



Regional activity : C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation

Kick-off Meeting

**Wednesday, 12 November, 2025
10:30 – 13:00 CET (Online)**



Regional activity : C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation **Kick-off Meeting**

Presentation of the Activity: *Overview of the objectives, structure, and expected outcomes*

12 November, 2025
Online

Presented by:

Mr Anis Ismail, Environment Expert, WES-BCA

WES-BCA in a snapshot



- WES-BCA aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the Partner Countries and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.
- It strives to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in order to support them in formulating and or implementing policies in the issues mentioned above.
- It is meant to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding, stimulating behavioural changes needed for appropriate climate action and environmental protection.
- WES-BCA is the continuation of the WES project (2019-2024) and also capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded regional projects (SWIM-Horizon2020 SM, SWIM SM; Horizon 2020 CB/MEP).

WES-BCA Identity



Partner Countries: 8 Countries in North Africa and the Middle East



Duration: November 2024 - November 2027



Budget: 7.000.000 Euros

WES-BCA Consortium



LDK CONSULTANTS S.A. (Leader)



Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)



Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+)



Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari)

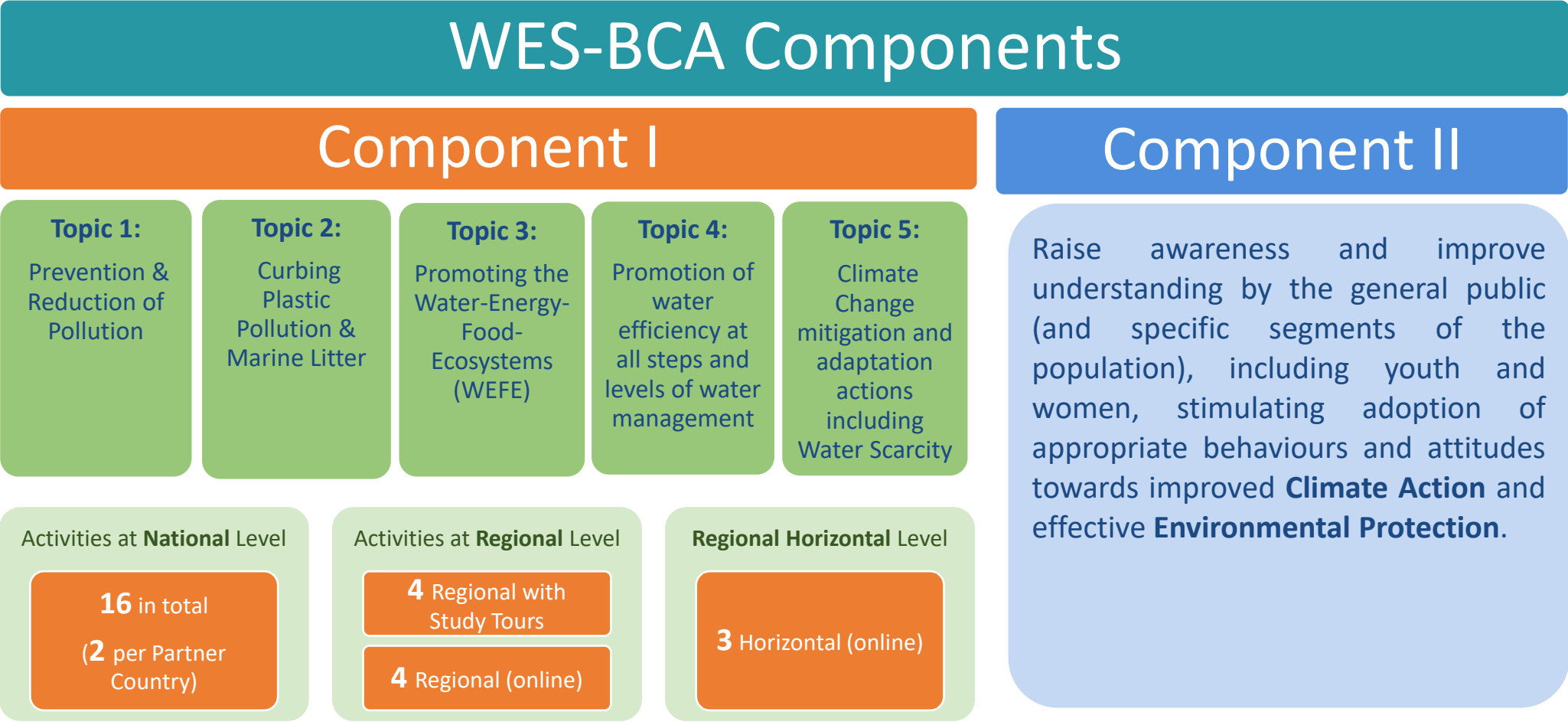


Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)



