

CAPonLITTER

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

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

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1. Planning and logistics

1.1. Introduction

The 1st Regional Stakeholders Workshop in Bulgaria, of the CAPonLITTER project, was organized by PP4 – Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA). With the title “How to turn coastal activities – of tourism and recreation – zero-waste?” it took place on 29 January 2020, Conference room of Basin Directorate for Black sea region, in Varna (Bulgaria). The event started at 12:00 and ended at 17:30, with the lunch offered at 13:00.

1.2. Communication

For this event, a specific poster and programme were designed and printed, based on the CAPonLITTER project poster. The stakeholders were invited by telephone calls and email messages after their identification by UBBSLA team. The email contained all information about the event, a small description of the project, the programme and poster, and, a formal invitation letter, signed by the UBBSLA Executive Director . Some of them were contacted by phone close to the date, to urge them to confirm their presence on the workshop.

1.3. Venue

The chosen venue for the workshop was the Conference room of Basin Directorate for Black sea region, in Varna (Bulgaria). It is a versatile room that allowed the organization in two spaces: the workspace, with enough space for the tables and chairs, and suitable for the presentation and for the work in groups, and the catering space, where the light lunch was served. Other advantages of this venue were the fact that it belongs to one of the UBBSLA supporting organization, with easy access for planning and logistics. Also, it has good parking space and great access to public transportation.

1.4. Registration

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

Table 1 - Profile of the participating stakeholders.

Category	Number of participants
Packaging and Goods Producers	1
Distributors and retailers	1
Consumers	1
Waste Management Services	1
Political and Coastal Management Authorities	8
Civic and Non-Governmental Organizations	4
Academia and Research	2
Total of Stakeholders	18
Staff	3
Journalists	1

2. Workshop activities

2.1. Project presentations

After the participant's registration, the Project Coordinator Mrs. Mariana Ivanova (PP4 - UBBSLA) started with a welcome presentation, where she thanked for the presence of the participants and briefly explained the event and the UBBSLA participation in CAPonLITTER project. After the greetings, she presented the CAPonLITTER project, namely its objectives, the consortium and the participatory process that will occur along the project.

In the framework of the event, Ms. Yana Balashova, senior expert at Basin Directorate for the Black sea Region presented the topic "Monitoring in the implementation of the monitoring program under Descriptor 10 Marine Waste under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56 / EC". Plastic waste in the form of bottles, caps and bottle rings, tubes, is the most common occurrence along our coast, according to a three-year monitoring by the Basin Directorate. At the same time, statistics show that only 5 percent of the plastic used in our country is recycled and about half of plastic products complete their life at the landfill.

At last, Mrs. Tsenka Vassileva, senior expert in the Basin Directorate for the Black sea Region, presented the status of Marine Litter problem in Bulgaria, with official data, its regulation and the strategy of the Bulgarian Government in this field.

The Public Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PCESD) supported the initiative by sharing the concept of Zero Waste as well as good practices and experience in this field. Mr. Ilian Iliev helped the participants in the event identify the most effective as well as the most costly waste reduction measures among the 10 steps leading to Zero Waste:

- Source separation;
- Garbage collection from door to door;
- Composting;
- Recycling;
- Municipal centers for the reuse, repair and dismantling of waste;
- Waste reduction initiatives;
- Economic incentives;
- Waste Sorting and Research Center;
- Improved product design;
- Temporary depot.



2.2. Buffer activity

The warm-up activity was moderated by Mariana Ivanova – CAPonLitter project coordinator.

Two A1 posters, with three questions displayed, were distributed along the room and the participants were asked to write on a piece of paper their answers, individually, to start the thinking process and collect their inputs. The analysed results of the first question: **What is the biggest challenge on setting a zero-waste beach?** are presented on Figure 1. We can conclude that the **infrastructure** of the beaches and the **behaviours** are the main challenge addressing the zero-waste objective. Also, the zero-waste alternatives and the commitments are mentioned by the participants.

