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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 third edition of the 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 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.

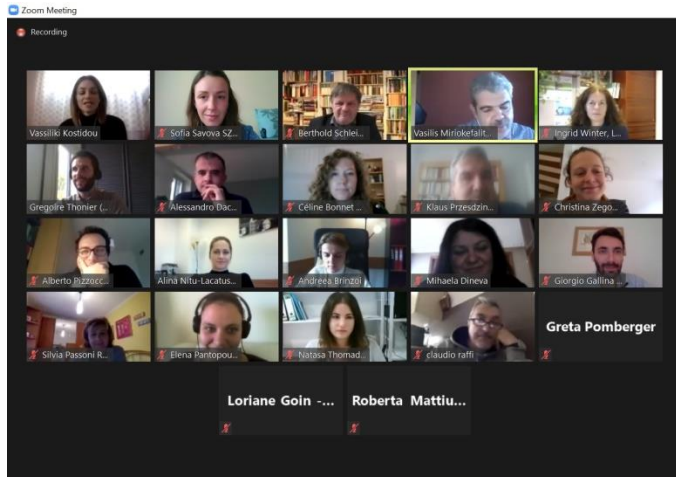
In the following pages, you will find material on the overall context and objectives of the project, as well as information on the latest and upcoming developments and events. We will also keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes through the project website, thematic events, and newsletters.

The PLASTEKO project team



PLASTEKO 3rd Virtual Meeting

The third project meeting of the PLASTEKO project took place virtually on the 3rd and 4th of December.



During the first day of the meeting, project partners were informed about the latest updates from the Joint Secretariat and discussed on the foreseen project activities and outcomes.

SZREDA presented the economic and social barriers that inhibit a more sustainable plastic production and consumption in the context of the Activity A1.1. In the context of the Activity A1.2, AURA-EE presented the results of the comparative analysis of policies to promote the separation, sorting and recycling of plastics waste at partners' territories.

Finally, there was a presentation of the results from the identification of measures to curb aquatic litter & facilitate clean-up efforts.

As regards interregional learning and capacity building, two workshops took place during the meeting. The first focused on urban water management policies and practices to reduce micro-plastics leakage to the environment, while the second on how to facilitate the market placement of alternatives for single use plastics.

During the second day of the project meeting, the discussion was dedicated to project management and implementation issues, as well as the communication and dissemination strategies that will boost awareness for the PLASTEKO project.

Workshop on urban water management policies



On November 24th, 2020, the interregional workshop on urban water management policies and practices to reduce microplastics leakage to the environment took place online. The workshop was organized by the Cluster of Environmental Technologies Bavaria (UCB) and was the first out of four interregional workshops that will take place within the framework of the Interreg Europe project PLASTEKO.

The online workshop was divided into two sections. In the morning, there were six presentations from experts, where participants had the opportunity to ask questions. 71 participants were present via zoom. After the lunch break, the interactive part ensued with 42 participants. Discussions were held in six virtual rooms.



Sylvia Schaab, expert for plastic-free living, from the Plastic-free Augsburg forum, gave an introduction on microplastics.

Prof. Christian Schaum and **Natalie Wick** from Bundeswehr University in Munich gave a lecture on the occurrence of microplastics in wastewater treatment plants and the challenges involved in their sampling and analysis.

Dr. Sebastian Porkert from the Bavarian start-up Ecofario presented the Ecofario technology, a new type of separation process.

Klaus Stegmayer, head of the Augsburg sewage treatment plant, asked the question:

"Are microplastics a problem in his wastewater treatment plant?"

Prof. Francesca Malpei from the Politecnico University of Milan presented the results of a working group that is also dedicated to the topic of microplastics in wastewater treatment plants.

Roberto Saettone from PlasticsEurope Italy presented an initiative aimed at reducing the loss of plastic pellets in the plastics industry.



Through these six presentations, the participants from the PLASTEKO project partner countries gained valuable knowledge and experience. Both project partners and their relevant stakeholders were present at the online workshop.

