



BIO-PLASTICS EUROPE

Network of Historic Cities Against Plastic Waste (HISCAP)

BACKGROUND

The disposable plastic packaging, such as water bottles and tableware are the main tourist used things in a historic, big and popular cities. Besides this, on the other hand, more info on the impact of plastics in the ecosystem has been recorded where the food chains have been greatly affected, with significant consequences on human health (Michelle Sigler, 2014, Wright and Kelly, 2017). Therefore, based on the data provided in the 2019 reports and research papers, the five aspects of the new plastics economy vision for the historical cities could be identified:

1. Elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models is a priority. While plastic brings many benefits, there are some problematic items on the market that need to be eliminated to achieve a circular economy, and sometimes plastic packaging can be avoided altogether while maintaining utility.
2. The shift away from single-use plastics and towards reusable packaging is a critical part of the solution to eliminate plastic pollution.
3. In a circular economy, every unit of packaging should be recyclable or compostable and, where possible, also reusable. Achieving this requires a combination of redesign and innovation in business models, materials, packaging design, and reprocessing technologies. Designing packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable is a crucial first step towards ensuring it is effectively reused, recycled or composted in practice.
4. Designing all packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable is a necessary first step, but a circular economy is only realised if packaging is actually reused, recycled or composted in practice. Next to circular packaging design, this requires the necessary systems to be in place to collect, sort, and effectively reuse, recycle or compost the packaging.
5. New technologies suggested to improve the ability of recyclers to sort complex waste streams and produce a better quality of recycling output

Research and analysis performed within the BIO-PLASTICS EUROPE project can help at developing eco-innovative, collectively-based and gender-sensitive plastic waste prevention and management strategies to reduce the amount in the municipal waste by developing reuse, recycling, and selective collection of plastic waste in historical cities, i.e. in cities with high levels of tourism and sensitive due infrastructure issues (collection, transportation etc. of the waste).



RATIONALE

The Network of Historic Cities Against Plastic Waste in which over 50 European cities, whose old infrastructure make them especially vulnerable to the many problems caused by plastic pollution, and which are very interested in solutions which may help them to address the many problems plastics pose to their environment and infra-structure, with the specific purpose of pursuing the use of bio-based and biodegradable plastics alternatives, and identifying ways to foster their use. The network is one of the components of the BIO-PLASTIC EUROPE project.

AIM

The network aims to facilitate the uptake of results that public administrations have implemented together with industry, civil society, supporting organizations to exchange and spread the knowledge, expertise and experience, and best practices between cities administration and the project partners. Network members can learn from each other how to implement solutions at the sub-national level, and spread the lessons learned and ideas.

VISION

The HISCAP network seeks to support especially historic cities and municipalities in need of latest knowledge and effective, real-life solutions to cope with the many problems plastic waste causes.

MISSION

The members of the Network of Historic Cities Against Plastics (HISCAP) are committed to **knowledge transfer** between administrations, **exchange of best practices**, and **capacity building** (e.g. through information sessions) with the project partners, in order to implement appropriate sustainable solutions on local levels.

Especially bio-based and biodegradable plastics-related innovations developed and tested in the frame of the Horizon2020 Bioplastics Europe project will be discussed within the network and may be adapted to particular contexts and local conditions.

SECRETARIAT

A small secretariat is formed from three parties: the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (**HAW**), Germany, the Kaunas Technical University (**KTU**), Lithuania and the University of Bologna (**UNIBO**), Italy.

The secretariat will deal with the following tasks:

- Overall coordination of the Network
- Contact point for members and interested parties
- Support to interested parties in information about the Network as well as the application procedure for membership
- Work together to manage the content of the network
- General communication
- Communication (with members and external parties)
- To facilitate project collaboration
- Representation



OUTPUTS

- Meetings/workshops (e.g. online, physical)
- Publications
- Video
- Section on the BIO-PLASTICS EUROPE project website with communication and background material about the network, the members and different meetings, and reports.
- Developed European map of current waste collection and management schemes
- Survey: Progress of cities before joining the network and after

BENEFITS FOR THE CITIES

- Participate the events and workshops organised
- Be involved in constant knowledge transfer among city members, researchers, politicians and policy makers
- Showcase own Best Practices on plastic waste reduction action
- Get info on the management of plastics, biodegradable plastics and bio waste
- Get info and support on mobilizing relevant stakeholders
- Access to latest European Bioplastics Research Information

NETWORK USERS

A further tool to be deployed for the exploitation of the results will be a **Network of Users**, meaning a group of specialist organisations working in the field of heritage conservation and protection, which will be keen to use and implement some of the project results. These are:

- UNESCO's World Heritage Centre
- The World Conservation Union
- International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

COLLABORATION WITH EXISTING NETWORKS AND PROJECTS

- Activate collaboration with existing consortia/networks in order to increase awareness on the impact of plastic waste in historic cities
- Activate collaboration with existing consortia/networks in order to increase visibility of the HISCAP
- Discuss the possibility to consider the HISCAP as a sub-consortium of the existing and more general organizations
- Joined activities with other projects focused on circular economy and conservation of historic cities



MEMBERSHIP

The network will involve mainly European Historic City members, by clustering them by size and experience in actions against plastic waste.

MEMBERS COMMITMENT

- Letter of Intent (signed)
- Appointing a dedicated contact person who receives invitations to events and network news
- Brief profile of institution and action(s) taken to fight plastic waste
- Follow BPE social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram)
- Subscribe to the BIO-PLASTICS EUROPE newsletter
- Participate actively in transnational learning and knowledge transfer activities
- Define a list of pro-active cities, already working on implementing practices to reduce plastic waste impacts (to include as best practices) -> KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
- Define a list of interested cities (to include as case studies) -> REPLICATION

FINANCIAL COMPONENT

Membership is **free** of charge.



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

