



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

PLASTIC BUSTERS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN FREE FROM LITTER

OBJECTIVES

In line with the recommendations of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (May 2014) and the UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy (November 2015), the overall goal of the project is to effectively tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean. Specific objectives are:

- Address data needs and gaps on trends and impacts of marine litter, forging cooperation with other relevant initiatives/projects implemented in the Mediterranean and drawing up recommendations to facilitate effective policymaking at regional, national and local levels with a view to reducing marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Prevent and reduce marine litter through the implementation of concrete and specific no-regret measures to prevent and reduce marine litter in pilot areas. Joint activities with fishing communities (fishermen's associations and fish farms) will aim to remove so-called 'ghost fishing nets' that can cause serious damage to marine environments and to prevent and reduce marine litter overall.
- Increase awareness and close knowledge gaps: by identifying hotspots of marine litter, paving the way for a regional integrated monitoring program and using findings and information to raise awareness.

LOCATION

- Algeria
- Croatia
- France
- Greece
- Israel
- Italy
- Palestine
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Tunisia

DURATION

2016 – 2020

TOTAL COST

€ 8.8 M

BENEFICIARIES

- Regional authorities, municipalities & local authorities, including port authorities;
- Decision making bodies at local, national and regional level;
- Coastal and Marine industry (commercial fishing, shipping, aquaculture, coastal tourism);
- Waste management sector (waste collection and transportation, waste separation, waste disposal to landfill, waste recycling, sewage treatment);
- Environmental NGOs;
- Educational community (Educators & students) and the wider public;
- The industrial sector (including the plastics industry) and their down-stream users in the supply chains.



ACTIONS

- Address information gaps and needs with regards to marine litter, complementing existing assessments carried out in the region, as well as further develop and implement, on a practical level, harmonized monitoring methods based on the work of UNEP/MAP monitoring guidance and other projects where appropriate;
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of demonstration projects showcasing actions to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea following steps set out in the UNEP/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Articles 9 and 10);
- Assess the status of the implementation of the above mentioned Regional Plan on Marine Litter at national, sub-regional and regional level, and prioritize additional prevention and mitigation measures to tackle marine litter as appropriate;
- Design and coordinate the awareness raising campaigns tailor-made to the needs of the marine litter stakeholders and Education for Sustainable Development programmes targeting the educational community.



PROMOTER

University of Siena
(Sustainable Development Solutions Network - MED Solutions)

PARTNERS

- UNEP/MAP
- MIO-ECSDE
- IFREMER
- SOCIB
- ISPRA
- University of Sousse
- IWRS
- CNR
- HCMR
- ISOTECH
- Consorzio Mediterraneo
- ECNC Land & Sea Group
- University of Bologna
- FispMed

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A comprehensive assessment of the status (amounts, composition, impacts) of marine litter; including a GIS database;
- A hotspot analysis/mapping of areas with marine litter accumulation in the Mediterranean;
- A set of comprehensive recommendations based on sound scientific evidence and findings to facilitate effective policymaking at regional, national, local levels with regards to the prevention, reduction and removal of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Strengthened involvement and participation of 50-60 regional marine litter experts in the development and/or application of standardised monitoring methods and a network of partners and marine litter experts;
- At least 10 demonstration projects showcasing specific prevention and mitigation actions to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea;
- A comprehensive assessment of the status of implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter and a package of updated measures to fully tackle marine litter with a view to a litter free Mediterranean;
- Awareness campaigns in at least 15 countries of the Mediterranean aiming to promote the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in tackling marine litter.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Own funding from the promoter: € 3.6 M

Grant from the EC - EU Interreg Med programme: € 5 M



Contact details

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