

CAPonLITTER

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International Learning Event #3 Croatia (Online)

Meeting Report

October 2020

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1. Introduction

The third International Learning Event of the Interreg Europe CAPonLITTER project took place on 15th of October in an online mode due to the COVID-19 circumstances. The event was organized by PP3 – Istrian Regional Energy Agency (IRENA) with the title “Use of economic instruments to prevent littering behaviour, prevention of redundant waste through incentives or taxes and encouraging collection of pervasive items”.

The focus of the event was on the use of economic instruments intended for inappropriate littering behaviour prevention, prevention of redundant waste generation through specific incentives or taxes and encouragement of pervasive items collection through deposit-refund schemes.

2. Agenda

10:00 - 10:15	Logging into seminar (Zoom or similar platform)
10:15 - 10:20	Welcome speech <i>IRENA</i>
10:20 - 10:25	Introduction and ILE opening <i>FCT NOVA</i>
	Stakeholders presentations – part 1 <i>Moderator: Dalibor Jovanović, IRENA</i>
10:25 - 10:35	Presentation 1 – Croatia <i>Deposit System in Croatia</i> <i>Zvonimir Majić, Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, Advisor to the Director</i>
10:35 - 10:40	Q & A
10:40 - 10:50	Presentation 2 – Netherlands <i>How MCS uses economic instruments & other policies to protect our seas</i> <i>Dr Laura Foster, Head of Clean Seas at The Marine Conservation Society (MCS)</i>
10:50 - 10:55	Q & A
10:55 - 11:05	Presentation 3 – Spain <i>Tools for the prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution in Fuerteventura Island</i> <i>Tony Gallardo Campos, Director of the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve</i>

11:05 - 11:10	Q & A
11:10 - 11:20	<p>Presentation 4 – Crete</p> <p><i>Waste Disposal & Collection</i></p> <p><i>Eirini-Frantzeska Drakaki, Technical Chamber of Greece - Department of East Crete</i></p>
11:20 - 11:25	Q & A
11:25 - 11:30	<p>Conclusions of part 1</p> <p><i>Session moderator</i></p>
11:30 - 11:45	Break
	<p>Stakeholders presentations – part 2</p> <p><i>Moderator: Jack McQuibban, ZWE</i></p>
11:45 - 11:55	<p>Presentation 5 – Portugal</p> <p><i>Marine Litter - LIPOR's contribution</i></p> <p><i>Diana Nicolau, Intermunicipal Waste Management Service at the north Portugal (Oporto Region)</i></p>
11:55 - 12:00	Q & A
12:00 - 12:10	<p>Presentation 6 – Germany</p> <p><i>The introduction of a local packaging tax to reduce littering</i></p> <p><i>Tobias Staufenberg, Environmental and Climate Protection Unit of the municipality of Tübingen</i></p>
12:10 - 12:15	Q & A
12:15 - 12:25	<p>Presentation 7 – Portugal</p> <p><i>Portuguese Plastics Pact: Collaborative Approach for a Systemic Solution to Eliminate Plastic Waste</i></p> <p><i>Pedro São Simão, Portuguese Plastics Pact coordinator</i></p>
12:25 - 12:30	Q & A
12:30 - 12:40	<p>Presentation 8 – Bulgaria</p> <p><i>Youth initiatives for awareness raising on encouraging collection of pervasive items</i></p> <p><i>Polina Antonova, Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovations</i></p>
12:40 - 12:45	Q & A
12:45 - 12:50	<p>Conclusions of part 2</p> <p><i>Session moderator</i></p>
12:50 - 13:00	<p>Conclusion of 3rd ILE and introduction of 4th one</p> <p><i>FCT NOVA and APA</i></p>

3. In detail event report

3.1. Organization

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the scheduled physical event which should take place in the Istrian Region was switched to the online mode and PP3 for this purpose used Zoom platform. In September, project partners were informed about the programme of the event, and after that each of them was asked to invite stakeholders which will present its best practice which is related to the theme of the event.

The event gathered more than 30 participants, representatives of project partners institutions, stakeholders and guests.

