

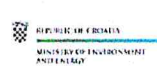


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Summary Report
Info Day Albania
20.10.2020
Ministry of Tourism and Environment-PP12

PREPARED BY
THE INTERREG MED
PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAS PROJECT
<https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu>



Document Information

Document: D2.5.1 Organization of national info days
Version: Final report
Date: 2020/02/12
Authors: Qyra. M, Vata.A .
Contributors: Ramaj. E, Mezini. Sh,

Document Information

This document (Deliverable 2.5.1) provides information on the organization of national Albanian info days; it is intended to ensure harmonized format, messaging and objectives for these events.

Approvals

Date	Partner
07/12/2020	Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Document History

Version	Date	Comments & Status	Author
V00	10/09/2020	Initial draft	Center For Environmental Services/CES
V01	01/11/2020	First complete draft	CES
	19/11/2020	Review with some comments	MTE
V02	02/12/2020	Final draft	CES

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1. Objectives and approach

A productive and effective Plastic Busters MPAs Info Day meeting was organized in Albania by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The meeting was held on the 20th of October 2020 at the Bologna Hotel back yard (near Vlora Harbour, Skelë Vlora) and lasted from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To raise awareness on the marine litter issue and ways to address it across all societal players; Communicate and disseminate information on the project activities implemented at local, national and regional level;
- To engage the marine litter community (regional and national) and network with marine litter
- To related stakeholders (local authorities, SMEs, NGOs, other interest groups, etc.) and target groups as described in the Application Form;
- To gain knowledge from related initiatives and create synergies with them as well as with governance processes at local/national level;
- To showcase marine litter best practices and inspire effective actions at local and national level in Albania.

National, regional and local authorities were present at this event, as well as international organizations, UNDP Albania, and German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), management bodies of coastal and marine protected areas, academic institutions, fisheries and aquaculture private businesses, restaurants and beach service providers, port authorities and NGO-s. The majority of the audience were from administration of protected areas RAPA Vlore, Regional Environment Directorate of Vlora, academic institutions, private businesses of fisheries and aquaculture, restaurants and beach service providers, port authorities, and NGO-s. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. The Info Day in Albania caught the attention of journalists who came from local and national media.

The speakers' interventions on the first session focused on the Plastic Buster MPAs project activities and results, specially the harmonized methodologies for marine litter monitoring, the communication and dissemination of the project and on the waste management policies in Albania. The second session shared experiences with other Albanian marine litter related projects, like the recently funded BeMed Project 'Between islands and the rivers for a plastic free Albania'. A discussion was initiated on the objective of the raising awareness campaigns, discussing how to improve MPAs coverage, prevention and integrated



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waste management in Albania. The third session dedicated to the field trip to Karaburun Peninsula - part of Karaburun-Sazan MPA, focused on the demonstration of Plastic Busters MPAs monitoring protocols for MPAs using innovative tools and techniques, a part of which on micro-plastics testing were introduced for the first time in Albania.

The Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs project provides a comprehensive, multifaceted and coordinated approach to fight marine litter in Mediterranean pelagic and coastal marine protected areas towards healthy marine ecosystems. The project entails actions addressing the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment, to prevention and mitigation. The project is implemented by 15 partners in collaboration with 17 associated partners from the following eight Mediterranean countries: Albania, France, Greece, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus and Slovenia.



2. THE AGENDA

09.00 Registration of participants and welcome coffee

09.30 Session I

Opening remarks and introduction of Plastic Buster MPAs project

Klodi Marika, Project coordinator, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Institutional greetings

- *H. E Blendi Klosi, Minister of Tourism and Environment*
- *Dritan Leli, Mayor of Vlora*
- *Flamur Mamaj, Head of Vlora Prefecture*

- Waste management policies in Albania
Redi Baduni, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Results achieved by Plastic Buster Marine Protected Areas project in Albania
Elvana Ramaj, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Communication and dissemination of project results
Shpresa Meçini, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

10.50 Coffee break

11.10 Session II *Marine litter issues*

Experience sharing with other marine litter related projects:

- Awareness raising of the community on marine litter issues, *Simo Ribaj (SEEP Vlore)*
- Between islands and the rivers for a plastic free Albania, *Kastriot Korro (Royal Foundation Albania)*
- Improvement of Protected Areas coverage and management in Albania II project, *Violeta Zuna/Doreid Petoshati (UNDP)*
- Integrated waste management and prevention of ML in west Balkans project, *Johannes Fromann/Gavrosh Zela (GIZ)*
- Discussion