In the afternoon, the participants were separated into six groups, and virtually discussed existing and possible initiatives and political instruments in the field of microplastics in wastewater, as well as what type of industry and consumers can contribute to minimize microplastics' inputs into nature.

The current situation in all countries and regions involved in the PLASTEKO project was also discussed. Furthermore, the results of the breakout session were documented with the help of the online whiteboard Mural.

Finally, it can be summarized that the topic of microplastics in wastewater treatment plants is still in a very early development stage. Many research projects focus on this topic, some countries deliberate a ban on microplastics in cosmetic products. In France, from 2025, it will be mandatory for all new washing machines to include a filter to retain microplastics particles from synthetic clothing, so that they do not end up in the wastewater. All participants agreed that more awareness raising activities on the topic of microplastics is essential.

PLASTEKO in cooperation with COLLECTORS project



COLLECTORS

WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEMS ASSESSED
AND GOOD PRACTICES IDENTIFIED

The Municipality of Rethymno, Lead Partner of the PLASTEKO project, has responded to the H2020 project COLLECTORS' call to participate in a number of clustering activities, following a meeting held during the COLLECTORS' conference in Thessaloniki, Greece on December 11, 2019.

Specifically, representatives of the Municipality of Rethymno collaborated with peers from the COLLECTORS project, sharing the common goal of transitioning towards a "new plastics economy".

Drawing on a series of deliverables and the COLLECTORS' repository of tools and knowledge, the Municipality of Rethymno will exchange experiences in the areas of plastic waste management, public procurement, funding, awareness raising, and regulatory waste framework conditions, and will receive feedback from experts to catalyze effective waste collection.

Following the initial meeting, due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, all subsequent meetings were held online via Skype and Microsoft Team calls.

COLLECTORS' outputs that can be used in the context of the PLASTEKO project are available [here](#).

The Romanian recycling marathon

The Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, together with the organization Marathon EPR Group S.A., launched the "Recycling Marathon" campaign.

The "Recycling Marathon" runs from August to December 2020 and aims to educate and raise awareness among Romanian citizens and institutions about waste prevention, reuse, and recycling.



To address the climate change effects and reduce their impact on the environment, the "Recycling Marathon" campaign has three directions of implementation:

- Informing and educating citizens through digital means so that they become more responsible in their daily actions and, implicitly, protect the environment. The campaign is implemented in the digital environment, on the social media channels of Marathon EPR Group S.A. as well as those of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests. As a structure, a new topic is addressed each month, and at the end of each month a good practice guide is launched on that topic.

- Guiding the correct implementation of the provisions of the Emergency Ordinance no. 74/2018 among the City Halls and Intercommunity Development Associations, so as to fulfill the obligations and to reach the storage deviation targets. There are online course sessions that

started in September, addressed to those responsible for waste management within City Halls and Intercommunity Development Associations. The courses are taught by a specialist in the field who will show participants how to properly implement the legislation on how to manage packaging waste.

- Offering education and awareness courses in schools, related to environmental issues and the provision of solutions and good practices focused on separate collection and recycling. Through the courses and workshops that will be held, the aim is to educate the next generation on current environmental issues and guide them towards the implementation of good practices focused on separate collection and recycling. Depending on the context of the moment, these courses will be held offline or online.

PLASTEKO as a Part of the Recy&DepoTech 2020



The Recy&DepoTech is Austria's largest Waste Management Congress and takes place every two years at the University of Leoben. This year, due to the pandemic, the event was held online.