MedWaves, the Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/Map for Sustainable Consumption and Production

WES-BCA Components and Outputs



Workplan for activities under Topics 1 and 2

Regional and Horizontal Activities



Country	Code	Topic	Activity	Tentative timeline
Regional (online)	C1_REG-1	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Strengthening regional regulatory frameworks for plastics and Circular Economy alignment	Apr 2026
Regional (Study tour)	C1_REG/ST-2	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Regional event on advancing Green, Blue, and Circular Economies in the Mediterranean through multi-sector collaboration (Sustainable Tourism)	Nov 2026
Regional (Study tour)	C1_REG/ST-3	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Fostering regional collaboration and circular economy solutions to address land-based plastic pollution and marine litter in the mediterranean: policy guidance on tackling riverine plastic pollution.	Apr 2027
Regional (online)	C1_REG-4	Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter	Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation	Nov 2025
Horizontal (online)	C1_HOR-3	Topic 5: Climate Change mitigation and adaptation actions	Support for WES-BCA PCs in preparing their 7th National Biodiversity Reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	Dec 2025 to Feb 2026

Objectives of the Regional Activity (C1-REG 4)



Support Mediterranean Partner Countries in enhancing the implementation of marine litter monitoring and reporting Programmes and to contribute to more effective reporting and mitigation measures aligned with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management under the Barcelona Convention.

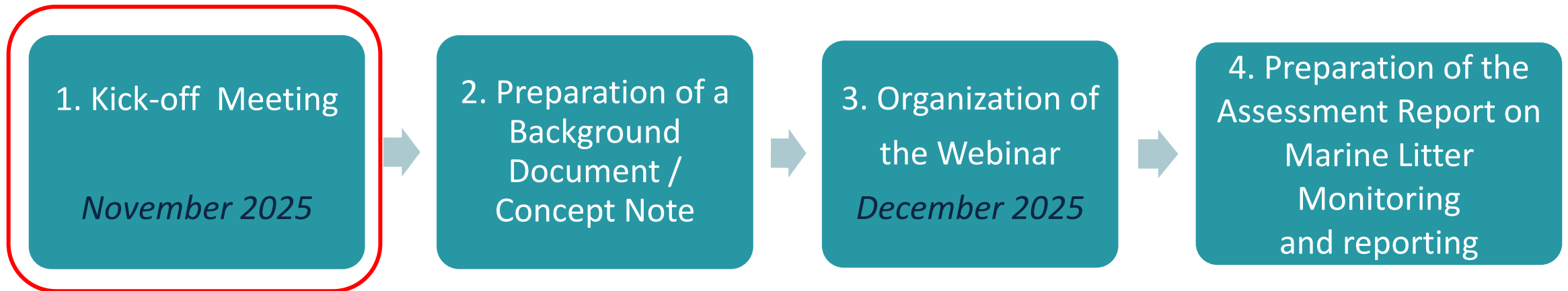
Specific Objectives:

- Promote the wide uptake and implementation of the marine litter monitoring methodologies (for all marine matrixes) that have been adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention;
- Facilitate, through a webinar, regional exchange of national experiences, case studies, and best practices related to marine litter monitoring and reporting as well as on mitigation strategies;
- Support the implementation of regional and national marine litter monitoring and reporting programmes, enhancing informed decision-making and policy development.

Main outputs

- This activity consists of a **Regional Webinar** bringing together key stakeholders from across the Mediterranean region, exchange knowledge, showcase initiatives, and discuss experiences related to marine litter monitoring and reporting, in order to ensure effective prevention and management.
- Following the webinar, a comprehensive **Assessment Regional Report Marine Litter Monitoring and Reporting across the Mediterranean** will be prepared, compiling and analyzing relevant initiatives, experiences, and good practices.
- The report will also include **key recommendations**, developed on the basis of feedback gathered from country representatives and expert deskwork.