12.00-15.00 Session III

Half day boat trip to Karaburuni peninsula with the presence of the media to present marine litter monitoring methodology protocols and to raise awareness of the public on these issues

Lunch

16.00 Conclusions and closing remarks

3. Structure of the Albanian Plastic Busters MPAs Info Day

3.1. C1 First session: Opening remarks and introduction of Plastic Buster MPAs project

Mrs. Klodiana Marika, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Mrs. Marika introduced Plastic Buster MPAs project to the audience. She presented the background and the main actions of the project. She focused on the fact that the Mediterranean Sea is one of the most affected areas by marine litter worldwide. The impacts caused by marine litter vary from entanglement and ingestion, to bio-accumulation and bio-magnification of toxics released from plastics, to damages to benthic habitats and species. She stressed that the impacts of marine litter on marine biota, including endangered species such as cetaceans and sea turtles, remain poorly addressed and it is clear that prevention and mitigation measures are urgently needed. Plastic Busters MPAs aims to maintain biodiversity and preserve natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal marine protected areas by by defining and implementing a harmonized approach against marine litter. It proposes a threefold monitoring approach (plastics, plastics tracers and biomarkers detection) for the assessment of potential adverse effects of marine litter on marine biota. She mentioned that Plastic Busters MPAs consolidates the fight against marine litter by improving knowledge and harmonizing methods and tools to favor good environmental status in the Mediterranean. She closed her presentation by emphasizing that setting up a Join Governance Plan will consolidate the knowledge gained throughout the life-cycle of the project and will empower MPA managers, decision makers and other stakeholders to undertake coordinated and targeted actions against marine litter.

Mr. Flamur Mamaj, Head of Vlora Prefecture

Mr. Mamaj addressed the meeting, by expressing its support for the marine protected area, to which he is Chairman of its Management Committee, a responsibility he is serving to its best with great pleasure. He mentioned the fact that several beach cleaning pilot actions were carried out in the last summer season for the promotion of the beach cleanliness and reduction of waste by tourists. Mr. Mamaj stated in his personal capacity he will be in the front line for the management of Karaburun-Sazan marine national park, in order to increase its visibility and promote its unique values, thus by contributing to the tourism and economic development of Vlora city and Vlora District.

Mr. Blendi Klosi, Minister of Tourism and Environment

During his greetings speech, the Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr. Blendi Klosi, emphasized that the management of marine litter is one of the biggest challenges for the local authorities and the Administrations of the protected areas. Only the combination of efforts and the implementation of coordinated measures and innovative monitoring protocols for the reduction of waste and marine plastics is the key to their reduction and elimination, as an important contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in these areas with high values for nature and its protection.

Mr. Dritan Leli, Mayor of Vlora

The mayor expressed his pleasure to take part in NID of Plastic Buster MPAS project and to get to know better the project objectives and activities. He stressed the fact that Vlora tourism should be promoted by offering a clean and pleasant environment.

He mentioned some recent developments such as cleaning of the area named “Soda forest” an inherited pollution from the previous industries and the elimination of waste inappropriate disposal at the city entrance. Furthermore, he was pleased to announce the beginning of work for Lungomare 2 and the shifting of old harbor of shipping to Triport area, and the use of the current location of the existing port just for touristic small boat trips to karaburun-Sazan.

Mr. Redi Baduni, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Mr. Baduni presented information about the waste management policies in Albania. He said that the current situation on waste management is at an unsatisfactory level. Some of the challenges in the field of waste management include: cooperation between central and local structures for the implementation of legislation, public awareness and education on waste management, insufficient funding etc. Also he introduced the most recent development of Albanian legislation on waste as well as the new waste management strategy and action plan approved. Information was also shared on the development of the legislation regarding recycling and waste management, and implementation of EU directives in the field of waste management.

