

FINAL REPORT

PLASTIC FREE
OCEAN
PROJECT

2019/2020

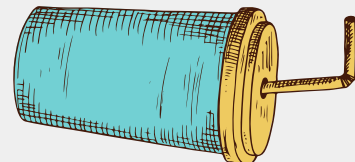
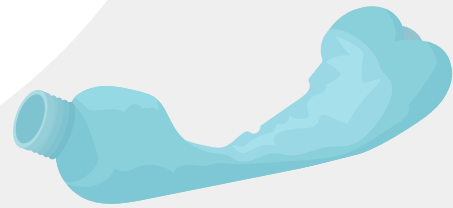


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GENERAL INFORMATION



Name of the organisation

- Coalition Clean Baltic

Contacts persons at the organisation

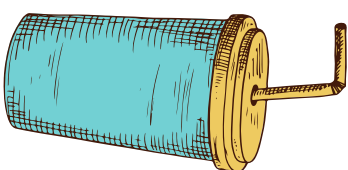
- Mikhail Durkin
- Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska

Project title and number of agreement

- Plastic Free Baltic – Plastic Free Ocean

Project period

- 2019-2020



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Project Summary

The overall goal of the Plastic Free Ocean Project (PFO) was to minimize pollution of the global ocean from plastic litter. Despite such ambitious goal, the project contributed to it by reaching its primary target – to reduce consumption and use of plastic in the BSR, and thus diminish plastic pollution into the Baltic Sea. Various activities being implemented within the project were aimed at reaching widest possible audience of all ages. Under the 1st project objective “**To promote voluntary phase-out of plastic in different public sectors within the BSR**” PFO can see the results in the increased number of initiatives from business and state institutions that avoid single-use plastic (SUP) and promote alternatives (mainly they are among bars and cafes, schools and municipalities).

In this direction PFO partners held working meetings with representatives of the target groups (small cafes and bars, schools and municipalities), have gathered experiences, developed and disseminated recommendations to reduce SUP. Positive response has been received from stakeholders. Catering services had consultations on reducing waste. Schools were also interested and started to work on reducing plastic.

Major activities and significant outcomes in that project objective are as follows:

- The Sennoy Okrug municipality in the center of St.Petersburg, in collaboration with PFO, has developed an educational program for local residents, where they learn how to reduce plastic on a personal level. School projects were presented at conferences and sent to the competition of SPARE partner projects.

- Latvian Green Belt has launched the campaign – “Move away from the widespread use of single use plastic cocktail straws”, which included free stickers for cafes/shops that encourage the abandonment of plastic straws to be displayed in cafes, bars, restaurants and shops.

- A pilot campaign «Whatever you buy or taste, make no waste» in Jurmala city (coastal territory) as pilot project for service providers: caterers, merchants, tourist information centres, museums, and other institutions in order to encourage to reduce the use of single plastic products, and promote introduction of environmentally friendly habits – including questionnaire for service providers, discussion on available alternatives for single use plastic products. The campaign was also focused to encourage visitors,

customers and buyers to adopt green lifestyle habits in their daily actions and consumption.

- By conducting surveys in various non-environmental audiences (enterprises, etc.) in Jurmala, Environmental Protection Club of Latvia (VAK) was convinced that compared to 2018, the general awareness of population on plastic negative impact on the environment has increased. In 2020 VAK revisited enterprises which were surveyed in 2019 and monitored the use of plastic products in these enterprises. It was monitored, that the usage of plastic products has decreased, and the cafeterias are refilling drinks in the same glasses several times. The enterprises requested additional environmental table information stands (which were distributed in the project), as they considered them to be relevant in informing the population on the usage of SUP.

- [Support tourism and gastronomy campaign](#) in the pursuit of giving up SUP plastics has been implemented in coastal cities in Poland by the Polish Ecological Club.

Under the 2nd project objective **“To advocate policy changes towards BSR as a region that is free from single-use plastic”** PFO can report the result in growing number of statements from politicians and opinion leaders who support ban of SUP. This has been done on both national level in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, and on regional level – at various HELCOM and EU fora.

