

*Pilot project: removal of marine litter  
from Europe's four regional seas*

## **Regional Workshop Report Nesebar, Bulgaria, 26 September 2014**



October 2014



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## 1 Introduction

The regional workshop in Nesebar, Bulgaria took place on the 26 September 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- meet local stakeholders, i.e. municipal administrations, fishermen, public institutions and organisations, port authorities, businesses and NGOs, and to discuss the marine litter problem;
- raise awareness of marine litter retention among the stakeholders, define the solutions and behavioural changes required to environmental protection;
- gather information on litter collection, location, landing, storage and maintenance, and to find appropriate solutions to its better management and monitoring.

## 2 Day One

The workshop was entitled “Keeping the sea clean – a responsibility of everybody” in order to advance the initial objective of meeting concerned stakeholders to discuss the marine litter problem in Bulgaria and to define solutions for its better management and monitoring.

The meeting was officially launched by the Mayor of Nesebar municipality – Nikolay Dimitrov, who stated that the municipal commitment and his personal attitude to the problem of keeping the sea as clean as possible, was to find the best solutions by involving all relevant stakeholders. The Mayor outlined the significance of this topic and the efforts allocated to the ongoing project in Nesebar for the construction of a new fishery port which is currently under development.

Greetings were held by Yancho Yanev, the Director of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and Mariana Ivanova, the Executive Director of the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – the MARELITT host organisation.

The workshop participants presented the activities and operations of the organisations/institutions in which they work. Discussions followed each of the thematic presentation. At the end of the day, concrete measures for practical interventions and applications were summarised.

### 2.1 Presentation of the MARELITT business case

Stijn Lambert presented the objectives and the concept of the MARELITT business case to be implemented in Bulgaria and described the main points and issues concerning marine litter collection and management. He also outlined best practices, cases and specific technical procedures applied in the Northern countries.

### 2.2 Presentation of the local FLAGS

The activities of two local initiative fisheries groups were reported as follows:

Petar Genkov presented the Pomorie FLAG, in Nesebar, established under the National Programme for Fisheries and Agriculture. So far, 37 projects in total have been implemented - four of which specifically concern Nesebar.

Petia Chapevova, the deputy Mayor of Sozopol municipality, presented the Primorsko-Sozopol-Tsarevo FLAG, which is very active in the South East region of Bulgaria.

The tremendous amount of seaweed accumulated in the port quays by the wind is a major problem. Another issue for the port administrations and the municipal authorities is the cleaning of the ports – which is not a binding obligation of the waste management companies. Best practice has been shared by Sozopol with an underwater archaeology institute – some of whose activities deal with waste collection while performing specific archaeological surveys. In addition, Nesebar municipality, which has the legal obligation for managing waste at the port, sub-contracted a waste management company to collect the sea waste from the port. Fishermen also have the obligation to keep the waste on their boats in separate waste containers.

### **2.3 Legal regulation on marine litter in Bulgaria**

Katia Andonova, a senior expert within the Executive Agency for Fishery and Aquaculture, presented their main activities and responsibilities in dealing with the fishermen and the fishermen groups. The Agency implements the operation management of the fishery sector in-line with EU policy within the Operational Programme of Maritime and Fishery. The 28<sup>th</sup> Territorial Directorate is responsible for the practical realisation of local actions. The Territorial Directorate regulating port activities in Nesebar is located in Burgas. Katia also pointed out that three port administrations, located in the Southern region, have applied for funding for the reconstruction of their fishery ports during the period 2007-2013.

### **2.4 Collaboration between stakeholders in the marine litter management policy implementation**

Daria Pisheva, a senior expert within the Executive Agency Marine Administration in Burgas, presented relevant activities – including, i.e. issues with documents, permissions and licences for fisheries operations. The Agency implements the operational management and monitoring of fishermen's activities, gathers taxes and issues administrative fines and penalties.

Deyan Minchev, an expert within the Basin Directorate for Water Management, shared the activities implemented in the Black Sea region – comprising of data collection, processing, analysis, and assessment. The Basin Directorate is responsible for the management, monitoring and control of land-based activities within the marine and coastal environment.

### **2.5 Project activities, intervention areas, roles and responsibilities of project partners, fundraising, impact, and further implications**

Katia Andonova underlined that a broad awareness-raising campaign should be directed, specifically, to the fishermen, in order to change their behaviour and attitude towards marine litter issues. The information campaign should target interventions to show:

- (i) the practical obligations of fishermen regarding marine litter collection and management;
- (ii) what fishermen should do with their litter after its collection;

- (iii) what type of activity could be promoted.

Petar Genov stated that a separate meeting will be organised specifically for fishermen to share their problems and concerns, and to discuss waste collection and its practical storage on land, to identify concrete solutions. Furthermore, a survey/feasibility study for lost fishing gear, e.g. gillnets, pots, and traps, will be conducted in order to find solutions on organising its recovery.

The Operational Programme for Maritime and Fishery 2014-2020 was mentioned regarding the issue of fundraising. This programme finances the activities and initiatives of NGOs, fishermen's associations, local initiative fishery groups and local authorities, and will now include waste management initiatives. The first call for proposals is expected to be launched at the end of 2014.

