

“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 <i>Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku</i> <i>Sini Ruohonen, Urban Environment Deputy Mayor, City of Turku</i>
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 <i>Nea Metsänranta, Senior Advisor, Turku Science Park at the City of Turku</i>
09:30-09:45	Opening of the Final Conference and setting the stage: Goals & Connections <i>Jelena Barbir, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i> <i>Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku</i>
09:45-10:00	Plastic Pollution in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges, Solutions, and Hope <i>Walter Leal, Professor, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i>
10:00-10:15	Vision 2045: A future free of plastic pollution <i>Kevin Langhorst, Hamburg Agency for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture</i>
10:15-10:30	From Local Action to Regional Commitment: Regional Policy Pathways for a Plastic-Free Baltic Sea <i>Marta Ruiz, Associate Professional Secretary, HELCOM Secretariat</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break and networking</i>

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.

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 <i>Reinhard Saborowski, Senior Scientist & Lars Gutow, Senior Scientist and Deputy Head of the Section Benthic Ecology</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
11:30-12:30	Strategies and tools ready for take up by municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Jelena Barbir, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i> Partner Power: Panel discussion on results and lessons learned • <i>Kati Kauppi, Project Manager, City of Helsinki</i> • <i>Liina Kanarbik, Lead Specialist, City of Tallinn</i> • <i>Olof Bergold, Environmental Strategist, City of Västerås</i> • <i>Liga Biezina, Development Planner, Valmiera Municipality Government</i> • <i>Jolanta Reca, Manager of International Projects, City of Daugavpils</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30 ACTING TOGETHER - COMMUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGION	
13:30-13:45	From Results to Impact: Concrete Measures to Reduce CO2 <i>Viktoria Voronova, Environmental Expert, Tallinn University of Technology</i>
13:45-14:15	Community Pulse: Engagement Snapshots <i>Eugeny Lobanov, Hazardous Substances Working Area Leader, Coalition Clean Baltic</i>
14:15-14:25	Finnish Insights & Language Moment 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 <i>Helena Dahlbo, Senior Researcher, PlastLIFE project</i> ChemClimCircle-2: Linking climate protection, circularity and chemicals reduction objectives in public procurement <i>Hedy Meinander, Project Coordinator, Procurement Services of the City of Turku</i> REMEDIES - Co-creating strong uptake of REMEDIES for the future of our oceans through prevention pathways

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.

Time	Presentations
	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

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

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 Fammner, 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

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.

Time	Presentations
11:30-12:30 TOOLS FOR DRIVING GREEN GOVERNANCE	
11:20-12:00	Celebrating Without Plastic Waste – Best Strategic Documents from BALTIPLAST • <i>Guide for a Litter-free Festival in Sweeden - Nikolaos Tragotsis, Project Manager, Keep Sweden Tidy</i> • <i>Guidelines for Organizing Environmentally Friendly Events in Latvia - Liga Biezina, Development Planner, Valmiera Municipality Government</i> • <i>Guidelines for Organizing Sustainable Events in Estonia - Liina Kanarbik, Lead specialist in the circular economy, City of Tallinn</i>
12:00-12:20	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>
12:20-12:30	Final words <i>BALTIPLAST Coordination Team, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i>
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! 3. Researching climate change and testing water management solutions in the Ruissalo botanical garden in Turku