

OSDD Slovenia 4–5 March 2024

After: interview with the host organisations FEP and RDA SAŠA

- **How did the OSDD go?**

Great!

We are proud that our international event in Velenje was a great success. It brought together participants from different countries and offered a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience, and the latest developments.

In addition to partners from 5 European regions (Catalonia, Friesland, Lombardy, Tampere and Värmland) and their guests, the seminar was attended by various institutions and organizations, such as the Savinja-Šalek Chamber of Commerce, the Faculty of Polymer Technology and Chamber of Public Utilities of Slovenia, as well as companies active in the plastics sector, such as Plastika Skaza d.o.o., Gorenje Home Appliances d.o.o., BSH Home Appliances d.o.o. Nazarje, Velenje Coal Mine, d.o.o. and Utility Company Velenje, d.o.o..

It was interesting that not only the guests of our partners from international regions, but also the region's domestic guests were most from the education sector. Guess that was probably because one of the Slovenian hosts was the Faculty of Environmental Protection.

- **Were there any unexpected surprises during the OSDD? Positive or negative.**

The first day of the OSDD Open Seminar brought some challenges. For reasons beyond our control, which caused some logistical problems for the Finnish women's team on the way to Velenje, we the organizers had to react quickly and set up a ZOOM app connection in the morning, through which they could follow the Open Seminar on the way to Velenje and thus participate remotely.

- **What did you, your region and/or your companies get from the OSDD?**

Presented examples of good practices towards a greener, climate-neutral circular economy in plastics, was the basis of the networking between companies and institutions present at "Open seminar" and we all benefited from it.

Between the coffee break of the Open Seminar, it turned out that we were on the right track, as the socializing and networking of regional and partner participants started, with exchanges of views and contacts and announcements on further cooperation.

Our region contribution to the OSDD was of a research nature, so therefore FEP presented the research activities of the project and their research contribution to the international PLASTIX project. After the presentation, the response and interest in research of FEP was unexpected, with most partners wanting a B2B discussion on a prototype mobile filtration device and the analysis handouts. We believe that we have outlined a good cooperation with all seminar participants in the future.

Our message to other regional partners and their quests was clear. FEP believe that monitoring microplastics in the two main rivers of the SAŠA region, the Paka and the Savinja, will make an important contribution to

identifying the potential plastic and microplastic pollution in the selected area. At the same time, we believe that such applied projects can contribute to the development of a standardized microplastics sampling methodology, which has not yet been adopted at EU level." In the future, we would like to see the matter mature and be put into practice.

- **The word is yours** 😊

Again, we are proud that our event was a great success. If we had a second chance we would upgrade the event, knowing that there is much more potential as we anticipated.

We would like to thank all participants in our international seminar as well as each member of FEP an RDA SAŠA. Your contribution was greatly appreciated.

Your contribution is also important for the exchange of knowledge and experience among the participants.

We wish all the partners and their guests all the best and look forward to seeing them again at future events.