



UfM labelled Plastic Busters CAP: Insights and Tunisia Case Study

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Expert ML Monitoring/WES-BCA



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

Tuesday 3 February 2026 09:00 - 14:00 CET (Online)



INSTM is one of the largest and widespread research center in Tunisia, founded in 1924 for the marine sciences and technologies.



✓ **Research Vessel Hannibal**



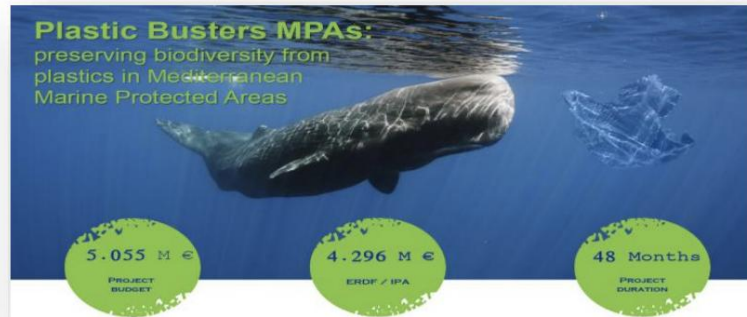
✓ **Museum Dar EL Hout**
Oceanographic Museum
Dates : **20th century (1924)**

PLASTIC BUSTERS ON BASIN SCALE

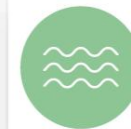
TRANSFERRING/CAPITALIZATION OF PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs



ENI
CBCMED
Cooperating across borders
in the Mediterranean



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



COMMON



Plastic Busters CAP



Spain



Italy



Greece



Plastic Busters CAP



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



Lebanon



Tunisia



Egypt



Jordan

THE STUDY AREAS : Main activities developed in Tunisia - PB CAP Project (scientific activities)

Microplastic monitoring using a manta net

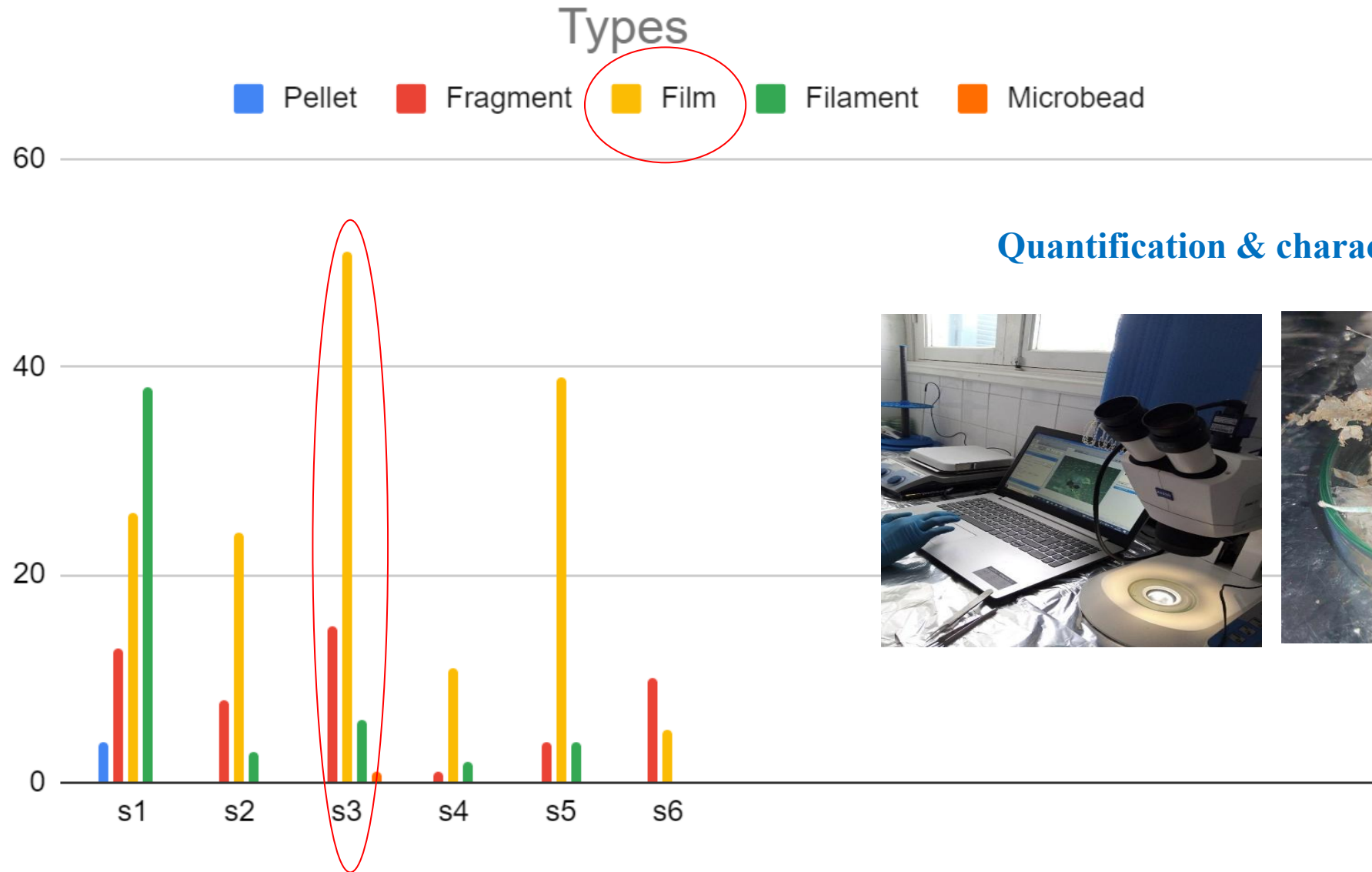
-Number of MPs found in transect 1 : **178**

-Number of MPs found in transect 2: **80**



ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Microlitter monitoring using manta net: Microplastic abundance per types & per station

