

“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

MODERATOR: Mariia Andreeva, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission

Time	Presentations
08:30-09:00	Arrival and registration
09:00-09:15	Welcoming words from the hosting City of Turku <i>Björn Grönholm, Development Director, City of Turku</i> <i>Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, 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 BALTIPLAST Final Conference: Results, Goals and Connections <i>Jelena Barbir, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW)</i> <i>Andrea Dobri, HAW Hamburg</i>
09:45-10:00	Plastic Pollution in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges, Solutions, and Hope <i>Walter Leal, Professor, HAW Hamburg</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>

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

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Time	Presentations
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and networking
11:00 – 12:30 BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE – TOOLS AND INSIGHTS FOR BALTIC SEA PROTECTION	
11:00-11:30	<p>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, Alfred Wegener Institute</i></p> <p>Science in Action: Microplastic Research Spotlight Latest findings from STEAM Turku's microplastic research and their impact on the Baltic Sea, presented by students</p>
11:30-12:30	<p>Strategies and tools ready for take up by municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Jelena Barbir, HAW Hamburg</i></p> <p>Partner Power: Panel discussion on results and lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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	<p>From Results to Impact: Concrete Measures to Reduce CO2 <i>Viktoria Voronova, Environmental Expert, Tallinn University of Technology</i></p>
13:45-14:05	<p>Community Pulse: Engagement Snapshots <i>Eugeny Lobanov, Hazardous Substances Working Area Leader, Coalition Clean Baltic</i></p>
14:05-14:15	<p>Capacity Check: Three Minutes to Make the Change <i>Estefania Carpio Vallejo, HAW Hamburg</i></p>
14:15-14:25	<p>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!</p>
14:25-15:30	Exchange of Innovations for the Pollution Mitigation of the Marine Environment

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 CIRCULAR ECONOMY
BALTIPLAST

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	<p>Innovative PlastLIFE activities to reduce littering and promote plastics circularity – PlastLIFE SIP <i>Helena Dahlbo, Senior Researcher, PlastLIFE project</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>REMEDIES - Co-creating strong uptake of REMEDIES for the future of our oceans through prevention pathways <i>Milica Velimirovic Fanfani, Research scientist, VITO</i></p> <p>Microplastics on beaches – monitoring made simple - CLEAN Beach Project <i>Marta Barone, Researcher, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology</i></p>
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break and table talks to facilitate new partnerships</i>
16:00 – 21:00 BUILDING CONNECTIONS – PARTNERSHIPS AND REFLECTIONS FOR THE BALTIC’S FUTURE	
16:00-16:15	<p>Transnational partnerships unlocking the hidden potential for innovation in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Agnieszka Ilola, Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission</i></p>
16:15-16:30	<p>Final words <i>Walter Leal, Professor, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences</i></p>
18:00-21:00	<p>Networking & Celebration: Cocktail event at the Turku Castle Kuningatar Sali, Linnankatu 80, 20100 Turku</p>

Day 2: Discussions, networking, and site visits

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MODERATOR: Mariia Andreeva, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission

Time	Presentations
09:00-09:30	Arrival and registration
09:30 – 11:00 OVERCOMING BARRIERS FOR GREATER IMPACT	
09:30-09:40	<p>Opening of the second day of the conference <i>HAW Hamburg</i></p>

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Time	Presentations
09:40-11:00	<p>Soft measures for reduction of single-use plastic – not so easy as we thought</p> <p>Assigning responsibility for SUP reduction required more than developing policy and strategies – it required real engagement!</p> <p><i>Heidrun Fammner, Managing Director, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Harri Moora, Senior Expert, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Tallinn</i> • <i>Johanna Gäbken, Project Management, Plastic-Free City</i> • <i>Maria Hammarling, Project Manager, Swedish Consumer Association</i> • <i>Irina Paegle, Environmental Expert, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break and networking
11:30 – 12:30 TOOLS FOR DRIVING GREEN GOVERNANCE	
11:20-12:00	<p>Celebrating Without Plastic Waste – Best Strategic Documents from BALTIPLAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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	<p>Platform for Change: Insights & Exploration</p> <p>Get hands-on with digital platforms</p> <p><i>Andrea Dobri, Communication Manager, HAW Hamburg</i></p> <p><i>Rosa Puusaari, Coordinator, City of Turku</i></p>
12:20-12:30	<p>Final words</p> <p><i>BALTIPLAST Coordination Team, HAW Hamburg</i></p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00 PARALLEL SITE VISITS	
13:30-16:00	<p>Experience Turku in Site Visits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guided tour to the Topinoja Waste Management Centre 2. Researching climate change and testing water management solutions in the Ruissalo botanical garden in Turku 3. Escape Room: Escape the Plastic Crisis!