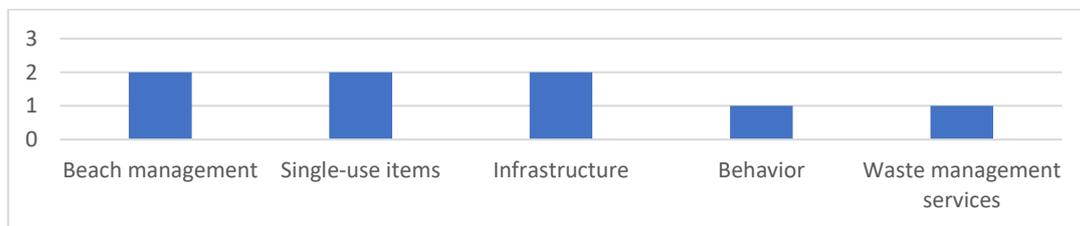


Figure 1 - Analysed results of the question about zero-waste beaches.

Figure 2 shows the analysed results for the answers for the question “What is the biggest challenge on setting a **zero-waste coastal event**?”. Most of the stakeholders mentioned the need for strengthening public awareness, improvement of garbage collection, higher costs for organization of such event and the need for zero-waste regulations/policies on the organization of these events.

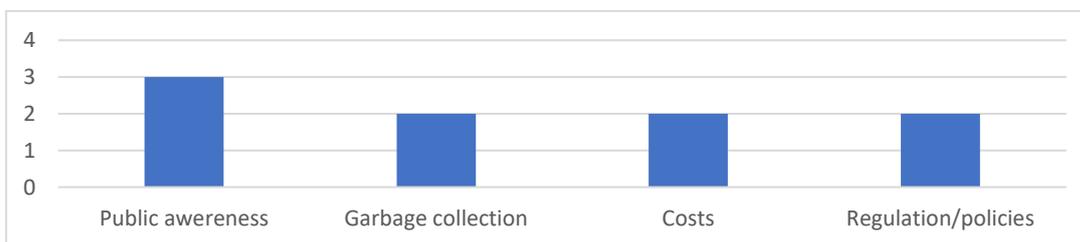


Figure 2 - Analysed results of the question about zero-waste coastal events.

On the last question, “What is the biggest challenge on setting a zero-waste coastal community?”, the main challenges identified by the stakeholders were the need for triggering the motivation among the citizens and improvement of their behaviour concerning zero-waste commitment. The second challenge identified was poor infrastructure correlated with the overcapacity in the coastal area and they also mentioned the need for better waste management services, and for better communication between all the actors.

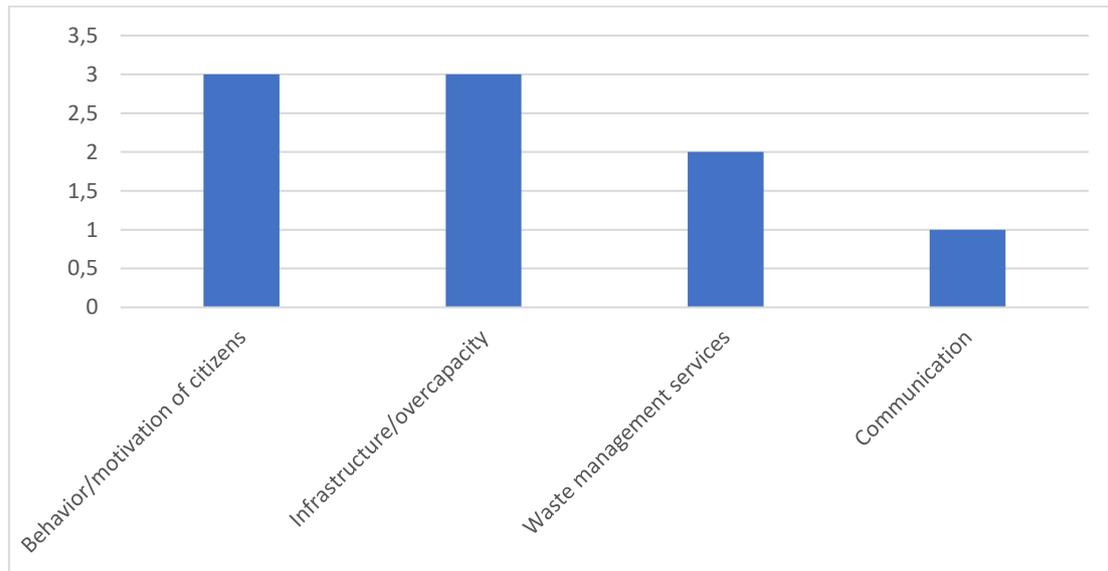


Figure 3 - Analysed results of the question about zero-waste coastal communities.