3.2 C2. Second session: Marine Litter Issues; Experience sharing with other marine litter related Projects

Mr. Simo Ribaj, SEEP Vlorë

Mr. Ribaj focused on Marine Litter, Awareness raising. He mentioned some of activities organised by the local NGO SEEP with the aim to raise awareness of the general public and especially young people on marine litter. Some of those activities include: scientific sessions in schools and universities, exhibitions, parades with recycled plastic clothing; meetings and round tables with associations, fishermen, farmers



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etc.; photo exhibition and a documentary. Furthermore, he promoted some river and sea cleaning actions organized by SEEP as well as studies such as measurement of quantity and types of plastics on the coast of Sazan, Karaburun, Orikum coast, Portonovo, Poro etc. during 2017-2018, and DeFishGir project (2019-2020).

Mr. Doreid Petoshati UNDP Albania

Mr. Petoshati presented “Marine Pollution and Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park”. The project aims to mitigate the human impact on the ecosystem by supporting and implementing recycling practices of plastic and oil used for cooking, as well as various marine pollution. He mentioned some of activities implemented during the project such as Institutional meetings and involvement of private businesses; Collection of oil used for cooking; Cleaning of Karaburun beaches; Awareness raising activities with schools. He highlighted activities such as the scientific monitoring of habitats and physicochemical parameters as well as training and equipping AdZM Vlora staff with equipments and kits for measuring physicochemical parameters of water

Mr. Johannes Fromann, GIZ Albania

Mr. Fromann presented the regional project Integrated Waste Management and Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans (Albania - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro). He focused on the initiatives the Low Plastic Zone: Reduce and avoid SUP’s in businesses which aims at engaging businesses to reduce single-use-plastic items in their daily activity as well as get acquainted with separation at source of plastic waste. Also he mentioned that MLP project has provided support to comply with EU legal framework: Support for preparation of amendment of legal provision for “ban of plastics bags”, as well as reports on RIA and on liabilities of government for entry in force of the act; Support for approximation of legislation for SUP: MLP will prepare the assessment (social, economic and environmental) and alter the legal act its accompanying reports (RIA, liabilities of government); and Support for promotion of circular economy. Other activities mentioned including the River basin monitoring of the Buna (Bojana) river (transboundary river basin shared by Albania and Montenegro). This activity aims to apply and further develop a suitable measurement and monitoring approach of land-based litter leakages (especially plastics) into water courses by analysing the waste generation and waste management situation.



Mr. Kastriot Korro, professor at University of Agriculture of Tirana and in the same time President of Royal foundation Albania that is implementing “Between islands and the rivers for a plastic free Albania” project, made a presentation on the project and its synergies with Plastic Buster MPAs project.

He mentioned the lunching of the new project and a day cleaning pilot action with RAPA Vlore and other stakeholders in Sazani island in September 2020.

3.3 C3. Third session: Boat trip to Karaburun peninsula

The third session dedicated to the field trip to Karaburun Peninsula - part of Karaburun-Sazan MPA with the presence of the Mr.Blendi Klosi, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Prefecture of the Vlora, Mr. Flamur Mamaj and also staff from the Ministry. It was focused on the demonstration of sampling of Plastic Busters MPAs monitoring protocols for MPAs using innovative tools and techniques, a part of which on micro-plastics testing were introduced for the first time in Albania. Also it aims to raise awareness of the public on the marine litter.

3.4 C4. Last session: Discussion, conclusions and closure of the meeting

A very constructive discussion took place at the end of the meeting. Many questions and interesting comments were made. Some of the issues discussed were related to the the Plastic Buster MPAs project activities and results, specially the harmonized methodologies for marine litter monitoring, the communication and dissemination of the project and on the waste management policies in Albania.

A large part of the discussion focused on the lack of threshold values for microplastic ingestion and on the approach these can be established. It was well acknowledged that baseline levels of microplastic ingestion need to be established. The scarcity of information on effects of plastic ingestion was pointed out, especially in field collected organisms, as well as the need for data on levels of plastic ingestion inducing adverse effects in laboratory exposed animals that can contribute in setting threshold values. It was also pointed out that long term effects of plastic ingestion are difficult to observe. Whether toxicity of plastics is predominantly related to leaching of plastic additives was discussed. Regarding the spatial scale at which threshold values are to be set, it was pointed out that one common threshold for the whole Mediterranean Sea is proposed for beach litter, and one or maximum two spatial thresholds for the

Mediterranean Sea are considered for litter ingestion by sea turtles.

