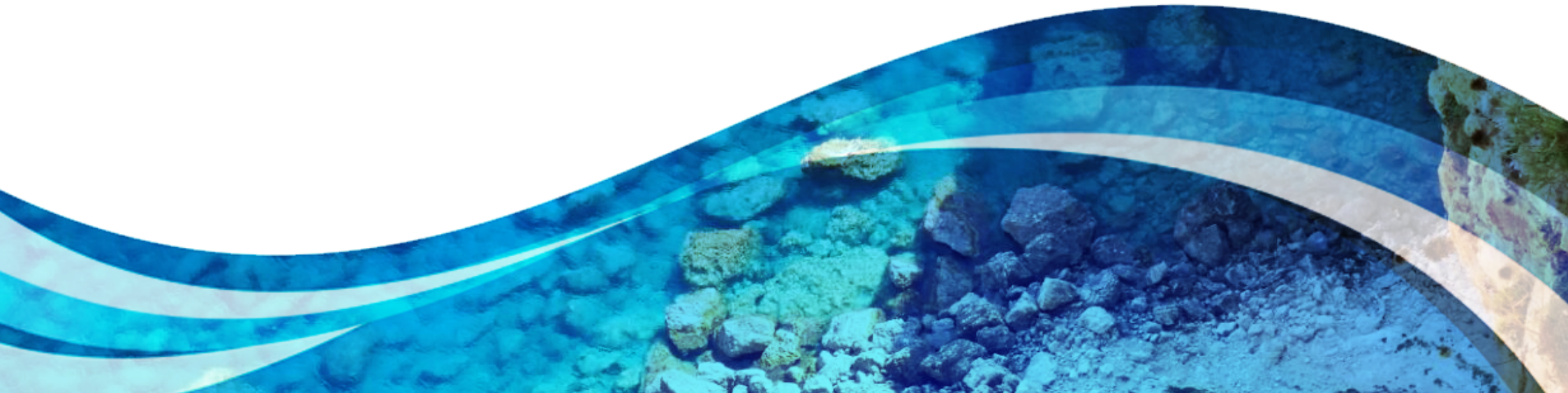




BlueMed Pilot Action For a plastic-free, healthy Mediterranean Sea

Mapping of initiatives – National Hubs MALTA

[Extract from the DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT, BLUEMED Pilot: For a Plastic-free, Healthy Mediterranean Sea
(Tuesday 12 March 2019, 9:00 – 17:00, Room: CDMA -1/44, Rue du Champ de Mars 21, Brussels, Belgium)]



Malta

Two thirds of the marine debris found along out coastlines is plastic. The fact that this plastic is mostly from local sources is distressing, but it also gives us an incentive to empower the Mediterranean communities to work locally to solve the global problem.

Plastic litter in the environment is an eyesore, a pollutant, a threat to wildlife and, according to recent reports, a potential threat to human health. With timely intervention from BlueMed Pilot Plastic Free Med Malta can now summarise the countries' litter campaigns, as well as identify how to develop better partnerships with the community, government and industry to further tackle the litter issue.

The table below presents the latest development and current situation in Malta, including the political/legislative trends as well as initiatives from the government, business and civil society regarding the topic of plastic pollution.

	Name of the action	Partner responsible	Type of action	Area of application	Related Projects / Initiatives	Expected results
1	Marine Plastic Pollution project	Malta College for Arts, Science & Technology	Educational / Awareness rising campaign on waste management	Whole country	EU Circular Economy; Package and the Plastics Strategy	Strategic Map of Marine Plastic Pollution with the idea to convert the waste streams in to the source of raw materials contributing to the circular economy.
2	“Don’t Waste Waste” campaign	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development & Climate Change, Wasteserv Environment and Resources Authority.	Educational / Awareness rising campaign on waste management	Whole country	Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands 2014 – 2020	The Don’t Waste Waste Campaign is a nationwide educational and awareness raising campaign on Waste Management which was first launched in April of 2016. It aims to trigger a shift in people’s mentality whereby waste starts to be considered as a valuable resource in line with the Waste Hierarchy as a guiding principle. Primarily, the campaign aims to promote waste prevention, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery, where it seeks to leave landfilling as the option of last resort. Tag line is “Don’t Waste Waste – Do Your Bit”

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3	First full investigation of microplastics on Maltese sandy beaches	University of Malta	Environmental assessment and impact evaluation	Coastal area	Marine Strategy Framework Directive	This investigation is a contribution to our knowledge of how levels of MP in sandy beaches may be affected by sand properties and dynamics, beach profiles and other factors.
4	SeaBin catchment initiative	Strand Marina Ltd and eNGO Żibel	New technologies	Coastal areas	ONE OCEAN ONE LOVE initiative	Helping combating marine pollution by collecting the floating plastic
5	Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands 2014 – 2020	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change; Wasteserv; Environment and Resources Authority	Governance	Whole Country	Requirement for Malta stemming from the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).	The WMP 2014-2020 sets the strategy to address waste management on the Maltese Islands, where it sets the government's holistic strategic direction in which the sector is envisaged to be taken forward. The plan uses the Waste Hierarchy as its guiding principle while it incorporates also the waste prevention plan for the Maltese Islands within it. The plan is expected to contribute to better waste separation. In terms of plastics, it proposes measures which include the promotion of smart shopping habits, like purchasing products with less packaging to minimise waste generation. The main aim is to divert waste treatment away from landfill towards better treatment options in the Waste Hierarchy.
6	Beverage Container Refund	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and	Governance	Whole Country	The initiative is based on the new Maltese Waste Management	The BCRS system will consist of a system of Reverse Vending Machines placed in commercial establishments. It will cater for plastic, metal and glass beverage containers, aiming to increase the

