

May 2020 | ISSUE 2

PLASTEKO NEWSLETTER

PLASTEKO
Interreg Europe

 European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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THE PLASTEKO CONSORTIUM



PLASTEKO project

Dear reader,

Welcome to the second edition of newsletter series of the **Plasteco Project**, which as part of the dominant EU mindset for curbing plastics waste and littering, aims to help the participating regions exchange of experiences, benefit from the provisions and momentum of the EU plastics strategy, and, ultimately, achieve their goals in terms of protecting the environment, increasing resource efficiency, alleviating health effects, and boosting innovation.

To that extent, PLASTEKO is expected to:

- Ameliorate the economics and quality of plastics recycling.
- Conduct regional plans, raise awareness and improve the recycling of agricultural plastics.
- Guide investments and innovation towards circular solutions.

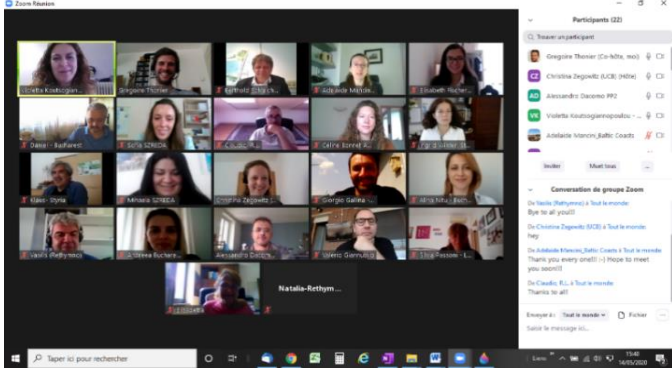
In the following pages, you will find interesting material on the overall context and objectives of the project, as well as information on the latest developments and events, and on the upcoming ones. We shall keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes through the project website, thematic events, and newsletters.

The PLASTEKO project team



Virtual Project Meeting

The second meeting of the **PLASTEKO** consortium, which was originally planned to take place in Augsburg, took place virtually due to the unprecedented situations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The partners gathered online on the 19th of May.



The host partner, Cluster of Environmental Technologies Bavaria, opened the meeting and presented the agenda, while all partners had the chance to elaborate on different topics. Among others, the partners presented and discussed:

- The Assessment of territorial-specific economic and social barriers against more sustainable plastic consumption and production patterns.
- The identification of measures to curb aquatic litter & facilitate clean-up efforts.
- A comparative analysis of policies to promote the separation, sorting and recycling of plastics waste at partners' territories.

At the end of the meeting the discussion focused on activity and financial issues and communication and dissemination topics while all the participants had the chance to submit their final considerations.

Third Party Events

During the second semester of the **PLASTEKO project** several third-party events were organized with some of the consortium's representatives taking part.

3rd Party Event in Thessaloniki

The Lead Partner of the **PLASTEKO project**, the **Municipality of Rethymno**, responded to the call of the **COLLECTORS** (**COLLECTORS** is a Horizon 2020 project) and participated in the public conference which took place on 11th of December 2019, with its external expert Mrs.

Violetta Koutsogiannopoulou. The representative of the Municipality of Rethymno delivered a presentation on “**waste collection towards the circular economy-challenges concerning plastics**” and participated in the panel discussion of the “**waste collection toward the circular economy**” session. Moreover, the next day she attended a clustering meeting exploring further collaboration opportunities with the **COLLECTORS** project peers.



3rd Party Event in Bucharest

On 5th December 2019, the Bucharest 3rd District City Hall was organized in the town as well as the first Expert city visit & ULG meeting within the project “Resourceful Cities”. Since **PLASTEKO project** is implemented in line with the “European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy”, **Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency** took the invitation to this event as an opportunity to build collaboration for the project outcomes. The overall goal, operational objectives, and activities of **PLASTEKO project** were disseminated to the relevant stakeholders gathered at this event, through a 20 minutes presentation, made by Andreea Brînzoi, member of Bucharest-Ilfov regional development agency team.



Stakeholders Meetings

Throughout the second semester of the **PLASTEKO project** several stakeholders meetings took place.

1st PLASTEKO regional stakeholders meeting

This event was held in Augsburg, Germany, under the auspices of the Cluster of Environmental Technologies Bavaria. The attendees included representatives of regional and national authorities, research institutions, environmental agencies, and NGOs.