Activity processing



Kick-off-Meeting Agenda

10:15-10:30	Connection to the platform <i>Participants join and test audio/video connections</i>
10:30-10:50	Opening remarks - Prof. Michael Scoulllos, WES-BCA Team Leader - Mr. Youssef Tadros, Programme Manager, DG MENA, European Commission
10:50-10:55	WES Video on Plastic Pollution and Single-Use Plastics (SUPs)- Short version
10:55-11:10	Presentation of the Activity: Overview of the objectives, structure, and expected outcomes Mr. Anis ISMAIL, Key Environment Expert, WES-BCA
11:10-11:30	Introduction of the Expert Team and Stakeholders Presentation of the WES-BCA experts and brief introduction by country representatives
11:30-12:00	Presentation and discussion on the Background Document and Assessment Report: Proposed structure and contents - Dr. Mirco Haseler, International Marine Litter Monitoring Expert, WES-BCA - Open discussion and feedback
12:00-12:10	WES Video Guideline for monitoring macrolitter on the seafloor
12:10-12:35	Preparations for the Regional Webinar: Expected contributions and outcomes from experts, speakers and participants - Dr. Sana Ben Ismail, Marine Litter Monitoring Expert, WES-BCA - Dr. Emad Adly, Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment Expert, WES-BCA - Open discussion and feedback
12:35-12:50	Inputs and Case Studies for the Regional Webinar: Identification of contacts, institutions, projects, and potential country presentations. - Dr. Mirco Haseler, International Marine Litter Monitoring Expert, WES-BCA - Open discussion and feedback
12:50-13:00	Conclusions and Next Steps: Key Takeaways and follow-up actions Prof. Michael Scoulllos, WES-BCA Team Leader

Thank you for your attention!



Regional activity : C1_REG-4: Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation Kick-off Meeting

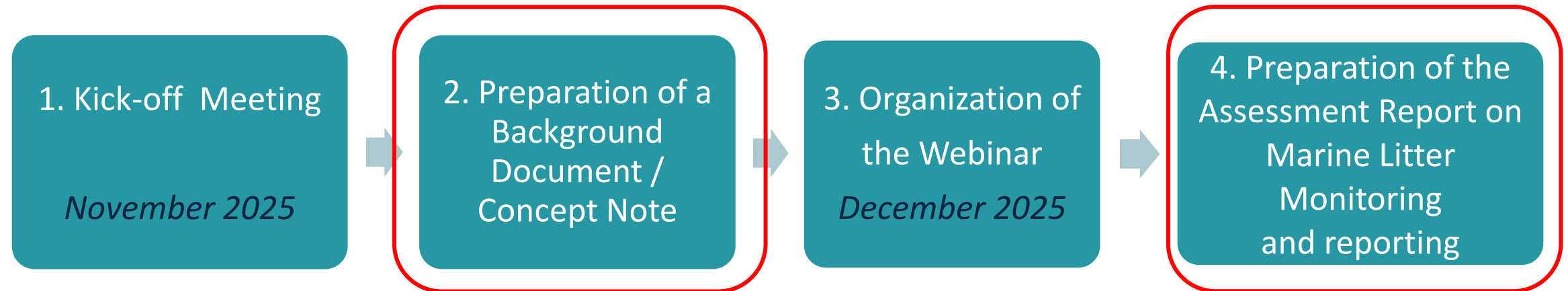
**Presentation and discussion on the Background
Document and Assessment Report: *Proposed
structure and contents***

12 November, 2025 - Online

Presented by:

Dr. Mirco Haseler, International Marine Litter Monitoring Expert,
WES-BCA

Activity processing



Background Document and Assessment Report:



■ Objectives and expected outcomes

- **The Background Document** aim to provide a clear, shared understanding of the context, rationale and scope of the regional activity on marine litter monitoring and reporting. It summarises key regional frameworks, current challenges and initial observations.
 - It outlines the objectives, the proposed structure and agenda of the webinar, the target stakeholders, and the type of inputs expected from countries and partners.
 - It aim is to support Partner Countries enhancing **the implementation of Marine Litter monitoring and reporting Programmes for all matrixes** and **to contribute to more effective reporting and mitigation measures** aligned with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management under the Barcelona Convention.
 - In order to do so it will present a preliminary set of recommendations related to marine litter monitoring and reporting and best practices examples and strategies from the region to successfully implement marine litter monitoring from litter collection to reporting.

