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Addressing marine litter in the Mediterranean using an ecosystembased approach: focus on governance within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and beyond

> II MANAGEMENT-POLICY Dr E HATZIYANNI

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& CPMR





The Island of Crete





REGION OF CRETE: EFFORTS on:

>> IMPLEMENTING related policies on a regional level and in cooperation with local authorities >> INTERESTED in: measures that can be transferable from other regions and to related projects and initiatives for local management activities



REGION OF CRETE: -POLICY ON WASTE MANAGEMENT -SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY -SUPPORTING CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Crete Operational Programme is focusing to small-scale actions that promote <u>recycling</u>, <u>composting</u>, <u>sorting at</u> <u>source</u> and <u>awareness of citizens</u>.
- The Region also implements its Smart Specialization Strategy, focusing on innovation actions like the Circular Economy, also engaged in Horizon CSA "SCREEN" Project, on addressing relevant actions at its regional territory,
- Through other projects and cooperations (IMC, CPMR), Region tries to a broader regional policy plan in order to include specific strategies to prevent, combat and recycle marine litter. That is to influence the policies of the coastal municipalities, and the behavior of citizens and tourists in respect to prevention of marine litter and the protection of the environment at the coastal zone.



CRETE JOINS <u>BLUEISLANDS</u>:



"Seasonal variation of waste as an effect of tourism"

 → 14 partners from 8 countries in one systematic effort to identify, and deal with the consequences of the seasonal variation of production waste in 9 Mediterranean islands



→ To improve knowledge about waste streams at the coastal marine zone, building common guidelines and improving synergies among MED islands' communities, to fuel local loops of circular economy and promote sustainable tourism patterns

COORDINATOR: Ministry of Environment, Cyprus

<u>Case studies: 3 beaches in Crete (Local Coordinator E Kargaki len.kargakis@gmail.com)</u> 1.Rethymnon (**a beach used by locals and tourists**),

- 2. Arina (a beach used mainly by locals)
- 3. Tsoutsouras (**an isolated beach**). We clean the beaches, collect litter, have samples of sand-litter for examination for microplastics to Barcelona's University.

Also we record the number of tourists who visit the beaches, and the activities taking place, especially during the tourism period.

REGION OF CRETE is FOLLOWING "MERCES"

Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas





-Provide tools and guidelines for the integration of the Restoration Agenda into the delivery of major policy objectives related to Blue and Green economic growth -Improve existing and develop new restoration/ rehabilitation actions on vulnerable and critical European marine habitats -Enhance EU conservation capacity/preserve natural capital.

WP1: European Marine habitats, degradation & restoration : 3 open access deliverables:

- D1.1: State of the knowledge on European marine habitat mapping & degraded habitats
- D1.2: Current marine pressures & mechanisms driving changes in marine habitats – marine litter is one of the most widespread and mapped pressures, present in many habitats including the deep sea floor!
- D1.3. Review of restoration projects, methods, technologies and tools by habitat type



WP1 LEADERS: HCMR: Nadia Papadopoulou, nadiapap@hcmr.gr & NUIG, Anthony Grehan, anthony.grehan@nuigalway.ie WP1 Partners: HCMR, NUIG, UNIVPM, IMAR-UAz, AWI, ÅAU, UTARTU, PMF-ZAGREB, CONISMA, NIOZ, NIVA, GAIA,



Figure 2. Typical pressures in the marine environments: (a) abtasion (trawl door scarring); (b)









Thank you!!

Dr E HATZIYANNI Region of Crete - Director of Environment and Spatial Planning & CPMR

