

Output Quality Report

Output title: O.T1.2 - Training course on the application of current methodologies for macro-plastic assessment	
Type of output:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documented learning interaction <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy/ Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Tool <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot action
Contribution to PO indicator:	P07 No. of documented learning interactions in finalised operations

Summary of the output (max. 1500 characters)

Please describe the output in terms of content, objective, scope and main characteristics.

The activity *T1.2. Section monitoring of the river basin for macro-plastic waste* aims on the monitoring of macro-plastic (> 5 mm) waste pollution in and along Danube and Tisza rivers as well as relevant tributaries (Bodrog, Tur, Bega) and the most polluted downstream sections of Danube with a special focus on the flood plain macro-plastic deposits. All partners are involved in the sampling and are obliged to gather data through observations carried out on land and water. This activity provided a lot of experiences for the partners to discuss during the macro-plastic hands-on training.

During the 2-day programme PPs were introduced to methodologies for macro-plastic assessment, the procedures and protocols of sampling and sorting – both in theory and practice –, the identification and classification of the most important pollution sources and entry pathways and the waste selection process (measurement, allocation, counting of items), by BOKU. The programme provided platform for exchange of pros and cons regarding the existing methodologies and for the evaluation of the Sampling and Sorting protocols for the PPs. The hands-on training took place on site at the study visit.

The PPs completed questionnaires regarding sampling and sorting protocols developed by BOKU for this event. Partners made suggestions on finding appropriate solutions to include measurement within cleaning activities to get more informative database from each country and developing harmonised methodologies on plastic assessment along the affected rivers.

BOKU prepared 1 PPT presentation and 3 questionnaires (list of potential pollution sources, sampling protocol, sorting protocol) to be filled out by the participants.

Added value (max. 1500 characters)

Please provide a comprehensive description of the quality of the learning interaction in terms of: scope, content, added value as compared to an isolated learning interaction not taking place in a transnational context.

The training course was held on high quality. The preparedness of BOKU was commendable and the participants took their share of both the sampling and the sorting activities. The knowledge-transfer went successfully. Among the participants we could find team members of the clean-up activity who also have high interest in the macro-plastic topic. Participants overcame the language barriers and gained in-depth insight into the macro-plastic assessment procedures. Knowledge transfer has been created between BOKU and the project partners and also the participants (as general public) of the workshop.

Applicability and replicability (max. 1500 characters)

Please provide a concrete description of how the project output is to be applied in real life and could be replicated in other geographical and sectorial areas or different environments.

The main objective of the macro-plastic training was to create deeper understanding on the origin of plastic waste to be able to identify the source of the waste- and by understanding the source to create more effective and precisely targeted awareness raising campaigns. By using the sorting protocol developed by BOKU the source where the pollution is coming from can be identified. A certain industry, a social group or the area of usage can be approached targeting the reduction of the generated waste ending up in the floodplains. (A good example to that is the big portion of disposable food packaging found in the floodplains. This type of waste can easily be linked to riverside fast-food restaurants. With the ban of disposable plastic food packaging it is expected that the amount of such waste shall diminish on the long run).

Suggestions for improvement, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

Please provide information on possible improvements that could be brought to the current output considering the general context in which it is delivered.


The location of the hands-on microplastic training has been moved to the location of the study visit for the involvement of further participants, apart from the project partners. This is ideal at other similar events also because the venue is visited by a public that is open to the topic.

Due to insufficient communication between THU (organiser of the study tour) and BOKU (organiser of the hands-on microplastic training) the presentation circumstances were not ideal for the prepared programme. Although BOKU was very well-prepared regarding the content of presentations and the sorting analysis, technical conditions were not appropriate. Due to daylight, the projector could not be seen outdoors properly. This needs to be handled with care. Either an indoor- shady location must be found, or the training material must be prepared for such circumstances. In the future partners need to cooperate better when planning parallel programmes to avoid such inconveniences.

Output Quality Level

- Low
- Average
- Good
- Excellent

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