LABPLAS

Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

Land-Based Solutions for Plastics in the Sea

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D8.5 Final flagship communication events (definitive version)

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Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

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List of participants:

Nº	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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Version	Date	Comments
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2.0	17/04/2025	Version including comments from reviewers
3.0	21/04/2025	Final version
4.0	27/06/2025	Reviewed with changes to address comments by the PO and reviewer. The link to the Flash Interviews playlist was corrected.

Disclaimer

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
CCDR-N	Northern Regional Coordination and Development Commission (*in Portuguesse: Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte)*
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
HL	High-Level
HLGDs	High-Level Government Dialogues
NORCE	Norwegian Research Centre
NUTEC	NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution
SMNP	Small micro and nano plastics

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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 report corresponds to Deliverable 8.5 “Final flagship communication events directed at policymakers through High-Level Government Dialogues (definitive version)”, resulting from Task 8.2 (Action-oriented knowledge transfer to policymakers and other relevant stakeholders) of LABPLAS WP8: Governing Plastic.

This document presents the summary of the discussions carried out in three events: LABPLAS 'High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance' [May 26th, 2023], LABPLAS 'High-Level Panel on Plastic Governance: A roadmap for the upcoming decade’ [Oct. 9th, 2023], High-Level Panel 'Global Awareness, Research Activities and Network to Address Ocean Microplastic Pollution' [Apr. 9th, 2024] and a series of Flash Interviews with experts [Feb-Mar 2025].

2 LABPLAS ‘HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC GOVERNANCE’ | 2023

The LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance was held on May 26th 2023, as 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 AIR Centre's Networking Fridays YouTube channel has over 1700 subscribers, and the dissemination of its newsletter reaches thousands of people, which ensures a broad dissemination of the event. The event had over 200 registrations, around 90 participants, and more than 250 subsequent views on the AIR Centre's Networking Fridays YouTube channel (as at the date of the preparation of this report).

The LABPLAS High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance (Fig. 1) aimed to enable the transfer of knowledge, insights and tools developed in the LABPLAS project to policymakers 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.

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

The programme of the event was divided into a first session with High-Level stakeholders, and a second session with the LABPLAS project (see detailed programme in Annexe 1). 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 (University of Vigo), Ricardo Beiras (University of Vigo and LABPLAS Scientific Coordinator), Glauco Battagliarin (BASF) and Ad Ragas (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; Fig. 2).

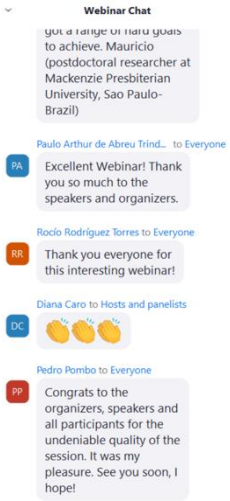

Figure 2. Screenshot of favourable comments by participants

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3 LABPLAS 'High-Level Panel on Plastic Governance: A roadmap for the upcoming decade' | 2023

In the framework of the EurOCEAN Conference, which took place in Vigo, Spain, 10-11 October 2023, the EU-funded LABPLAS project organised the 'High-Level Panel on Plastic Governance: A roadmap for the upcoming decade' on October 9th, 2023. The event counted with 40 participants and was moderated by Natalia Ospina-Alvarez from the AIR Centre and Cynthia Gómez from the University of Vigo.

The panel discussion was composed by Ricardo Beiras, LABPLAS Scientific Coordinator from ECIMAT - University of Vigo; Mathilde Maure, Policy and Project Officer from the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) | Atlantic Arc Commission; Willem De Moor, Deputy Director of JPI Oceans; Begoña Espiña, Leader of the Water Quality Research Group from the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory and Gary Kett, Co-Founder of the All-Atlantic Plastic Pilot Network and Researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR) (see full programme of the event in Annexe 2).

This High-Level Panel was designed to be a platform for the plastic industry, the scientific community, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society to come together and discuss the multifaceted issue of plastic pollution, setting the base for the challenges of the next decade. The focus was on what various actors in Europe, including industry, society, and policymakers, are accomplishing to tackle this complex problem. Moreover, the HL Panel highlighted the research conducted under the LABPLAS project, addressing key aspects of plastics in ecosystems, such as their sources, biodegradability, ecotoxicology, and environmental assessment. Intended to be a space of dialogue, the panel aimed to foster collaboration, synergy, and coordinated actions among stakeholders toward achieving the goal of zero plastic pollution by 2050, as outlined in the recent EU's Zero Pollution Action Plan.

