



Concept Note

Regional Training on Marine Litter Monitoring and Management in the Mediterranean

(SWIM-H2020 SM - REG-1)

Combined with the:

- Peer-to-Peer exchange (P2P-3) on Management of Marine Litter with emphasis on related provisions/regulatory frameworks on plastic waste
- Webinar(s) on Marine Litter monitoring (WEB-2)

Athens, Greece
October 24-25, 2018

SWIM and Horizon2020 Support Mechanism



1 INTRODUCTION: THE SWIM-H2020 SM

The SWIM and H2020 SM is a Regional Technical Support Program, funded by the European Commission, Directorate General (DG) NEAR (Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations), that includes the following Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia. However, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey and Mauritania. The Program is funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) South/Environment. It ensures the continuation of EU's regional support to ENP South countries in the fields of water management, marine pollution prevention and adds value to other important EU-funded regional programs in related fields, in particular the SWITCH-Med program, and the Clima South program, as well as to projects under the EU bilateral programming, where environment and water are identified as priority sectors for the EU co-operation. It complements and provides operational partnerships and links with the projects labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean, project preparation facilities in particular MESHIP phase II and with the next phase of the ENPI-SEIS project on environmental information systems, whereas its work plan will be coherent with, and supportive of, the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan.

The overall objective of the Program is to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a more sustainable use of scarce water resources. The Technical Assistance services are grouped in 6 work packages: WP1. Expert facility, WP2. Peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue, WP3. Training activities, WP4. Communication and visibility, WP5. Capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories and WP6. Support activities.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 15 (fifteen) regional on-site training activities with participants from most Partner Countries were incorporated in the Project Work Plan.

This regional training is implemented under the H2020 Component of the project and clustered in the Project Work Plan under WP3, REG-1 'Overview of the developments in Europe and the Mediterranean on Marine Litter monitoring. Correlations with policies dealing with the use of plastics'. It is implemented in close connection with the Peer-to-Peer activity under WP2, P2P-3, on 'Management of Marine Litter with emphasis on related provisions/regulatory frameworks on plastic waste'. The Peers of this P2P are from the three countries implementing Marine Litter monitoring activities under the Expert Facility:



- Algeria: Characterization of marine and coastal litter on 14 coastal wilayas and support for the development of a national management plan for coastal waste and marine litter (EFH-DZ-4, EFH-DZ-5)
- Egypt: Assessment of marine litter in the Egyptian Mediterranean coastline and proposed management options (EFH-EG-3)
- Morocco: Strengthening participatory coastal management for the reduction of marine litter in the regions of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima and Rabat-Salé-Kénitra (EFH-MO-4).

A webinar took place in March 2018 to support the Peers in launching their spring monitoring activities. It is foreseen that one more webinar will take place open to include, beyond the Peers, representatives from the National Ministries responsible for designing the national marine litter monitoring programme in the other partner countries as well as other competent stakeholders.

The Marine Litter theme of the project covers the following:

- Enhancing the coordination on marine litter related aspects from monitoring and assessment approaches to prevention and mitigation measures, to concretely support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the implementation of the European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Complementing the UN Environment/MAP ongoing activities on marine litter focusing on the measures outlined in the Regional Plan e.g. prioritizing and showcasing measures; sharing best practices; developing guidelines, etc. An indicative list of priority measures include: the reduction of plastic bags; deposit refund schemes for beverage packaging; ALDFG (Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear) management schemes; legal and economic instruments and incentives to implement circular economy; Extended Producer Responsibility schemes; the no-special fee system; adopt a beach, etc.
- Building synergies with the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, implemented and coordinated by UN Environment/MAP covering a period of three years (June 2016 – June 2019).
- Capitalizing on and replicating successful EU (and other) funded initiatives implemented on the science-policy-society interface such as the Interreg Med ACT4LITTER project, the IPA-Adriatic DeFishGear project, the FP7 MARLISCO, etc.
- Advancing and strengthening the implementation of major upcoming programmes such as the 'Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean litter free' project, labeled in 2016 under the Union for the Mediterranean and the recently launched CBC-Med 'Plastic Busters MPAs' project.

2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Marine litter - any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment - is globally acknowledged as a major societal challenge of our times due to its significant environmental, economic, social, political and cultural implications. Marine



litter negatively impacts coastal and marine ecosystems and the services they provide, ultimately affecting people's livelihoods and well-being.

Marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea has been acknowledged as a critical issue and it is widely accepted that it is one of the most affected seas by marine litter worldwide (UN Environment/MAP, 2015). In the past few years our understanding of the marine litter problem in the Mediterranean has been substantially enhanced, with several studies shedding light on the amounts, distribution, sources and impacts of marine litter in the region. However marine litter information in the Mediterranean still remains inconsistent and geographically restricted to the Northern Mediterranean countries. The need for accurate, coherent and comparable scientific data on marine litter in the Mediterranean countries is evident in order to set priorities for action and address marine litter effectively, thus ensuring the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment of the region.

