PLASTICS

**TARGET COUNTRIES**

1. **BULGARIA**

**Waste not, want not**

Cohesion Fund for the period July 2003-December 2008 - Programming period: 2007-2013 - EU Investment: EUR 44,190,000

As part of a major national effort to replace existing disposal sites, Bulgaria has recently built five new regional solid waste landfills. The project brings the nation into line with European regulations on solid waste management and avoids potential environmental damage from pollution and unregulated landfills. “We are setting up a full-scale recycling section to extract metal, glass, plastic and paper with two different systems to deal with domestic and construction waste.”Plamen Kanazizov, landfill manager for Ruse. The project aimed to achieve solid waste management in full compliance with European and Bulgarian regulations and thereby avoid potential environmental damage from old polluted and unregulated landfills. Further objectives were to reduce pollution into the Danube and into the Black Sea basin, to shut down some of the oldest and most polluted disposal sites, and to rehabilitate the former disposal sites.
<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/bulgaria/waste-not-want-not-2>

1. **GREECE (covered in Interreg projects)**
2. **ITALY (covered in Interreg projects)**
3. **POLAND**

**New waste collection system for Sierpc**

Project Title: “Development and implementation of a selective waste collection system, for waste generated by the city of Sierpc”ERDF - 2007-2013 (07/2008 - 09/2011) - Total Investment: EUR 64 328 - EU Investment: EUR 24 977

With ERDF-funding, a new selective waste collection system has been set up in the city of Sierpc, Poland. A marked decrease in waste has been recorded in the city’s air, water and soil. The project team set out to decrease the amount of waste stored directly on waste dumps, while at the same time increasing the number of secondary raw materials recycled from the waste stream. It did this by purchasing bags, bins and containers to encourage separate waste collection. It also ran an awareness raising campaign that promoted the advantages of this new way of collecting waste to the city’s residents. Specifically, the system aimed at separating 14 different kinds of waste: paper, metals, plastics, glass, multi-material packages, biodegradable communal wastes, expired products, chemicals, used batteries and accumulators, used electronic equipment, furniture and other large-size waste, building and demolition waste, used tires, green waste. The project has given the residents of Sierpc the tools to manage their waste in an environmentally friendly manner, helping reducing the amount of pollution finding its way into the air, water and soil. It has resulted in visible and tangible benefits for the city’s residents, and has had a positive impact on the environment.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/poland/new-waste-collection-system-for-sierpc>

1. **PORTUGAL (covered in Interreg projects)**
2. **ROMANIA**

**Waste management project to reduce landfill waste**

Project Title: “Integrated Waste Management System in Dolj County”

ERDF - Operational Programme "Environment" - 2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 53 612 797 - EU Investment: EUR 41 121 056

A major waste management project in the Romanian county of Dolj increases waste disposal and recycling in rural areas and reduces biodegradable waste landfilled in both urban and rural communities. All of Dolj’s 611 347 inhabitants are covered by the project, which also takes into account the need for higher public awareness and participation. When the whole population is provided with separate collection for packaging waste, a total recovery rate of 60 % is ensured by 2016, with a total recycling rate of 55 %. Total recycling is broken down as: 60 % for glass, 60 % for paper and cardboard, 50 % for metal, 22.5 % for plastic and 15 % for wood. Due to the implementation of separate collection for the entire county, as well as to the promotion of home composting and the construction of biodegradable treatment facilities, the quantity of landfilled biodegradable waste will be reduced by 35 % by 2016, compared to the quantity generated in 1995. The project is also expected to create around 300 jobs upon completion in 2017.
<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/waste-management-project-to-reduce-landfill-waste>

**Cleaning up life quality in North-East Romania**

Project Title: “Integrated Waste Management System in Iaşi County”

ERDF - Operational Programme "Environment" - 2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 55 095 293 - EU Investment: EUR 42 232 195

# The project will improve existing waste services and install new facilities. Collection equipment and transfer systems will be built or upgraded, while sorting and treatment stations will be created to handle waste. Four sub-standard landfill sites will be closed, and the remaining landfill capacity brought into line with the highest standards. Households and businesses in towns and cities will all benefit from separate waste collection procedures, to stream different types of refuse. Composting will be made an integral part of the new waste system, favouring biodegradable and reusable end-of-life refuse. This will bring the amount of waste sent to landfill down to just 35 % of the total. Meanwhile 59 % of waste will be recycled by 2013. For glass waste the recycling target will be even higher, at 76 %. The recycling rates will be 65 % for paper and cardboard, and 63 % for metal and plastic. Even 22 % of wood will be recycled.