Major activities and significant outcomes in that project objective are as follows:

- Providing information and examples of waste prevention policies and other economic instruments to provide incentives for reduction of waste generation in Latvian language and explaining the EU Waste Directive.
- Participation of Latvian partner in the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development Working group on waste management and packaging issues to promote policy changes in legislation regarding single use plastic packaging issues. By actively working at the legislative level, it has been possible to stimulate a discussion on the possible inclusion of microplastics in the National Waste Management Plan in Latvia.
- Cooperation of Ukrainian Partner with regional authorities (Western Bug

and Sian River Basin Council) and at the national level (National Ecological Council of Ukraine) the draft Law "Restricting the Circulation of Plastic Bags in Ukraine" was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. This Law is included in the agenda of the Verkhovna Rada on 01.09.2020 (not considered in connection with the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic).

The law provides in particular:

- o ban on the distribution of plastic bags up to 50 microns thick and oxo-compostable bags from 1 January 2022.
- o encourage the production of biodegradable plastic bags.
- o introduction of fines for the sale of plastic bags or oxo-compostable bags in the form of bio packages.

The introduction into the work plan of the Western Bug and Sian River Basin Council of discussions on the use of disposable plastic products and discussion of this in the framework of the Western Bug Day in Zolochiv helped to realize that achieving the goal of "Baltic free of plastic - Ocean free of plastic" also formed from the sources of rivers in the Baltic basin.

- The Compilation List of products that should be banned for production and sale. List was based on marine litter monitoring runned by Friends of the Baltic.
- The petition has been launched and was distributing in the Russia.

One of the points of the Petition is a ban on the sale and production of SUP that has alternatives. As of December, the petition had already received 38,000 votes.

- [Best-Practice-Guideline on “How municipalities can reduce the use of single-use plastics on a local level”](#) developed by BUND Bremen.

Under the 3rd project objective **“To increase public awareness and literacy on measures to prevent plastic pollution of the Baltic Sea and Oceans”** the PFO resulted in growth of overviews of the problem by mass media, and raised awareness from the public. Project partners have received more and more invitations to hold lectures at festivals, conferences and forums. PFO has been working on organizing public monitoring of microplastic and macroplastic in several rivers and seashore in Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus. Also PFO has prepared for the exhibitions on plastic and ocean pollution (online exhibition as well as real exhibition in Poland and Russia). Online campaigns in collaboration with all PFO partners were presented on Facebook strengthening the activities run in the scope of the PFO project in December 2019 and June 2020. PFO has used several other opportunities to promote the linkages

between plastic and pollution of Baltic Sea and oceans, including active contribution to the work of Break Free From Plastic (#BFFP) international movement. Educational materials developed within the project is a tool to use in subsequent educational activities. They can be used thanks to the availability on the website and the editable version enabling to publish it in national languages.

Major activities and significant outcomes in that project objective are as follows:

- The international conference “Plastic Free Ocean” was held online and opened to the wider public. Conference was focused on exploring the issue of plastic pollution and its effect on our environment and life with presentations by scientists on the topic and discussions in breakout groups, concluding with a panel discussion on the future after the COVID-19 pandemic as well as on exchange experience of project partners on the second day.

- Friends of the Baltic developed 7 materials within the project, held 26 events and at least 30,000 people became aware about the problem. Public microplastics monitoring has fulfilled its function - now almost all scientific institutes of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region dealing with

environmental problems have started professional research of microplastics. During the project the number of followers in the group of our organization in social networks increased more than by 400 (from 500 to 917). On the page about plastic pollution, which PFO run, the number of followers increased more than by 600 (from 1100 to 1773). This demonstrates the growing involvement of people.

- Polish Ecological Club carried out the multidisciplinary workshop / brainstorming "[How not to drown in plastic](#)".

- By involving the population in practical monitoring of rivers and beaches, PFO have raised awareness on microplastic pollution presence in the environment, and have raised discussion on future steps which are necessary to be taken to improve the overall situation.

- By educating the population on the presence of microplastics in cosmetics and other products, PFO partners have provided input in knowledge of population and therefore a potential demand for microplastic-free cosmetic products in future will increase.

- "Latvian Green Belt" organized 5 Latvia wide design bag contests for young people to promote alternatives to single use plastic bags, organized 3

months long exhibitions in 3 big super malls in 2 Latvia towns with alternatives to single plastic bags, produced a short film on microplastics in the cosmetic products shown on Latvia TV, produced 300 posters for public transport shelters, 30 columns and 5 large format billboards displayed in Riga, Liepaja, Ventspils within social campaign- I Have my own - #Coffee mug #Shopping bag #Water bottle in order to encourage the public to change their daily habits and to think about the consequences of human actions towards plastic and disposable tableware, and organized various lectures for school children.

