**The Plastic Busters MPAs**

**CAPITALIZATION CONFERENCE**

**Plastic Busters MPAs consolidates efforts to slash marine plastic pollution in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas**

Athens, Greece, 12-13 April 2022

**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 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 CONFERENCE’S AIM**

The conference will feature and fully exploit the knowledge, know-how, experience and lessons learned obtained by the implementation of the Plastic Busters MPAs demonstration and replication actions addressing the entire management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation. The event will bring forward the most recent policy and scientific advances with regards to marine litter in the Mediterranean and will provide an opportunity for creating synergies and fostering exchanges among stakeholders active on the science-policy-society interface.

**THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS**

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| Greece: New draft law on Energy Communities into public consultation. |  ISABEL |  |  | logoISPRA_SNPA.jpg |
| Kindly co-hosted by:  File:Logo of the Hellenic Parliament.png - Wikipedia |  |  |  |

**THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME** (draft 16/3/2022)

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| TIME (CET) | CONTENT |  |
| 12 April | 1st day of the conference | Speakers/facilitators |
| Venue: Hellenic Parliament | | |
| 09.30-10.15 | * Registration & welcoming coffee |  |
| 10.15-10.45 | * Welcome addresses & opening remarks | * **Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou,** Chairperson, SPECIAL PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUBCOMMITTEE OF WATER RESOURCES, HELLENIC PARLIAMENT * **High level official,** HELLENIC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY (TBC) * **Petros Varelidis, General Secretary,** SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER, HELLENIC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY * **Prof. Michael Scoullos**, Chairperson, MIO-ECSDE |
| 10.45-12.00 | **Session #1**   * Barcelona Convention policy advances on marine litter in the Mediterranean * UfM policy advances on marine litter in the EuroMediterranean * EU policy advances on marine litter * The Plastic Busters MPAs concerted actions to slash marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean: results, lessons learned & recommendations | * **Tatjana Hema**, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP * **TBC**, UfM * **TBC**, EC DG Environment * **Cristina Fossi**, UNISI * **Thomais Vlachogianni**, MIO-ECSDE |
| 12.00-12.30 | **MoU signing ceremony between UNEP and COMPSUD** | * **Tatjana Hema**, Coordinator UNEP/MAP * **Moh Rejdali,** Chairperson,COMPSUD |

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| Venue: Zappeion Megaron | | |
| 12.30-13.45 | Lunch break |  |
| 13.45.-15.00 | **Session #2**   * Introductory remarks * The Plastic Busters MPAs marine litter monitoring results and findings at: Pelagos Sanctuary (Italy), Tuscany Archipelago National Park (Italy), Cabrera National Park (Spain), National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece) | * **Francesca Marcato**, INTERREG MED JOINT SECRETARIAT * **Cristina Fossi**, UNISI * **Cristina Panti,** UNISI * **Salud Deudero,** IEO * **Catherine Tsangaris**, HCMR |
| 15.00-15.15 | Coffee break |  |
| 15.15-16.15 | **Session #3**   * Synthesis of the Plastic Busters MPAs marine litter monitoring and assessment results * The Plastic Busters MPAs marine litter monitoring results and achievements at: Brijuni National Park (Croatia), Karaburun-Sazan MPA (Albania), Capo Milazzo (Italy) * Wrap up & concluding remarks | * **Cristina Fossi**, UNISI * **Mirta Smodlaka**, RUDJER BOSKOVIC INSTITUTE * **Lorela Lazaj**, RAPA VLORE * **Michela Angiolillo**, ISPRA * **Thomais Vlachogianni**, MIO-ECSDE |
| 16.15-16.45 | * Plastic Busters MPAs documentary | * Premier of the documentary with the director, **Marco Pisapia,** ISPRA |
| 17.00-19.00 | Cultural event/activity |  |
| 20.00 | Dinner |  |

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| TIME (CET) | CONTENT |  |
| 13 April | 2nd day of the conference | Speakers/facilitators |
| Venue: Central Building of the University of Athens | | |
| 10.00-10.05 | * Welcome addresses & opening remarks | * **Maria Gini**, HELLENIC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY * **Teresa Romeo,** SZN/ISPRA * **Thomais Vlachogianni**, MIO-ECSDE |
| 10.05-11.30 | **Session #4**   * Synthesis of the Plastic Busters MPAs marine litter prevention and mitigation actions * The Plastic Busters MPAs local experiences on marine litter prevention and mitigation at: National Marine Park of Zakynthos (Greece), Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park (Spain), Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas (Greece), Landscape Park Strunjan & Debeli Rtic (Slovenia), Platamuni MPA (Montenegro) | * **Thomais Vlachogianni**, MIO-ECSDE * **Charalampos Dimitriadis,** NATIONAL MARINE PARK OF ZAKYNTHOS (GREECE) * **Maria Francisca Lopez Cortes**, CABRERA ARCHIPELAGO MARITIME-TERRESTRIAL NATIONAL PARK (SPAIN) * **Anastasia Charitou,** iSEA * **Brina Knez**, LANDSCAPE PARK STRUNJAN (SLOVENIA) * **Milica Mandic,** INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO |
| 11.30-11.45 | Coffee break |  |
| 11.45-13.15 | **Session #5**   * The Plastic Busters MPAs local experiences on marine litter prevention and mitigation at: Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park (Spain), Miramare MPA (Italy), Ebro Delta National Park (Spain), Karaburun-Sazan MPA (Albania), * Priority actions to tackle marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs * Follow up actions, concluding remarks & wrap up | * **Ignasi Mateo**, ARC-SCP/RAC * **Gloria Garcia Hoyo**, CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR NATURAL PARK (SPAIN) * **Carlo Franzosini**, MIRAMARE MPA (ITALY) * **Xavier Abril Ferrer**, EBRO DELTA NATIONAL PARK (SPAIN) * **Elvana Ramaj**, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT OF ALBANIA * **Thomais Vlachogianni**, MIO-ECSDE * **Cristina Fossi**, UNISI |
| 13.15-14.30 | Lunch break |  |

**THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs PARTNERSHIP**

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