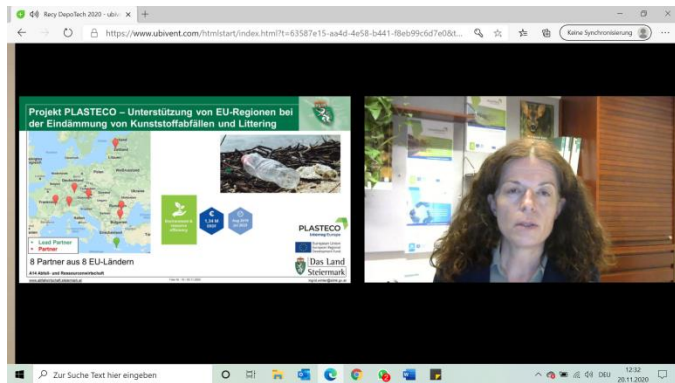


Some time ago, during the first regional Stakeholder Meeting, the representatives of the University of Leoben invited the Styrian PLASTEKO project members to the Recy&DepoTech 2020. The project staff happily accepted

this invitation and so PLASTEKO was also part of the first digital Recy&DepoTech.

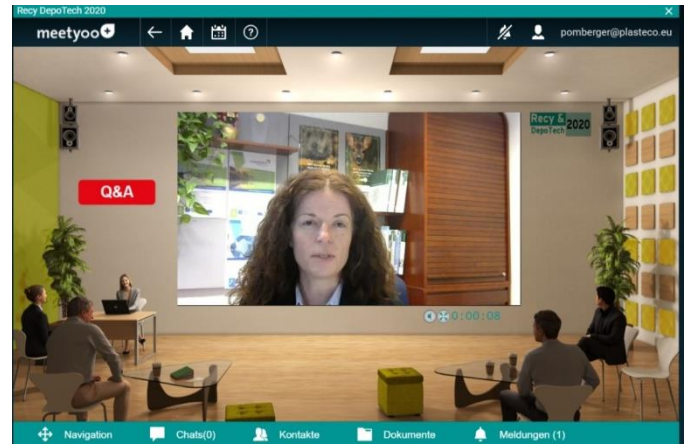
In fact, from Wednesday November 18th to Friday November 20th not only did the regional Stakeholders meet in the virtual conference rooms, but also the most respected experts of the international Waste Management scene. 570 participants discussed current and controversial Waste Management topics and 120 presentations were given.

In addition, all elements of a congress with personal attendance were brilliantly transferred into the digital space. There was an entrance hall, a meeting lounge, rooms for the poster exhibition and a variety of virtual rooms. The feeling of active conference participation was also perfectly transferred for the PLASTEKO team.



Dr. Ingrid Winter as the Head of the Department for Waste and Resource Management (Directorate 14, Office of the Regional Government of Styria), was one of the members of the PLASTEKO team.

Firstly, as a chairperson, she led an exciting discussion on the topic of "Reusable Packaging" and later gave a presentation on "Recycling Management in Styria - future-oriented approaches on a regional level".



In her presentation Dr. Winter introduced PLASTEKO and informed the audience about the project goals and activities. Furthermore the next interregional workshop in autumn 2021 was also announced during the event. The presentation of PLASTEKO during the congress raised the interest of many national and international experts and we therefore expect exciting future project activities.

In summary, it can be said that it was enriching for the PLASTEKO team to participate in Recy&DepoTech 2020. PLASTEKO gained further international recognition. Moreover, the project team itself was able to learn from the numerous Waste Management lectures and to participate in discussions on topics related to Plastics Recycling and Recyclability. This input will of course flow into future PLASTEKO project activities.

Further information about the event: <https://www.recydepotech.at/en/>

Looking forward to...

- The results of the studies on the data collection from the A2.1 synthesis report of public views and suggestions.
- The lessons learnt from the A3.3 workshop on how to raise awareness on plastic littering and promote the purchase of products from recycled plastics.
- The 4th newsletter.
- The forthcoming activities of the PLASTEKO consortium.

PROJECT PARTNERS



MUNICIPALITY OF RETHYMNO



LOMBARDY REGION



REGION OF STYRIA



STARA ZAGORA REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



CLUSTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL
TECHNOLOGIES BAVARIA



AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES ENERGY
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