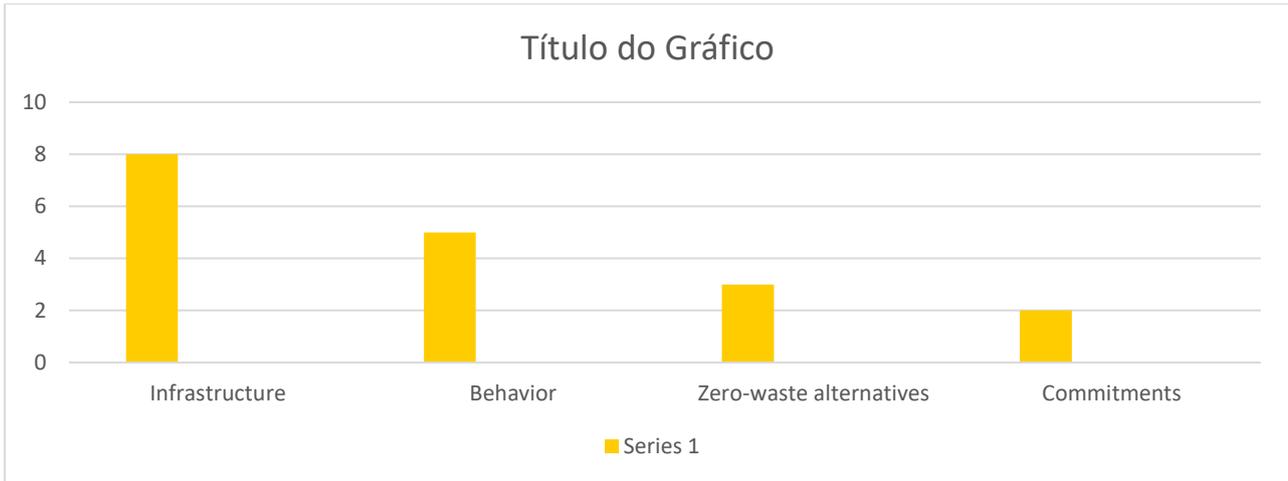


Figure 1 - Analysed results of the question about zero-waste beaches.

Figure 2 shows the analysed results for the answers for the question **“What is the biggest challenge on setting a zero-waste coastal event?”**. The majority of the stakeholders mentioned the need for regulations and for commitments. Infrastructures was also addressed in the answers. The stakeholders also commented that the cost of the implementation of these policies is still a challenge.



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

On the third question **“What is the biggest challenge on setting a zero-waste coastal community?”** the main challenges identified by the stakeholders were the Knowledge and information education and the need to create synergies within communities. They also mentioned the need to create adequate regulations, to make zero-waste reality a priority and a strategy for those places and the improvement of behaviour.

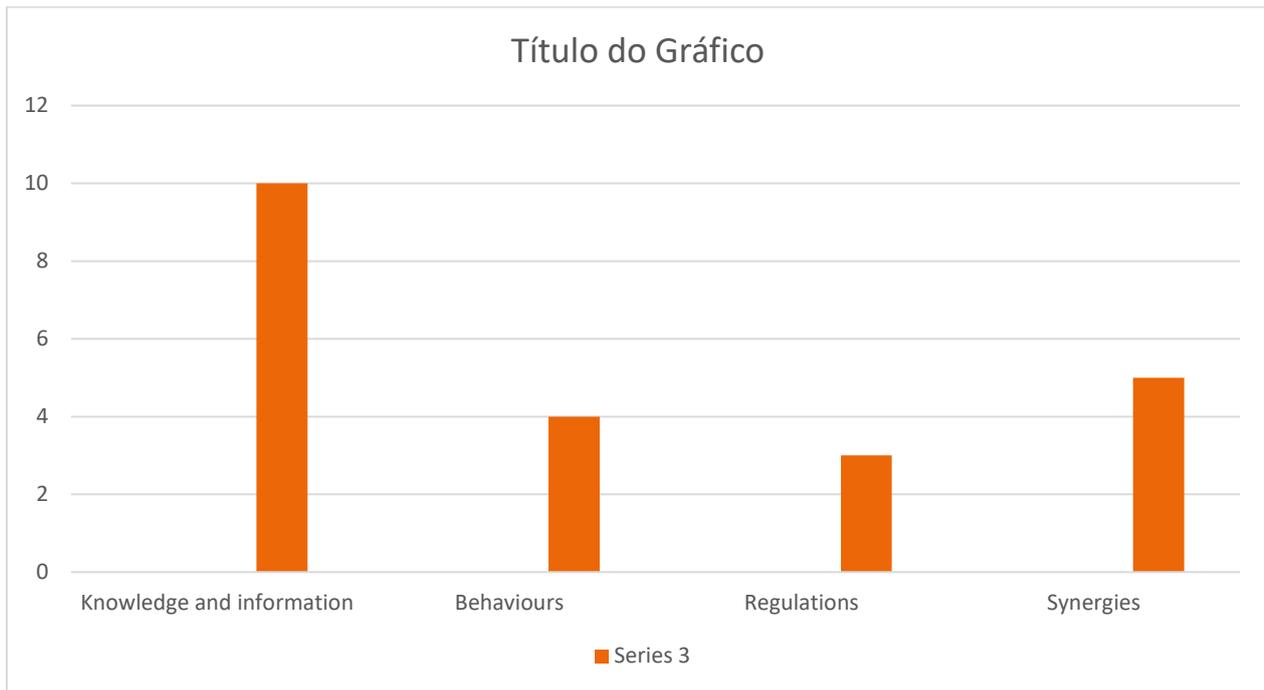


Figure 3 - Analysed results of the question about zero-waste coastal communities.