Table 1: Participants of the 3rd ILE

Name and surname	Partner	Institution
Claudio Duarte	PP1	FCT-NOVA
José Carlos Ferreira	PP1	FCT-NOVA
Pedro São Simão	PP1-Stakeholder	Portuguese Plastics Pact
Margarida Nunes	PP2	APA
Isabel Moura	PP2	APA
Diana Nicolau	PP2-Stakeholder	Intermunicipal Waste Management Service at the north Portugal (Oporto Region)
Dalibor Jovanović	PP3	IRENA
Andrea Poldrugovac	PP3	IRENA
Dino Glavičić	PP3	IRENA
Aleksandar Major	PP3-Stakeholder	Istrian Region
Zvonimir Majić	PP3-Stakeholder	Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund
Mariana Kancheva	PP4	Union of Bulgarian BlackSea Local Authorities (UBBSLA)
Polina Antonova	PP4-Stakeholder	Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovations
Eleni Tzagkaraki	PP5	Region of Crete
Nikolaos Chalkias	PP5	Region of Crete
Nikoleta Golfinopoulou	PP5	Region of Crete
Eirini-Frantzeska Drakaki	PP5-Stakeholder	Technical Chamber of Greece - Department of East Crete
Jack McQuibban	PP6	Zero Waste Europe
Laura Foster	PP6-Stakeholder	Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
Isabelle Poitou	PP7	MerTerre
Marine Cornault	PP7	MerTerre
Catharina Rubel	PP8	German Federal Environment Agency
Tobias Staufenberg	PP8-Stakeholder	Environmental and Climate Protection Unit of the municipality of Tübingen
Candy Cecilia	PP9	ECOQUA University Institute - University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Ricardo Haroun	PP9	ECOQUA University Institute - University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Yaiza Fernández-Palacios	PP9	ECOQUA University Institute - University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Toni Gallardo Campos	PP9-Stakeholder	Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve
Lærke Heilmann	PP9-Stakeholder	Clean Ocean Project
Catia Valente	Guest	
Stefanie Tzagaraki	Guest	
Ana Šarić	Guest	
Elena Proietti	Guest	
Total of Stakeholders	10	
Project partners	18	
Guests	4	

3.2. Welcoming

After all the participants have registered and joined the Zoom platform, Mr Dalibor Jovanović from PP3 opened the event with few instructions on how all the participants and panellists/speakers will use the Zoom platform, how they will be able to ask questions to the speakers and also speakers were informed that during their presentation, a pop-up notification will appear five and one minute before the end of their presentation time. After the introductory part, Mr Jose Carlos Ferreira as the representative of the Leading organisation of the project, the NOVA School of Science and Technology (FCT NOVA) opened officially the workshop with a brief speech, informing the participants about the CAPonLITTER project, its objectives and the aim of the event.

After the welcoming part, Mr Dalibor Jovanović as the moderator of the first session invited the first panellist to start its presentation, informed one more time that each panellist has ten minutes for its presentation, and after that, there are five minutes reserved for questions and answers from the audience.

3.3. Presentation 1 (Croatia) – The Deposit System in Croatia

Mr Zvonimir Majić from the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF) of Croatia was invited by the hosting organisation to present the Deposit Refund System Organisation in Croatia,

The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF) is the central point for collecting and investing extra-budgetary resources in the programmes and projects of environmental and nature protection, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. The activities of the Fund comprise the tasks related to the financing of the preparation, implementation and development of programmes and projects and similar tasks in the field of conservation, sustainable use, protection and improvement of the environment, and in the field of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

The Deposit Refund System in Croatia started with its implementation in 2006 and the decision was driven by increasing quantities of packaging waste since the 1990s as a result of the rising use of non-refillable beverage packaging: PET, bottles and cans. The system foresees that a deposit is established for one-way beverage containers of greater volume than 0.2l made of plastic (PET),

metal (aluminium and iron) and glass containing alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, waters, fruit juices, and soft drinks. Milk and milk-containing beverages are subject to an exception and are excluded from the system. A returnable fee of 0.50 HRK (0,06€) is to be applied per packaging unit regardless of the material and size. The take-back process is established in each retail store (automatically by reverse vending machines or manually) where beverages packaged in aluminium, iron, PET or glass are sold to end consumers with the exception for small retailers (which have less than 200m²).

