



Land-Based Solutions for Plastics in the Sea

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D8.7 Initial flagship communication event

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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- Project full title:** Land-Based Solutions for Plastics in the Sea
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- Topic:** CE-SC5-30-2020 – Plastics in the environment: understanding the sources, transport, distribution and impacts of plastics pollution
- Type of action:** RIA – Research and Innovation Action
- Starting date:** June 1st, 2021
- Duration:** 48 months
- List of participants:**

N°	Participant name	Acronym	Country	Type
1	UNIVERSIDADE DE VIGO	UVI	SPAIN	HES
2	UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA	UDC	SPAIN	HES
3	Bundesanstalt fuer Gewaesserkunde	BfG	GERMANY	RTO
4	LABORATORIO IBERICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGIA	INL	PORTUGAL	RTO
5	KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN	KUL	BELGIUM	HES
6	HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM FUR OZEANFORSCHUNG KIEL	GEOMAR	GERMANY	RTO
7	NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE	NOC	UNITED KINGDOM	RTO
8	SORBONNE UNIVERSITE	SU	FRANCE	HES
9	OPEN UNIVERSITEIT NEDERLAND	OUNL	NETHERLANDS	HES
10	LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR BALTIC SEA RESEARCH	IOW	GERMANY	RTO
11	ASSOCIACAO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DO ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE	AC	PORTUGAL	RTO
12	UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO SAO PAULO	UNIFESP	BRAZIL	HES
13	BASF SE	BASF	GERMANY	LE
14	TG ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	ER	UNITED KINGDOM	SME
15	CONTACTICA S.L.	CTA	SPAIN	SME
16	STICHTING EGI	EGI	NETHERLANDS	Non-P
17	STICHTING RADBOUD UNIVERSITEIT	RU	NETHERLANDS	HES
18	UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARÁ	UFPA	BRAZIL	HES

























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DELIVERABLE DETAILS

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Executive summary:	This report corresponds to Deliverable 8.7 Initial flagship communication event directed at policymakers through High-Level Government Dialogues, resulting from Task 8.2 of the LABPLAS project. The report describes the LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance that took place on the 26 th of May 2023.

Version	Date	Comments
1	30/05/2023	Initial version

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
SMNP	Small micro and nano plastics
HLGDs	High-Level Government Dialogues

1 INTRODUCTION

Plastic is pouring from land into our oceans at a rate of nearly 10 million tonnes a year. Once in the sea, plastics fragment into particles moving with the currents and ocean gyres before washing up on the coastline. The smaller the size the higher the risk posed by these particles to organisms and human health. Because small, micro- and nano-plastics (SMNP) cannot be removed from oceans, proactive action regarding research on plastic alternatives and strategies to prevent plastic from entering the environment should be taken promptly. The LABPLAS project is a 48-month project whose vision is to develop new techniques and models for the detection and quantification of SMNP. Specifically, LABPLAS will determine reliable identification methods for a more accurate assessment of the abundance, distribution, and toxicity determination of SMNP and associated chemicals in the environment. It will also develop practical computational tools that should facilitate the mapping of plastic-impacted hotspots and promote scientifically sound plastic governance.

This document corresponds to Deliverable 8.5 “Initial flagship communication event directed at policymakers through High-Level Government Dialogues”. This deliverable results from Task 8.2 (Action-oriented knowledge transfer to policymakers and other relevant stakeholders) of WP8 (GOVERNING PLASTIC).

This deliverable foresees communication directed at policymakers through the AIR Centre’s High-Level Government Dialogues (HLGDs). LABPLAS was officially invited to participate in the 7th HLGD (High-Level Government Dialogues) of the AIR Centre, which was scheduled to take place in Cape Town (South Africa) from 28 November to 2 December 2022. However, the HLGD event was cancelled by the DSI (Department of Science and Innovation from the South African government). As an alternative, AIR Centre organized the LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance on the 26th of May of 2023. This event is described in the present report. It is additionally noted that the AIR Centre is currently undergoing re-organization including the events to be organized and based on outcomes, the next events will be planned and coordinated with the consortium.

2 LABPLAS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC GOVERNANCE

The LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance (Figure 1) was held on May 26th from 15h00 to 17h00 UCT. This was an online event in Zoom webinar format, hosted by the AIR Centre's "Networking Fridays" initiative, which is an initiative endorsed as an Ocean Decade Activity. The AIRC's Networking Fridays Youtube channel has over 1200 followers, and the dissemination of its newsletter reaches thousands of persons, which ensured a broad dissemination of the event. The event had over 200 registrations and around 90 participants. Links for the event can be found at <https://www.aircentre.org/netfriday-labplas/>. It is noted that the event coincided with an OECD event on the global plastics treaty, which may have reduced participation.

The LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance aimed to enable the transfer of knowledge, insights and tools developed in the LABPLAS project, to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders. The event had high-level participation from the plastic industry, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community and civil society. It aimed to engage stakeholders, create synergies and promote coordinated actions towards the goal of zero plastic pollution by 2050, as envisioned by the recent EU’s Zero Pollution Action Plan.

