

Monthly E-Bulletin of the Project “Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status-BSB257”

E-Bulletin No:18

Common borders. Common solutions

This project is funded by the 1st Call for Proposal of the Joint Operational Programme “BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020”

BSB275-ZEWGES Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status (ZEWGES) Project has been selected to be part of the "Interreg 30 years - Projects' publication and exhibition"!

We are very pleased to inform you that Zero Waste Strategy for Good Environmental Status (ZEWGES) Project has been selected to be part of the "Interreg 30 years - Projects' publication and exhibition". The Lead Partner Tekirdag Namik Kemal University has answered the following particular questions necessary for the publication and exhibition.

1. Short description of your project (what was it/is it about, about 100 words).
2. Tell us what does it mean to work together with colleagues from other countries?
3. What is the added value of implementing a project through Interreg?
4. What makes your project special?
5. What change did your project achieve? What progress is your project aiming at?

The poster features the ZEWGES logo and the Interreg 30 years logo. A central photograph shows a group of people in red caps and white shirts participating in a beach cleanup. Below the photo is a quote: "Litter picking parties and educational campaigns have mobilised communities and NGOs to reduce the levels of plastics and debris on coastlines and the bed of the Black Sea." The poster includes a 'DESCRIPTION' section, a 'GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE' section listing Tekirdag, Edirne, Kizilirmaci, Yaglabozdaci (Bulgaria), Odessa (Ukraine) and Tbilisi (Georgia), and a 'PROGRAMME' section. It also lists the 'TOTAL BUDGET' as € 872,118.00 and 'EU FUNDING' as € 802,348.56. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Listen to "This is Europe"', 'Interreg's new podcast', 'Programme website', 'Project website', 'ZEWGES', 'Black Sea Basin', and 'Cross Border Cooperation'.

Figure 1. The poster of BSB257 ZEWGES Project Poster produced by Interreg Team



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Summary of the answered given to the questions:

1. Short description of your project (what was it/is it about, about 100 words).

This joint action has been designed and implemented to properly address the marine debris problem, particularly with regard to the use and disposal of plastics and other synthetic materials. This rubbish, which is present in the seas and on beaches, is called marine debris. Marine debris is one of the world’s most pervasive pollution problems affecting the seas..

The action aims at contributing to overall reduction in, (1) the number of visible (> 2.5 cm) litter items on coastlines including plastic, fishing and sanitary litter items on coastlines; (2) the number of litter items per square meter on the sea bed including fishing related litter items on the sea bed from 2012 levels by 2020, in Odessa, in Ukraine; Bourgas, in Bulgaria; Guria, in Georgia and Tekirdağ, in Turkey.

2. Tell us what does it mean to work together with colleagues from other countries?

Marine litter recognizes no borders: every year, around 6.4 million tons of garbage reach the marine environment worldwide. The United Nations Environment Programme reports that an average of 18,000 pieces of plastic litter floats on every square kilometre of seas. Around the Black Sea Basin, four ENI CBC institutions from Turkey, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Georgia have decided to act together and we share a common concern, a common enemy: the marine litter. In particular, the use of plastics and other synthetic materials.

We are going “fishing for litter”: a small “army” of hundreds of fishermen, students, teachers and civil society organizations. We are collecting plastics around the Black Sea, to clean up square kilometres of beaches and water. And we are learning how a good solid waste management could reduce the pollution’s impact on our precious ecosystems.

3. What is the added value of implementing a project through Interreg?

We believe that Interreg Europe shall offer opportunities for regional and local public authorities across Europe to share ideas and experience on public policy in practice, therefore improving strategies for our citizens and communities. Cooperation, collaboration and community, which are the three essential engagements of Interreg, may be incorporated into two main support services with the aim to aid understanding and critical thinking by creating space for new ideas, different perspectives and collective learning.

4. What makes your project special?

It is essential to first know about the pollution sources and their impacts on both land and marine ecosystems. Thus, we have develop a monitoring method to investigate type, trend and source of marine litter and formulate prevention measures, including the crucial involvement of 7-16 age students, their teachers, fishermen and citizens living around the sea under the activities of “Ecosystem Education Program”, “Fishing for Litter Campaigns” and “Beach Clean-up Campaigns” in each partnering countries.

5. What change did your project achieve? What progress is your project aiming at?

In order to achieve the objectives of the action, two main activities have been undertaken:



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i) **Marine litter collection and disposal**

- a. four 'Fishing for Litter' campaigns (one in each country) with local fishermen collecting min. 1,5 tonnes of derelict fishing gear from the sea-bed;
- b. four beach clean-up campaigns (one in each country) with 7-16 age group children and their teachers collecting min. 0,5 tonnes of litter from beaches,
- c. Monitoring beach litter and development of a monitoring method.

ii) **Public awareness among children**

75 primary/secondary schools (50 from Turkey, 5 from Bulgaria, 10 from Ukraine, 10 from Georgia), 50 NGOs (15 from Turkey, 5 from Bulgaria, 20 from Ukraine, 10 from Georgia) and 25 local media organisations (10 from Turkey, 5 from Bulgaria, 7 from Ukraine, 3 from Georgia) will be involved in the Ecosystem Education Program (EEP).

- **Marine litter monitoring method has been developed.**
- **Marine litter collection and disposal activities including Marine litter monitoring** continues successfully and preliminary results have been obtained to investigate trend and source of marine litter.
- Two 'Fishing for Litter' campaigns have been realised in Bulgaria and in Ukraine and the remaining two in Georgia and Turkey will be done till June 2020.
- Ecosystem education set has been produced in four languages (Turkish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Georgian), including integrated database, ecosystem education training videos, a game, poster, brochure and ecosystem awareness survey. Contracts have been signed with the local education authorities for training and including ecosystem educational materials in the curriculum.
- Awareness will be measured by the number of primary/secondary schools' students, teachers, NGOs, local media organisations involved in the Ecosystem Education Program (EEP). Besides, in order to measure the impact of EEP on the citizens, surveys on the ecosystem awareness level will be conducted among teachers and students before and after the implementation of Ecosystem Education program. “Marine litter watch”, monitoring results, ecosystem trainings and collaboration with the other institutions will be realised on the developed integrated database.

The editor of the material: Tekirdağ Namik Kemal University

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