- Awareness-raising interdisciplinary online art exhibition on plastics / Toxics and Oceans Health (Live In/Leaving - <https://liveinleaving.eu>) in a form of web page. Materials for the exhibition were made with the help of professionals, environmental activists and artists from several BSR countries (Belarus, Poland, Russian Federation (Kaliningrad), Ukraine, Sweden).

PFO invited artists and environmental activists from these countries to discuss the problem of plastic consumption and provide its broader understanding through a multidisciplinary approach. Exhibition can be used further by NGOs in

participating countries to attract attention to the problem. 4 talks of artists and activists in different countries were filmed. These talks highlighted local and global problems associated with the use of plastic. 2 workshops for children and 1 for a wide audience were filmed. 7 art materials were created by artists, photographers and curators for the exhibition.

Few activities, envisaged by the project implementation plan in Ukraine and Lithuania, have failed to be implemented due to the COVID pandemic, including:

- an information campaign within the Sokal Eco-Festival, open seminars with stakeholders, development of cooperation with Sumy Agricultural University to promote the alternative of plastic, products of starch and bran packaging (for which there is still little demand)
- meetings with municipalities that have decided not to use plastic products at events in their municipalities and meetings with environmental friendly business and startups in Lithuania.

The project was successfully implemented and PFO partners are satisfied with the cooperation.

This sentence can be cited as proof of it: *“Latvian Green Belt is proud about the results of the project and is proud to be part of the international project team in order to promote real change in SUP reduction”*

WHAT EXACTLY IS SUP (single use plastic)

Single Use Plastic products are those which entirely or partly are made of plastics and intended to be used only once or for a short period of time, or not planned to be re-used for the same purpose for which they were conceived

plastics make up **80-85%** of the total waste found in the marine environment in the EU

→ SUP products **50%**
items related to fishing **27%**

22,05%
cigarette butts

food containers
14,14%

Cotton-bud sticks
13,7%

beverage containers
12,5%

4,24%
fork

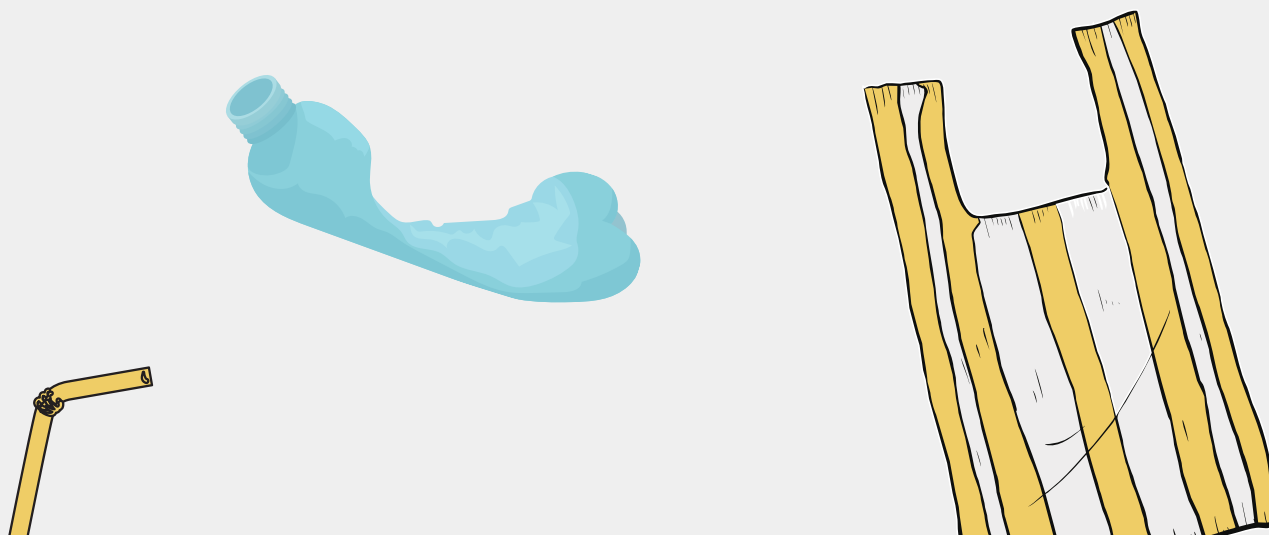
Activities

Most of our project activities were carried out in the same way as it planned. Some activities were changed to a different format due to epidemiological situation. Some were moved to a different place or time. Nevertheless, **all the activities stated in the application were carried out.**

PFO has started project implementation with the [kick-off and planning meeting](#) in Copenhagen with participation of CCB partners and invited guests from other organizations. PFO have organized several meetings of project partners and relevant organizations in order to discuss the project implementation, raise internal and external capacity and strengthen links between partners and other stakeholders.