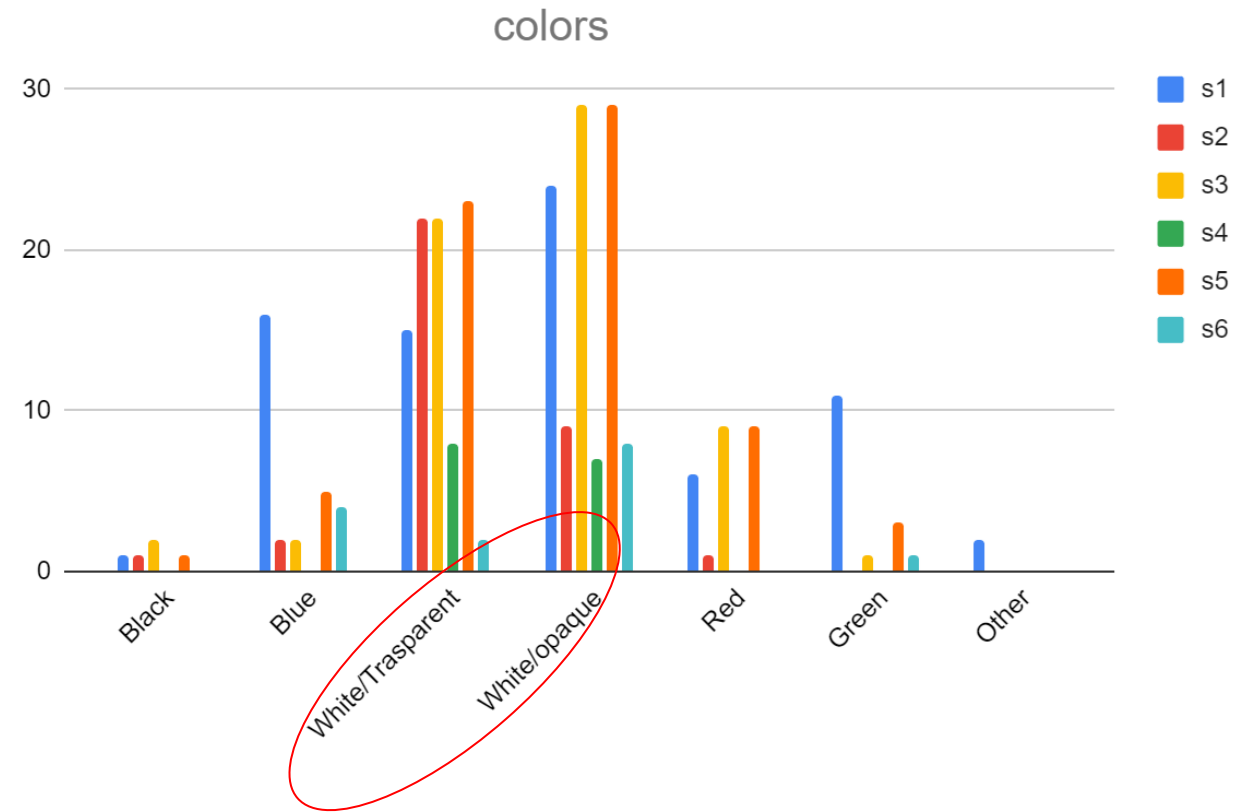
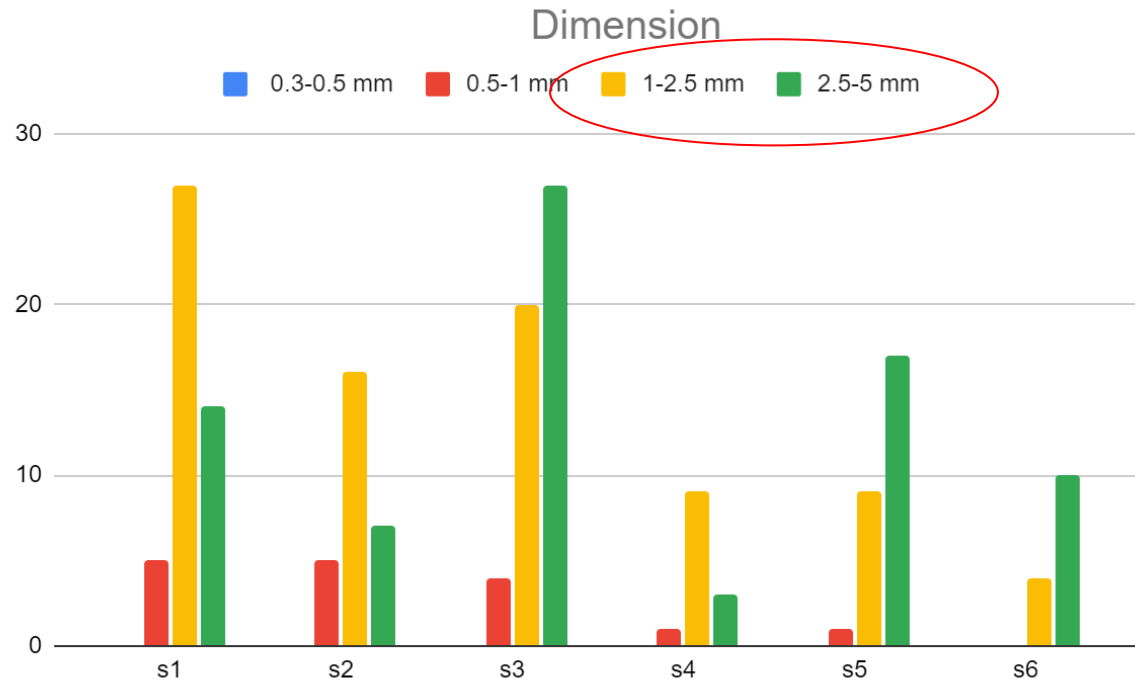