Figure 3. Poster and panellist picture of the LABPLAS 'High-Level Panel on Plastic Governance: A roadmap for the upcoming decade'

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4 'High-Level Panel on Global Awareness, Research Activities and Network to Address Ocean Microplastic Pollution' | 2024

During the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, it was organised on April 9th 2024, a High-Level panel titled 'Global Awareness, Research Activities, and Network to address Ocean Microplastic Pollution' focused on the impacts of microplastics and the need for better science and regulation'.

Co-organised by NORCE (Norway), IAEA (Monaco), SINTEF Oceans, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the AIR Centre, representing the LABPLAS project, this High-Level panel was an in-person event and counted with 54 registered participants from 22 different countries.

The panel aimed at increasing the awareness about plastic pollution, providing new insights, knowledge and solutions. It was structured into two discussion panels, (i) Knowledge-based input on the multifaceted aspects of plastic pollution to support a Global Agreement on Plastic pollution and (ii) Establishing networks to support research and monitoring activities to address Marine Microplastic Pollution, and counted with representatives from different European countries, as well as from Colombia, Brazil, South Africa and Japan (see programme in Annexe 3). It offered a platform to share recent scientific findings, discuss international initiatives to build capacity around the world, such as the IAEA NUTEC initiative, inform policy-makers about (by the policy briefs from the North Atlantic Microplastic Centre and the LABPLAS project), and exchange on successful examples of how research is contributing to implementing ocean protection by effective input to large intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations and European Union (*e.g.* preparation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic pollution).

Figure 4. Poster and panellist picture of the 'High-Level Panel Global Awareness, Research Activities and Network to Address Ocean Microplastic Pollution'

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5 LABPLAS Flash-Interviews: Listen to the Experts | 2025

To complement the conclusions obtained in the different High-Level events, interviews with experts in plastic pollution were conducted from February to March 2025, aimed at contributing to the shaping of actionable recommendations and strategies for addressing plastic pollution governance (and also contributing to the LABPLAS Deliverable 8.4). The interviews were carried out online via the Zoom platform with the following representatives of academia, industry and the NGO sector:

- Prof. Richard Thompson | Marine Institute, University of Plymouth
- Camilla Carteny | Technical Manager, Plastics Europe
- Michel Cassart | Managing Director, Polyblend
- Xavier Curto | Coordinator, Surfrider Spain

The interviews addressed two main questions:

- What are the challenges and limitations in enforcing plastic pollution regulations and monitoring compliance on a global scale?
- How can these challenges be addressed? Which potential solutions can be established to address plastic pollution?

As an additional outcome, the main key messages of the experts were highlighted in a series of flash interviews of around 2-3 minutes. The interviews are available on the LABPLAS YouTube Channel, under the Playlist: *Flash Interviews - Listen to the Experts*.

Figure 5. LABPLAS Flash Interview series headers

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6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Key Takeaways from High-Level Events

⇒ One of the overarching messages is that 100% of marine litter is human-induced and preventable, underscoring the need for prevention at the source and more integrated policy responses.

⇒ The lack of comprehensive knowledge on marine pollution presents significant challenges, particularly when it comes to designing and enforcing effective policies for the protection of marine ecosystems and species. Addressing these gaps requires the generation and widespread sharing of harmonized data, along with the development of consistent methodologies, which are essential steps toward improving our understanding and response to marine pollution.

⇒ Due to how both larger plastics and microplastics travel through the environment, associated damages will be felt by countries other than those responsible for the emissions. To maximise the effectiveness of any future global agreement, it is important that countries cooperate on funding and implementing plans to reduce their emissions.

⇒ From a regulatory perspective, it is essential to remain responsive to evolving scientific knowledge regarding the toxicity of microplastics and their transport mechanisms. Emerging research areas—ranging from the environmental effects of fragmented plastics to particles from tyres, paints, and related chemical additives—highlight the need for closer attention. Advancing the understanding of how microplastics behave in natural systems is crucial, as it will generate the evidence base required to inform and adapt regulatory frameworks.