These meetings were organized in conjunction with internal CCB's, as well as other relevant stakeholder and policy events in the BSR.

- [Baltic Sea Day in Saint-Petersburg, 21 March 2019;](#)
- [Conference "All rivers lead to the Baltic Sea", 16 April 2019;](#)
- ["Transboundary Rivers Seminar and Conference", Kaliningrad, Russia, 10-11 April;](#)
- [10th Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area, Tallinn, Estonia, 9-12 April 2019;](#)
- [Transboundary Daugava river rafting/kayaking expedition, 14-17 May, 2019;](#)
- [CCB Annual Conference in Riga, 16 May 2019;](#)



- [Seminar on plastic in the societies: “Close plastic tap – Plastic does not belong to environment!” at the 10th EUSBSR Forum in Gdansk, 12-13 June 2019,](#)
- [“Our Common Baltic” Summer Course, Hel, Poland, 8-13 July 2019,](#)
- [Clean Games – Baltic Cup on 21 September 2019](#)
- [CCB event on hazardous substances in Lviv, 14 October 2019.](#)
- [XV UBC General Conference “Building an inclusive and resident-focused city. The Baltic way”](#)
- PFO online workshop: [Plastic Free Ocean – global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastic pollution on 18 March 2020](#)
- [PFO Final Conference on 08-09 June 2020](#)

Project activities were carried out according to common scheme of project activities: promotion of voluntary phase-out of plastic within different public sectors, advocating for policy changes on municipal, national and HELCOM level to make BSR region free from single-use plastic, and increase of public awareness on measures to prevent plastic pollution.

Below you can find more information about the most successful ones.

Activity 1.1 A campaign seminar to discuss and finalize the strategies of promotion plastic prevention among different target groups.

- PFO Partner's Workshop, St. Petersburg, Russia, 18 March 2020 was prepared, but had to be replaced with online event due to Covid19 pandemic: Online workshop: [Plastic Free Ocean – global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastics pollution](#). PFO partners presented their stage of the project and showed main successes. Thanks to brainstorming discussion PFO partners started to communicate more frequently in the last months of the project and together developed ideas about the PFO campaign connected to PFO final conference.

Presentations of the online event from Estonia, Poland and Russia.



Activity 1.2. Development, translation into at least 5 Baltic languages, and printing of campaign fact sheets and recommendations on plastic prevention targeted for different target groups.

- PFO partners developed posters and other graphical materials with tips for avoiding plastic in different target groups. All materials were available in editable versions among PFO partners to allow the use of the developed material in another country. PFO partners contributed to develop following materials:

- [Informational materials on plastic from CES](#) - A series of instructional posters/recommendations was developed to promote the idea of avoiding plastic in different public sectors. In consultation with stakeholders, CES has developed and distributed posters for schools, parishes, offices, cafes and shops to reject plastic.
- **4 stands for the educational exhibition <About plastic: from challenge to solutions> was developed by Friends of the Baltic - Russia** in cooperation with: *More Baltic Less Plastic* project. Stands were about: 1 – plastic pollution problem, 2 – microplastics and its sources, 3 – solutions on different levels: government, science, business and individual level, 4 – zero waste approach to life.

Lithuanian Fund for Nature was inspired by stands and they developed [national materials](#).

- Polish Ecological Club published 6 posters ["How not to drown in plastic"](#) - including the conclusions refined by the moderators of the brainstorming workshop and cooperated with an artist in order to create [a comic](#) about the circular economy with particular emphasis on plastic.
- Latvian Green Belt produced 2 fact-sheets on single use plastic bags and on alternatives to plastic bag usage. They developed different campaign materials for social media on phase-out of single plastic product use – banners, etc.
- BUND - Germany developed 2 new background papers on the input of microplastics into the oceans from different sources: 1) "Environmental impact of microplastics from artificial turf pitches"[\(GER/ENG\)](#), 2) "Wear and tear of tyres as the largest source of microplastic input into the ocean" [\(GER/ENG\)](#). They gave input to the PlastikAtlas on Plastic in Water [\(GER/ENG\)](#) and produced a [leaflet](#) and [brochure](#) on 11 Tips

for Plastic-Free living in German. They translated the [factsheet on cigarette waste](#) and its hazard to the Baltic Sea, as well as Posters with short facts on cigarette pollution in German. They updated the [consumer's guide to microplastics in cosmetics](#) (Germany) and the background paper on “Microplastics and other synthetic materials in cosmetics” taking into account recent studies (German) and the paper’s translation into English ([GER/ENG](#)).