Quantification & characterization of MPs



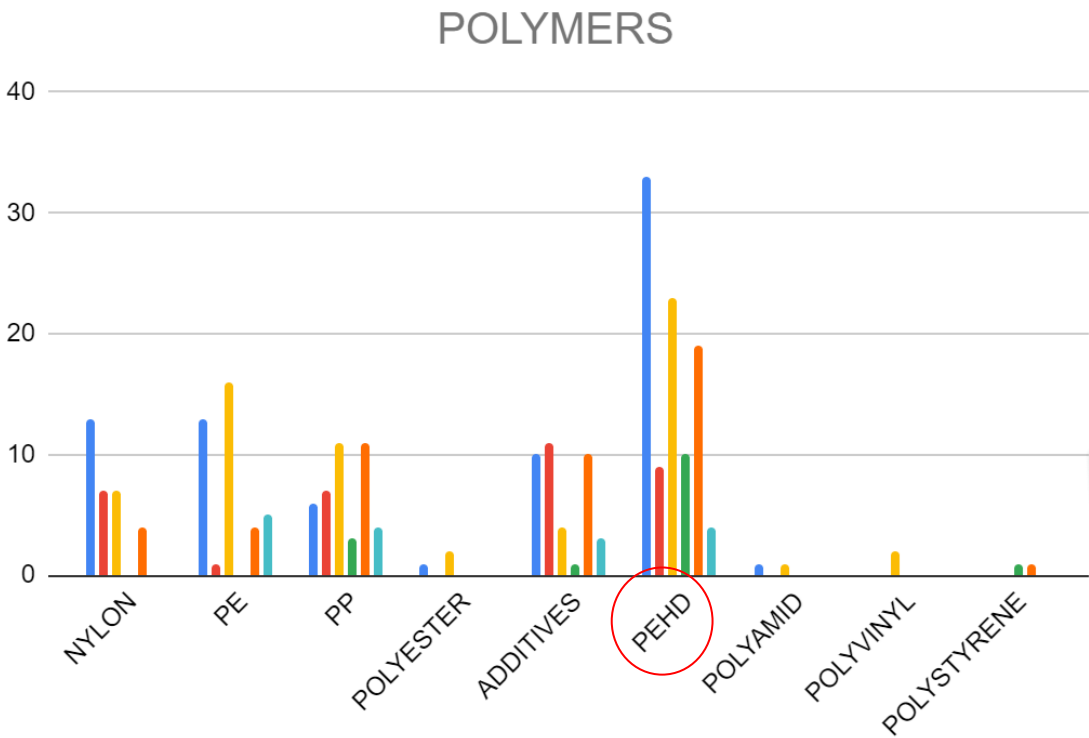
ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Microlitter monitoring using manta net: Microplastic abundance per size class & per colors

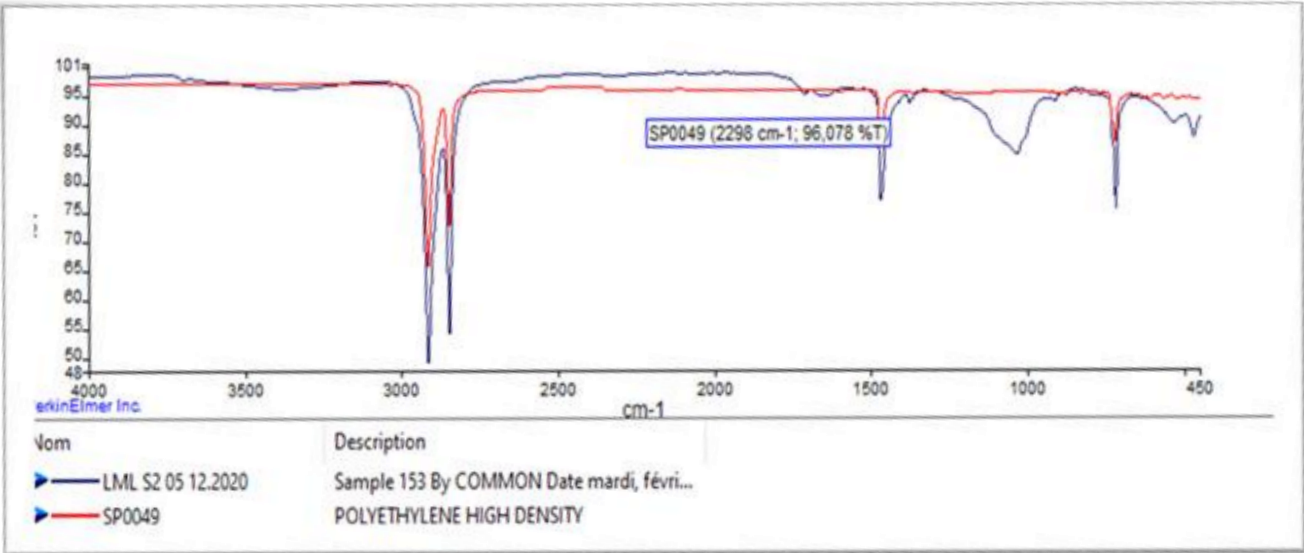


ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Microlitter monitoring using manta net: Polymer results



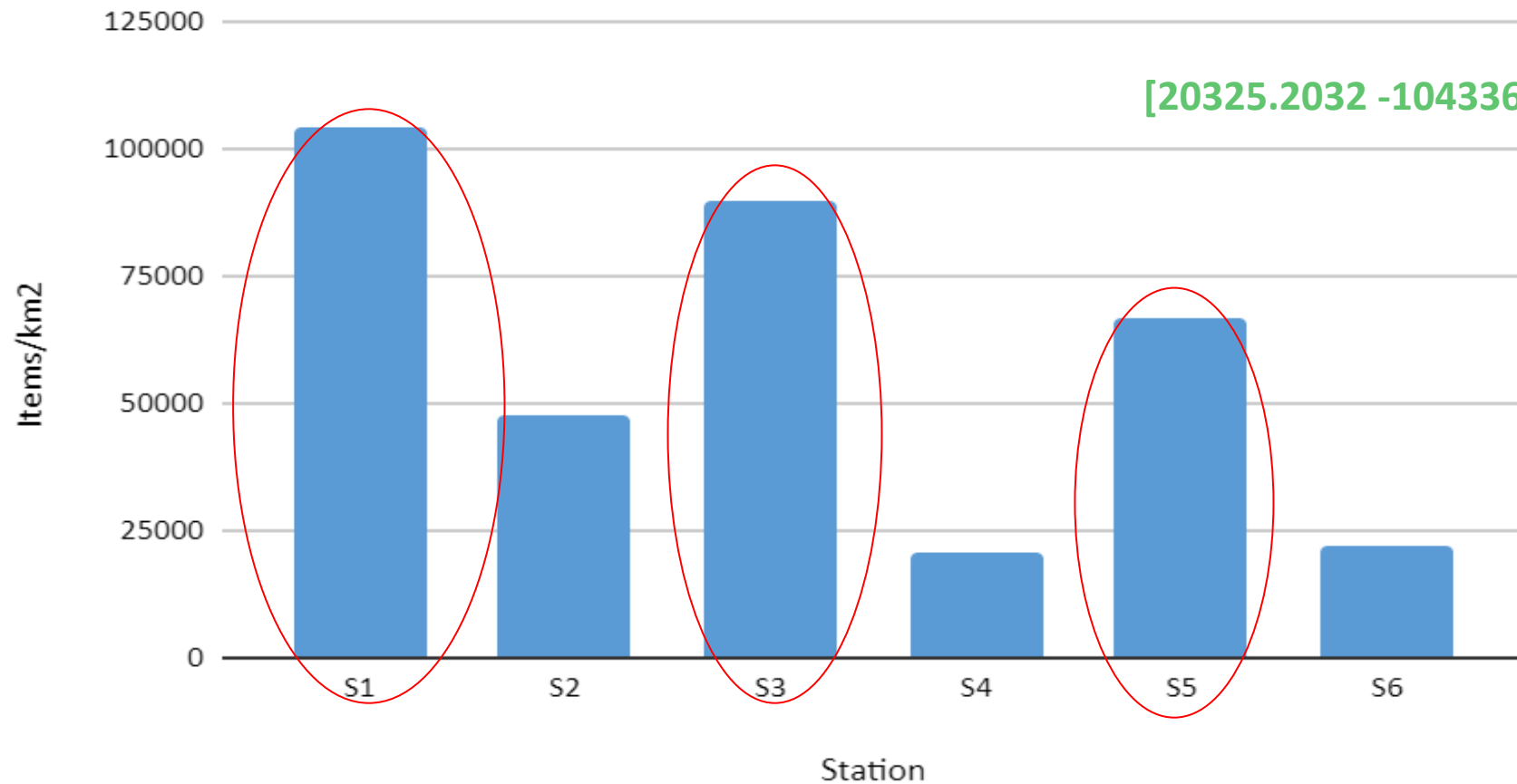
Chemical identification



ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Microlitter monitoring using manta net: Abundance of microplastic items per station

Abundance per station



[20325.2032 -104336.043 items/km2]



FLOATING LITTER DENSITY IN ITEMS/KM2

Two transects were conducted at two stations. The sample size is quite small, and it only offers limited insights into the observed litter density.

Average
litter density

225
items/km²

The main items observed were:

pieces of plastic shopping/carrier/grocery bags (J3) &
pieces of small plastic bags (J2)

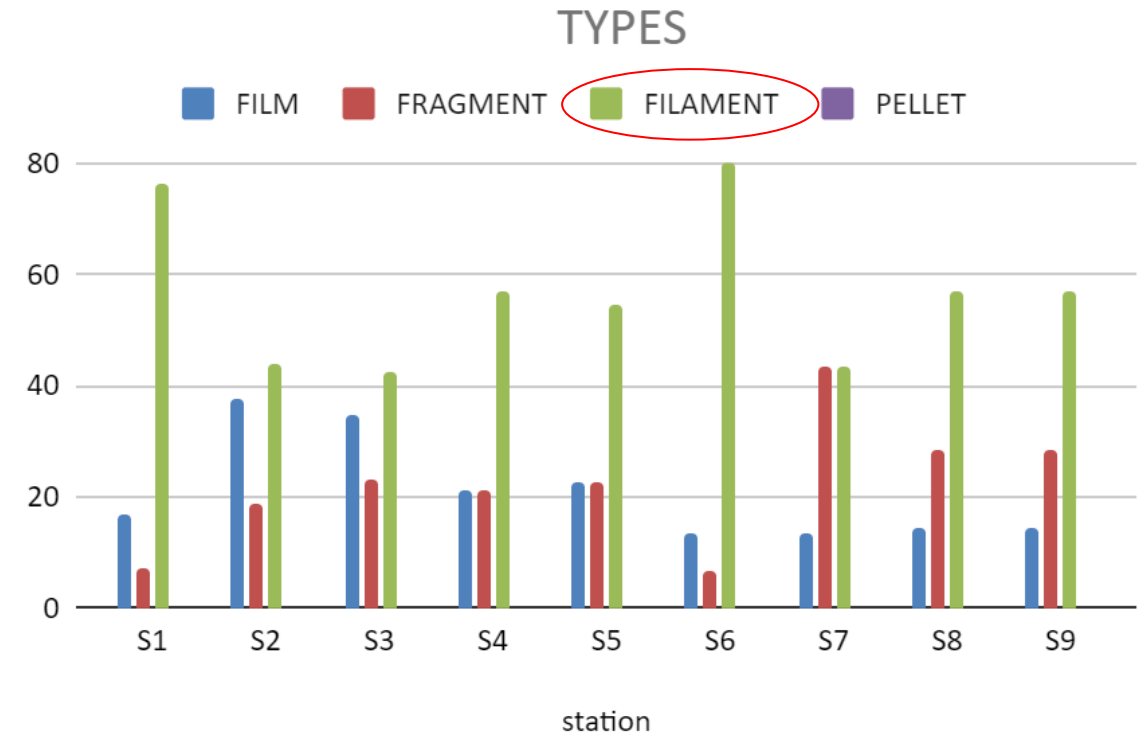
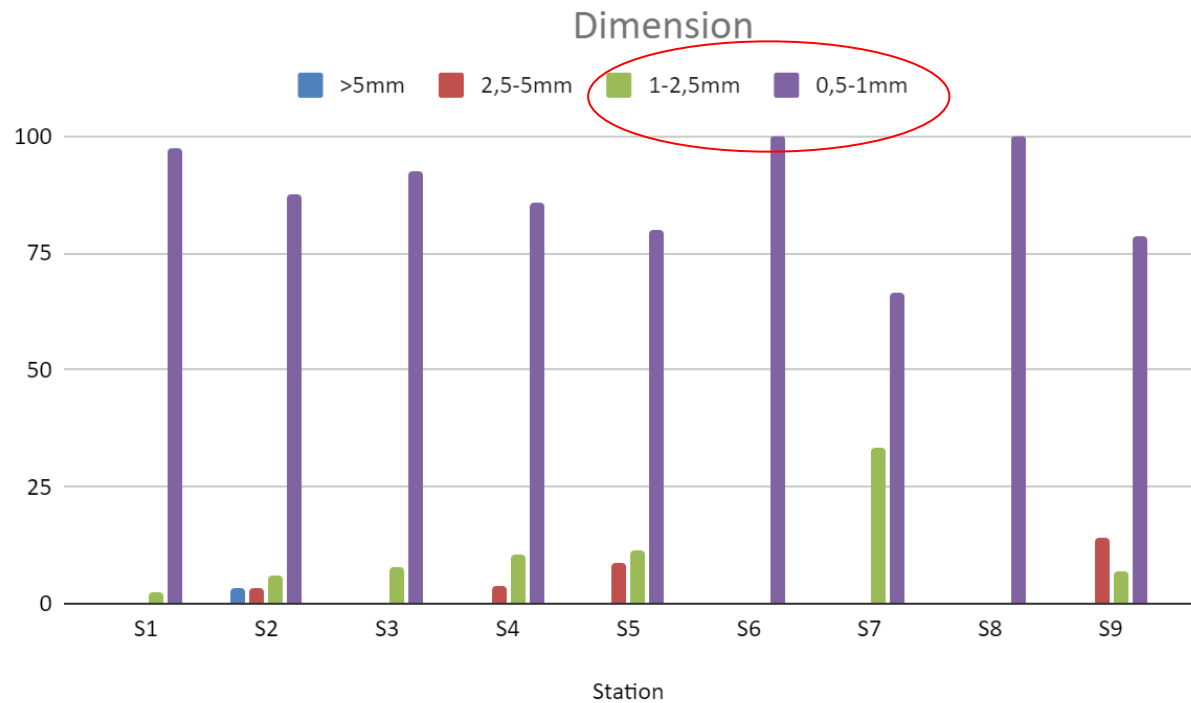


THE STUDY AREAS : Monitoring Microplastic in the Beach



ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

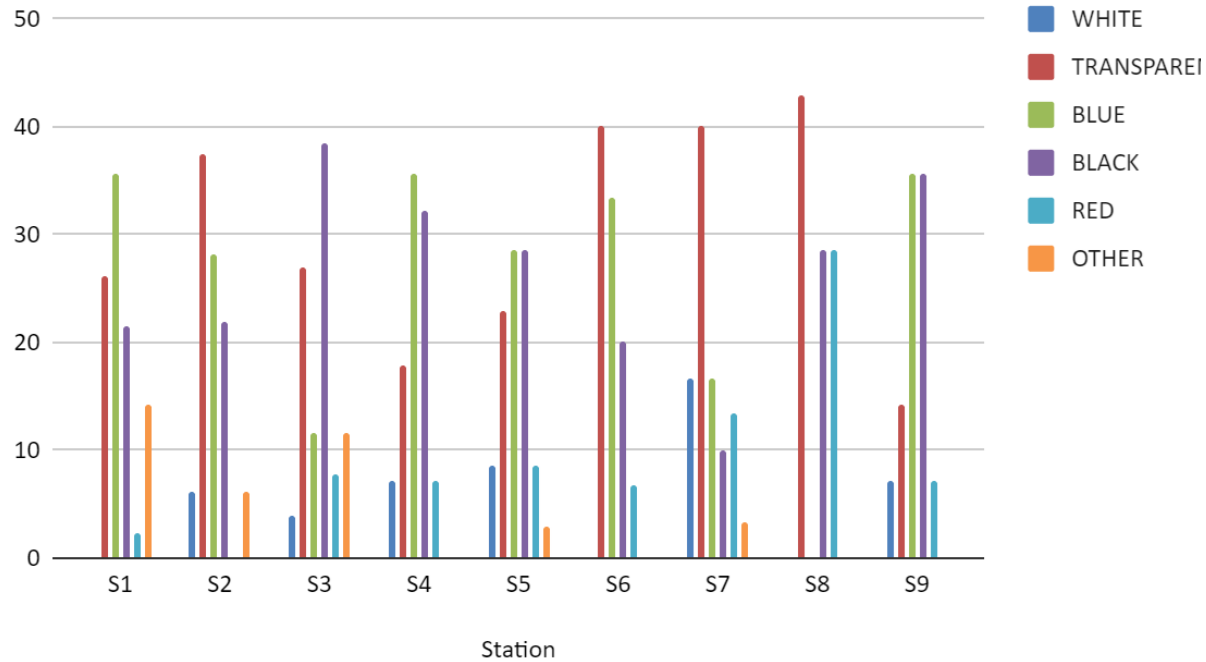
Monitoring Microplastic in the Beach : Microplastic abundance per dimension & per Types



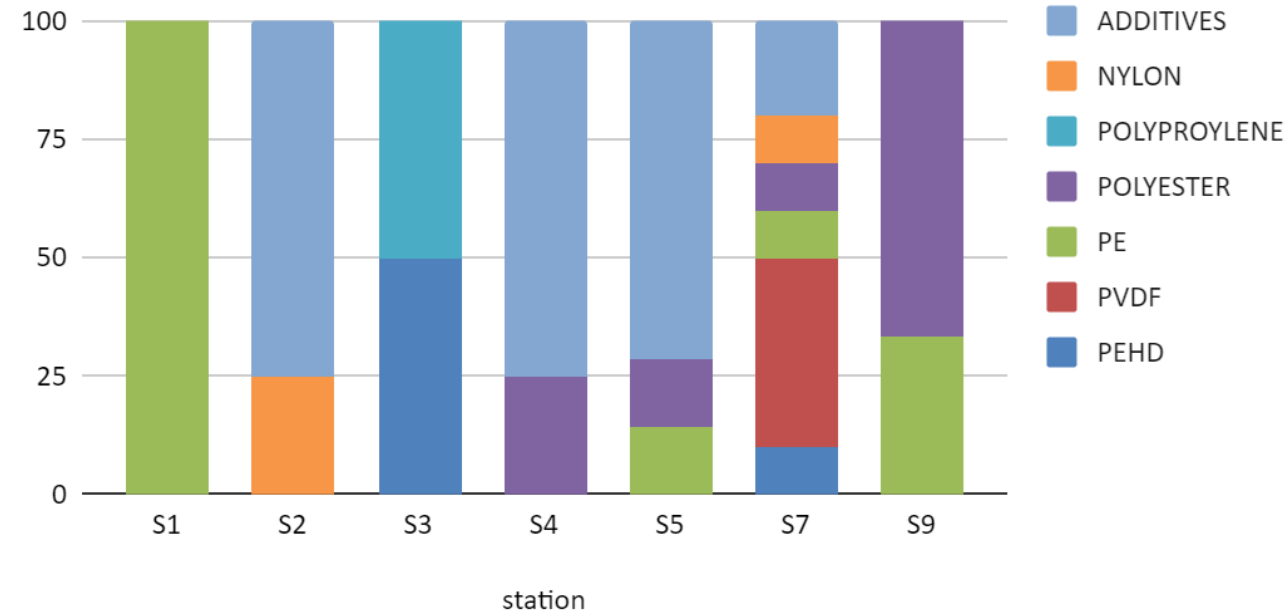
ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Monitoring Microplastic in the Beach : Microplastic abundance per Colors & per polymers types

COLORS



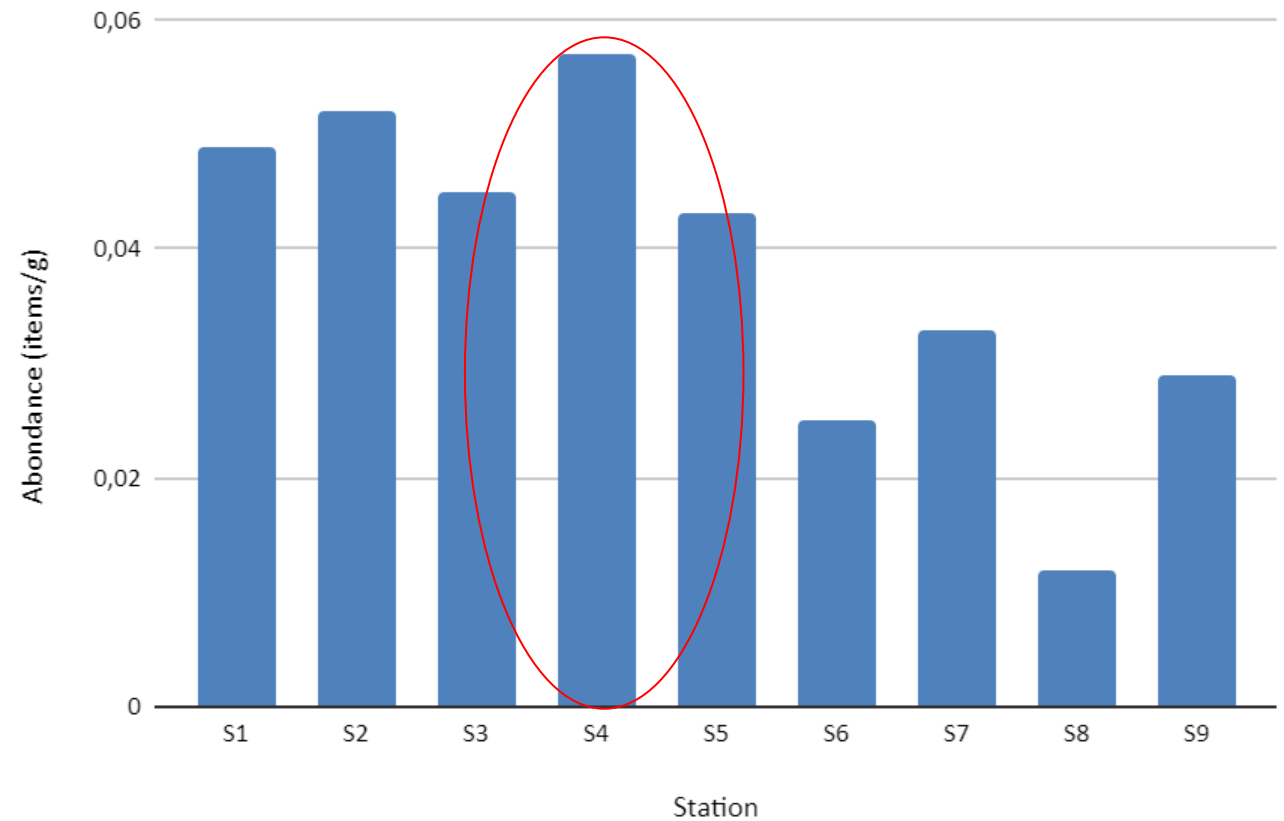
POLYMERS



ACHIEVED SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Monitoring Microplastic in the Beach : Abundance of microplastic items per station

Concentration [0,012-0,057 items/g]

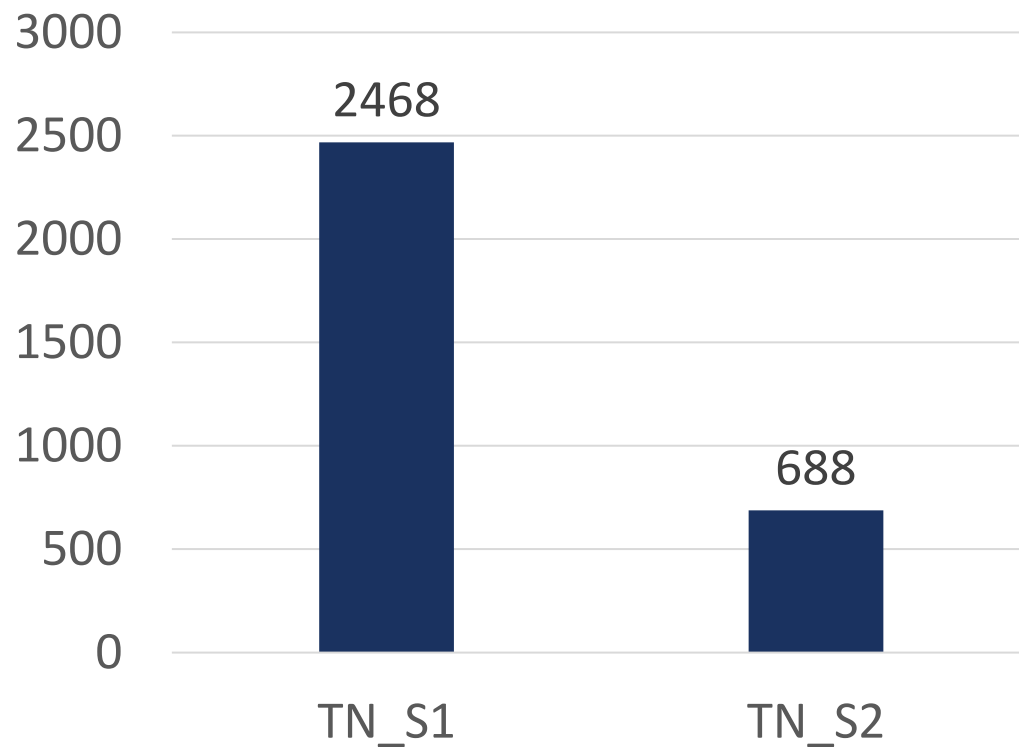


HIGHLIGHTS FROM ML BEACH MONITORING ACTIONS



BEACH LITTER DENSITIES IN NUMBER OF ITEMS/100M

A total of 3,156 litter items were collected, sorted and classified in 2 beach litter surveys



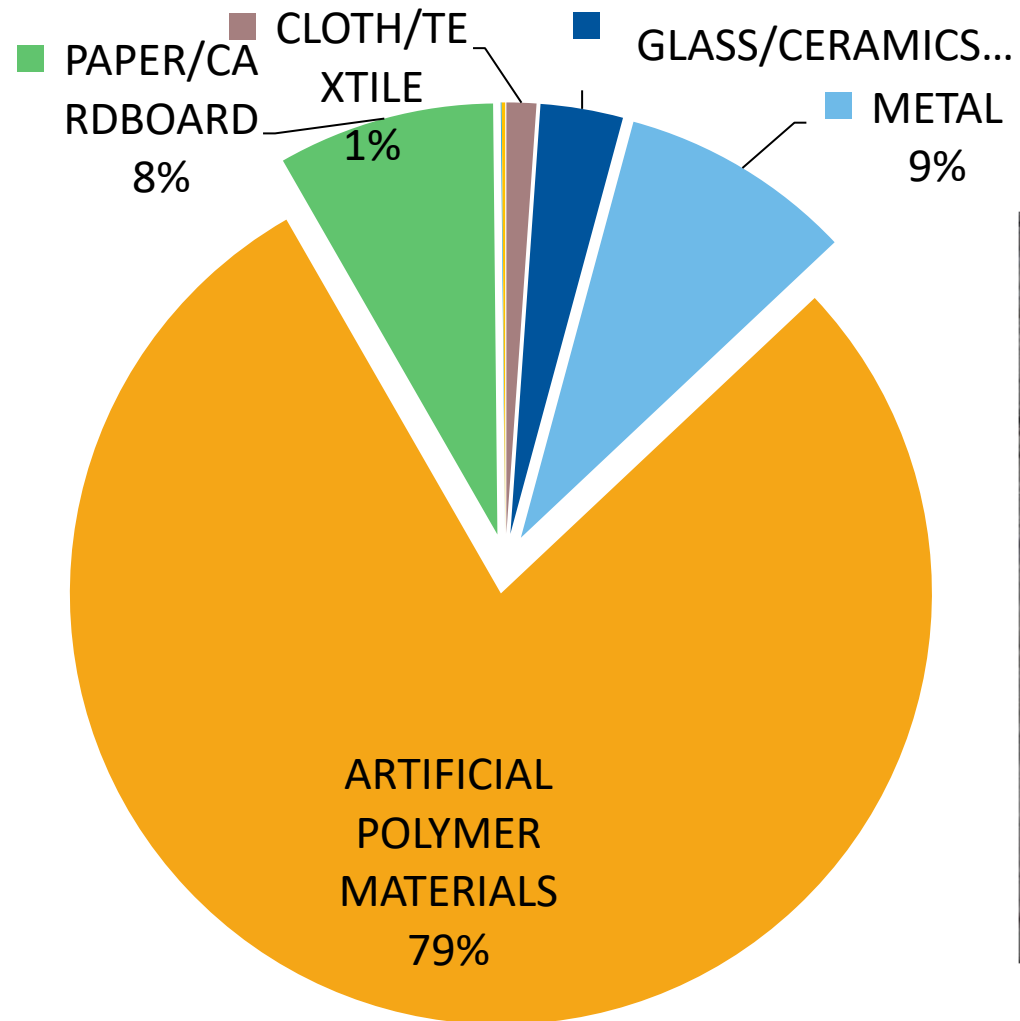
Average density: **1,578 items/100 m**

x 12 times higher than the
Mediterranean beach litter threshold
value

x 29 times higher than the European
beach litter threshold value



PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL LITTER ITEMS PER MATERIAL TYPE



TOP 10 MARINE LITTER ITEMS

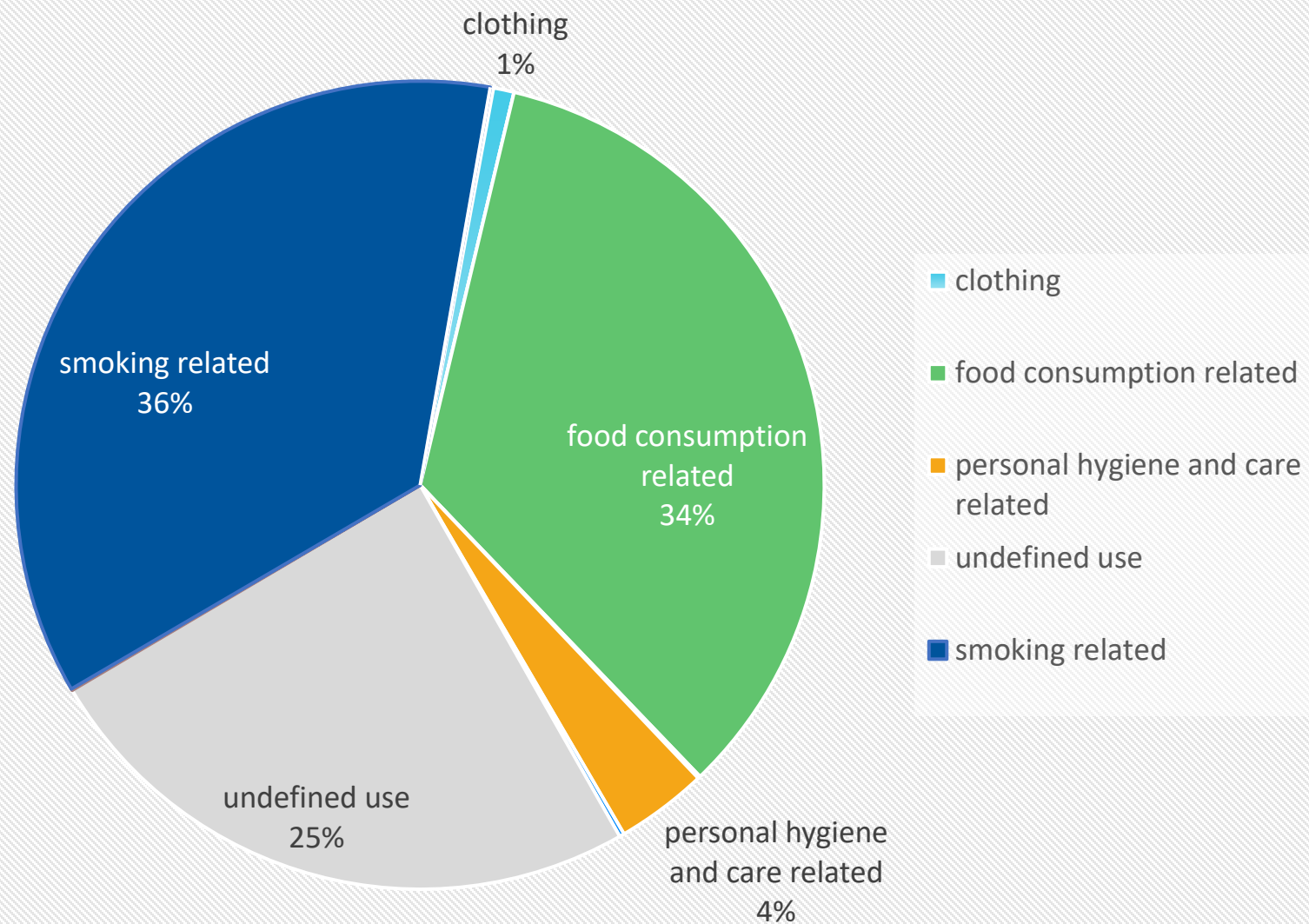
1	J27	tobacco products with filters (cigarette butts with filters)	32
2	J21	plastic caps/lids drinks	14
3	J3	plastic shopping/carrier/grocery bags	10
4	J177	metal foil wrappers, aluminium foil	5
5	J8	plastic drink bottles >0.5 l	4
6	J152	paper cigarette packets	4
7	J231	plastic straws	3
8	J227	cups and lids of hard plastic	2
9	J151	paper cartons/Tetrapak (non-milk)	2
10	J237	plastic wet wipes	2