The Regional (REG-1) workshop will support the implementation in the beneficiary countries of the obligations and measures relevant to the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. More specifically, the activities will support beneficiary countries in: integrating marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plan in line with Article 7 of the Regional Plan; assessing marine litter in their coastlines in line with Article 11 of the Regional Plan; designing marine litter monitoring programmes in line with Article 12 of the Regional Plan; supporting the implementation of the Regional Plan the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP – Decision IG.22/7) through technical assistance and capacity building in line with Article 15 of the Regional Plan.

Marine Litter has also been acknowledged as a major threat in many Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) hampering the achievement of their conservation goals. MPA Managers lack the tools and knowledge to effectively address the issue at their level and prevent the problem from getting worse. In view of this, **SWIM-H2020 SM has joined forces with the Interreg Med project ACT4Litter** (<https://act4litter.interreg-med.eu/>) **which aims to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs through effective and targeted measures towards reaching their conservation targets.** The ACT4Litter Closing Conference will take place on the 24th of October and will be the first day of REG-1. This way the SWIM-H2020 SM trainees will benefit from the outcomes and lessons learned of this 2.5-year project.

2.3 TARGET GROUP

The ideal target group of this workshop are competent authorities and implementers who are involved in different aspects of marine litter monitoring and management in the partner countries.

Four representatives are targeted to be invited from each partner country from the following:

- National Ministry, responsible for designing the national marine litter monitoring programme as well as the marine litter programme of measures;
- Research institutes and academia, working on the issue of marine litter monitoring;



- Local or regional public authority, ideally the Association of cities or equivalent, in charge of keeping the beaches clean and/or managing waste and/or involved in designing/implementing the waste management plan;
- NGO or other civil society organisation working in the field of carrying out beach litter surveys or interested in performing marine litter monitoring.

The first day of the training will be the closing conference of the Interreg Med project ACT4Litter which aims to facilitate efforts for tackling marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs through effective and targeted measures towards reaching their conservation targets. So it may be meaningful to include in the four trainees one professional from a Mediterranean Protected Area (MPA) where they exist.

3 OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

3.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of REG-1 is to bring together the key stakeholders from the beneficiary countries with selected experts and provide a high-level collective learning experience in order to strengthen the implementation in the beneficiary countries of the obligations and measures relevant to the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention.

The specific objectives of these activities are to:

- Provide the participants with a complete and comprehensive introduction of the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean of the Barcelona Convention, its requirements and obligations. Throughout the workshop emphasis will be given to the practical implementation of the marine litter related indicators adopted within the Barcelona Convention Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP – Decision IG.22/7).
- Enable, encourage, and facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences between participants from the beneficiary countries on marine litter monitoring and management measures;
- Promote sharing of best practices and facilitate synergies and complementary activities within the Mediterranean with regards to marine litter monitoring and management measures;
- Facilitate the peer-to-peer process for experience sharing at regional level and knowledge transfer on marine litter monitoring and share the lessons learned at the regional workshop.

The first day of the training will be the ACT4LITTER closing conference.



3.2 APPROACH TO MEET OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve the REG-1 objectives, a highly dynamic, comprehensive, interactive, facilitated and participatory approach will be adopted. The training will comprise a balanced mix of presentations, small group simulation exercises and moderated discussion to foster an engaging learning experience. At the end of the workshop the participants will be provided with the training materials and other marine litter related resources so as to enhance their competences on how to design and implement marine litter monitoring and management measures.

3.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of REG-1 are:

- Enhanced understanding of key issues (technical, environmental, economic, health, cultural and social) related to marine litter;
- Deepened knowledge on the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the three marine litter indicators adopted within the Barcelona Convention Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP – Decision IG.22/7);
- Improved knowledge and understanding of appropriate marine litter monitoring schemes and methodologies;
- Strengthened capacities to monitor marine litter on beaches in a harmonized way and also enhanced skills to process the marine litter datasets and identify the marine litter sources.
- Strengthened implementation of the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
- A peer-to-peer process for experience sharing at the regional level and knowledge transfer on marine litter monitoring and marine litter management.
- A continuing regional dialogue on marine litter monitoring and marine litter management issues among and between decision makers, practitioners, experts, NGOs and international technical experts, catalysing the development of synergetic activities, regional cooperation, etc.

4 LOCATION, TIME AND LOGISTICS

REG-1 will be organised in Athens, Greece over two consecutive days, **from 24 to 25 October 2018**, with travels on the day before and after (4 days in total).

SWIM-H2020 SM will arrange all logistics for the training, including travel, accommodation and catering.

Interpretation of English/French will be available.