It was pointed out that plastics are everywhere, for example, microplastics can be found in table salt or water and in the air. It was also mentioned that plastics cannot be globally banned, for example, they are very useful and non-replaceable in the medical sciences. Plastics are manufactured to be stable; it is in the environment that they start to degrade. It was also highlighted that although the Mediterranean Sea is a highly polluted sea, the efforts made for the management of marine litter is at a very good level.

Joint effort and cooperation among stakeholders involved in waste management and marine litter issues on Karaburun-Sazan marine protected Area were identified as highly important.

Central and local government measures, together with the involvement of civile society and interested stakeholders will further improve the environmental status of the area, by promoting waster free tourism in a wonderful area of unique values like the landscape of Karaburun peninsula and its beaches as well as Sazani island. To serve this goal continuous monitoring and introduction of new measures are of utmost importance.











4. The outreach

Information on the Plastic Busters Info Day has been shared via the Facebook and Instagram page of the Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr. Blendi Klosi.

Home Posts Videos Photos About Commu



Blendi Klosi

21 Oct · 🌐

Monitorimi i plastikës detare 🌊 në zonat e mbrotjura detare shqiptare 🇦🇱, pjesë e projektit të endeve të mesdheut. Zhvillimi i një ekonomie blu 🌊 do të na kërkojë të përballemi me ndotjen e ujërave detare 🌊. Zhvillimi i turizmi blu, gjithashtu na kërkon të ruajmë standartet mjedisore. Prandaj ne të përfitojmë nga eksperiencia dhe teknikat më të mira evropiane 🇪🇺, ku dhe duam të derojmë. #unërrinëshqipëri #pushoshqip #smilealbania 😊🇦🇱





blendi_klosi



Liked by prifti_ilda and 262 others

blendi_klosi Monitorimi i plastikës detare 🌊 në zonat e mbrotjura detare shqiptare 🇦🇱, pjesë e projektit të vendeve të mesdheut. Zhvillimi i një ekonomie blu 🌊 do të na kërkojë të përballemi me ndotjen e ujërave detare 🌊. Zhvillimi i turizmi blu, gjithashtu na kërkon të ruajmë standartet mjedisore. Prandaj le të përfitojmë nga eksperiencia dhe teknikat më të mira evropiane 🇪🇺, ku dhe duam të aderojmë. #unërrinëshqipëri #pushoshqip #smilealbania 😊🇦🇱

21 October • See Translation

Also it have been promoted on the webpage of Plastic Buster MPAs webpage

<https://plasticbustersmpas.interreg-med.eu/no-cache/news-events/news/detail/actualites/marine-litter-monitoring-protocols-for-mpas-introduced-in-the-plastic-busters-mpas-info-day-in-alban/>

MARINE LITTER MONITORING PROTOCOLS FOR MPAs INTRODUCED IN THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs INFO DAY IN ALBANIA

27/10/2020

The city of Vlorë, located near to the unique Karaburun-Sazan MPA, was the site chosen by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania to host the National Info Day on 20 October 2020.

The aim of the meeting was to engage and interact with the Albanian marine litter community, promote synergies, enhance impact, inform about the project activities and raise awareness on the marine litter issue.

Among the attendees were national, regional and local authorities, as well as international organisations, management bodies of coastal and marine protected areas, academic institutions, fisheries and aquaculture private businesses, restaurants and beach service providers, port authorities and NGOs. Journalists from local and national media were also present in the event.

“ The third session, dedicated to the field trip to Karaburun Peninsula, which is part of the...”



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5. List of participants



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Plastic Busters MPAs

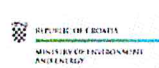
National Info Day

20 October 2020

Vlora, Albania

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Position	Institucioni	Firma
Edmir	INDUHAN	emir@yado.com	P. Sh. M.	MTM	
Alban	BEQIRAS	alban.beqiras@yado.com	SECRETARIO	AIC MY	
Shkëlzen	Lilaj	shkëlzen.lilaj@yado.com	DEPUTI	DRIF-F.V.Gj	
Stenadie	HOXHA		Supelator	DR MFV Gj	