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/cleaning-up-life-quality-in-north-east-romania>

**Major waste management programme provides investment spur**

Project Title: "Integrated waste management system in Constanta County"

ERDF - Operational Programme "Environment" - 2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 56 365 461 - EU Investment: EUR 32 566 520

# A recycling scheme in south east Romania is flying the flag for green-friendly waste collection. The project will see a total transformation in the way waste is collected and disposed of and includes the construction of two new transfer stations, two sorting plants and a new landfill site. This investment has three main targets: Firstly, a significant increase in mixed waste collection - in 2009, the rate in rural areas was a mere 39 %, and the aim is to increase this to 100 %, as is the case in urban areas. Secondly, the reduction of biodegradable waste currently sent to landfill sites. The aim is, by 2016, to reduce this to 35 % of the total quantity generated in 1995 in order to have separate collection of waste in six areas and two stations designed to process biodegradable waste. In this respect, a public awareness campaign will promote home composting, cut waste at source and highlight the potential benefits of recycling. A third goal is to increase the overall amount of collected waste, which is recycled to 59 %. The recycling target is 60 % for both glass and paper/cardboard, 50 % for metal, and 22.5 % for plastic. For wood, the target is 15 %.

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/major-waste-management-programme-provides-investment-spur>

# Similar Projects about waste management from various countries in Romania:

# “Integrated waste management system in Maramureş County”

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/improved-waste-management-leads-to-better-quality-of-life>

# “Integrated waste management system in Hunedoara County”

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/improving-waste-management-brings-widespread-benefits>

# "Integrated waste management system in Timiş County"

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/less-waste-better-waste-management-for-timis-county>

# "Integrated waste management system in Sibiu County"

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/sorting-out-waste-for-clean-future>

# “Integrated waste management in Ramnicu Valcea”

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/integrated-and-exemplary-waste-management>

# Solid waste management in Piatra Neamt

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/better-waste-management-comes-to-piatra-neamt>

# ”Integrated Waste Management System in Suceava County”

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/romania/county-looks-forward-to-new-waste-management-facilities>

1. **SPAIN**

**Waste sorting and treatment plant - Besòs Ecoparc 3**

ERDF - 2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 45,000,000 - EU Investment: EUR 36,000,000
The Besòs Ecoparc 3 is a biological waste treatment and sorting plant which treats waste from the municipalities of Badalona, Sant Adrià de Besòs, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Barcelona. The plant treats waste that has not been previously sorted and is able to recover organic materials (between 30% and 40%) which are used to produce biogas. Half of the energy generated by this is used to power the plant, whilst the rest is exported to the grid. At the same time, the biological treatment process is also able to recover other products such as paper, cardboard, plastic and “bricks”, for subsequent recycling. The Ecoparc can treat up to 400 000 tonnes of waste a year.
<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/spain/waste-sorting-and-treatment-plant-besos-ecoparc-3>

# A window of opportunity for waste

Project Title: Ecoparque de La Rioja

# Cohesion Fund over the period 2000-2006 – Programming Period 2007-2013 - EU Investment: EUR 12,500,000

# Northern Spain is taking major steps towards a greener society through the project Ecoparque de La Rioja. This environmental management site is where large quantities of local waste are being recycled and reused, generating products such as biogas and compost and resulting in a sizeable reduction in detrimental impacts on the environment. The doors of the site are also open to visitors in a bid to raise awareness about waste and environmental issues.

