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[Home](#) > Scientific Coordination of Research Projects on "Plastics in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions" (PlastikNet)

PROJECT

Coastal + Marine
Economics
Education
Governance
Resource Conservation + Circular Economy
Sustainability
Water

Scientific Coordination of Research Projects on "Plastics in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions" (PlastikNet)



[1]

In the framework of the scientific accompanying research (PlastikNet) of the research focus "Plastics in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions" (Plastik in der Umwelt - Quellen • Senken • Lösungsansätze) Ecologic Institute coordinates 20 joint research projects, which deal with plastics in the environment funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF).

Plastic waste in cities, in the landscape, rivers, beaches, and eventually in the oceans - plastics in the environment are directly and negatively visible. Sources and consequences are wide-ranging and not always easy to identify. The main input is mostly land based and covers the whole chain of production and distribution of plastics as well as waste management and consumer behavior. Environmental impact is identifiable mostly in aquatic ecosystems - in form of dying marine animals and birds, marine food containing primary and secondary microplastics or in form of human- and ecotoxic substances in water bodies and sewage. Within the research focus twenty perennial research and development projects (Verbundprojekte - joint research projects) are funded, which investigate sources and develop and test transdisciplinary solutions.

The joint research projects are accompanied by PlastikNet with the main focus of cross-linking contents and synthesis.

The research focus is funded under the BMBF programme FONA, Research for Sustainable Development. The funded projects investigate a variety of topics, i.e., Green Economy, consumption, fresh water (limnic systems), recycling as well as seas and oceans. Hence, the projects cover a wide range of ideas, levels of action (from local to global) and methods. There is great potential for thematic and methodic synergies between the projects, which should be used. The identification and use of these synergies is the ultimate goal of the PlastikNet project.

The project consists of activities in five areas:

- Identification of the coordination and transfer requirements of the individual projects (document analysis, interviews with the funded projects, creation of a web platform).
- Knowledge exchange among and cross-linking of the individual projects (through national and international conferences as well as thematic workshops).
- Synthesis of overarching project results through synthesis papers (with recommendations for action) and special issues of scientific journals.
- Knowledge transfer and public outreach (media outreach, transfer workshops and a network of relevant actors from business, politics and civil society).
- Transfer to educational concepts and strategies (Project weeks for schools, university seminars, travelling exhibitions, training for specialists).

With these activities, the project team aims to contribute to the political and societal impact of the funded research projects.

Main Link

Kick-Off Conference Reader of the BMBF Research Focus "Plastics in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions"

Ecologic Related Websites

- [Plastics in the Environment](#)

Related Articles

- [Science Sips on Citizen Science and Plastic in the Science Year 2016*17 - Seas and Oceans](#)
- [For the Oceans, Free and Clean](#)
- [Policy Options for Litter-free Seas](#)
- [What Can a Policy Maker do About Marine Litter?](#)
- [Governance Schemes and Measures for the Prevention of Marine Litter - Case Study Germany](#)
- [Model Cases for the Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, Baltic and North Sea](#)

- Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea: Challenges and Opportunities - Introduction
 - New Tools and Policy Options to Improve the Management of Marine Litter (CLEANSEA)
 - CleanSea Fosters Marine Litter Stakeholder Dialogue Across Europe
 - Let's Get Governing Marine Litter Across Europe
 - Economic Instruments and Marine Litter Control
 - Plastic in the Environment - Sources • Sinks • Solutions - Project Flyer
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Links

[1] https://www.ecologic.eu/sites/files/project/2017/fotolia_c_christian_schulz_web_02.jpg