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	Scheme (BCRS)	Climate Change, Wasteserv Environment & Resources Authority			Plan for the Maltese Islands 2014-2020; European Union Single-Use Plastics Directive (pending)	separate collection of high-quality material for recycling. The deposit value for the consumer for each container will be €0.10 for each returned container, which will have to be scanned through a barcode scanner. The BCRS system will have a collection target of 70% of beverage containers put on the market during the first year of operation. This target will increase to 80% in the second year and 90% in the third year. The Resource, Recovery and Recycling Agency will be overseeing the overall functioning of the system, as well as work on new Circular Economy related projects and initiatives.
7	Coastal area cleaning NGO initiatives	eNGO Žibel	Awareness raising	Coastal area	European Union Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy .	Bringing communities together to take action over the growing waste problem; Awareness raising about the importance of reducing waste.
8	Marine litter monitoring	University of Malta	Innovative monitoring techniques	Coastal areas	Marine Framework Strategy Directive	Improving the technology that helps to parameterise and categorise microplastics will contribute towards the war on plastic pollution.
9	Single-Use Plastics Strategy	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change; ERA	Governance	Whole country	Article 51 of the Environment Protection Act; European Union Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy ;	Single-Use Plastic Products Strategy for Malta, 2019-2025 is being developed by ERA with assistance from MESDC The Strategy will provide measures to reduce consumption of single-use plastic products, and increase the quality and quantities of single-use plastic waste collected for recycling.

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10	Optimising beached litter monitoring protocols through aerial imagery	University of Malta	Innovative monitoring techniques	Coastal areas	Marine Strategy Framework Directive	A monitoring programme will be created for characterising marine litter. Novel application of the aerial drone technology was developed for monitoring of difficult-to-access coastal stretches and prioritising coastal areas for future clean-up activities.
11	Actions for Marine Protected Areas (AMAre): Stakeholder Involvement in Marine Spatial Planning	University of Malta	Environmental assessment and impact evaluation	Whole country	Maltese Legal Notice 851, "Marine Area in the Limits of Dwejra (Gozo) a "Special Area of Conservation of International Importance; Maltese Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations; EU Habitats Directive; Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)	Assessment of stakeholder views and involvement in a marine protected area (MPA) in Malta in regard to their interest, conflicting activities and environmental concerns to propose potential management measures for this MPA. Methodologies & geospatial tools will be developed for multiple stressors assessment; Coordinated environmental monitoring, multi criteria analyses and stakeholders' engagements; The guidelines will be translated into concrete pilot actions and coordinated to solve hot spots of conflicts affecting marine biodiversity and the services it provides.
12	PolyTalk 2018	PlasticsEurope AISBL	Awareness raising	Whole country	Marine Strategy Framework	The conference was aimed at identifying the path towards a clean marine environment with a

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	conference "Zero Plastics to the Oceans".				Directive; Regional Sea Conventions; Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Plastics	special focus on the Mediterranean Sea. It should equip our industry to meet new challenges and opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary assessment of microplastic pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PERSEUS project; University of Malta • International Ocean Institute - Malta Operational Centre (IOI-MOC) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessment and impact evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and design of solutions for combating plastic pollution
14	EcoMarine Malta Boat Tours	Softwhale Co Ltd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Educational / Awareness rising	Coastal areas	European Marine Science Educators Association	Taking up the challenge to merge public awareness with research

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15	Digital technologies to accelerate innovation towards a carbon-neutral society	PARAGON Europe, representing Climate-KIC in Malta	Awareness rising	Whole country	eCircular (a Loop program promoted by Climate-KIC)	Improve market transparency (with continuous traceability), reduce the fragmentation of standards and knowledge; reducing the use of materials and reducing plastic waste
16	LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija - Securing the Maltese islands for the Yelkouan Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan	BirdLife Malta	Awareness Raising/Conservation Issues	Coastal Areas	LIFE	More than 10% of the world's Yelkouan shearwater population breeds in Malta. The LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija project aims to reduce the direct and indirect human-caused threats. Decreased disturbance of the nesting colonies, thanks to the better attitude and behaviour of boat owners and operators, and of other users responsible for the organic littering of the target areas.
17	Project MIGRATE - Conservation Status and potential Sites of	ERA (previously MEPA)	Risk Assessment	Marine Areas	LIFE	Project MIGRATE implemented both data-collecting activities and marine surveys (during the summers of 2014 and 2015) to understand the conservation status of, and to identify the best areas in Maltese waters to establish Natura 2000 network sites for, loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) and common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>). Risks identified, such as

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	Community Interest for Tursiops truncatus and Caretta caretta in Malta					underwater noise and plastic waste were also tackled through suggested management measures.
	Common marine plastic strategy for European coasts; to be published shortly	Birdlife Malta in collaborating with Birdlife Europe and other European Birdlife partners	Governance	Coastal areas	Birdlife Malta	

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