- The “[Brief Q&A on plastic and Covid-19](#)” and connected [infographic](#) were translated into German, [Polish](#), Latvian, Belarussian and Ukrainian. The Q&A was published as an “Ökotipp” (Eco-Tip) on BUND’s Website and distributed for the German-wide press whereas Wordlab (Ukraine) printed it (1500 copies). Additionally, “Latvian Green belt» prepared press release on [Covid-10 and single use plastics](#). Raising public awareness of the

environmental risks of plastic waste, the Latvian Green belt produced an educational article on the need to use disposable tableware during Covid, explaining the increase in the use of disposable plastic products - especially dishes, bags, boxes - and their immediate consequences for the environment. CES from Belarus **organized informational campaign on the topic "Covid and disposable plastic"**.

Captures of the “Brief Q&A on plastic and Covid-19”.



BRIEF Q&A ON PLASTIC AND COVID-19
 Reusable and disposable goods: what is important to know in connection with the spread of the coronavirus



AREN'T SINGLE-USE PACKAGINGS SAFER?
 No, they're not when compared to properly washed reusables. Single-use disposables can harbor viruses and pathogenic bacteria. They are subject to whatever pathogens have settled on them from manufacture, transport, inventory stocking and eventual use.

Activity 1.3. National and regional outreach campaigns on plastic-free BSR.

Project partners organized various national events to promote developed materials among the target groups, aiming at implementation of plastic free BSR. Here it seems important to mention the most successful activities:

- The first PFO social media campaign has been shared almost by all project partners. It was a successful joint international information campaign on plastics. At least, because this is one the most **unifying activities for project partners and countries** - PFO all posted the same information at the same time and acted as a united front.
- The second social media campaign aimed to promote the main achievements of PFO partners and was connected to Plastic Free Ocean Final Conference.
- Friends of the Baltic (Russia) hold a **series of work meetings with owners of small cafes and bars** trying to abandon single-use plastic and implement measures to reduce waste generation in general. It turns out that St. Petersburg even has working programs (from volunteers and businesses) for **glass recycling**, since glass dominates the

morphology of bar waste. During the work meetings, the **best practices** of local restaurateurs implemented in St. Petersburg were collected. On this basis **The guide for bars on how to reduce single-use plastic** with practical advices have been developed.

- Estonian Green Movement has carried out:
 - **Seminar targeted for bars and cafes** was held through Zoom and included different performers: Kadri Kalle (Acento OÜ, one of the originators of Let's do it cleanup day), Katrin Laikoja (Lecturer in food safety, milk technology in Estonian University of Life Sciences), Peeter Pihel (Fotografiska Tallinn), Kadri Kaarna (CleanTechForEst), Mikko Rajaver (Poke Bowl), Janet Kljuzin (Romb), Raimo Matvere (OÜ Acento), Michel De Bloos (Kiobox ja Thai Cafe (Belgium)). Four seminars with a 10 minute presentation, 30 min panel and a group work about what needed to be done to implement a reusable system of food packaging in cafes and bars were run.
 - **Lecture about Baltic Sea** in two schools in Tallinn and one in

Tartu: presentation about the Baltic Sea (what makes it special, animals and fish) and it's most common problems + microplastics, where it comes and how to avoid it.

- **Plogging (picking up and jogging) + workshop:** the event was organised together with an international student organization AEGEE Tartu and Tartu Nature House. Reusable bags for trash collecting during plogging were provided. The event started with a 2-hour plogging trip on several routes in Tartu. People gathered back in Tartu Nature House after plogging to collectively sort the trash. There were some competitions for children on how to recycle properly. A body product workshop was held where they made body scrub from used coffee grounds provided by a cafe. Around 50 people attended the event but over 3000 people were reached on Facebook.
- **10-day No Plastic Challenge:** Every day there was a topic and a set of challenges that participants have chosen from and sent their results by commenting on the post or sending results via e-mail.

Between all the participants that sent their results PFO draw prizes from 13 sponsors: Helios publishing house (a book about zero-waste lifestyle), Rohepakend (gift card from no plastic store), Biomarket (vegan store gift cards), Vegan Inspiratsioon (vegan restaurant), Viljandi Folk Music Festival, Arvamusfestival (festival that aims to reduce waste and enable waste sorting for participants), Klean Kanteen, Bushcraft Festival Estonia, Tilk! (cosmetics that reuses its' packaging), Tahpoon (solid shampoo), Valete Ökokaubad (eco-store), Circup (reusable cups and develops methods to wash cups in restaurants/festivals), suletud ring (blog about zero-waste lifestyle).