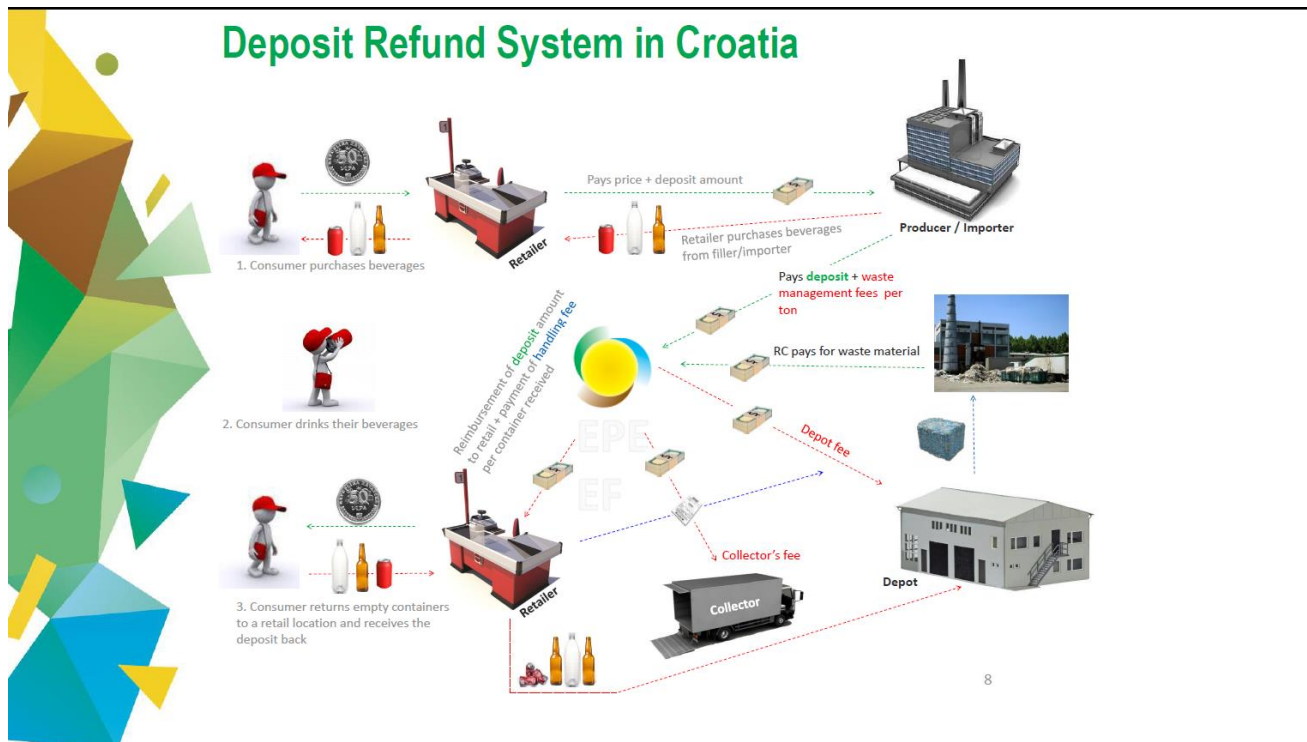


Figure 1: The scheme of the Deposit Refund System in Croatia

3.4. Presentation 2 (Netherlands) - How MCS uses economic instruments & other policies to protect our seas

Dr Laura Foster, Head of Clean Seas at the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) was invited to present on their work by project partner Zero Waste Europe. The Marine Conservation Society is the UK's leading marine charity, working to ensure our seas are healthy, pollution free and protected. MCS' work on clean seas focuses on tackling specific problems, such as reducing waste from plastic single use items and microplastics, as well as advocating for change by increasing awareness on issues such as PFAS in the ocean and highlighting UK beaches where the water quality is very poor.