⇒ Sustainability solutions must be interconnected and implemented in a coordinated manner. The next five years are seen as a critical window for action. Transparency, collaboration across the value chain, and investment in innovation and data-driven policies are central to the industry's transition toward 2030 and 2050 circularity and sustainability targets.

⇒ While international processes are slow, EU legislation is advancing with increasingly concrete and binding measures. Harmonization of definitions, policy enforcement, and coordination across governance levels are critical for effective plastic pollution mitigation.

⇒ Effective reduction of plastic pollution requires integrated, multi-level governance, political commitment, and grounded, data-driven action plans—particularly at the regional and local levels.

6.2 Key Takeaways from Flash-Interviews with Experts

6.2.1 Prof. Richard Thompson | University of Plymouth

Professor Richard Thompson, a marine biologist and professor at the Marine Institute of the University of Plymouth, emphasised that plastic pollution must be tackled across its entire lifecycle, from raw material extraction to disposal, and not just at the waste management stage. Prof. Thompson stresses that without science-driven regulation, the rush to find alternatives could lead to solutions that fail to address plastic pollution and potentially cause additional environmental harm.

▷ Challenges in enforcing plastic pollution regulations

⇒ Plastic pollution is a lifecycle problem: It is not just about waste but begins at the extraction of raw materials and continues through design, use, and disposal.

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⇒ Insufficient regulatory measures: Existing policies do not comprehensively address plastic pollution at all stages of its lifecycle.
⇒ Lack of international cooperation: A strong, legally binding UN treaty is necessary to regulate plastic use and pollution globally.
⇒ Proliferation of untested solutions: Many so-called "eco-friendly" plastic products fail to meet sustainability claims, leading to unintended environmental consequences.

▷ Potential solutions to address plastic pollution

⇒ Reduction in primary plastic production: There is an urgent need to limit the production of new plastic polymers.
⇒ Essentiality, safety, and sustainability criteria: Regulations should ensure that plastic products are essential, safe, and sustainable.
⇒ Greater transparency and Labelling standards: Clear labelling is required to distinguish between necessary, safe plastics and those that are not.
⇒ International cooperation: Plastic pollution transcends borders, requiring a global treaty and joint regulatory efforts.
⇒ Scientific evidence-based policies: Policies must be guided by independent, accurate scientific research to avoid ineffective or harmful solutions.

6.2.2 Camilla Carteny | Plastics Europe

Camilla Carteny, Technical Manager for Plastics Europe, the pan-European association of plastics manufacturers, analysed the challenges and limitations in enforcing plastic pollution regulations and suggested strategies to address them. She highlighted the need for global harmonization, better enforcement, improved monitoring, and public engagement to tackle plastic pollution effectively. Ms Carteny emphasised that while no single solution exists, a combination of international cooperation, technological advancements, and economic incentives will be essential in addressing plastic pollution globally.

▷ Challenges in enforcing plastic pollution regulations

⇒ Lack of harmonized global standards: Different countries define and regulate plastics, particularly microplastics, inconsistently. A globally accepted definition of microplastics is still lacking.
⇒ Weak enforcement and governance: Many developing nations lack the resources and political will to enforce existing environmental regulations effectively.
⇒ Transboundary plastic waste trade: Plastic waste is often exported to countries with weaker environmental regulations, complicating accountability and enforcement despite international agreements like the Basel Convention.
⇒ Inadequate monitoring and data collection: Many countries, particularly developing ones, lack the technology and capacity to track plastic pollution accurately.
⇒ Economic and consumer behaviour challenges: Resistance to change due to economic reliance on plastics and a lack of public awareness hinder effective waste management.
⇒ Informal waste sectors: Many developing countries rely on informal waste pickers who lack legal protections and operate outside regulated waste management systems.

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▷ Potential solutions to address plastic pollution

- ⇒ Harmonization & Standardization: Strengthening global agreements like the Global Plastics Treaty with clear definitions and reporting requirements.
- ⇒ Capacity building & Financial support: Providing international funding and extended producer responsibility programs to develop waste management infrastructure in developing countries.
- ⇒ Advanced monitoring technologies: Leveraging AI, satellites, and automated tracking systems to improve data collection and pollution tracking.
- ⇒ Promoting circular economy practices: Establishing a global repository of successful circular economy solutions to guide regional adaptation.
- ⇒ Public awareness & Behavioural change: Implementing consumer incentives (e.g., deposit schemes) to encourage responsible plastic use rather than relying on fear-based approaches.

6.2.3 Michel Cassart | Polyblend

Michel Cassart, General Manager of Polyblend (a subsidiary of Total Energy), discussed the challenges and potential solutions regarding plastic pollution and regulation. With over 30 years in the plastics industry, his insights highlight both the complexities and necessary measures to address plastic pollution at a global level. Mr. Cassart emphasised that all stakeholders, including the plastics industry, researchers, and policymakers, must work together to find effective, science-based solutions that protect both human health and the environment.

▷ Challenges in enforcing plastic pollution regulations

- ⇒ Plastic pollution is primarily linked to consumer behaviour: The improper disposal of plastic products plays a larger role in pollution than the production process itself.
- ⇒ Global inconsistency in recycling systems: Different countries handle plastic waste in varied ways, affecting overall effectiveness (e.g., Germany's bottle return system – Pfandsystem- vs. other models).
- ⇒ Substituting plastics is not a universal solution: Alternatives may generate new environmental challenges rather than solve existing problems.
- ⇒ Complexity of chemical presence in plastics: While plastics contain chemicals, not all environmental chemical pollution originates from plastics. A clearer distinction is needed.

▷ Potential solutions to address plastic pollution

- ⇒ Enhanced recycling systems: Policies should prioritize stronger recycling frameworks tailored to local conditions.
- ⇒ Education and awareness campaigns: Public behaviour plays a critical role in plastic pollution, making awareness and education essential.
- ⇒ Collaboration between industries and researchers: Cooperation is necessary to ensure scientific accuracy in policy recommendations.
- ⇒ Balanced regulations on plastic additives: Policymakers should differentiate between harmful and essential plastic additives to avoid misinformation and unnecessary restrictions.

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6.2.4 Xavier Curto | Surfrider Spain

Xavier Curto, Coordinator of the delegation of Surfriders in Spain, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection of the ocean, seas, beaches, lakes, rivers and coastlines and their users, discussed the challenges and future needs for plastic pollution regulation. His NGO, which has been active for over 35 years, focuses on ocean protection through education, citizen science, and advocacy.

▷ Challenges in enforcing plastic pollution regulations

- ⇒ Growing plastic consumption: Increasing societal demand for plastic complicates regulation efforts.
- ⇒ Slow regulatory processes: Implementing and adapting regulations at national and international levels is slow due to multiple stakeholders.
- ⇒ International complexity: Plastic pollution is a transboundary issue, making coordination between countries difficult.
- ⇒ Lack of effective recycling: Many plastics are produced in ways that make them non-recyclable, exacerbating pollution.

▷ Potential solutions to address plastic pollution

- ⇒ Stronger international regulation: The ongoing global negotiations on plastic pollution must result in enforceable and impactful policies.
- ⇒ Holistic waste management approach: Emphasis should shift from recycling and incineration to rethinking, reducing, and reusing plastics.
- ⇒ Improved stakeholder collaboration: Policies should actively involve private companies, governments, and citizens.
- ⇒ Better data collection: More qualitative data on plastic pollution, especially in oceans, is necessary to guide effective policy decisions.

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ANNEXE 1: PROGRAMME HL DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC GOVERNANCE

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PLASTIC GOVERNANCE

May 26, 2023, 1-3 PM UTC

NETWORKING FRIDAY

LabPlas High-Level Dialogue on Plastic Governance

Panelists:
Sigi Gruber
Camilla Carteny
Mustafa Aydin
Cynthia Gómez
Ricardo Beiras
Glauco Battagliarin
Ad Ragas
André Valente

May 26, 2023, 1:00-3:00 PM UTC
More: http://aircent.re/netfridays

LABPLAS AIR CENTRE 2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Credit: Ocean Image Bank / Thomas Horig

PROGRAMME (PM UTC)

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

1:10 – Session | Plastic governance strategy

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

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

This is an Ocean Decade Event.