2.2. Project presentations

After the introduction speech, Andrea Poldrugovac from IRENA presented the main features of the CAPonLITTER project, the activities and the main goals of the project. In his presentation, he emphasized that the main goals are to improve policies that could regulate and promote better waste management at beach facilities and services related to recreational events taking place in coastal areas, to improve policies for managing specific packaging items that are among the most common types of marine waste, and engagement of key stakeholders by raising awareness and promoting responsible behaviour.

After the introductory part, Dalibor Jovanovic from IRENA held a presentation " The application of best practices in the scope of the INTERREG EUROPE programme". The presentation highlighted the importance of the INTERREG EUROPE programme and its role in advancing national and regional policies through the exchange of experience and implementation of good practices identified in the partner area. In the implementation of policy improvement itself, it is necessary to follow a unified approach through regional identification of problems, inter-regional finding of solutions, development of an action plan and during the implementation of the action plan, to have a positive impact on the identified policy instruments. Dalibor Jovanovic from IRENA concluded his presentation by presenting several examples of good marine waste management practices from different EU regions.

The BlueBag initiative as an example of good practice was presented by Vlatko Ignatoski, president of the Association “The seashore of our posterity”. It is an eco-tourism programme designed for yachtsmen, tourists and all nature lovers who seek to encourage volunteer cleaning of the coastline. The goal of BlueBag is to have at least one bag of waste per person collected during the season. Tourists, as well as locals, thus provide themselves and others with clean beaches on which they spend their summer days, while also demonstrating their environmental awareness and environmental care. The BlueBag initiative in 2015-2019 distributed more than 36.000 bags, and every year more and more actors are engaged to encourage volunteer cleaning and make the coast cleaner. The participants in the workshop were delighted with the presentation and expressed their desire to extend the initiative to local communities in the Istrian County.

2.3. D – Main Challenges Assessment

Table 2 – Summarized results of the Cloud Structuring process.

Cloud	Main inputs
Coastal Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication, transparency and coordinated action with the various economic sectors that are part of the marine litter problem. - Clear identification of the community's goals and targets. - Involvement of community stakeholders. - Educational activities.
Beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warning signs to note the obligation for collecting waste. - Ensuring sufficient waste collection tanks. - Quality communication between the concessionaire and the local community. - Zero-waste requirements for the concessionaires of the beaches. - Distribution of waste collection bags
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for stronger administrative control when developing tourism capacities. - Boosting investments in the infrastructure, especially in the seasonal areas.
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging organizers to use ecological forms of packaging. - Elimination of single use plastic cups. - Easy availability of points for waste separation. - Emphasizing the importance of waste care when promoting events.
Waste collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for improvement of the waste management system. - Providing the continuously promotion of separate collection of paper, metal, plastics and glass. - Establishment of recycling yards in smaller local areas.
Plastic packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility to replace plastic packaging with alternative. - Can single-use plastic products be replaced with durable, recyclable or renewable alternatives? - Possibility to eliminate multilayer packaging or find a way to recycle multilayer packaging? - Can the packaging be replaced with reusable and more durable plastic packaging to render it suitable for multiple uses and a longer lifetime?
Cigarettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of no-smoking zones. - Establishment of dedicated “smoking” areas on beaches. - Availability and visibility of needed equipment (ashtrays). - Promotional activities.

Table 3 presents the voting results of the clouds created, sorted by the number of votes.

Table 3 - Results of the voting of clouds.

#	Name of the Cloud	Number of votes
1	Beaches	11
2	Plastic packaging	9
3	Events	9

4	Coastal Communities	7
5	Waste collection	6
6	Infrastructure	5
7	Cigarettes	3

2.4. E – Best Practices Assessment

After the voting, the three groups worked on the three most voted clouds and created best practices sheets. The summary of those sheets is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 – Summary of the Best Practices sheets.

#	Title	Cloud	Goal/obj.	Area	Scale	Implement.	Involve	Constrains
1	'I collect, you collect'	Beaches	To reduce/collect waste on wild beaches.	B	L, R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educative and promotional events. - Cleaning actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourist offices. - Citizens. - Municipalities. - Communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour changes - Transport waste to landfills
2	'Just good CLEAN fun'	Events	Supporting zero-waste coastal events.	E, CC	L, R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community support in organizing the zero-waste events. - Promotion of re-usable packaging. - Enhancing environmental awareness. - Local fiscal incentives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities - Organisers of the events - Citizens - Food and beverage producers/resellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funding - Organisational constraints
3	"Refill"	Plastic packaging	To encourage producers, distributors and consumers to use returnable packaging.	B, E, CC	L, R, N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiscal incentives. - Special tax for use of plastic. - Promotional activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food and beverage producers/resellers - Public Bodies - Citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resistance to behaviours changes. - Higher product costs.