Each year, thousands of volunteers for MCS take part in the Great British Beach Clean, picking up litter from UK beaches and recording data on each item which is then used to shape MCS' campaigning. For example, 2019 data shows that there were, on average, 558 items of litter on every 100 metres of beach that were cleaned and surveyed in the UK, with plastic and polystyrene pieces the most common litter items found, cigarette stubs following in second place and glass pieces coming in third.

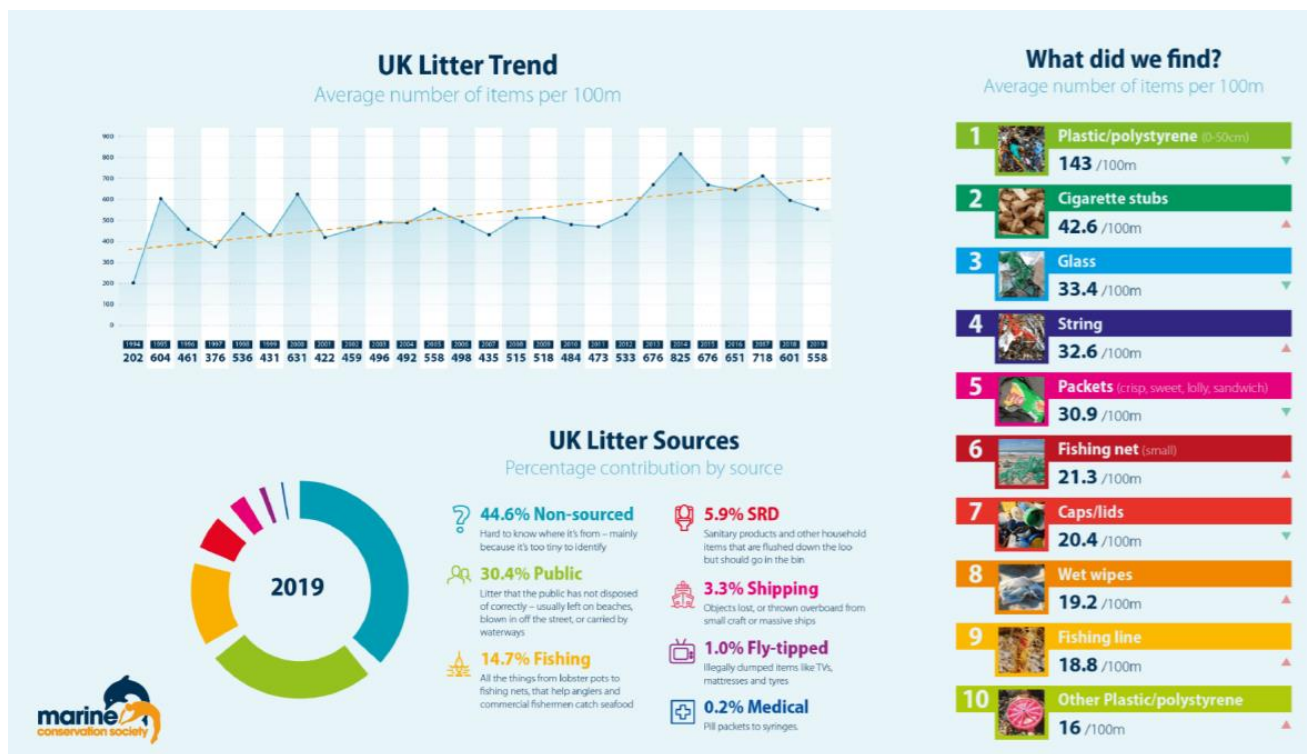


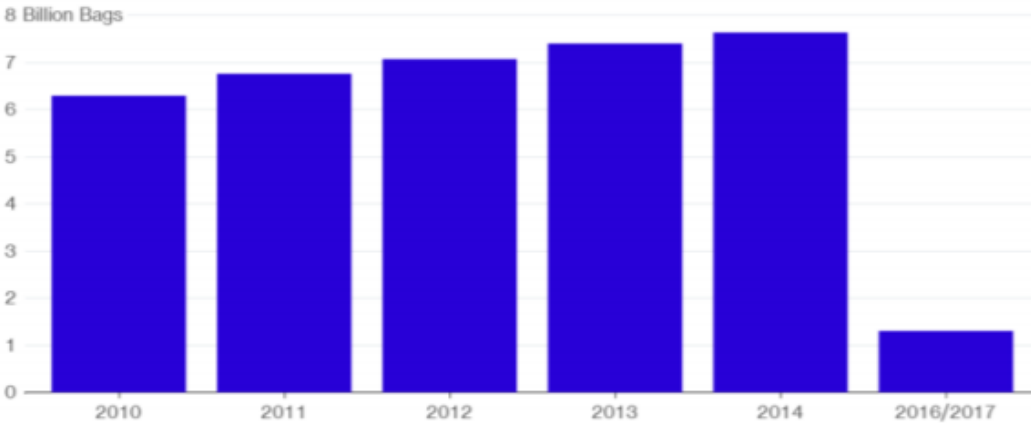
Figure 2: Results of the Great British Beach Clean

The work of the Clean Seas programme, which Dr Laura Foster heads up, has led to charges for single-use bags, removal of microbeads in personal care products, changes in labelling on commonly 'mis-flushed' items, and a deposit return system being designed for Scotland. During her presentation at the ILE, Laura presented on the impact that two economic instruments have had on reducing waste.

The first was the 2015 plastic bag charge, which required all large shops in the UK to charge customers an extra 5p for any single-use plastic carrier bag. In just one year after being introduced, the number of plastic bags given by the UK's 7 largest supermarkets dropped by 83%.

Plastic Bags Plummet

Supermarket handouts dropped by 83% after charge began



Source: Defra, WRAP

Note: Data shows 7 largest supermarkets in England. 2015 entry omitted due to reporting year change

Bloomberg

Figure 3: Results of the plastic bag charge

5p is a very small extra price to pay for customers, yet this small incentive encouraged a vast reduction in the consumption of these bags, subsequently preventing each item from becoming waste and polluting the environment. Since the introduction of the 5p carrier bag charge, there has been a 72% decrease in the number of carrier bags found on English beaches.



Figure 4: Results of the plastic bag charge

During her presentation, Dr Laura Foster also shared the successful campaigning MCS has done in helping secure a national deposit return scheme (DRS) for Scotland. Earlier this year, the Scottish Government committed to an all-inclusive Deposit Return Scheme, with a start date of July 2022. This announcement came off the back of data from the 2019 Great British Beach Clean, which showed a worrying increase in drinks containers of all forms littering the UK's coastline. Over the last 26 years, since the Great British Beach Clean began in 1994, data collected by MCS has shown a 32% increase in beverage containers across the UK.

