



## Plastic Busters CAP

### Press release

---

#### **Combating marine litter in the Mediterranean through an integrated and strategic management approach, new EU project kicks off**

Marine Litter is globally acknowledged as a major societal challenge of our times due to its significant environmental, economic, social, political and cultural implications. The Mediterranean is one of the most affected seas by marine litter worldwide and it is clear that prevention and mitigation measures are urgently needed.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 2022, from 09h30 to 17h00 (UTC+1) a new project entitled “*Plastic Busters CAP: Fostering knowledge transfer to tackle marine litter in the Mediterranean by integrating EbA into ICZM*” will kick off online. Plastic Busters CAP aims to facilitate decision-makers and stakeholders in effectively tackling the problem of marine litter by integrating the Ecosystem-Based Management Approach into the Integrated Coastal Zone Management planning towards good environmental status. Plastic Busters CAP is part of the Plastic Busters Initiative labelled and supported by the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) and contributes directly to the UfM GreenerMed Agenda. The project is also under the umbrella of SDSN MED (Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean) led by the University of Siena (Italy).

Plastic Busters CAP is a 24 month-long project, with a total budget of €1.109.976,27 million and is co-funded by the European Union under the ENI CBC MED Programme 2014-2020.

The project seeks to consolidate and fully exploit the knowledge obtained by 5 relevant projects in order to develop tailored-made capitalization actions that will create the enabling conditions for a societal shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, and a truly circular and green economy. In the long-term, the project will contribute to enhancing ecosystem services via a reduced leakage of marine litter and marine plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases by a wise-use and sustainable disposal of plastics.

Plastic Busters CAP brings together partners from 7 countries of the Mediterranean region, namely Egypt, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia. The Plastic Busters CAP consortium members are:

- ▶ University of Siena Department of Physical Sciences, Earth and Environment (Italy, Lead Partner)
- ▶ Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (Greece)
- ▶ Legambiente Onlus (Italy)
- ▶ Higher Council for Scientific Research - Institute of Marine Sciences (Spain)
- ▶ El Ramis Society for Local Community Development of Barrany, (Egypt)

- ▶ National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies - Department of Marine Environment (Tunisia)
- ▶ Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon)
- ▶ The University of Jordan - Aqaba Branch Faculty of Basic and Marine Sciences, Department of Marine Biology (Jordan).

The main expected achievements of the project are:

- 4 national hands-on training activities on marine litter monitoring and assessment
- 1 e-course on marine litter monitoring and assessment
- 4 pilot marine litter monitoring and assessment campaigns
- 4 national hands-on training activities on marine litter prevention and mitigation measures
- 1 e-course on marine litter prevention and mitigation measures
- 4 demos showcasing marine litter prevention and mitigation measures
- 1 roadmap on marine litter policy priorities
- 1 coastal cities network for a litter-free Mediterranean

The kick-off meeting will see the participation of keynote speakers, among them, **Joumana Sweiss**, from the branch office for the Western Mediterranean ENI CBC MED Programme; **Laura Righi** from the ENI CBC Med Joint Technical Secretariat, **Alessandra Sensi** from the Union for Mediterranean, **Francesco Frati** Rector of the University of Siena.

A press conference will be held at 16:00; it will focus on the need to promote and mainstream the results of completed marine litter related projects and will provide a collective reflection on future challenges and opportunities for effective action towards enhanced environmental protection.

Find out more at:

**Plastic Busters CAP official webpage**

<https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/plastic-busters-cap>

**ENI CBC Med program:**

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/home>

**For more information, please contact:**

**Senior Project Manager, Fossi Maria Cristina**

**email: [fossi@unisi.it](mailto:fossi@unisi.it)**

**Press Officer, Silvia Casini**

**e-mail: [Silvia.casini@unisi.it](mailto:Silvia.casini@unisi.it)**

Supported by



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط