

Question & Answers: 4th HISCAP Event: Plastic Waste Management in European Coastal Cities

Questions to the speakers

Vincent Decap

1. What is the fate of the non-recyclable plastics that you collect? Maybe I missed something, if you can repeat it to me once more.

Answer: The standard authorizes various treatment solution that need to ensure that the plastic is not leaking again to the environment, proper waste treatment like correct landfilling, incineration or coprocessing are allowed alongside making plastic lumber or bricks for example. As the standard details, recycling is also an outcome as long as collection cost as are above 300\$/T since the program looks at commercially not recyclable plastics, not technically non-recyclable.

2. Is this possible we can introduce this program, among university students?

Answer: If you like you can always email me at Vincent@zeroplasticoceans.org to talk about it.

Xenia Tombrou

1. What are to your opinion easiest changes we can adapt in or everyday life?
2. Has the government has any kind of assistance to resolve this dilemma of plastic???
3. If you can please tell us how far the plastics need to travel from Corfu, for recycling?

Answer: 20nm by boat then 200-400km to one of the main plastic collectors

4. How the costs are shared in the cup system (who pays for the cups and their replacement, who is in charge of washing). My second question is regarding people perception to re-use a cap that does not belong to them (I know we always do that in restaurants, but the plates are not going all around the island, so the perception is different I guess)

Prof Antonella Penna

1. Is there any plastic material that affects more marine life than others? Or it is about the type of application?

Answer: I can say that the studies are carrying out at moment; it is observed high variability of responses by marine unicellular organisms under various ecotoxicological experimental studies using different polymer types and scale dimensions; anyway, marine biota (mainly reptiles, birds, cetaceans) die because of entanglement, suffocation, and starvation due to both getting caught and having stomach full of plastic debris.

2. It is mainly presented local initiatives by or other4 project funding, or NGO. What about municipalities? How have they reacted to the results of the project?

Answer: In Liguria, the various coastal municipalities have been stimulated to respond with local initiatives, and to be able to be involved again in the future. Very often events are organized by the various Italian coastal municipalities together with local NGOs for the citizenship of collecting plastics along the rivers and in the beaches.

3. How we can collaborate for the Ishem River, the most polluted river in Europe. I am Laura Gjyli, lecturer of Aleksander Moisiu, University, of Durres. I am acting with my students and River-Clean-up.org, Brussels. Please see our action at Instagram: @RiverCleanUpAlbania.

Answer: I send you the Coordinator of Smile Project from Ligurian ARPA, Genoa, email contact: rosella.bertolotto@arpal.gov.it.

1. When is municipality acting, is a change better?

Answer: I don't know if I fully understood the question, but if it refers to the action of the Municipality towards the decrease of single-used plastics we have begun way back around 2012 and have been increasing the number and level of interventions until now, as presented during the session. Nevertheless, we are preparing a Roadmap to remove the single use plastics inside the municipal structure in the short, medium and long-term. Moreover, we plan to launch in 2022 a project related to sustainable and circular public procurement that will have a considerable impact in the reduction of plastic consumption by the Municipality.

2. Do you think the EU's Directive on single-use plastics will have a significant impact on the reduction of marine litter?

Answer: By itself, the EU's Directive on single used plastics will not by itself solve the marine litter problem, but I believe it will empower and push the cities to implement more strict measures to reduce the use of single-use plastics (in its own structure and in the ecosystem where it operates) which will, consequently, contribute to the progressive decrease on single-use plastics. Nevertheless, it doesn't remove the complete responsibility and initiative that cities will have to assume for a concrete ban of these materials in the expected timeframe.