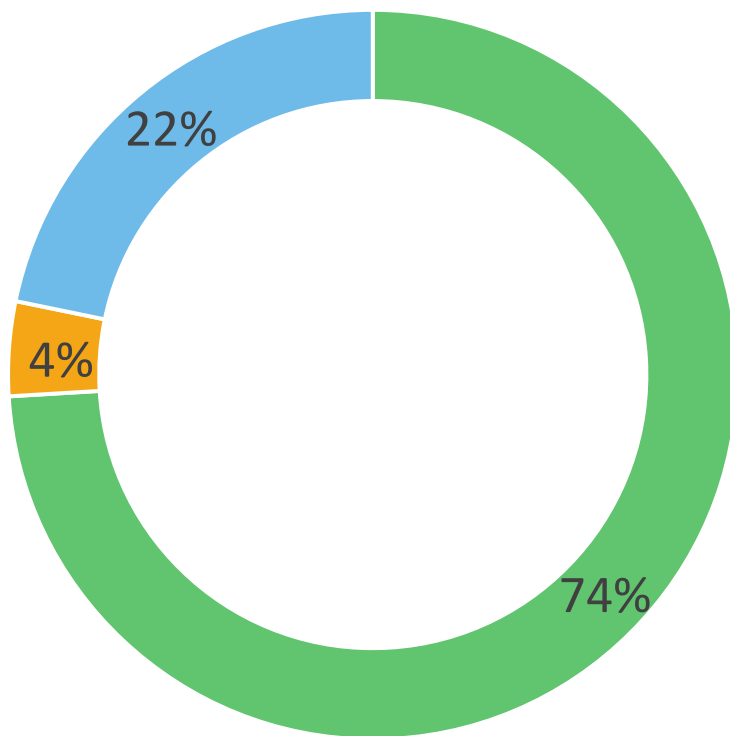
79%



SOURCES OF BEACH LITTER



SUPS RESULTS & FINDINGS FOR BEACH LITTER



■ SUP ■ non SUP plastics ■ non plastics



National training on Marine litter monitoring and mitigation in numbers

2 days : workshop and field work , which took place in Ghar EL Meleh ,Bizerte, Tunisia

40 persons between trainers and participants from **6** Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia)

Objective :

This training aims to build capacity for the various stakeholders

- Monitoring of macro and micro litter on the sea surface;
- Analysis of microplastic samples collected by the Manta net.
- Analysis of marine litter in fish and invertebrates species
- Analysis of macro and micro litter on beaches.

Target group : Local associations in Bizerte
University of Jordan (partner of the project)
Students

Public organization such as: National Agency for Environmental Protection / Members of the Municipality of Bizerte / Experts from the National Institute of Sea Science and Technologies(INSTM)

Tunis International Center for Environmental Technology (CITET)

Agency for ports and fishing facilities (APIP)



National Report : Tunisia



Mediterranean report : Tunisia, Italy and Lebanon



Mitigation action

- **Participatory approach with the different stakeholders of the city of Ghar el Meleh, Bizerte-Tunisia** During a synergy meeting between the PB Busters CAP project and Co-Evolve4BG and Megara Challenges of Sustainable Cities projects, we met with different stakeholders from the city of Ghar El Meleh to discuss marine waste, and its impacts on the environment and to find common solutions and to present our idea concerning the mitigation measures that will be installed in the city.
- **Field visit and confirmation of strategic locations in our pilot area (Ghar Meleh-Bizerte)**
- **Distribution of selective sorting bins (beverage containers) for the benefit of stakeholders in the city of Ghar el Meleh, Bizerte (pilot area)** The beneficiaries and the target group: restaurants, municipality, fishing school, Agency of Ports and Fishing Facilities



Plastic Busters CAP Policy Workshop Aim & scope

Paving the way for a litter-free Mediterranean:

Plastic Busters CAP workshop for integrating marine litter into local and national planning

20 September 2023, Tunis, Tunisia

PLASTIC BUSTERS CAP



Plastic Busters CAP



- The technical workshop aims to bring together Mediterranean policy-makers and other key stakeholders who will work within a dynamic and interactive setup towards the identification of a core set of policy recommendations for mainstreaming marine litter, which deploy a management approach that couples Ecosystem-Based Management & Integrated Coastal Zone Management.



Conclusion and take home message

- Use standardised and common protocols to assess the quantity and impacts of marine litter (macro and micro) in different environmental compartments (as seen with Plastic Busters MPAs, COMMON and INDICIT projects).
- Strengthen the institutional collaboration between the different international, national and regional actors to improve the cooperation and coordination among all the steps of monitoring and reporting Marine Litter within Mediterranean Sea
- Build national monitoring program to be able to report marine litter data in the standards of Barcelona convention and IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO 10)
- Engage with policy-makers and decision-makers at all levels of governance and enhance institutional capacities for integrating marine litter in local and national planning



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

“ For a litter FREE Mediterranean