5 TRAINING AGENDA (PROVISIONAL)

24 October 2018 - The ACT4LITTER closing regional conference

Venue: Central Building of the University of Athens, 30 Panepistimiou Ave.

| Time | Session | Description |
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| 09.15-09.45 | Registration | |
| 09.45-10.00 | S01 –Welcome addresses and opening remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anastasia Roniotes, MIO-ECSDE Head Officer Magali Outters, Team Leader -- Policy Area, SCP/RAC |
| 10.00-11.00 | S02 – Setting the scene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marine Strategy Framework Directive and other EU policies to combat marine litter: Video message to the Closing Conference of the ACT4LITTER project – Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean: where are we now?–Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Marine litter in the Mediterranean: a synthesis of processes, initiatives and actors – Michael Scoullos, MIO-ECSDE Chairman & SWIM-H2020 SM Team Leader |
| 11.00-11.30 | Coffee break | |
| 11.30-12.45 | S03 – Advancing knowledge and actions to tackle marine litter in Med MPAs: the ACT4LITTER showcase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT4LITTER in a nutshell – Ignasi Mateo, SCP/RAC Project Manager The ACT4LITTER participatory science case study – Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer The ACT4LITTER decision-making tool: a tool for supporting practitioners against marine litter – Silvia Sarti & Alessandra Borghini, SSSUP The ACT4LITTER pilots and the joint plan for action – Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE Programme Officer & Pierre Vignes, MEDPAN Project Officer |
| 12.45-13.45 | Lunch break | |
| 13.45-15.15 | S04 – Thinking globally & acting locally: sharing local experiences on how to curb marine litter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Into the wild combat against marine litter: an MPA manager perspective –Gloria García, Cabo de Gata-Nijjar Natural Park, Spain & Xavier Abril, Delta de l'Ebre Natural Park, Spain Marine litter in the Kornati National Park–Martina Markov, Marine Biologist, Kornati National Park, Croatia Fighting marine litter in the Mediterranean coastline of Morocco: a story from the south –Khaoula Lagrini, Unit in charge of the coast, Direction of programmes |



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| | | <p>implementation, State Secretariat for Sustainable Development, Morocco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the issue of tourism waste in Mediterranean islands – Francesco Lembo, ACR+ Programme Officer • FreiburgCup - a reusable coffee to go cup for a city – Peter Krause, Waste Management Company of Freiburg, Germany |
| 15.15-15.30 | Coffee break | |
| 15.30-16.45 | S05 – Working together at all levels to combat marine litter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Litter Management Best Practices – Christos Ioakeimidis, Marine Litter Expert, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan • The Plastic Busters MPAs project – Cristina Fossi, Plastic Busters Scientific Coordinator, University of Siena, Italy • Reducing plastic pollution through innovation: best practices for creative upcycling – Alex Filippidis, Project Manager, Precious Plastic Greece • Plastics in the circular economy –Juan Ruiz, PlasticsEurope Iberica |
| 16.45-17.00 | S06 – Wrap up and closure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Scoullas, MIO-ECSDE Chairman • Magali Outters, Team Leader -- Policy Area, SCP/RAC |
| 20.00 | Networking dinner at the Divani Acropolis Palace roof garden | |

25 October 2018

Venue: Divani Palace Acropolis, 19 Parthenonos Str.

| Time | Session | Description | Speaker(s) |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 09.15-09.30 | Welcome | Welcoming remarks Agenda overview | Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, SWIM-H2020 SM/MIO-ECSDE marine litter expert |
| 09.30-11.00 | Monitoring marine litter | <p>Brief overview of the SWIM-H2020 SM marine litter monitoring related activities</p> <p>Brief overview of the UN Environment/MAP-MEDPOL marine litter monitoring activities</p> <p>Pilot beach litter monitoring in Egypt: highlights and lessons learned</p> <p>Pilot marine litter monitoring activities in Algeria: highlights and lessons learned</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> | <p>Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, SWIM-H2020 SM/MIO-ECSDE marine litter expert</p> <p>Christos Ioakimeidis, UN Environment MAP marine litter expert</p> <p>Dr. Sameh Ayoub, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Ministry of Environment</p> <p><i>Speaker to be confirmed</i></p> |
| 11.00-11.30 | Coffee break | | |



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| 11.30-13.00 | Marine litter management showcases | Reducing the use of plastic bags in Tunisia: challenges and lessons learned Piloting the adopt-a-beach scheme in Morocco: challenges and lessons learned Implementing the fishing for litter in Egypt: challenges and lessons learned Banning single-use plastic bags in Israel: challenges and lessons learned <i>Discussion</i> | Mr. Larbi Bouguerra, Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement Mr. Abid Abdeslam, National Laboratory of Studies and Pollution Monitoring, Morocco Dr. Sameh Ayoub, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency - Ministry of Environment Dr. Dror Zurel, Marine monitoring and research coordinator, Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch break | | |
| 14.00-15.15 | Prioritizing marine litter measures based on sound-scientific evidence | Simulation exercise in group work | Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, SWIM-H2020 SM/MIO-ECSDE marine litter expert Francesco Lembo, ACR+ Programme Officer |
| 15.15-15.30 | | | |
| 15.30-16.30 | Prioritizing marine litter measures based on sound-scientific evidence (continued) | Group work results presented in plenary | All |
| 16.30-17.00 | Wrap up and closure | Reflections & concluding remarks, certificates, evaluation | All |

The civil society component of SWIM-H2020 SM is facilitated by the UfM labelled BlueGreen project and network