Background Document and Assessment Report:



- Objectives and expected outcomes

- **The Regional Assessment Report** is the main technical output produced after the webinar. It builds up on the Background document.
 - It compiles and organises information from existing documents, country inputs, and webinar discussions to describe the current status of marine litter monitoring and reporting across the Mediterranean partner countries.
 - It highlights common challenges, successful approaches and good practices, assesses gaps and needs, and formulates clear, practical recommendations for improving harmonised monitoring, data flows and reporting under IMAP/EO10 and related frameworks.
 - It is meant to show both national authorities and regional actors on what to strengthen next in terms of Marine litter monitoring and reporting across the Mediterranean partner countries.

Background Document and Assessment Report:

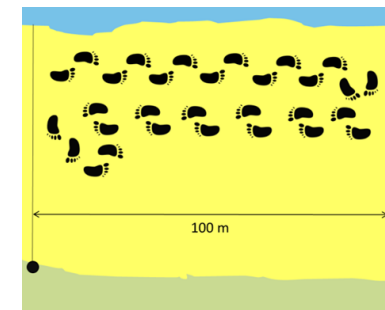


■ Political Framework

- The main legislative frameworks related to marine litter in the Mediterranean are: the Barcelona Convention Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (UNEP/MAP IG.21/9) and the Ecosystem Approach (COP19 IMAP Decision IG.22/7);
- The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC, 2010/477/EC, 2017/848/EC) and the EU Plastics Strategy (COM(2018)).
- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP) (UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL, 2017).
- Monitoring Guidelines of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter

Background Document and Assessment Report:

- Methodology: Marine Litter and the Barcelona Convention Ecosystem Approach
 - Ecological Objective 10 (EO10): Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect the coastal and marine environment.
 - IMAP Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source).
 - IMAP Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including micro plastics and on the seafloor.
 - IMAP Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles.



Background Document and Assessment Report:



Why Marine Litter Monitoring and Reporting remains limited

- Financial Constraints
- Institutional and Technical Constraints
- Data, Priority and Context Challenges

Background Document and Assessment Report:



- How marine litter monitoring can be successful
- Key Success Factors Behind these Examples
 - Clear mandate: a designated lead institution coordinating marine litter monitoring and reporting.
 - Simple, standardised protocols aligned with IMAP/MSFD, feasible with existing staff and budgets.
 - Strategic partnerships with NGOs, universities and citizen science to extend coverage and reduce costs.
 - Direct link to decision-making: data used for funding priorities, enforcement, awareness and national planning.
 - Targeted regional support (e.g. UNEP/MAP initiatives) to move from pilots to institutionalised national programmes.

Background Document and Assessment Report:

- Recommendations for Marine litter monitoring & management
 - **Monitoring/Reporting**
 - Use of the standardized IMAP method
 - Focus on hotspots instead of full coverage: Few representative beaches → feasible despite limited resources.
 - Linking to policy actions: Indicators made directly usable for policies (waste management, tourism, etc.).
 - **Management**
 - Enhancing waste management (collection, sorting, disposal)
 - Awareness raising campaigns (for tourists, locals, fisherman, etc.)
 - Circular Economy strategies
 - Bans or restrictions of specific items (single use plastics)
 - Etc.

Structure of the report



A comprehensive assessment report designed to support evidence-based decision-making and regional planning. The report will include:

- **A brief regional overview** of ongoing marine litter monitoring and reporting efforts in WES-BCA partner countries and their level of alignment with IMAP;
- **Country profiles** detailing national marine litter monitoring and reporting efforts, institutional arrangements in the eight WES-BCA partner countries, and alignment with relevant regional frameworks including with the Barcelona Convention's IMAP;
- **Action-oriented recommendations** aimed at strengthening implementation, coordination, and capacity-building efforts; and
- **A short section proposing next steps** and possible areas for regional cooperation or project development within existing frameworks.

Thank you for your attention!



