

LAnd-Based solutions for PLAstics in theSea

LABPLAS Final Meeting: Unveiling key findings on microplastic pollution

- *The LABPLAS Project Final Meeting will take place on May 20th, 2025, at the Redoiras Building in Vigo, Spain, bringing together leading experts to discuss key findings on microplastic pollution and its environmental impact.*
- *Project partners will present advances in field sampling, analytical methodologies, and impact assessments, providing essential insights to improve plastic governance and inform future policies on marine pollution.*

Vigo, Spain. 01 April 2024—The European-funded LABPLAS project will hold its Final Meeting on May 20th, 2025, at the Redoiras Building in Vigo, Spain. This event will bring together the project partners who will present key findings, including innovations in field sampling techniques; cutting-edge analytical methodologies for the detection of small, micro-, and nanoplastics (SMNPs), biopolymer alternatives, comprehensive environmental impact assessments; and modeling of microplastic pollution in different environmental compartments. These contributions aim to enhance plastic governance and inform future policies addressing marine pollution.

Speakers will include renowned experts such as Ricardo Beiras (UVI), Soledad Muniategui (UDC), Katsia Pabortsava (NOC), Begoña Espiña (INL), Sebastian Groß (BASF), Erik Toorman (KUL), Ad Ragas (RU), among others. Their presentations will highlight how the LABPLAS Project has contributed to harmonising methodologies for the detection, quantification and analysis of SMNPs and the development of novel monitoring tools. The meeting will conclude with a session emphasizing the importance of science communication and stakeholder engagement in tackling plastic pollution.

About the LABPLAS Project

The LABPLAS project aims to comprehensively understand the sources, transport mechanisms, distribution, and impacts of plastic pollution across all abiotic and biotic environmental compartments (i.e. freshwater, marine, terrestrial, atmospheric, and aquatic biota) to provide European authorities with robust scientific evidence to support decision-making regarding plastic governance.

Special emphasis is placed on small-, micro- and nano-plastics (SMNPs) ($\leq 100 \mu\text{m}$), based on two key assumptions: 1) Most plastic pollution originates from land-based sources, and 2) The environmental impact of plastic particles is influenced by their size, shape, and composition.

The consortium

The consortium is composed of seventeen partners from eight different countries: UNIVERSIDADE DE VIGO (Spain), UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA (Spain), GERMAN FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF HYDROLOGY (Germany), LABORATORIO IBERICO INTERNACIONAL DE NANOTECNOLOGIA (Portugal), KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN (Belgium), GEOMAR HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM FUR OZEANFORSCHUNG KIEL (Germany), NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE (United Kingdom), SORBONNE UNIVERSITE (France), OPEN UNIVERSITEIT NEDERLAND (The Netherlands), RADBOUD UNIVERSITEIT (The Netherlands), LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FUR OSTSEEFORSCHUNG WARNEMUNDE STIFTUNG (Germany), ASSOCIACAO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO DO ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (Portugal), UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE SAO PAULO (Brazil), BASF SE

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(Germany), TG Environmental Research (United Kingdom), CONTACTICA S. L. (Spain) and EGI FOUNDATION (The Netherlands).

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