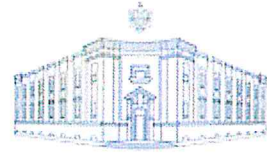


Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Position	Institucioni	Firma
Apostel	Qirko	a.gjeologu@live.com	inspektor h. metyror	AKM Fier-Vlor-yjnde	[Signature]
Lindrit	Beqiraj	lindritbeqiraj90@gmail.com	KESHILLTAR BASHKI	BASHKIA Vlorë	[Signature]
KESHILLTAR	KORÇO	korco@gmail.com	Rajoni ACBASHKIA Univ. Buz.	Rajon ACBASHKIA	[Signature]
Endore	Celohochaj	celohochaj@gmail.com	Ekspert	INCA	[Signature]
Yunetta	Sadiqkllou	sadikellou@gmail.com	Expert	UNDP Albania	[Signature]
Doreid	Peleshati	doreid.peleshati@unp.gov.al	koordinator Lokal i UNDP	UNDP Albania	[Signature]
Idris	Beqiraj	idrisbeqiraj30@gmail.com	Expert	UNDP - Albania	[Signature]



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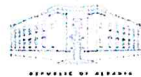
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MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT

Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Position	Institucioni	Firma
Almanim	Xhatkaj	almanim.xhatkaj@gmail.com	Inspektor AKM-Fier	AKM-Fier	
Valjona	Ushatqaj	valjona.mehri.ushatqaj@gmail.com	Perfaqesues me nentim	AKM Vlore	
Evis	Bimol	Bimol.dris@comcast.com	Inspektor AKM-FIER	AKM-FIER	
Lorenc	Islamaaj	lorenc_istamaj@yahoo.com	Inspektor AKM-Fier	AKM-FIER	
Silva	Selqo	silvashkollari@gmail.com	Specialiste	ARM-Fier	
Nexhip	Hysaj	nexhip.hysaj@vlore.gov.al	Perfaq. Qend. Muz.	AKM Vlore	
Redi	Brocaku	redi.brocaku@turizmi.gov.al	Inspektor MTM	MTM	





Emri	Institucioni	email	Role/Position	Institucioni	Firma
Emrëleola Haxuni	ARM FIER	emrleola.haxuni@gmail.com	inspektorë projektiv ARM. FIER	ARM, FIER.	
Rigona Sena	AdZM Vlorë	rigonasena@live.it	Spec. marketing	AdZM Vlorë	RS
Eliza Securi	MTM	eliza.securi@turizim.gov.al	spec. v.l.	MTM	
Odise Selbaliaj	AdZM Vlorë	odise.selbaliaj@gmail.com			
Ketiama Peseli	ARM-Zyrtar Vlorë	ketiamareseli@gmail.com	Specialiste	ARM-Zyrtar e Vlorës	
Artion Selvi	AdZM Vlorë	artionselevi@region.al	Specialist	AdZM Vlorë	
Armonia Topaj	ARM-VLORË	armonia.topaj@region.al	Specialist	ARM-VLORË	



Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Pozicioni	Institucioni	Firma
Enes	Dodike	enes.dodike@unisp.org	expert	UNISP	
Violeta Zana	Zana	violeta.zana@unisp.org	Memorhere Projektit	UNDP	
Simo	Ribaj	s.ribaj@seep.al	Kryetar	SEEP	
Stenij	Sumithaj	069648694	Rajtar	Shkollat e rehatimit	
Hyrresa	Melini	hyrresa.melini@mtm.al	MTM		
Elvana	Rangaj	elvana.rangaj@tizniznigov.al		MTE	



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Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Pozicioni	Institucioni	Firma
Glisa	Sadihu		specialiste	MTM Fier	[Signature]
J. Lora	Hidra		→	→	[Signature]
Violeta	Zune		Manager	UNSP	[Signature]
Eno	Dodriha		Expert	UNSP	[Signature]
Johannes	Fromann		Expert	GIZ	[Signature]
Ungut	Meksi		ALBANIA XPERIENCA	Gardes	[Signature]
ACCESSOR	PROU		MARSSA	FASHIA SUI BRANS	[Signature]



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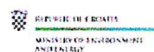
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MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND ENVIRONMENT

Emri	Mbiemri	email	Role/Pozicioni	Institucioni	Firma
Valkona	Gogu	Valkona.gogu@turizam.gov.al		MTM	
FRANCESCO	DE LE LUIS		MANAGER	REAL ESTATE	
Klodian	Merika	klodian.merika@turizam.gov.al	drejtor	MTM	





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THE PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs PARTNERSHIP