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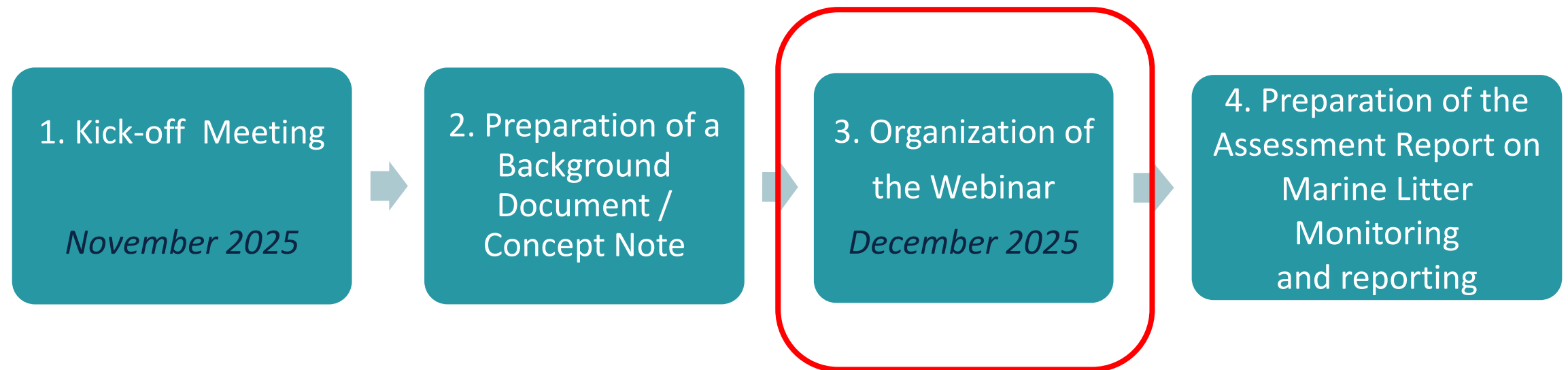
Preparations for the regional Webinar: *Expected contributions and outcomes from experts, speakers and participants*

12 November, 2025 - Online

Presented by:

Ms Sana Ben Ismail, Marine Litter Monitoring Expert, WES-BCA

Activity processing



Objectives and outputs of the Regional Webinar

- The **Regional Webinar main objective** is bringing together key stakeholders from across the Mediterranean region, exchange knowledge, showcase initiatives, and discuss experiences related to marine litter monitoring and reporting, in order to ensure effective prevention and management.
- Gather specific information from partner countries regarding their institutional arrangements, national monitoring and reporting programs, and efforts **to support the effective implementation and alignment of marine litter monitoring and reporting with the Barcelona Convention's Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).**
- The Webinar will help to **identify gaps, assess progress, present a first set of recommendations** and build upon the initiatives, case studies and experiences from the region.

Webinar preparation

Tentative date: 18 December 2025 - Online

Proposed title of the Webinar :

“Regional Webinar on the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation”.

Partners are currently being identified, with participants to be approached after the KoM

Motivation and background

MARINE LITTER MONITORING & KEY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

