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

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



"From Waste to Wisdom: Baltic Quest for Plastic Reduction"

Final conference of the BALTIPLAST project

10-11 DECEMBER 2025 | TURKU, FINLAND

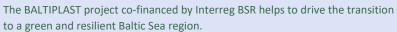
Day 1: Solutions against plastic pollution

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

Time	Presentations	
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration	
09:00-09:15	Welcoming words from the hosting City of Turku Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku	
Sini Ruohonen, Urban Environment Deputy Mayor, City of Turku 09:15 – 10:30 FROM LOCAL ACTION TO REGIONAL IMPACT – BUILDING A CIRCULAR AND PLASTIC-FREE BALTIC		
09:15-09:30	Science Park area in Turku as a living lab for solutions promoting Circular Economy Nea Metsänranta, Senior Advisor, Turku Science Park at the City of Turku	
09:30-09:45	Opening of the Final Conference and setting the stage: Goals & Connections Jelena Barbir, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku	
09:45-10:00	Plastic Pollution in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges, Solutions, and Hope Walter Leal, Professor, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences	
10:00-10:15	Vision 2045: A future free of plastic pollution Kevin Langhorst, Hamburg Agency for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture	
10:15-10:30	From Local Action to Regional Commitment: Regional Policy Pathways for a Plastic-Free Baltic Sea Marta Ruiz, Associate Professional Secretary, HELCOM Secretariat	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and networking	



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Time	Presentations	
11:00-12:30 BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE – TOOLS AND INSIGHTS FOR BALTIC SEA PROTECTION		
11:00-11:30	Microplastic Research as a Compass for Protecting the Baltic Sea	
	Reinhard Saborowski , Senior Scientist & Lars Gutow , Senior Scientist and Deputy Head of the Section Benthic Ecology	
	Science in Action: Microplastic Research Spotlight	
	Latest findings from STEAM Turku's microplastic research and their impact on the Baltic Sea, presented by students	
	Strategies and tools ready for take up by municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region	
	Jelena Barbir, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences	
	Partner Power: Panel discussion on results and lessons learned	
11:30-12:30	Kati Kauppi, Project Manager, City of Helsinki	
11.30-12.30	Liina Kanarbik, Lead Specialist, City of Tallinn	
	Olof Bergold, Environmental Strategist, City of Västerås	
	Liga Biezina, Development Planner, Valmiera Municipality Government	
	Jolanta Reca, Manager of International Projects, City of Daugavpils	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:30 A	CTING TOGETHER - COMMUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGION	
13:30-13:45	From Results to Impact: Concrete Measures to Reduce CO2	
13.30-13.43	Viktoria Voronova, Environmental Expert, Tallinn University of Technology	
	Community Pulse: Engagement Snapshots	
13:45-14:15	Eugeniy Lobanov, Hazardous Substances Working Area Leader, Coalition Clean Baltic	
	Finnish Insights & Language Moment	
14:15-14:25	Join a fun, short introduction to the Finnish language–learn to say "hello," "thank you," and other useful phrases with local experts!	
14:25-15:30	Exchange of Innovations for the Pollution Mitigation of the Marine Environment	
	Innovative PlastLIFE activities to reduce littering and promote plastics circularity – PlastLIFE SIP Helena Dahlbo, Senior Researcher, PlastLIFE project	
	ChemClimCircle-2: Linking climate protection, circularity and chemicals reduction	
	objectives in public procurement Hedy Meinander, Project Coordinator, Procurement Services of the City of Turku	
	REMEDIES - Co-creating strong uptake of REMEDIES for the future of our oceans through prevention pathways	



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	Milica Velimirovic Fanfani, Research scientist, VITO Microplastics on beaches – monitoring made simple - CLEAN Beach Project	
	Marta Barone, Researcher, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break and table talks to facilitate new partnerships	
16:00 – 21:00 BUILDING CONNECTIONS – PARTNERSHIPS AND REFLECTIONS FOR THE BALTIC'S FUTURE		
16:00-16:15	Transnational partnerships unlocking the hidden potential for innovation in the Baltic Sea Region Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission	
16:15-16:30	Final words Walter Leal, Professor, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences	
18:00-21:00	Networking & Celebration: Cocktail event at the Turku Castle Kuningatar Sali, Linnankatu 80, 20100 Turku	

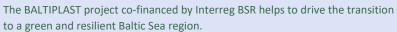
Day 2: Discussions, networking, and site visits

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Time	Presentations	
09:00-09:30	Arrival and registration	
09:30- 11:00 OVERCOMING BARRIERS FOR GREATER IMPACT		
09:30-09:40	Opening of the second day of the conference Hamburg University of Applied Sciences	
09:40-11:00	Soft measures for reduction of single-use plastic – not so easy as we thought Assigning responsibility for SUP reduction required more than developing policy and strategies – it required real engagement! Heidrun Fammler, Managing Director, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany Harri Moora, Senior Expert, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Tallinn Johanna Gäbken, Project Management, Plastic-Free City Maria Hammarling, Project Manager, Swedish consumer association Irina Paegle, Environmental Expert, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break and networking	



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Time	Presentations	
11:30-12:30 TOOLS FOR DRIVING GREEN GOVERNANCE		
11:20-12:00	Celebrating Without Plastic Waste – Best Strategic Documents from BALTIPLAST	
	Guide for a Litter-free Festival in Sweeden - Nikolaos Tragotsis, Project Manager, Keep Sweden Tidy	
	Guidelines for Organizing Environmentally Friendly Events in Latvia - Liga Biezina, Development Planner, Valmiera Municipality Government	
	Guidelines for Organizing Sustainable Events in Estonia - Liina Kanarbik, Lead specialist in the circular economy, City of Tallinn	
12:00-12:20	Platform for Change: Insights & Exploration Get hands-on with digital platforms Andrea Dobri, Communication Manager, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Rosa Puusaari, Coordinator, City of Turku	
12:20-12:30	Final words BALTIPLAST Coordination Team, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-16:00 PARALLEL SITE VISITS		
13:30-16:00	Experience Turku in Site Visits	
	1. Guided tour to the Topinoja Waste Management Centre	
	2. Escape Room: Escape the Plastic Crisis!	
	Researching climate change and testing water management solutions in the Ruissalo botanical garden in Turku	