2.3. Main Challenges Assessment

After lunch, the invited expert for the Participatory Process, Mr. Iliyan Iliev, started the afternoon activities, with the main challenges' assessment by the pairs and the Cloud Structuring (clustering the main ideas in clouds), as explained on the Toolkit.

Experts present at the meeting identified the "sack payment" system as one of the most efficient in order to reduce the plastic waste generated. It belongs to the so-called "economic incentives" and follows the 'polluter pays' principle by including free waste collection, for example, for the first two family waste sacks for a month, and every subsequent one is paid. Waste reduction initiatives, such as 'Green public procurement' announced by the municipalities was defined as another very good measure. Ireland was cited as a positive example in this regard. The fee introduced by the 15 euro cents on plastic bags reduces their use by 92 percent.

Municipalities play a decisive role in green initiatives, and the principles can be laid down in procurement requirements. Local authorities are able to impose the use of reusable or compostable ynerutensils in municipal establishments. They also play a key role in the introduction of the so-called. "Deposit systems during events", use of reusable cups by participants. Delivery of vending machines, which have the option of using their own cup, give the consumer the right to make an environmentally friendly choice and may also be required in the procurement notices. As the most costly and resource-intensive measures, participants in the meeting identified door-to-door waste collection and improved industrial product design by industry.

Table 2 present the Cloud Structuring results, showing the name of the clouds, organized by consensus of all participants, and the main summarized inputs of each one of posts that were included in each cloud.

Table 1 – Summarized results of the Cloud Structuring process.

Cloud	Main inputs
Source separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education. Volunteering incentives. Inclusive and participative strategy. Circular economy incentives. Effective communication. Information and sensibilization.
Garbage collection from door to door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think different. Risk assessment. Different status. Promote community participation. Engagement of community stakeholders.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create collection infrastructures. Awareness for used materials Improve the waste collection along the entire year, namely in beaches Education, formation and information. Change wrong behaviours. Changing individual behaviours.
Waste reduction initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change wrong behaviours Changing individual behaviours
Municipal centers for the reuse, repair and dismantling of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create collection infrastructures. Awareness for used materials Improve the waste collection along the entire year, namely in beaches Education, formation and information. Single-use plastics prohibition in beach facilities and on the beach.
Economic incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, regulation and incentives for tourists. Engaging for 'bring and take' waste initiatives
Waste Sorting and Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public spirit Actual will actions for correct waste disposal and behaviours.
Improved product design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the use of new re-usable materials Improve the collection and disposal behaviours
Temporary depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging for 'bring and take' waste initiatives
Infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define specific locations for events, with good waste management facilities. Waste storage zones and access for beaches with poor access. Improve waste management and its separate collection Improve collection systems for fishing materials waste
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure the commitment of the organization for zero-waste event Avoid plastics. Eliminate plastic cups and packages Accept zero-waste sponsors Establish rules and surveillance Engage and impose the supplier for the event sustainability Define standards and create a white book with the best practices Return deposit for cups and bottles. Create regulation for eco-events Incentives. Punishment and deterrence measures Surveillance with punishment for perpetrators and bonus for adequate behaviours
Beach Licensees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display the beach collected waste for sensibilization. Keep beaches clean and engage the users on its maintenance Deal with different behaviours in the same space, regarding waste management. Avoid external litter deposition on beaches. More sensibilization and accountability campaigns. Reinforcement and formation of teams for surveillance. Public tenders for beach facilities and coastal events with zero-waste requirements. More often waste collection from beach licensees. Beach users sensibilization for correct waste disposal. Single-use plastics prohibition in beach facilities and on the beach.

Table 2 presents the voting results of the clouds created, sorted by the number of votes.

Table 2 - Results of the voting of clouds.