The program of the event (Figure 2) was divided into a first session with High-Level stakeholders, and a second session with the LABPLAS project. The first session focused on what the different actors in Europe (industry, policy, society) are doing to address the problem of plastic pollution, with interventions from Sigi Gruber (former Head of the Healthy Ocean and Seas Unit of the DG RTD of the European Commission), Camilla Cartney

(from Plastics Europe) and Mustafa Aydin (from the European Environmental Agency). The second session presented research from the LabPlas project, in terms of pressing issues regarding plastic pollution, such as sources, biodegradability, ecotoxicology and tyre particle emissions. It had interventions from Cynthia Gomez (from the University of Vigo), Ricardo Beiras (University of Vigo and coordinator of the LABPLAS project), Glauco Battagliarin (from BASF; Figure 3), and Ad Ragas (from Radboud University).

At the end, a very active round-table (progressing 30 minutes after the ending hour, due to active discussion), addressed multiple questions from the audience and had a vivid discussion among panellists. Topics related to pressing issues such as recycling, biodegradability, lack of labelling, the hidden chemicals, were debated and there was a very warm reception from the audience, including from attending stakeholders (as Pedro Pombo from CCDR-N, a governmental agency that works towards innovation and development of Northern Portugal; Figure 4).



Figure 1. Banner of the LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance.

PROGRAMME (PM UTC)

1:00 – Welcome and Introduction, André Valente (AIR Centre)

1:10 – Session | Plastic governance strategy

- Plastic in the Ocean: key changes ahead in Europe , Sigi Gruber (Senior Adviser for EC)
- Challenges for the EU industry – prepare for change, Camilla Carteny (Plastics Europe)
- EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and Source to sea marine litter assessment, Mustafa Aydin (EEA)

1:40 – Session | small micro- and nano plastics (SMNPs)

- LabPlas project: tackling SMNPs knowledge gaps, Cynthia Gómez (UVI)
- Multi-matrix SMNPs contamination and impacts, Ricardo Beiras (UVI)
- Biodegradable polymers, Glauco Battagliarin (BASF)
- Estimating and reducing car tyre emissions in collaboration with stakeholders, Ad Ragas (RU)

2:40 – Round table: Knowledge gaps to policy implementation, moderated by André Valente (AIR Centre)

3:00 – Closing

Figure 2. Program of the LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance.

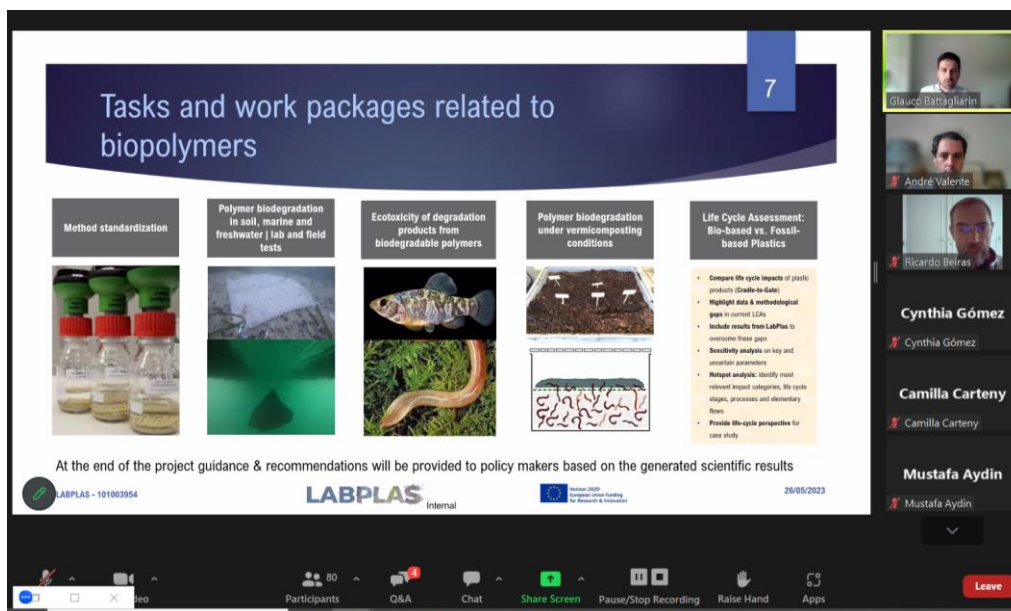


Figure 3. Screenshot during Glauco Battagliarini (BASF) presentation, with 80 participants online

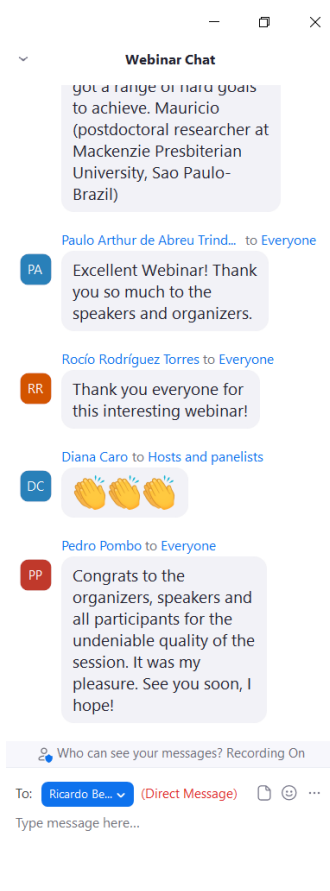


Figure 4. Screenshot of favourable comments by participants.

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