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ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES



PROJECT CO-FINANCED BY



NO MICROPLASTICS, JUST WAVES.

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EXPECTED RESULTS

LIFE Blue Lakes aims at achieving **long-term sustainable and replicable results**.

- * The **Lake Paper** as a voluntary commitment - also for other communities and actors not directly involved in the project. The aim is to extend its adoption by at least 400 Italian and German municipalities and 180 companies after the end of the project
- * The **standard monitoring protocol** will be presented to scientific communities and relevant authorities of Italy, Germany and other countries in the European Union. The standardisation of data collection, processing and analysis contributes to a better comparability of data on microplastics in inland waters.
- * The **technical protocol for wastewater treatment plants** will be developed together with the operators from Italy and Germany involved in the project and will be presented to around 600 further institutions
- * A joint **awareness-raising campaign** by all project partners uses tools such as the project website, environmental education measures and broad media work. In addition, agreements are sought with companies that are active against microplastics in lakes.
- * The **Lake White Paper** will be presented to relevant Italian authorities through institutional meetings with the aim of strengthening the national and European regulatory framework for the protection of lakes from microplastics

PROJECT, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The **LIFE Blue Lakes project** contributes to reducing the **contamination of lakes with microplastics**.

Exemplary project areas are the **lakes Garda, Bracciano and Trasimeno in Italy** and **Lake Constance and Lake Chiemsee in Germany**. Further Italian and European lake communities will be involved in the promotion and dissemination of good practices.

LIFE BLUE LAKES SPECIFIC AIMS AND ACTIONS:

Supporting local administrations and enhancing the engagement of local economic entities located close to lakes by a Participatory Process to draft a Lake Paper. This document may suggest to local communities a set of solutions tailored to their specific territorial context, proposing monitoring programmes or techniques to improve wastewater treatment processes, discharge limits, provisions for reducing the impact resulting from companies and families as well as awareness raising initiatives for residents.

Design and test a **standard microplastic monitoring protocol** in the two pilot areas of the Trasimeno and Bracciano lakes in order to assess microplastics levels in these basins.

A **technical protocol** to reduce the release of microplastics from wastewater treatment plants based on the experiences of a pilot plant at Lake Garda. **Wastewater treatment plant operators** in Italy and Germany are closely involved and trained to ensure a comprehensive transfer of knowledge.

Cooperating with relevant companies (plastics, tyre, outdoor and cosmetics industries) and carrying out an **advocacy campaign** with the aim of reducing and preventing further contamination of lakes with microplastics.

Raising public awareness in Italy and Germany and promoting behaviours to prevent plastic waste.

Enhancing existing regulatory framework to face local microplastic pollution and influencing national and European political agenda in Italy and Germany through the development of a **Lake White Paper** which will be presented to the relevant authorities (Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Health, Economic Development, Regions, Basin Authorities, etc.) to promote a legislative initiative to protect lakes from microplastics at national and European level.

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TARGET GROUP AND PARTNERS INVOLVED

LIFE Blue Lakes actions are addressed to **local authorities, policy makers and experts** to develop solutions and promote participatory processes aimed at adopting good practices, in line with the European Plastics Strategy towards a circular economy. In **round tables** with **operators of wastewater treatment plants** and **experts** in the field of wastewater and plastics treatment, monitoring methods and protocols are being developed to reduce the input of microplastics into lakes. **ENEA**, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development and the **Polytechnic University of Marche**, the two scientific partners of the project, are responsible for these actions.

The information campaign is aimed at **schools, tourists and residents of Italian and German lake areas**. **Lake Constance Foundation** is involved in these activities through the organisation of workshops and events. In cooperation with the **Global Nature Fund** and with the support of the other partners, **the plastics, tyre, outdoor and cosmetics industries** are also addressed and motivated to implement solutions to reduce microplastics. The partner organisations of the **Living Lakes Network** participate in the development of solutions, support the dissemination of results and experiences and initiate activities in their lake regions.

Arpa Umbria cooperates to the collection and analysis of best practices on prevention of plastic pollution in aquatic ecosystems at national and international

level. **Arpa Umbria** is also involved in developing and testing the standard monitoring protocol and drafting the **Lake Paper**.

A key LIFE Blue Lakes action is the establishment of an institutional **Working Panel** made by relevant stakeholders involved in water policies and regulation and control processes. The aim is improving the existing legal framework. This task is coordinated by **The Basin Authority of the Central Apennine District**.

Legambiente Onlus is the **coordinating beneficiary of the LIFE Blue Lakes project**. It is responsible for the communication activities, the involvement of lake communities for drafting the Lake Paper and the awareness raising campaign aimed at lake areas' residents, schools and tourists.

PlasticsEurope is the Pan-European trade association representing plastics manufacturers. Plastic waste in the environment is unacceptable and – together with its members and value chain partners – PlasticsEurope is committed to tackle this issue at source through a number of projects. LIFE Blue Lakes is supported by PlasticsEurope.

* The LIFE programme is the EU's largest funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992 for supporting a wide range of measures and projects to safeguard biodiversity and nature, for enhancing the environmental policy and awareness raising on environmental issues.

MICROPLASTICS: FROM THE PRIMARY SOURCES, HOW DO THEY END UP IN LAKES?

* Thirty years ago, cosmetics industry started inserting plastic microspheres into skin cleansers, soaps, creams, peelings, and toothpastes.

AND MAKE-UP



FASHION AND SYNTHETIC FABRICS



* Large amounts of micro-fragments are released when synthetic clothing is washed in washing machines.

* About one third of the microplastic is created by the friction of tires on the asphalt while driving..

MOBILITY AND TYRES



Plastic fragments escape the filters of sewage treatment plants that are not yet designed for treating fibers and particles of minimal dimensions.



* Secondary microplastics are those formed by the decomposition of large objects, such as bottles or food containers, grated in water, abraded by wind and exposed to ultraviolet radiation of the sun.

PLASTIC WASTE



What are microplastics?

Microplastic particles are defined as plastic particles that are less than 5 millimeters in size.



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Autorità di Bacino
Distrettuale
dell'Appennino Centrale



ENEA
AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE,
L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE



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