KEY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

EU

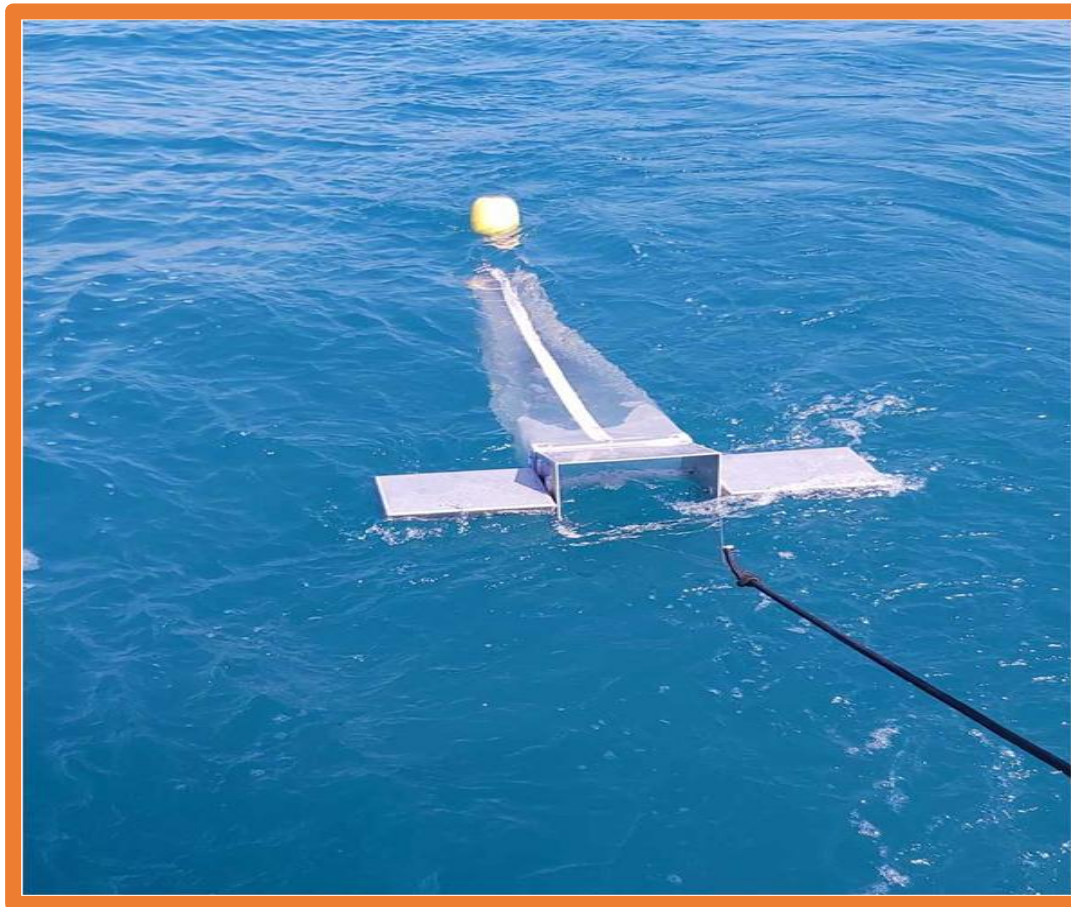
Marine Strategy
Framework Directive

Plastics Strategy
Single-Use Plastics
Directive

Barcelona Convention

Ecosystem Approach

Regional Plan for Marine
Litter Management in the
Mediterranean



@Photo INSTM

Source: Thomas Valchogianni, 2022 adapted

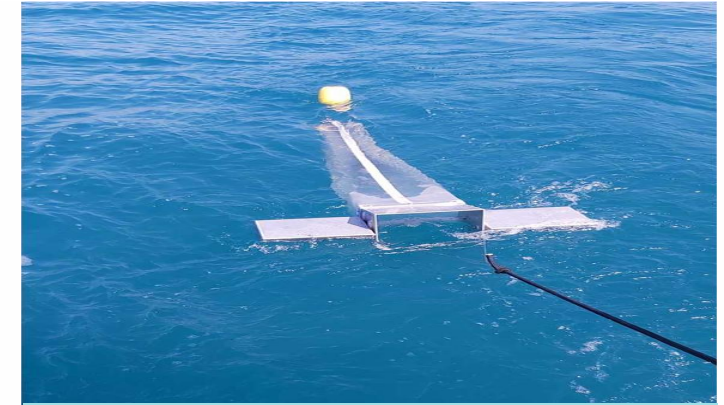
Monitoring Methods for Macro and Microlitter in Coastal and Marine Environment