# <http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/spain/a-window-of-opportunity-for-waste>

1. **INTERREG – Target Countries**

# Innovative value chain development for sustainable plastics in Central Europe (PLASTiCE)

# *Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia*

# ERDF - Operational Programme 'Central Europe' - 2007-2013 (04/2011 - 03/2014) - Total Investment: EUR 2 552 178 - EU Investment: EUR 2 112 448

The impact of plastic packaging on the environment is devastating. Made from fossil resources, they not only consume substantial natural resources during the production process; once discarded they also fill our landfills for centuries. The PLASTiCE project promotes replacing some of these fossil resources by sustainable, biodegradable or renewable resources. PLASTiCE aims to change this by promoting research and commercialisation of bioplastics, a new kind of packaging that is biodegradable or made entirely of renewable resources. The project encourages the use of plastics with improved sustainability by promoting bioplastics across the entire value chain in Central Europe. From production to waste management, the end result is the full integration of plastics into natural material cycles.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/italy/bioplastics-a-better-plastic-for-a-better-environment>

<https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/15884/PLASTiCE?ss=609e6afed68aa67622b36b8e051f42c7&espon>=

**Design of a common agrochemical plastic packaging waste management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with agricultural plastic waste valorisation (AGROCHEPACK)**

***Greece, France, Italy, Spain***

2007-2013 Programme MED - Project Period: 31.05.2010-30.05.2013 - Total budget: EUR 1.158.000 - EU funding: EUR 880.300

The aim is to design a common agrochemical plastic packaging waste (APPW) management scheme to protect the natural resources and valorise waste materials. This scheme will be based on adapting compatible elements of ongoing national schemes where such schemes exist. It will be coherent and will exploit the research results developed by the system of valorization of agricultural plastic waste (APW) Labelagriwaste. It will pilot test the proposed scheme in the countries where no scheme exists.

<https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/3994/AGROCHEPACK?ss=bcb7febcf9dec2fd0cb48e774a44574d&espon>=

**Developing and strengthening cross-sectoral linkages among actors in sustainable biocomposite packaging innovation systems in a Central European circular economy – ONGOING PROJECT**

***Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Italy, Croatia, Slovakia***

Programme: 2014 - 2020 INTERREG VB Central Europe - Project duration: 2017/05/01-2020/04/30 - Total budget: EUR 1.950.010 - EU funding: EUR 1.635.752

Paper and cardboard represented 41% of packaging waste generated by weight in the EU-28 in 2013 (about 32.2 million tonnes). The main project objective is to provide to stronger linkages between R&D institutions and companies in the area of paper-plastics packaging solutions with the aim to introduce verified biodegradable materials in paper and cardboard packaging. The project foresees an innovative cross-sectoral approach and the involvement of clusters, branch organizations and stakeholders, that will allow to focus on regional economic specialisations and to speed up technology transfer. The Project Partners will establish a Transnational Biocomposite Packaging Centre as a virtual RDI platform that brings together cross-sectoral capacities in paper and bioplastics, linked with regional innovation systems and the European Enterprise Network, supported by an integrated cross-sectoral business support service including a set of dedicated tools tested under pilot actions and disseminated among cluster coordinators and EEN consultants. A Central European Strategy on biocomposite packaging innovation systems shall set the framework, a handbook: "Sustainable Paper-Plastic Design" and an audit tool will help companies to quickly verify opportunities and chose for change.

<https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/43764/Developing%20and%20strengthening%20cross-sectoral%20linkages%20among%20actors%20in%20sustainable%20biocomposite%20packaging%20innovation%20systems%20in%20a%20Central%20European%20circular%20economy>

**OTHER COUNTRIES**

1. **AUSTRIA**
2. **BELGIUM (covered in Interreg projects)**

**Belgium’s Walloon Region creates innovative process for recycling bulky plastics**

Project Title: “Technopoly Recyclage”ERDF - Operational Programme "Wallonia (Hainaut)" – 2007-2013 (07/2008 - 12/2015) - Total Investment: EUR 5 268 594 - EU Investment: EUR 1 574 198
Although there are efficient processes for recycling such everyday plastic materials as bottles and other small items, such processes are lacking for bulky and less common plastic items. As a result, most of these items end up in the landfill. In the Walloon Region of Belgium, the Technopoly Recyclage project has implemented an innovative process for recycling post-consumer rigid plastic waste at the landfill itself. The recycling loop covers selective collection, waste treatment and processing – converting the rigid plastic into valuable secondary raw materials. Today, this process for recycling bulky municipal plastic waste is being used across Wallonia. As a result, nearly 80 % off all rigid plastics brought to the landfills are currently being recycled. Project researchers believe that an estimated 4 500 tonnes of bulky municipal plastic waste can be recycled every year in Wallonia alone.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/belgium/belgiums-walloon-region-creates-innovative-process-for-recycling-bulky-plastics>