Finally, keeping with the theme of the ILE and the aim of showcasing effective economic instruments to prevent waste, the results of a field experiment to reduce coffee cup waste. The research by the Cardiff University found that the use of reusable coffee cups can be increased by (on average) 2.3 to 12.5% through clear messaging, the provision of reusable alternatives and financial incentives.

The study suggests that a charge may be more effective than a discount. These results are in line with prospect theory, which suggests that people are more sensitive to losses than to gains when making decisions. A charge on disposable cups (a loss) is therefore more likely to produce behaviour change than a discount on a reusable cup (a gain). While the increases for the individual measures were modest, greater behaviour change was achieved when multiple measures were combined. The study suggests that in particular the provision of free reusable alternatives in combination with a financial incentive are the most effective policy instrument for decision-makers wishing to prevent waste from disposable coffee cups.

3.5. Presentation 3 (Spain) – Tools for the prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution in Fuerteventura Island

The stakeholder invited by the ECOAQUA Research Institute (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) was Tony Gallardo Campos, managing director of the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve who, with the presentation 'Tools for the prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution in the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve', presented different scientific, government and economic instruments implemented to mitigate the effect of marine litter on the island, highlighting the importance of this type of initiative in small island systems.

From the point of view of governance instruments, this biosphere reserve has the role of advising the island's government on sustainability, particularly with regard to pollution by plastics, climate change and innovative approaches to urban waste and the circular economy.