During the workshop, the basic information of the **Interreg Europe Project PLASTEKO** was introduced. The event came up with some key conclusions:

- The city of Augsburg as well as the stakeholders are motivated to work on this topic within the framework of **PLASTEKO**.
- The city of Augsburg has already implemented activities in the field of plastic reduction and waste management. New ideas of actions inspired by PLASTEKO activities and exchange of experience need to be assessed in detail before putting them into the action plan.

1st Lombard stakeholder meeting

The Agenda of this meeting, which took place on the 23rd January 2020, included an introduction to the “Plastic Table” activities and to the **PLASTEKO project**, and a round table during which all participants were asked to introduce themselves and represent the main topics of interest to be addressed in order to improve a circular management of the plastic value chain. The first meeting was attended by about **50 participants**, including the **Minister of Environment and Climate of Regione Lombardia**, representing almost all the categories of stakeholders invited.



The main elements, among others, that emerged from the round table were:

- change of paradigm in communication: plastic demonization is not the correct approach
- eco-design to enhance recyclability
- promotion of recycled products market
- optimization of collection system and improvement of quality in separate collection streams etc.

Memorandum of Cooperation

The **Municipality of Rethymno** represented by the Deputy Mayor Mr. Stelios Spanoudakis signed a **memorandum of cooperation**, on 12 March 2020, between the **Region of Crete, Municipalities and Hoteliers of Crete** for the sustainable waste management of the beaches and the reduction of single use plastics.



During the event, an extensive consultation was held, under the chairmanship of the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis. **PLASTEKO project** was there and was presented to the event participants by Mr. Vasilis Myriokefalitakis.

Some of the obligations originated from the memorandum which the signatories are engaged to follow are:

- Municipalities should Include specific terms for the coastal and sea protection when tendering the “organized beaches” management.

- Hotel owners should remove single-use plastics and replace the plastic bottles for take-away use, with glass ones, or reusable plastic or metal bottles for take-away use.
- Region of Crete shall monitor the implementation actions of all parties, report when the commitments are not followed and break the collaboration with parties that do not repeatedly comply with the agreement.

To Watch...

Campaign “My Sea”

The campaign “My Sea” launched by the Environmental Education Foundation in 2012 is a successful example of reducing plastic waste in the coastal area. The campaign was launched to raise public awareness on the problem of marine pollutant waste. The campaign is periodically implemented in cooperation with a wide range of partners in Latvia and other countries – public administration institutions, municipalities, NGOs, as well as international institutions and research institutes. The last expedition took place in summer of 2018.



The campaign “My Sea” has been highly acclaimed nationally and internationally, receiving prestigious awards such as the Environmental Science Award (2012), the Latvian Society of Physicians Annual Health Award (2016), the Energy Globe Award Latvia (2017), and the International Baltic Sea Fund Award (2018).

More to learn on: <http://www.manajura.lv/lv/par-kampanu/>

New guide on products made from recycled plastics

In April 2020, the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) published the guidelines for the procurement of products made of recycled plastics. The guide gives recommendations on which criteria should be observed, especially to prevent the transfer of pollutants into products.



The new guide contains essential information and recommendations for public purchasers on how to integrate environmental aspects into procurement and contract documents. The Plastics Strategy as a contribution to a

circular economy of the EU explicitly mentions public procurement as an important instrument to increase the sales of recycled materials.

More to learn on:

https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/publikationen/leitfaden_zur_umweltfreundlichen_oeffentlichen_beschaffung_produkte_aus_recyclingkunststoffen_stand_2020.pdf

Installation of waste bins for persons with disabilities



The Municipality of Rethymno installed waste bins especially designed for disabled. These photovoltaic bins were placed in 12 areas of the city-close to the parking spaces dedicated for people with disabilities -and are operated by push button.

Looking forward to...

- The results of the studies on the data collection from the A.1. will be presented in the next, 3rd, newsletter.
- The forthcoming activities of the **PLASTEKO consortium**.

PROJECT PARTNERS



MUNICIPALITY OF RETHYMINO



LOMBARDY REGION



REGION OF STYRIA



STARA ZAGORA REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



CLUSTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL
TECHNOLOGIES BAVARIA



AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



BUCHAREST-ILFOV REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



ASSOCIATION BALTIC COASTS

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plastecoproject@gmail.com