1. **CROATIA (covered in Interreg projects)**
2. **CYPRUS**
3. **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Researching polymers and associated technologies**Project Title: “Otto Wichterle Centre of Polymer Materials and Technologies”

ERDF - Operational Programme “Prague” - 2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 3 200 000 - EU Investment: EUR 2 500 000
The new Otto Wichterle Centre of Polymer Materials and Technologies in Prague, which opened in 2011, aims to become a global centre of expertise for research into synthetic polymers. The new innovation centre has been equipped with state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to investigate a wide range of fields, such as polymer-processing, morphology and rheology, the durability of plastics, chemical degradation and thermodynamics, the mechanical behaviour of polymeric materials and polymers for opto-electronics. Practical applications of this research include the development of advanced structural blends and composites, materials for artificial joints, polymer sensors and solar cells. The centre is also engaged in environmentally-focussed projects such as research into plastics recycling and the development of plastics from renewable sources. Other examples of the centre’s activities include: applied research, cooperation with industry, the training of laboratory personnel and the organisation of workshops for experts in practice.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/czech-republic/researching-polymers-and-associated-technologies>

1. **DENMARK**
2. **ESTONIA (covered in Interreg projects)**
3. **FINLAND**

**Finnish company gets global boost with smart plastics technology**

### Project Title: "TactoTek – support for investments, innovation and development activities for the purpose of production upscaling"

### ERDF - Operational programme "[Sustainable growth and jobs" -](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/finland/2014fi16m2op001) 2014-2020 (07/2014 - 02/2017) - Total Investment: EUR 344 020 - EU Investment: EUR 172 020

TactoTek is a manufacturer of in-mould structural electronics based in Oulu, a technology hub in Northern Finland. By combining in-mould printed electronics and components into plastics, its founders created a new way to mass produce structural electronic devices, or parts of devices using well-known production technologies. This enables the mass production of 3D structural electronics with existing machinery. With mass manufacturing of these new kinds of electronic devices, the amount of plastics used is reduced by up to 70 % compared to traditional production. EU funding provided the additional financial support needed for TactoTek to move from a successful start-up business to become a global supplier.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/finland/finnish-company-gets-global-boost-with-smart-plastics-technology>

1. **FRANCE**

**SME based in the south of France uses biomaterials to replace plastic**

Project Title:"Vegepack, food packaging trays" project & "SME support contract, coffee capsules"ERDF - Operational Programme "Midi-Pyrénées" – 2007-2013 (09/2009 - 08/2013) Total Investment: EUR 1 597 167 - EU Investment: EUR 480 000
Vegeplast, a company based in the south of France, specialises in biodegradable products made from cereals. Vegeplast produces biodegradable items from agricultural material. With support from Europe, it developed two products which are widely used, every day, all around the world: food packaging trays (Vegepack) and coffee capsules which are compatible with Nespresso machines. These bioplastics offer a real alternative to the plastics produced by the petrochemical sector. Made of plant matter, they will end their life cycle as compost, being turned into fertilisers.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/france/sme-based-in-the-south-of-france-uses-biomaterials-to-replace-plastic>

**World-class recycling centre**

ERDF -2007-2013 - Total Investment: EUR 14,808,100 - EU Investment: EUR 5,356900

The safe disposal of waste is a growing problem for every country, but one of particular concern on islands with limited landfill space. Guadeloupe’s latest solution is a state-of-the-art recycling unit for plastics and tyres, adjoining a waste-recycling centre near the town of Pointe-à-Pitre. The main facility has a surface area of some 5 500 m2 and recycles plastics and used tyres. Operational since March 2004, it is located in La Gabarre near Pointe-à-Pitre. The project also resulted in the building of a new collection and sorting centre for household waste, agricultural plastic waste and non-hazardous industrial waste. The centre is continually fed by deliveries from local authorities and companies. Completed in 2009, the project created much-needed waste collection and processing facilities for the archipelago. Plastics and used-tyres waste passing through the facilities can now be reused immediately, rather than being incinerated or dumped in landfill sites with the risk of creating pollution. At full capacity, the facilities can process several hundred tonnes of plastics and old tyres a week. These are turned into granulates with a certificate guaranteeing their quality. Recycled material like this can be sold worldwide to make anything from tubes to garden furniture – and all for a cost of around 20% less than virgin material.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/france/world-class-recycling-centre>