In this context, from the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve work is already underway with other reserves in the named 'Zero Plastic Working Group', of the worldwide network of islands and coastal areas. This working group has been set up by NGOs, tourism entrepreneurs and the commercial sector, to develop and strengthen initiatives on the transition to a zero-plastic island. In addition, the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve is participating in the preparation of the Canary Islands Strategy for the Blue Economy and the Green Economy and the PIRCAN 2020-2026 (Integral Master Plan for the Canary Islands).

Among the aspects highlighted by Mr Tony Gallardo during his presentation, it is worth mentioning that the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve has set up the first Marine Litter Observatory in Spain, financed by the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of the Spanish Government, the Biodiversity Foundation, the island government and the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve. One of the main aims of the Observatory is to involve the maritime sector of fishermen, recreational and tourist activities in the prevention of marine litter, mitigating its impact from the socio-economic point of view.

With regard to the application of economic instruments, and taking into account the new situation generated by COVID-19, the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve focuses on 3 positive forms of management:

- Inclusion of plastic 0 specifications in the island government's contract.
- Supporting economic rates to innovative projects in the reuse of plastic waste, as well as the installation of reusable and returnable packaging.
- Reward initiatives on good practices in the management of plastic waste.

3.6. Presentation 4 (Greece) - Waste Disposal & Collection

Mrs Drakaki Eirini-Frantzeska, Civil & Structural Engineer, BEng (Hons), MSc, was invited to present the experience of Greece on Waste Disposal & Collection and Beach Waste Management, representing the Technical Chamber of Greece - The Department of East Crete.

The Technical Chamber of Greece - The Department of East Crete is a regional part of the Professional Association for the Engineers in Greece, referring to the engineers who practice their profession in Heraklion and Lassithi. The Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) was established in 1923, is a public legal entity with elected administration, its headquarters are in Athens and has branches in 17 geographical regions. It sets standards for membership of the body, works with industry and academia to progress engineering standards and advises on education and training curricula. The TCG aims to promote science and technology in areas related to the specialty of its members, and their use in the economic, social and cultural development of the country in terms of sustainability and environmental protection. It consists of 13 areas of engineering specialization: Civil Engineer, Architect Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Rural and Surveying Engineer, Chemical Engineer, Mining and Metallurgical Engineer, Naval Engineer, Electronic Engineer, Engineer of Urban Planning & Regional Development, Environmental Engineer, Engineer of Mineral Resources, Engineer of Production & Management. The TCG is a professional membership body that government and industry listen to while providing unrivalled support to its engineer members.

Regarding the Waste Disposal & Collection in Greece, the National Waste Management Plan is in accordance with the EU Directive and it is being revised this very moment, in terms that appear to be extremely strict.

Crete has Integrated Regional Waste Management Plan, which provides for all the designated waste treatment plans and set specific goals to be achieved by the end of 2020.

As far as the Beach Waste Management is concerned, the Region of Crete participates in various European Projects such as the “BLUEISLANDS” and “WINPOL” which propose pilot applications and actions in order to reduce the produced waste.

In terms of the "BLUEISLANDS", the Region of Crete invited the Municipalities and the Hotel Owners to collaborate and protect the Coasts and Beaches from Waste by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation regarding the “Establishment of the Proper Management of the Beaches in Crete and the Reduction of the Disposable (Single-Use) Plastics’ Use” agreeing in a common policy framework with specific terms for the parties involved and was in detail presented. According to this:

The Municipalities of Crete should include terms of the policy framework for the coastal and marine protection in the contracts with the beach management operators, such as:

- Installation of different bins for the separation at source of the recyclable waste.
- Installation of ashtrays for the cigarette butts.
- Regular beach cleaning.
- Raise of awareness of the visitors with messages and incentives from the beach operators.

The Hotel Owners should:

- Stop the use of the Disposable (Single-Use) Plastics, such as plastic cups, saucers and cutlery.
- Replace the plastic straws with alternative existing solutions.
- Replace the disposable plastic bottles with reusable plastic or metallic ones for the beach.
- Provide potable water sources for bottle refill and promote incentives for the use of reusable bottles.
- Provide ashtrays on the beach.
- Train the employees and promote to the customers and travel agencies this environmental effort and initiative.