Methodology for monitoring
MACROLITTER on the beach



Monitoring **MACROLITTER** on the
seafloor with visual census



Monitoring **MICROLITTER** in
the sea surface water



Monitoring **MICROLITTER** in
the beach sand



Methodology for monitoring
MACROLITTER on the sea surface



Methodology for monitoring
MACROLITTER on the seafloor with

Ressource documents



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.601/Inf.3



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

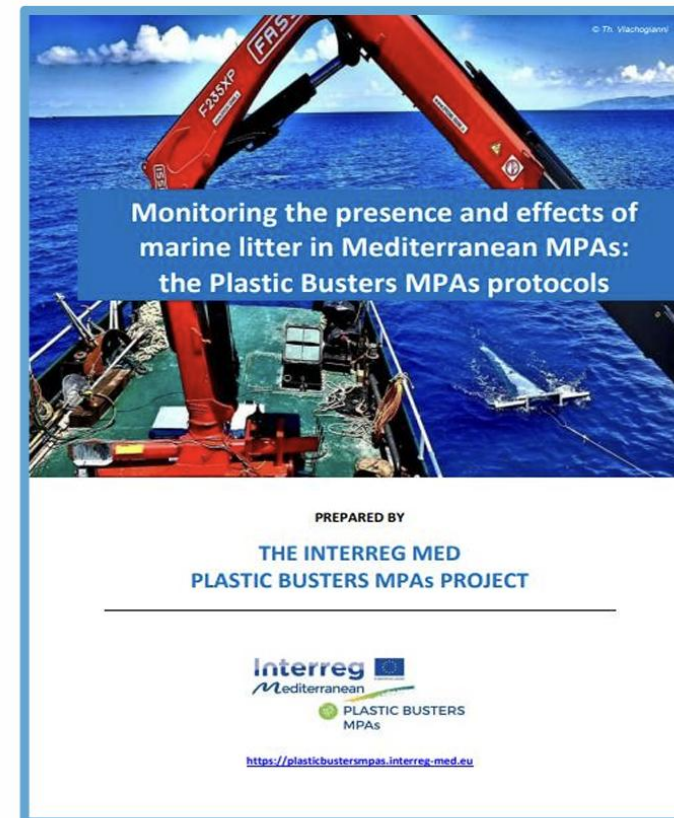
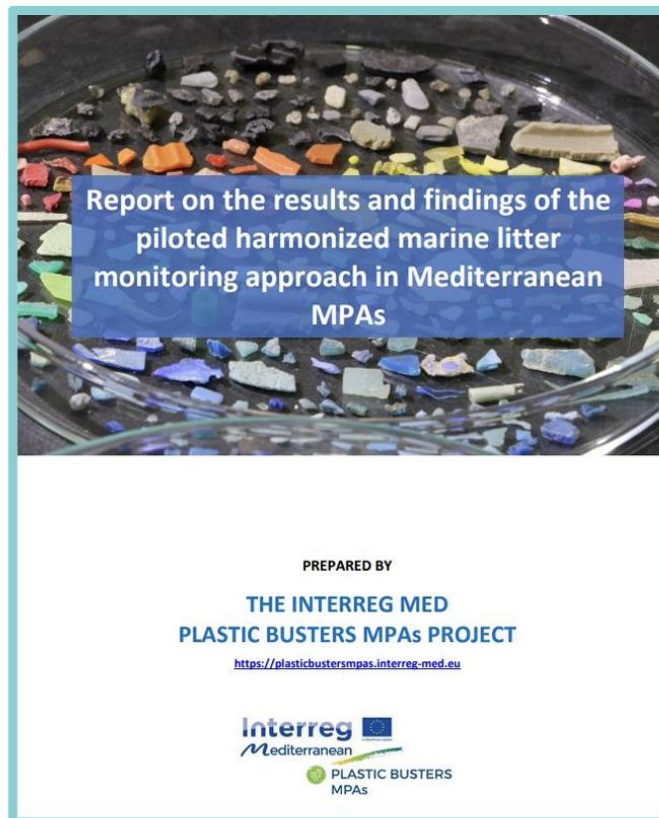
29 December 2024
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (CORMON Marine Litter)

Videoconference, 29 January 2025

Agenda Item 3: Proposal for Revising IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10) on Marine Litter

Lessons Learnt and Gained Experience from the Use of IMAP Info System Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DD) for IMAP EO10 (Marine Litter) for the Needs of Preparation of the 2023 MED QSR



Source: Plastic Busters initiative

Tentative structure of the webinar



Session	Details
Opening Session	Welcome Remarks and Keynote Address from the project and its partners
Frameworks & Methodologies	Overview of Key Regional and EU Frameworks and the Barcelona Convention's Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
Exchange of National Experiences	Case Studies and country Specific Presentations on Marine Litter Monitoring and reporting from the Partner Countries
Shaping a Regional Best Practices Platform	Challenges & Solutions in Marine Litter Monitoring and reporting Best Practices for Data Sharing & Integration (INFO/RAC, national data bases) Connecting Regional Actions with Global Commitments (EU Strategy, UfM, UNEP/MAP) IMAP and Action Plans
Regional Data Collection & Integration for Decision-Making	Use of data to influence policy and raise awareness. Role of Data in Supporting Local/National/Regional Policies Integrating Data into Environmental Observatories
Conclusion & Way Forward	Aligning with Regional/International Processes Key Takeaways from the Webinar Next Steps for Regional Marine Litter Monitoring & Mitigation

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WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region



@Photos INSTM

Thank you for your attention!