1. **GERMANY**
2. **HUNGARY (covered in Interreg projects)**
3. **IRELAND (covered in Interreg projects)**
4. **LATVIA (covered in Interreg projects)**
5. **LITHUANIA**
6. **LUXEMBOURG**
7. **MALTA**

**Malta curbs the cycle of waste**Cohesion Fund over the period 2004–2006 - Programming period: 2007-2013 - EU Investment: EUR 11,700,000
Modern waste processing systems demand state-of-the-art technology and new infrastructure in order to reduce detrimental effects on the environment. This large-scale project to upgrade the Sant'Antnin waste treatment plant and material recycling and recovery facility embodies this notion and in February 2008 saw the official inauguration of the Material Recycling Facility for household recyclables. The Material Recovery Facility (MRF), opened in 2008, is now fully operational, processing selectively collected recyclables from households, such as glass, paper, metals and plastics. The MRF is just one of several components of the Sant’Antnin upgrade that by 2010 are expected to process and treat some 36 000 tonnes of dry recyclables every year.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/malta/malta-curbs-the-cycle-of-waste>

1. **NETHERLANDS**

**A hub for innovative plastic technology in the Netherlands’ Drenthe region**Project Title: “Knowledge Hub Sustainable Plastics (Stenden Polymore Research & Education, Stenden PRE)”

ERDF - Operational Programme "North Netherlands" - 2007-2013 (20/2009 - 03/2014) - Total Investment: EUR 2 133 700 - EU Investment: EUR 100 000
To boost the development of a sustainable plastics and bio-based economy in the Netherlands’ Drenthe region and surrounding areas, the Stenden Polymore Research & Education (Stenden PRE) project brought together academics, businesses and the public sector to create a specialised knowledge and business hub. Stenden PRE is a catalyst for sustainable development, open innovation and co-creation, serving as the launch pad for numerous spinoffs. One example is GreenPAC, an open innovation centre for the incubation of plastics-based start-ups. Other spin-offs have created the world’s first bio-composite folding bridge at a local zoo and sustainable boats built out of biopolymers and new bio-based plastic fibres for 3D printing. The Stenden PRE hub has also attracted an array of plastic-related SMEs, international companies, R&D projects, academic consortia, conferences and cooperatives to the region. An online database ([www.stendenpre.com](http://www.stendenpre.com/)) has been created to share results.

<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/netherlands/a-hub-for-innovative-plastic-technology-in-the-netherlands-drenthe-region>

1. **SLOVAKIA (covered in Interreg projects)**
2. **SLOVENIA (covered in Interreg projects)**
3. **SWEDEN (covered in Interreg projects)**
4. **UNITED KINGDOM (covered in Interreg projects)**
5. **Interreg (European Territorial Cooperation across borders)**

**Wealth from waste in Northern and Artic marine regions**

**(Regiostars 2016 Winner)**

Project Title: "Circular Ocean" – ***Greenland, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom***

ERDF - Operational programme "Interreg V-A - Germany-The Netherlands" - 2014-2020 (10/2015 - 09/2018) - Total Investment: EUR 1 472 185 - EU Investment: EUR 921 176
The stunning coastlines of the Northern Periphery & Arctic region have traditionally supported strong fishing communities. But times are changing. The industry is on the decline, while plastic fishing litter threatens wildlife and fishing boats. The EU-funded Circular Ocean project has stepped in with support to develop smart ‘green’ industries from old plastic fishing nets and ropes. This represents 10% of marine waste and is a potential resource for many industries, and can be incorporated into products such as clothing and skateboards. Funded with EUR 921 176 from the European Regional Development Fund, the project helps local social enterprises and SMEs put the litter to profitable use. This creates a circular local economy in the plastics –waste from one business is used in another for a self-sustaining overall economy.
<http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/ireland/wealth-from-waste-in-northern-and-artic-marine-regions>

**MicroPlastics - Is it a threat for the 2 Seas Area?**

***Belgium, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France***

The Programme: 2007 – 2013 Interreg IV-A 2 SEAS (FR-UK-BE-NL) Project Period: 2012/06/30-2014/09/29 - Total budget: EUR 3.015.124,00 - EU funding: EUR 1.482.046,00

