

“From Waste to Wisdom: Baltic Quest for Plastic Reduction”

Final conference of the BALTIPLAST project

10-11 DECEMBER 2025 | TURKU, FINLAND

Day 1: Solutions against plastic pollution

VENUE: Room “Kirkko” (Chapel room), Hotel Kakola, Kakolankatu 14, 20100 Turku

Time	Presentations
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00-09:20	Welcoming words from the hosting City of Turku <i>Rosa Puusaari, Coordinator, City of Turku</i> <i>Sini Ruohonen, Urban Environment Deputy Mayor, City of Turku</i>
09:20-09:40	City of Turku: Climate goals and Circular Economy Roadmap
09:40-10:00	Opening of the Final Conference and setting the stage: Goals & Connections <i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i> <i>Rosa Puusaari, Coordinator, City of Turku</i>
10:00-10:15	Plastic Pollution in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges, Solutions, and Hope <i>Walter Leal, Professor, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i>
10:15-10:30	From Local Action to Regional Commitment: HELCOM’s Role in Tackling Plastic Pollution/Regional Policy Pathways for a Plastic-Free Baltic Sea <i>Marta Ruiz, Associate Professional Secretary, HELCOM Secretariat</i>
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and networking
11:00-11:30	Microplastic Research as a Compass for Protecting the Baltic Sea <i>Alfred Wegener Institute</i> Science in Action: Microplastic Research Spotlight Latest findings from STEAM Turku’s microplastic research and their impact on the Baltic Sea, presented by students

BALTIPLAST – Baltic Approaches to Handling Plastic Pollution under a Circular Economy Context

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Time	Presentations
11:30-12:30	<p>Strategies and tools ready for take up by municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i></p> <p>Partner Power: Panel discussion on results and lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kati Kauppi, Project Manager, City of Helsinki • Liina Kanarbik, Lead Specialist, City of Tallinn • Eva Kruse/Olof Bergold, City of Västerås • Liga Biezina, Environmental Communication Specialist, City of Valmiera • Representative from the City of Daugavpils
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-13:45	<p>From Results to Impact: Concrete Measures to Reduce CO2 <i>Viktoria Voronova</i>, Environmental Expert, Tallinn University of Technology</p>
13:45-14:15	<p>Community Pulse: Engagement Snapshots <i>Coalition Clean Baltic</i></p>
14.15-14.25	<p>Finnish Insights & Language Moment</p> <p>Join a fun, short introduction to the Finnish language–learn to say “hello,” “thank you,” and other useful phrases with local experts!</p>
14.25-15.25	<p>Innovation Exchange: Results from Other Projects</p> <p>Re-thinking plastics in a sustainable circular economy – PlastLIFE SIP <i>Helena Dahlbo</i>, Senior Researcher, PlastLIFE project</p> <p>ChemClimCircle-2: Linking climate protection, circularity and chemicals reduction objectives in public procurement <i>Hedy Meinander</i>, Project Coordinator, Procurement Services of the City of Turku</p> <p>Change(K)now (tbc) & Remedies project (tbc)</p>
15.25-16:00	Coffee break and table talks to facilitate new partnerships
16:00-16:15	<p>Transnational partnerships unlocking the hidden potential for innovation in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Agnieszka Ilola</i>, Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission</p>
16:15-16:30	Final words
18:00-21:00	<p>Networking & Celebration: Cocktail event at the Turku Castle <i>Kuningatar Sali, Linnankatu 80, 20100 Turku</i></p>

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Interreg
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Day 2: Discussions, networking, and site visits

VENUE: Room “Kirkko” (Chapel room), Hotel Kakola, Kakolankatu 14, 20100 Turku

Time	Presentations
09:00-09:30	Arrival and registration
09:30-09:40	Opening of the second day of the conference <i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i>
09:40-10:30	Multi-Level Impact: Panel Discussion Results from schools, households, and businesses–how are different sectors driving change? <i>Heidrun Fammner, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harri Moora, Senior Expert, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Tallinn Johanna Gäbken, Project Management, Plastic-Free City Swedish NGO: Keep Sweden Tidy or Swedish consumer association
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and networking
11:00-11:30	Collaboration between municipalities and businesses <i>Agnese Meija-Toropova, Environmental Expert, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia</i> <i>Irina Paegle, Environmental Expert, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia</i>
11:30-12:00	Platform for Change: Insights & Exploration Get hands-on with digital platforms <i>Andrea Dobri, Communication Manager, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i> <i>Rosa Puusaari, Coordinator, City of Turku</i>
12:00-12:30	Final words <i>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-16:00	Experience Turku in Site Visits <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural/historical tour around the Kakola hill with prison stories Sauna and swimming in the Baltic Sea Smart water system in the Ruissalo botanical garden Escape Room: Escape the Plastic Crisis!