## 3 Conclusions and actions

### 3.1 Conclusions

Concluding the workshop, participants agreed that **specific actions** for better marine litter management need to start – specifically, actions in which fishermen take an active role, and including changes in behaviour and attitude. The actions and initial steps, involving all of the relevant stakeholders, will include the:

- organisation of information and awareness-raising campaigns to stress the importance of proper sea-to-land marine litter management. Fishermen and their associations will take a leading role in these actions;
- development and implementation of a feasibility study to assess state-of-the-art of marine litter retention in marine and coastal areas.
- elaboration and application of specific technical, administrative and financial tools, and instruments to stimulate better marine litter management and operation.

The above actions will be identified in a project proposal to apply **for national and international funding**. The following **national programmes** will be calling for project proposals in the near future:

- Operation Programme for Maritime and Fisheries 2014-2020
- Programme for Integrated Management of Sea and Inland Water

The financing tool at **EU level** is the European Maritime Fisheries Fund which supports an integrated maritime policy.

#### Potentially critical issues

Specific actions and interventions will be focused initially on fishermen, i.e. discussions had included the **lack of available space** for containers/big bags on board small boats (for 1 or 2 persons) which make up the majority of fishing vessels – apart from a small fleet of trawlers. This should be taken into account when developing a business case. Another concern is the **financial incentive** that fishermen were asking for collecting marine litter.

However, best practices resulting from the assessment of existing marine litter removal activities among fishermen in Europe, carried out by the MARELITT project suggested that the lack of space for containers/big bags can be tackled with smaller 'big bags', and that financial incentives were not necessary in the long term since fishermen should already be, in the first instance, convinced of the

benefits of their marine litter removal activities – although, financial incentives in the form of a reduction in port fees could be a motivating factor in the first phase of the project.

### 3.2 Actions

The following actions are foreseen to be undertaken as part of the business project proposal to be further elaborated upon:

	Who	Action	Due
1.	Municipality of Nesebar	Organisation of meetings and discussions with fishermen	end of 2014
2.	UBBSLA	Data collection; data processing	October 2014
3.	All	Elaboration of draft proposals for actions and interventions	end of 2014
4.	All <sup>1</sup>	Development of business project proposal	2014-2015
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

<sup>1</sup> The initiator will be UBBSLA and all partners concerned are intended to actively support actions

## Annex 1: Workshop agenda

### Marine litter retention project, Bulgaria

#### Regional Workshop

#### Nesebar

26 September 2014

10.00 – 10.30	Registration and coffee
10.30 – 10.45	Opening greetings
10.45 – 11.00	Introduction to the MARELITT project <i>Presented by ARCADIS, Belgium</i>
11.10 – 11.15	The MARELITT business case in Bulgaria <i>Presented by UBBSLA, Bulgaria</i>
11.15 – 11.45	Local initiative fishery groups in Nesebar – activities, marine litter retention, interaction with institutions <i>Presented by official representatives of the groups</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Legal regulations on marine litter in Bulgaria <i>Presented by the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture</i>
12.00 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.15	Collaboration between stakeholders in the marine litter management policy implementation Executive Agency Marine Administration, Regional Inspectorate of Environment
14.15 – 14.45	Project activities, intervention areas, roles and responsibilities of project partners, fundraising, impact, further replication
14.45 – 15.00	Partnership agreement on follow-up
15.00 – 15.00	Discussion. Input from participants.

## **Annex 2: List of participants**

See below.





Работна среща-дискусия: Проект MARELITT

СПИСЪК НА УЧАСТНИЦИТЕ

Дата и място на провеждане: 26 Септември 2014г., Несебър

№	Име, фамилия Name	Организация/Фирма Organization/Company	Координати – тел., ел. Поща Contacts
1	Георги Цветков	Община Несебър	0899976363
2	Тоданев Кольо	Община Несебър	0893505229
3	Димитър Кинзел	БЪЧР - Бура	bsb@dimanchev@bsbd.org
4	Тереза Николова	Община Несебър, Екология	ekomatina@abv.bg
5	Златишмир Георгиева	Община Несебър, Екология	ekomatina@abv.bg
6	Александра Аврамова	Община Несебър, Екология	ekomatina@abv.bg
7	Станислав Станков	ИМА БЪРГАС	STANISLAV.STANKOV@MARA3.BG
8	Дарина Мишева	ИМА - Бура	darina.pishina@marad.bg
9	Ваняна Кюргиева	Община Несебър, Екология	ekomatina@abv.bg
10	Петър Сашевски	Община Соспол Загнет	petia.4arevova@abv.bg
11	Петър Генев	МАРГ Пловдив - Несебър	p.genov@flag-pr.org
12	Иван Димитров	ИМАРА	VAN-YANIV@ABV.BG
13	Катя Ангелина	ИМАРА	katia.angelinova@mail.bg
14	Стайчо Добровски	Община Несебър	pr@n.seb.bg; 0893505228

15	Искрелена Грознова	обыщина	Несебър	0893 303 679	nsn2012@abv.bg
16	Нина Вережикова	обыщина	Несебър	0893 303 790	nsn2012@abv.bg
17	Златин Зайцев	обыщина	Несебър	0893 303 651	nsn2012@abv.bg
18	Stijn Lambert	Arcadis	Belgium	0032 473 682 680	
19	Мирослава Шандарова	Варна		0888 319 583	mi/mal@znanit.com
20	Елена Силеорова	АБГО		0887 290 377	assistant@abbsla.org
21	Марияна Казел	АБСО		0888 604 500	office@abbsla.org
22	Торор Тонел	Герм. энерг. Контр		052600266	energy@abbsla.org
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