WES-BCA Kick-Off Meeting

C1_REG-4

Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring and reporting programs for marine litter prevention and mitigation

12 November 2025

Stakeholders Engagement and Evaluation of Impact

Presented by: Dr. Emad ADLY, Stakeholders Engagement Expert and Impact Evaluation, WES-BCA

Interlinked aspects:

- Stakeholder engagement (involving the right people from the relevant institutions)
- Defining, monitoring and assessing expected impacts throughout the process on both personal and institutional levels

WES-BCA Impact assessment methodology (C1)



- Approval of Activities' ToRs (Relevant Stakeholders, Impacts and Indicators)
- Mobilizing candidates based on certain criteria to make sure the project serves the right target groups.
- Dynamic participatory activities involving quizzes, exercises etc.
- Evaluation immediately after the intervention.
- Follow-up and getting feedback (e-survey, interviews, capitalization questionnaires completed by FPs).

Engaging the right stakeholders is key! (C1)



- Participants from the government / ministries that can contribute to the decision-making process and in designing policies. From other stakeholder groups as well.
- WES-BCA to identify and invite relevant Mediterranean CSOs and NGOs from regional networks.
- Gender and Youth aspects are well integrated from the ToR development phase.

Stakeholders' Engagement

Stakeholders' Engagement



important impacts

Target group

- National Focal Points for marine litter and pollution prevention from Ministries of Environment and other relevant departments;
- Academia and research institutions;
- Local and coastal authorities involved in waste and beach management
- Regional organisations and national FPs (e.g. UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL)
- Representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), NGOs, women and youth networks

3–4 representatives from each country will be invited to the webinar, to be identified jointly with the FPs. Participants will actively engage in discussions, share country-specific progress, challenges, and lessons learned, and contribute to the regional assessment report

Main stakeholders will be identified jointly with the WES-BCA Focal Point and the partners.



**Regional activity : C1_REG-4:
Contribution to the Mediterranean monitoring
and reporting programs for marine litter
prevention and mitigation**

Kick-off Meeting

**Inputs and Case Studies for the Regional
Webinar: *Identification of contacts, institutions,
projects, and potential country presentations.***

12 November, 2025

Online

Presented by:

Dr. Mirco Haseler, International Marine Litter Monitoring Expert,
WES-BCA

Inputs and Case Studies :

- The goal of the **Inputs and Case Studies for the Regional Webinar** is to bring in concrete, Mediterranean-based examples that show how countries and partners are organizing, implementing, and sustaining marine litter monitoring and reporting in practice.
 - By presenting real experiences—from governance arrangements, NGO partnerships, or university-led QA/QC and financing models
 - This provides actionable ideas that other countries can adapt, while generating comparable information and lessons learned that directly feed into future activities.

Inputs and Case Studies :

- Purpose of Inputs & Case Studies for the Webinar
 - Ensure relevant and active participants from each country
 - Identify strong, solution-oriented case studies on marine litter monitoring & reporting.
 - Link existing projects, institutions, experts and partnerships to the webinar's **proposed** clusters:
 - Cluster 1 – Regional, National, Local actors
 - Cluster 2 – Partnerships for Field Monitoring
 - Cluster 3 – Universities & Research Institutes as QA/QC Hubs
 - Cluster 4 – Economic operators

Inputs and Case Studies :

- Cluster 1 – Regional, National, Local actors
 - Key actors: international and national lead authorities for marine environment
- Cluster 2 – Partnerships for Field Monitoring
 - Key actors: local NGOs, Local authorities, volunteers, etc.
- Cluster 3 – Universities & Research Institutes as QA/QC Hubs
 - Key actors: national marine institutes, universities, laboratories involved in marine litter research.
- Cluster 4 – Economic operators
 - Key actors: environment, tourism, fisheries, private sector, etc.

Next steps :

- Identify and approach participants through the FPs
- Finalize partner and case study selection
- Share the webinar concept note for country feedback and review
- Finalize the webinar agenda, including case studies
- Circulate the questionnaire to gather additional insights from the region and countries
- Draft the Assessment Report in a participatory manner

**Thank you for your attention
and keep up with our latest news!**

WES-BCA.EU