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

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ANNEXE 2: PROGRAMME HL PANEL ON PLASTIC GOVERNANCE: A ROADMAP FOR THE UPCOMING DECADE

LABPLAS https://labplas.eu

High-Level Panel on Plastic Governance:

A roadmap for the upcoming decade

Side event organised in the framework of the EurOCEAN Conference

09 October 2023, 16:00 – 17:30 CET.

Aula 1. Edificio Redeiras - Universidade de Vigo. Rúa da Ribeira do Berbés, 11, 36202 Vigo

Capacity limited to 40 participants (under previous registration).

Panel discussion with

- Ricardo Beiras, LabPlas Scientific Coordinator, ECIMAT - University of Vigo
- Mathilde Maure, Policy and Project Officer, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR). Atlantic Arc Commission.
- Willem De Moor, Deputy Director, JPI Oceans
- Begoña Espiña, Leader of the Water Quality Research Group, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory
- Gary Kett, Co-Founder of the All-Atlantic Plastic Pilot Network. Researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR).

Moderated by

Cynthia Gómez, LabPlas Project Manager, University of Vigo

Programme

16:00 – 16:05 Welcome and Introduction. *Natalia Ospina-Alvarez* (AIR Centre)

16:05 – 16:30 Opening presentation. Setting the scene: Plastic governance

Mathilde Maure (CPMR- Atlantic Arc Commission)

16:30 – 17:30 Panel Discussion moderated by *Cynthia Gómez* (University of Vigo)

16:30 – 16:50 Self-introduction of the panellists (5 minutes each)

16:50 – 17:30 Round table 'Plastic Governance: roadmap for the upcoming decade'

17:30 – 17:35 Final remarks and closing. *Natalia Ospina-Alvarez* (AIR Centre)

This event is organised in the framework of the project LabPlas (GA No 101003954) funded by the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

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ANNEXE 3: PROGRAMME HL PANEL ON GLOBAL AWARENESS, RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND NETWORK TO ADDRESS OCEAN MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION

LABPLAS https://labplas.eu

High-Level Panel Global Awareness, Research activities and Network to Address Ocean Microplastic Pollution
Satellite Event at the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference

Date and time: 9 April | 17:00 to 18:30
Location: PRBB – Barcelona Biomedical Research Park; Room Name: Marie Curie
Address: C/ del Dr. Aiguader, 88, Ciutat Vella, 08003 Barcelona, Spain

Programme

Time (CET)	Topic
17:00– 17:03	**Introduction of the event**: Marc Metian; IAEA
17:03– 17:06	**Introduction of the event:** Alessio Gomiero; NORCE
17:06– 17:09	***Video introduction*** Ms. Vanessa Hatje; Co-chair, Working Group of Ocean Decade Challenge 1 - Understand and Beat Marine Pollution). (Length: 3 min.)
	Introduction of speakers Alessio Gomiero
17:10– 17:15	***Presentation #1*: Scientists Unite: Improving hazard assessment of microplastics** Andy Booth; SINTEF Ocean, Norway (3-5 min)
17:15– 17:45	***Panel discussion I* – Knowledge-based input on the multifaceted aspects of plastic pollution to support a Global Agreement on Plastic pollution.** • Moderator: Marc Metian ***Introduction of LabPlas Project video*** • LabPlas Project video (length: 3:00 min) **Panelists** • James Clark; Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK • Andy Booth; SINTEF Ocean, Norway • Alessio Gomiero; Norwegian Research Centre, North Atlantic Microplastic Centre, Norway **Closure of the session**

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17:45– 18:25	***Panel discussion II* – Establishing networks to support research and monitoring activities to address Marine Microplastic Pollution** • Moderator: Gilles Lericolais; European Marine Board (EMB) ***Introduction of IAEA NUTEC Video*** • Video - International Atomic Energy Agency – NUTEC (length: 2:04min) **Panelists** • Ms. Noriko Hase; Ministry of Environment, Japan • Ms. Keshnee Pillay; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa) [on-line] • Mr. Captain Francisco Armando Arias-Isaza; Director General - INVEMAR, Colombia; • Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci; Director of IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories
18:25 – 18:30	**Closing remarks** • Alessio Gomiero and Marc Metian

**This event is co-organised in the framework of the project LabPlas (GA No 101003954) funded by the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.*

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