Note: B – Beaches; E – Events; CC – Coastal Events; L – Local; R – Regional; N – National; E – European

After the Best Practices sheets presentation, they were voted. The voting results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 - Results of the best practices voting.

Title	Intervention Areas			Aspects to vote		
	Beach	Events	C. C.	Urgency	Replic.	Efectiv.
I collect, you collect	X			25	20	20
Just good CLEAN fun		X	X	10	10	5
Refill	X	X	X	15	20	25

2.5. Evaluation

At the end of the event, the stakeholders filled an evaluation form of the workshop. Figure 4 summarizes the positive aspects mentioned by participants, which highlighted the sharing experience and good presentations of the project and best practices.

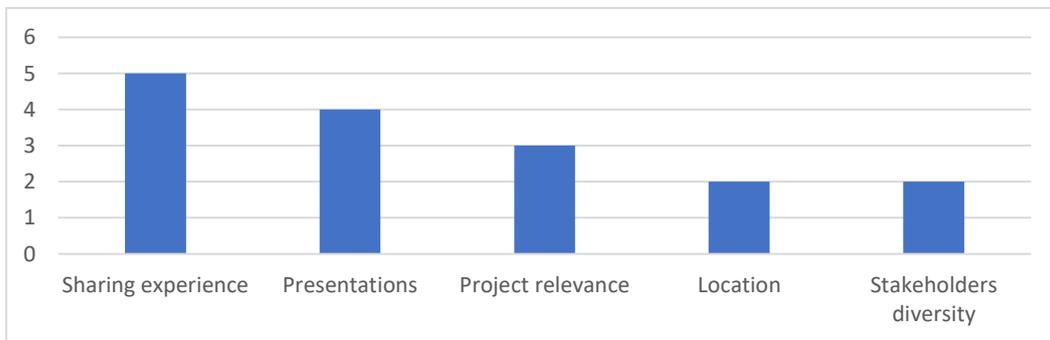


Figure 4 - Positive aspects from the evaluation.

The small number of participants was the main negative aspect of the workshop and also two participants mentioned that for them it would be preferable to have more informal type of workshop, with more time for debate.

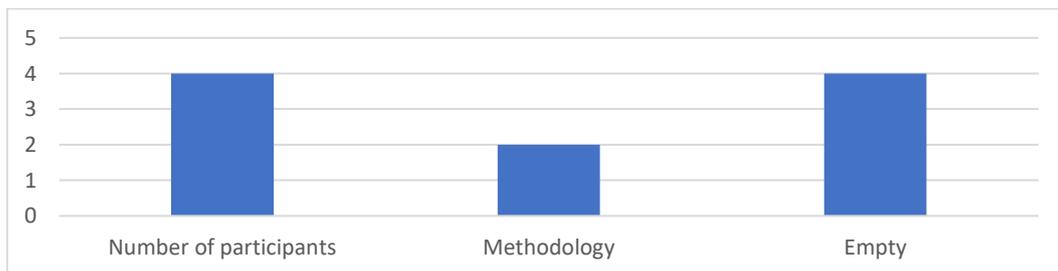


Figure 5 - Negative aspects from the evaluation.

At last, Figure 6 displays the suggestions that some participants gave on the evaluation forms.

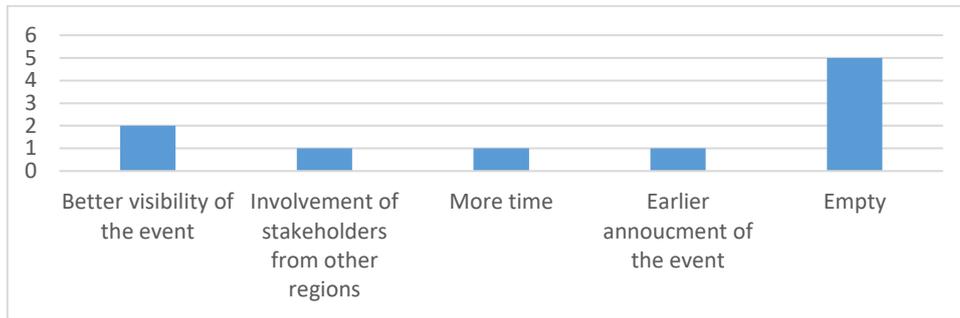


Figure 6 - Suggestions made on the evaluation form.