

BEST PRACTISES IN PLASTIC-FREE SOLUTIONS

The BALTIPLAST project co-financed by Interreg BSR helps to drive the transition to a green and resilient Baltic Sea region.

Developing strategic municipal framework for plastic prevention and reduction

DAUGAVPILS, LATVIA



DAUGAVPILS is the second-largest city in Latvia, located in the southeastern part of the country. With a population of around 79 000 residents, the city is known for its rich history, cultural diversity, and industrial significance.

Daugavpils has been taking steps toward sustainability by promoting recycling, waste reduction, and the use of eco-friendly materials. The city actively participates in initiatives to eliminate plastic waste, encouraging citizens to reduce single-use plastics and supporting projects aimed at increasing environmental awareness and green practices.

Daugavpils addressed improving waste management and reducing plastic waste in the municipality and the surrounding Latgale region. The municipality developed the Latgale Regional Waste Management Plan 2024-2030 to enhance waste infrastructure, promote circular economy principles, and raise public awareness.

Challenges and actions

The development of the **Latgale Regional Waste Management Plan 2024-2030** aimed to address several pressing waste management challenges, particularly in Daugavpils and the wider Latgale region.

Key challenges included ensuring compliance with national and EU regulations, improving waste management infrastructure, and fostering the transition to a circular economy. Specific issues with plastic waste were highlighted, with a focus on reducing plastic consumption, promoting recycling, and improving public awareness.

The taken actions included upgrading waste management infrastructure, such as expanding recycling facilities, enhancing waste collection systems, and encouraging stakeholder engagement. Public consultations, including the BALTIPLAST project's guidance, were integrated into the planning process, promoting education on plastic waste reduction and advancing policies for effective waste management.

Target groups
Local Authorities and Municipalities
Waste Management Companies and Service Providers
Environmental and Regulatory Agencies
Community Organizations and NGOs
Businesses and Industries
Residents and General Public

Timeline

9-12 months (from the end of 2023 to July 2024).

Results

The Latgale Regional Waste Management Plan 2024-2030 has successfully addressed key waste management challenges in Daugavpils and the wider Latgale region. The development process involved extensive stakeholder consultations and public engagement, ensuring compliance with national and EU regulations. Significant progress was made in enhancing waste management infrastructure, with a focus on plastic waste reduction, recycling improvements, and the promotion of a circular economy.

The plan was approved by all municipalities in the region by 31 July 2024, marking a major milestone in regional waste management planning and environmental sustainability.

Piloting the solution

During the pilot implementation, Daugavpils used the **Latgale Regional Waste Management Plan 2024-2030** as a strategic framework to address waste management challenges, particularly focusing on plastic waste. The city leveraged the solution to:

- **Enhance waste management infrastructure**, including the development of recycling facilities and the expansion of separate waste collection systems.
- **Implement circular economy principles**, emphasizing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, with specific focus on plastic waste.
- **Engage stakeholders**, including local authorities, waste management companies, and the public, to ensure active participation in the planning and implementation process.
- **Raise public awareness**, utilizing insights from the **BALTIPLAST project** to educate residents on reducing plastic waste and improving recycling practices.

This approach ensured a structured, legally compliant plan while actively involving the community and improving local waste management systems.

Enablers



- + **Strong support from stakeholders** and interest of target groups
- + **Active involvement of municipalities** and local authorities in the planning process
- + **Guidance from the BALTIPLAST project** on plastic waste management and best practices
- + **Public engagement and consultations**, ensuring community participation and feedback
- + **Compliance with national and EU regulations**, aligning the plan with legal requirements
- + **Collaborative approach** with waste management companies and environmental agencies

Barriers



- **High demand for human resources** to manage the development and consultation process
- **Financial constraints** due to limited municipal budgets and resources for waste management projects
- **Diverse priorities among municipalities**, leading to challenges in aligning objectives and actions
- **Complexity of integrating non-mandatory actions** into the plan, given legal and budgetary limitations
- **Resistance to change** or low awareness in certain community segments about the importance of waste reduction and recycling

Key takeaways

The key takeaways and lessons learned from the pilot implementation emphasize the importance of **stakeholder engagement**. Involving local authorities, waste management companies, and the public throughout the planning process ensured the plan was well-informed and aligned with community needs. **Public awareness campaigns**, such as those led by the BALTIPLAST project, were crucial in promoting waste reduction and recycling practices.

Compliance with regulations was a central factor, ensuring the plan met national and EU waste management laws. **Financial planning** also emerged as a critical lesson, as balancing ambitious goals with budgetary constraints required clear prioritization of resources.

Lastly, the experience highlighted the value of **collaboration across municipalities**, which, although complex, proved essential for developing a unified regional waste management strategy.