

**Regional Training on
Harmonized Marine Litter Monitoring Protocols
October 12-14, 2021**
Dubrovnik, Croatia

THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs IN A NUTSHELL

Plastic Busters MPAs is an Interreg Med funded project aiming to maintain biodiversity and preserve natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal marine protected areas (MPAs) by consolidating Mediterranean efforts against marine litter. The project deploys the multidisciplinary strategy and common framework of action developed within the Plastic Busters initiative led by the University of Siena and the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network. This initiative frames the priority actions needed to tackle marine litter in the Mediterranean and was labelled under the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016, gathering the political support of 43 Euro Mediterranean countries. Plastic Busters MPAs brings together 15 implementing partners and 17 associated partners from 8 countries, namely Albania, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Spain.

THE EVENT'S AIM

The Plastic Busters MPAs regional training aims to build the capacities of MPA managers and other marine litter practitioners on how to design and conduct a fit-for-purpose marine litter monitoring program in MPAs, in line with the guidelines of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Technical Group on Marine Litter (MSFD TGML) and the Barcelona Convention Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON).

During this hands-on, highly interactive training, participants will get acquainted and familiarized with state-of-play methodologies and approaches to monitor and assess marine litter on beaches, the sea surface, the sea floor and in biota. The event will place special emphasis on featuring protocols that can be used for studying and assessing the impact of marine litter on living organisms.

THE EVENT'S ORGANIZERS



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
Ministry of Economy and
Sustainable Development



hosted by:

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that, as organizers, we will keep monitoring the evolution of the COVID situation across the Mediterranean region and will provide regular updates. In order to attend the event, all participants need to have a Green Pass or any other national document proving they are allowed to travel according to the recent COVID regulations.

THE EVENT'S AGENDA

Day 1 – Tuesday October 12th, 2021

Venue: University of Dubrovnik (UNIDU) dormitory. Dubrovnik, Ulica Marka Marojice 2.

TIME (CET)	SESSION	SPEAKERS/TRAINERS
15.15 – 15.30	Registration	
15.30 – 17.30	Session 1: in the classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Welcome & opening remarks ▶ The Plastic Busters MPAs in a nutshell ▶ Training scope & agenda overview ▶ Trainees' expectations ▶ The Plastic Busters MPAs Toolkit on marine litter monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beaches (macrolitter, microlitter) ○ Sea surface (macrolitter, microlitter) ○ Seafloor (macrolitter) ○ Biota (endangered species) ○ Biota (commercial species) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cristina Fossi, UNISI ▶ Cristina Panti, UNISI ▶ Ilaria Caliani, UNISI ▶ Matteo Bainsi, UNISI ▶ Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE
17.30	End of the day	

Day 2 – Wednesday October 13th, 2021

Venue: Port of Gruž (for boarding and disembarking). Vessel: SB 73 Faust Vrančić.

TIME (CET)	SESSION	SPEAKERS/TRAINERS
09.00 – 09.30	Participants meet up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Participants meet at the Port of Gruž & get onboard the training vessel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stjepan Giljević, Coast Guard Republic of Croatia
09.30 – 12.30	Session 2: onboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitoring floating microlitter with the use of manta net ▶ Monitoring floating macrolitter with visual observations ▶ Monitoring biota with visual observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cristina Fossi, UNISI ▶ Cristina Panti, UNISI ▶ Ilaria Caliani, UNISI ▶ Matteo Bainsi, UNISI ▶ Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE ▶ Mirta Smodlaka, IRB (manta support)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lunch will be served onboard



13.30 – 17.00	Session 3: at the beach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitoring macrolitter on beaches ▶ Monitor microlitter in beach sediments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE ▶ Cristina Fossi, UNISI ▶ Ilaria Caliani, UNISI ▶ Pero Tutman, IOF (support with local / expert information)
17.00 – 18.00	Trip back to Dubrovnik	
18.00	End of the day	

Day 3 – Thursday October 14th, 2021

Venue: University of Dubrovnik (UNIDU), University Campus, Ćira Carića 4.

TIME (CET)	SESSION	SPEAKERS/TRAINERS
09.00 – 09.30	Participants meet up (coffee time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Participants meet at the labs of the University of Dubrovnik 	
09.30 – 13.30	Session 4: at the lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Analysis of manta trawl samples to characterize floating microlitter ▶ Fish and mussel dissection and tissue collection for determining the presence and impact of marine litter on biota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cristina Fossi, UNISI ▶ Cristina Panti, UNISI ▶ Ilaria Caliani, UNISI ▶ Matteo Bainsi, UNISI ▶ Marijana Pecarevic, UNIDU
13.30 – 14.30	Light lunch	
14.30	End of training	

THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs PARTNERSHIP

