

Help us reducing the plastic pollution

... visit the Donau-Auen National Park without plastics\*!



\* Especially single-use-plastic that is only used for a short period of time and then disposed of.

Please take your trash back home!



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## PlasticFreeDanube

### Macro plastic waste in and along the Danube

**Project duration:**

1 October 2017 –  
31 March 2021

**Funding programme:**

Interreg V-A Slovakia –  
Austria 2014-2020  
[www.sk-at.eu](http://www.sk-at.eu)

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**Contact:**

Gudrun Obersteiner  
BOKU – University of Natural Resources  
and Life Sciences, Vienna  
Institute of Waste Management  
T: +43 1 47654-81300  
E: [gudrun.obersteiner@boku.ac.at](mailto:gudrun.obersteiner@boku.ac.at)

More information  
about the project  
[plasticfreedanube.eu](http://plasticfreedanube.eu)



The project is realized by the following partners from Austria and Slovakia:



viadonau

RepaNet o.z.



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# PlasticFreeDanube



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## Plastics in the environment

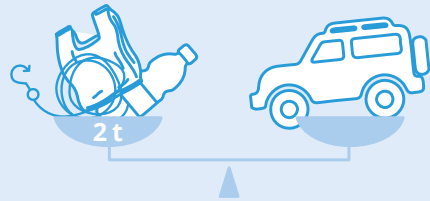
**10 mil.**

tons of plastic waste end up in the oceans per year

**80 %**

of the waste is transported to the oceans by rivers

Up to now almost 2 tons of plastic waste have been collected in the course of the project **PlasticFree-Danube**. That is as much as an average SUV weighs.



The collected plastic waste gets sorted and analysed to derive measures for preventing or rather reducing the pollution of the Danube by plastic waste.

Despite the short period of use, plastics take **several hundred years** to decompose in nature. Even then, they only disintegrate into tiny particles, so-called microplastics, which spread everywhere.



## The Danube - lifeline of the national park

The Donau-Auen National Park is habitat to rare rheophilic fish, numerous water birds, gravel-nesting birds and the white-tailed eagle. Plastic particles in the water and in areas near water endanger numerous species and strain the environment.

Plastic waste ending up in the Danube might reach the Black Sea. Hence, the correct disposal of plastic waste is crucial. A lot of it can be recycled and you are contributing to the circular economy.

## Is my job done at the garbage can?

You throw your trash in the garbage can? Great! Better: take it back home with you or don't bring it here at all. Garbage cans need to be emptied and that causes costs and disturbance of nature. Also, wind and animals might disperse the waste. That is why there are only few garbage cans in the national park.



Join us ...

## ... at events and initiatives:

**PlasticFreeConnected** offers not only information but also a collection of various initiatives and events for fighting the plastic pollution – to take part and register yourself:

→ [plasticfreeconnected.com](https://plasticfreeconnected.com)

At **Plogging** events, people meet to do sports and collect waste. Also in Vienna:

→ [ploggingworld.org](https://ploggingworld.org)

→ [greenheroes.at/cleanups/](https://greenheroes.at/cleanups/)



## ... collecting data for research:

The **DreckSpotz App** was created as an initiative by GLOBAL 2000, Hofer and the Alpenverein. They collect data in order to find longterm solutions to littering. By using the app, you can help collecting the data:

→ [global2000.at/dreckspotz](https://global2000.at/dreckspotz)



## Time until degradation in nature



Plastic bag  
20 years



Plastic bottle  
450 years



Fishing line  
600 years

Plastic might also be transported to rivers like the Danube by wind, animals or flood events.



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## Further information

The plastic atlas can be downloaded for free and provides data, facts and informative graphics:

→ [boell.de/en/plasticatlas](https://boell.de/en/plasticatlas)

Here you can find information and publications related to plastic pollution:

→ [plastik.de/en/publications](https://plastik.de/en/publications)