The Region of Crete will:

- Seek in every appropriate way to reward the participants’ positive results and effort.
- Make this Initiative permanent and public in its official site, whilst updating information, additional activities and initiatives of the contractors.
- Promote and advertise this initiative of Crete in the extroversion actions of the Region, both in Greece and abroad, as a tourist destination with environmental sensitivity and consistency.

3.7. Presentation 5 (Portugal) - Marine Litter - LIPOR's contribution

The stakeholder invited by the project partner Environmental Protection Agency was LIPOR, which is an intermunicipal waste management service that, represented by Ms Diana Nicolau, has brought a presentation on the LIPOR's contribution to the theme of marine litter.

Every year LIPOR treats around 500,000 tons of municipal waste which is produced by about 1 million inhabitants from eight municipalities of the Great Porto Area. Diana Nicolau explained that LIPOR has developed an integrated management strategy based on four main components: Multimaterial Recovery, Organic Recovery and Energy Recovery, aiming the minimization of waste disposal.

Ms Diana Nicolau talked about some projects that have been developed by its organization, that works more and more on educational projects intending to change behaviours on environmental management practices and to raise awareness to fight against marine litter.

The project "HÁ RIO E MAR, HÁ LIXO PARA TRANSFORMAR" /Beyond River and Sea, Waste to Transform Can Be, (2020-2022), was one of the 6 winners among the 24 calls submitted to a call under the Environment, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy Program, by European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 - Small Grants Scheme #1 – for projects to prevent and raise awareness to reduce marine litter.

Beyond River and Sea...is a project developed in partnership with the Portuguese Youth Institute - IPDJ that intends to develop a set of initiatives and tools that intensively and continuously promote the Ocean Literacy and the Sea Protection and Preservation, integrated into i) education systems, ii) information to citizens, iii) training of technicians at administrative and business level, in view of adopting the best environmental management practices in this matter. Once more, it is assumed that the strengthening of education and the awareness of populations are the determining factors for success in pursuing a "New Course".

The BIN UP Project is another project developed in partnership with the Ernesto São Simão da Maia Company and the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology -LNEG. It is about a domestic recycle bin to be placed in height, made in recycled polypropylene, and whose design and development is based on eco-design studies and analysis of the product's life cycle. The BIN UP Project won the "Design Award" category of the FAMAE - The World Largest Green Innovation Challenge contest, launched by Zero Waste France and the FAMAE Foundation.

Ms Diana Nicolau also talked about other projects, like the GENERATION+ Project that is another educational project aimed at public and private schools, as well as social institutions or other associations and entities located in the LIPOR Municipalities that intend to change their environmental management practices.

3.8. Presentation 6 (Germany) - The introduction of a local packaging tax to reduce littering

Tobias Staufenberg from the Environmental and Climate Protection Unit of the municipality of Tübingen was invited by the project partner Umweltbundesamt (UBA) to present the outstanding example of the packaging tax in Tübingen, Germany.

As the first municipality within Germany, the city of Tübingen introduced a local tax on single-use packages in January 2020 as a response to increasing amounts of disposable packaging's from food and drink vendors in public spaces. The municipality wants to create an incentive to use reusable packaging's to protect resources and to avoid high disposal costs. „We spend around 700,000 Euros annually for disposals of single-use packages and this has to stop: if you produce trash, you have to pay for it “, explained Staufenberg.

The law was to be in effect as of January 2021. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the municipal council postponed the beginning to January 2022. From then on, every single-use food and drink package in the 90,000-inhabitant town will be charged 0.50 Euros and cutlery will be taxed with 0.20 Euros per meal.

To support the transition towards reusable packages, the local administration started a support program for local gastronomy businesses. In addition, the city wants to encourage consumers to bring their own boxes and make use of deposit systems, as the tax does not apply if the package is part of a national deposit system.

„The example of Tübingen is exemplary as it focusses on prevention of litter rather than dealing with waste or constrain to consumer responsibility “, said Catharina Rubel (Umweltbundesamt) as the German CAPonLITTER partner, who organizes an online workshop series (in German) in November 2020 on options for municipalities on how to avoid marine litter. During the workshops, municipalities and organisations can share their examples and knowledge on waste prevention before working on concrete examples. The workshops are free of charge.

3.9. Presentation 7 (Portugal) - Portuguese Plastics Pact: Collaborative Approach for a Systemic Solution to Eliminate Plastic Waste

Mr Pedro São Simão, the coordinator from Smart Waste Portugal Association, was invited to present the Portuguese Plastics Pact on the 3rd Interregional Learning Event (ILE) of the CAPonLITTER project.

Mr São Simão has presented the Portuguese Plastics Pact, its goals and objectives, its working groups, and some of their activities that already took place.

The Portuguese Plastics Pact represents the collaborative platform that unites different stakeholders from the Portuguese plastics value chain. The Portuguese Plastics Pact is being promoted by Smart Waste Portugal Association, with the support of the Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, and belongs to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Plastics Pact

network. The Portuguese Plastics Pact pretends to establish a common vision to promote the transition for a plastic's circular economy, through ambitious goals and targets until 2025. Some of these targets that the members of Portuguese Plastics Pact are committed are:

- Define by 2020 a list of single-use plastic items deemed problematic or unnecessary and define measures for their elimination, through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery models.
- Ensure that 100% of plastic packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.
- Ensure 70%, or higher, of plastic packaging effectively recycled, by increasing collection and recycling.
- Incorporate, on average, 30% of recycled plastic in new plastic packaging.
- Promote consumer awareness and education activities (current and future) for the circular use of plastics.

Currently, the Portuguese Plastics Pact already has more than 90 members, has the High Patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic and the institutional support of the Portuguese Ministries of Environment and Climate Action, of Economy and Digital Transition, and of the Sea.

3.8. Presentation 8 (Bulgaria) - Youth initiatives for awareness raising on encouraging collection of pervasive items

Invited by Bulgarian project partner, the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities to present the experience and examples of youth involvement as a marine litter management tool in Varna region, Mrs. Polina Antonova, Chairperson of the Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovations presented different activities aiming at active involvement of young people from Bulgaria in local eco-campaigns, using youth innovative and creative thinking as a tool for changing the behaviour of society as a whole about generating less waste in everyday life, its separation and recycling.

Annually, the Institute in partnership with local authorities organizes and coordinates many landscaping campaigns, environmental initiatives, marine litter exhibitions, creative workshops for making jewellery, souvenirs and dress from waste materials and flowers, thus trying to involve young people creative and innovative thinking for using waste materials in daily life.

Using innovative methods based on youth participation on the marine pollution and climate local planning, the Institute team is a supporting structure of local authorities in Bulgaria in respect to prevention and reduction of marine litter on the Black Sea coast.

According to a recent study by scientists from the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Black Sea is one of the most polluted water basins in the world with plastic and microplastic waste. Plastic waste dumped in the Black Sea in just one summer could cover the surface of all its beaches. That's why the Institute activities are focusing on awareness raising campaigns and initiatives encouraging collection of pervasive items. Involving active young people in specific trainings programs and used them after that as ambassadors and

volunteers on beach cleaning campaign, awareness raising events, etc. is one of the most popular economic models at local level to prevent marine litter behaviour.

As a non-profit organization, the Institute is supported by different municipal and governmental funds to implement projects and initiatives, supporting active youth participation on local climate actions and planning.

Most of the municipalities on the Black Sea coast provide Small grants scheme to support such initiatives and projects aiming at clean sea and green environment.

4. Conclusion

At the end of the event, Mr Dalibor Jovanović, the representative of the hosting organisation, expressed his satisfaction with the event, and thanked all participants for their engagement. The next International Learning Event (ILE#4) is scheduled for the beginning of December and it will be led by PP9- IU-ECOQUA (ULPGC), in coordination with the Fuerteventura Island Council, through its Department of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Circular Economy and R&D&I. The theme of the event will revolve around the role of local communities in improving the awareness of beach users, and citizen science in the prevention, management and monitoring of marine waste in coastal areas.

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