An increase in the production of plastics, to match the high demand brought about by our daily use of this material has contributed to a pollution phenomenon in the marine environment caused by plastic debris. Plastics are persistent materials, which tend to accumulate in the marine environment and affect marine life, as they remain in the ecosystem for years. Plastic materials degrade to smaller macro and microplastic (MP) particles, and can be ingested together with additives or chemical products by living marine organisms and be transported along the food chain. In the southern North Sea and Channel area, the abundance and the impact of macro and micro plastic is not well known. In the MICRO project, partners will collect information for this cross-border area focussing on the water column, the seabed, the surface and the coastline, with partners analysing the problem and conducting a risk assessment on these areas with regards to the impact on selected marine species or on maritime activities (fisheries, aquaculture, tourism…). They will also analyse the way in which the microbial load could mitigate and reduce this microplastic problem. Via modeling of the area, the MICRO partners will assess the potential hotspots for any accumulation of microplastics in the cross-border area. For each country, a hotspot will be assessed and will be rigorously monitored.

<https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/39767/MICRO?ss=bcb7febcf9dec2fd0cb48e774a44574d&espon>=

**Education and Development project of Plastic Waste (+WEEE) Recycling**

***Finland, Estonia***

Programme: 2000-2006 Finland-Estonia (FI-EE) - Project period: 2005/03/14-2007/12/30 - Total budget: EUR 387.792,00 - EU funding: EUR 189.711,00

The project examines handling and recycling processes of plastic waste (SER-plastic granules) and surveys co-operation possibilities between Finland and Estonia. The key element of the project is to strengthen co-operation between the authorities as well as between the authorities and producers of plastic. The project supports establishing a know-how centre of recycling in Estonia, and methods of waste collecting and recycling will be developed in co-operation between the know-how centres in Finland and Estonia. Activities support implementing the EU directives in both countries. The project increases also understanding of the public about collecting and recycling of plastic waste. Management of plastic waste will be improved in the Southern Finland and Estonia, but also possibilities for and advantages of cross-border co-operation are to be surveyed.

[https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/10447/RePlast+FinEst?ss=bcb7febcf9dec2fd0cb48e774a44574d&espon](https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/10447/RePlast%2BFinEst?ss=bcb7febcf9dec2fd0cb48e774a44574d&espon)=

**Plastic waste pathways into the Baltic Sea (BLASTIC) – ONGOING PROJECT**

***Finland - Estonia - Latvia - Sweden (Central Baltic)***

Programme: 2014 - 2020 Interreg V-A - Project period: 2016/01/01-2018/12/31 - Total budget: EUR 1.016.555 EU funding: EUR 784.522,46

Marine litter (ML) knows no boundaries and can end up far from its original source. The impacts of ML are environmental, economic and social. In the Central Baltic (CB) ML constitutes of plastic (60%) and packaging material is the dominating fraction (MARLIN 2013). The objective of Blastic is to demonstrate how plastic waste in urban areas finds its ways to the Baltic Sea and becomes marine litter. Blastic will contribute to CB objectives and the result indicator to reduce plastic waste and thereby hazardous substances inflow into the BS from land-based sources. The main outputs of the project will be 1) A new methodology/approach for mapping ML sources and pathways in combination with new field monitoring methods that has potential for being used in other regions and countries. 2) A list of identified and prioritized measures to reduce litter streams from land to sea. 3) Knowledge bank and increased awareness on the environmental (plastic, micro plastics and hazardous substances) and socioeconomic impacts of ML. Local authorities are main stakeholders and citizens and visitors of the CB area the main beneficiaries. The new approach is to take regional and national strategies (Marine Strategy Framework Directive; HELCOM Marine Litter Action Plan) into practice on a local level. Coastal cities have common challenges to reduce litter and the most effective actions will be to target sources on land on a local level. Real data on sources and pathways from 3-4 urban areas across the sea will together present a comprehensive and concrete action list for the whole CB area. Thus Blastic will contribute to a sustainable use of our common resource – the Baltic Sea.

<https://www.keep.eu/keep/project-ext/42936/BLASTIC?ss=c4cb17e3a7857afda3efe08df5ad604e&espon>=