

# Regional Conference in Zadar - report

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**Project Acronym:** NETWAP

**Project ID Number:** 10047692

**Project Title:** NETwork of small "in situ" WAsTe Prevention and management initiatives

**Priority Axis:** 3 Environment And Cultural Heritage

**Specific objective:** 3.3 Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches

**Work Package Number:** 2

**Work Package Title:** Communication activities

**Activity Number:** 2.4

**Activity Title:** Public events

**Partner in Charge:** City of Zadar

**Partners involved:** Čistoća d.o.o., Institut Ruđer Bošković

**Status:** Final

**Distribution:** Public

## REPORT - NETWAP REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ZADAR- Network of Small Initiatives for Prevention and Sustainable Waste Management

Venue: Rector's Palace (Blagoje Bersa Concert Hall), Zadar

Time: Friday, November 3, 2021

The conference was opened on behalf of Mayor Branko Dukić by the Head of the Administrative Department for EU Funds in the City of Zadar, Ante Čurković. He greeted all the guests and stressed the importance of this project for the environment and said that it is a quality base for the implementation of future projects on environmental protection, the use of modern methods for environmental protection and raising awareness of local communities.

Director of Čistoća d.o.o. Zadar John Ivan Krstičević explained the role of Čistoća d.o.o. Zadar on the project. In accordance with the project goal, it is important to deal with potential environmental damage and improve the quality of the marine environment in selected locations of the program area by increasing awareness in local communities, strengthening capacity, knowledge and skills and decision-making autonomy, according to sustainable waste management methodology, technologies and procedures.

Josip Milić, Head of the Department for Preparation and Implementation of EU Projects in the City of Zadar, Management Board for EU Funds, presented the activities and results of the project with a project video. He explained that the project aims to develop a model of sustainable management of organic and plastic waste in small communities, as well as to build opportunity and increase the awareness of stakeholders on water pollution through a developed model that will be implemented and validated through two pilot actions.

"Two pilot locations were tested in Croatia and Italy. In Croatia, it was the island of Ist, where an electromechanical composter for bio-waste was installed and put into operation. Based on these researches and collection of microplastics, a methodology and action plan for sustainable waste management was created," Milić said.

The NETWAP project is implemented by the City of Zadar in cooperation with Italian and Croatian partners. The project also involves Čistoća doo, Ruđer Bošković Institute, ENEA - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development - Italy, Molise Toward IL 2000 - Local Action Group - Italy, Fenice Foundation - Italian Non-Profit

Organization - Italy and Union Regionale of the IAA Commerce Chamber del Veneto - Chamber of Commerce of the Veneto region - Italy.

Neven Cukrov, Ph.D. From the Ruđer Bošković Institute, he presented the Methodology of Sustainable Waste Management. Cukrov explained the system of functioning of the pilot project related to the installation of the Seabin device in the area of the Uskok marina in Zadar. The device was placed in the same place for 6 months and was discharged every 48 hours. Waste and other collected items were sorted and analyzed. He also touched on other modern devices used in this part of the research, such as aerial photography, Multibeam for underwater photography and underwater drones.

Nuša Cukrov, PhD, also from the Ruđer Bošković Institute, supplemented the topic and gave a lecture on Microplastics in the Sea. because hazardous substances such as heavy metals are further bound to microplastics. As part of the project, sea tests were carried out in the area of Zadar and Šibenik, at sea within the city ports and on the high seas. The results were expected - a larger number of particles is certainly present near the coast of cities, while in the open sea there is a smaller presence of particles.

Cukrov pointed out microplastics as a big problem of the entire Mediterranean, which is often called "Plastic soup". Such facts certainly hinder the development of dominant industries, tourism and fisheries.

Anamarija Frankić, Ph.D., from the University of Zadar, presented a lecture on Biomimicry and natural solutions for sustainable management of bio and plastic waste. She cited several student papers that are very important and contribute to this project but also to research and long-term educational programs in general. Students from the University of Zadar participated in all research together with partners from the Ruđer Bošković Institute. Frankić stated that fungi have already appeared in nature that can break down some types of microplastics. Tests were also performed on mussels and oysters, there are bioindicators that show the presence of harmful substances. Samples were taken from the farm but from the depths of the sea. She stressed the importance of Living Labs, which integrate research and innovation processes.

Hrvoje Čižmek, M.Sc. consultant from Janolus d.o.o. explained the implementation of a pilot project on the island of Ist, which included the installation of an electromechanical composter and monitoring of its work on the island of Ist. He stressed the importance of composting and the implementation of local composting. This type of composter can receive all types of organic food due to the way it works with heating.