#	Name of the Cloud	Number of votes
1	Source separation	15
2	Garbage collection from door to door	14
3	Recycling	13
4	Waste reduction initiatives	13
5	Municipal centers for the reuse, repair and dismantling of waste	12
6	Economic incentives	12
7	Waste Sorting and Research Center	12
8	Improved product design	12
9	Temporary depot	10
10	Infrastructures	9
11	Events	6
12	Beach Licensees	4

2.4. Best Practices Assessment

After the voting, the three groups worked on the ten most voted clouds and created best practices sheets.

Experts identified the "sack payment" system as one of the most efficient in order to reduce the household waste generated. It belongs to the so-called "economic incentives" and follows the 'polluter pays' principle by including free waste collection, for example, for the first two family waste sacks for a month, and every subsequent one is paid. Waste reduction initiatives, such as 'Green public procurement' announced by the municipalities was defined as another very good measure. Ireland was cited as a positive example in this regard. The fee introduced by the 15 euro cents on plastic bags reduces their use by 92 percent.

As the most costly and resource-intensive measures, participants in the meeting identified door-to-door waste collection and improved industrial product design by industry.

After the Best Practices sheets presentation, they were voted. The voting results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 - Results of the best practices voting.

Title	Intervention Areas			Aspects to vote		
	Beach	Events	C. C.	Urgency	Replic.	Efectiv.
Source separation	X	X	X	16	8	18
Garbage collection from door to door	X	X		10	12	14
Recycling	X	X	X	10	15	14
Waste reduction initiatives	X	X		9	13	14
Municipal centers for the reuse, repair and dismantling of waste		X	X	10	6	7
Economic incentives			X	8	7	11
Waste Sorting and Research Center		X	X	8	13	11
Improved product design		X	X	8	6	8
Temporary depot			X	4	8	3

2.5. Evaluation

At the end of the event, the stakeholders were asked to fill in the evaluation form of their satisfaction of the event quality.

Figure 4 summarizes the evaluation by the participants of the quality of the event which highlighted the quality of materials and presentations.

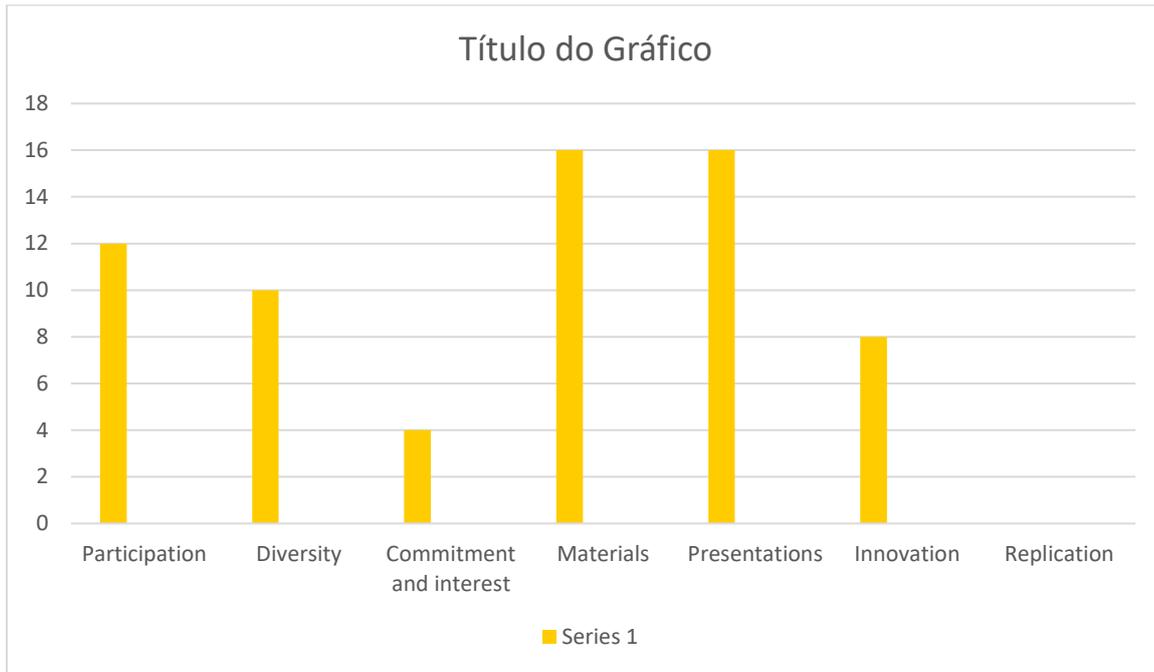


Figure 4 – Evaluation of the event quality