- Latvian Green Belt organised:
 - press conference together with the Latvian Trader's Association (LTA) regarding the launch of the campaign – “move away from the widespread use of single use plastic cocktail straws”, which included free stickers for cafes/shops that encourage the abandonment of plastic straws to be displayed in cafes, bars, restaurants and

shops.

- Latvian contests regarding single use plastic bags - design contest for school children “[I start with myself - for Cleaner Latvia!](#)” - which main aim - to stop the use of single use plastic bags and propose sustainable alternatives.

- 4 regional contests in 4 Latvia regions were organized with ~350 participants in each contest, and 1 Republic contest in Riga's biggest shopping mall was organized.

Target group: Students and educational institutions in Latvia. In total, more than 1,200 children from 176 educational institutions took part in the creative competition. This event had broad media coverage, including newspapers, news portals, and TV: [1](#),[2](#),[3](#).

- The task of the contest was to make their own stylish design shopping bags. The participants were asked to show their contest bags to other students in their

educational institution, raising awareness and explaining to other students potential risks to human health, particularly from plastics and microplastics. Participants posted information in social media: Facebook, municipalities home pages, etc., adding photos of the event, and encouraging the general public to act in an environmentally friendly way on a daily basis.

- [#Plastic Free picnic on Vakarbulji beach](#) with association “Baltic Mermaids”. At the event, the main emphasis was placed on reusable tableware and packaging without plastic, and choosing natural and environmentally friendly materials.
- A movie on microplastic regarding [\(micro\)plastic pollution in the National TV story broadcasted](#) in May, 2019
- Educational short film „[Plastic bag road](#)“ raising awareness about single use plastic was broadcasted in public events, seminars, etc., and is available online as well as a lot of schools

and students received CDs.

- Social campaign – [I Have my own - # Coffee mug # Shopping bag # Water bottle](#) in order to encourage the public to change their daily habits and to think about the consequences of human actions towards plastic and disposable tableware. A total of 300 posters for public transport shelters, 30 columns and 5 large format billboards have been prepared and displayed in 3 Latvia towns – Riga, Liepaja, Ventspils. Within the framework of the social campaign, 3 press releases were prepared and distributed in the leading media, calling on the population:

1. Replace a disposable coffee mug with your own thermal mug;
2. Go to the store with your shopping bag instead of plastic shopping bags;
3. Do not buy bottled water, but use your own refillable water bottle.

Social campaign was supported by our social media.

- Environmental Protection Club, Latvia organized:
 - campaign «[Whatever you buy or taste, make no waste](#)» in Jurmala city (coastal territory)

during the summer and autumn 2019 as pilot project for tourist information centres, museums, and other institutions in order to encourage to reduce the use of single plastic products, and promote introduction of environmentally friendly habits – including questionnaire for service providers, discussion on available alternatives for single use plastic products. The campaign was also focused to encourage visitors, customers and buyers to adopt green lifestyle habits in their daily actions and consumption.

The aim of CAMPAIGN was to:

- ENCOURAGE to REDUCE OF single use disposable products,
- PROMOTE introduction of environmentally friendly habits

During the campaign, a survey of entrepreneurs was conducted and the most active entrepreneur was awarded. The following conclusions were made:

- Interest in the campaign was most actively expressed service providers on or near the beach.

- Taking into account the experience of the last 3 years, most of the surveyed applicants have introduced more environmentally friendly packaging materials in their business, increasing the awareness of employees in the field of environmentally friendly actions.
- Comparing the habits of local residents and guests, foreign tourists have chosen the initiative to conserve resources (eg. to refill a drink in the same glass, give up a plastic straw or cup lid, etc.).
- The main problems to be solved on the coast are insufficient number of waste bins in the city, including sorted waste bins, lack of smoking areas.
- It is necessary to improve the amount, volume, content of environmental information, as well as to improve the provision of technical infrastructure, for example, consider the possibility of free drinking water filling on or near the beach. All of the interviewed applicants acknowledged that the campaign should be continued in 2021, starting with the opening of the season and running throughout the resort seasoning order to fully achieve its objectives.
- [lecture and meeting with Olaine residents](#) (4.06.2020) - The lecture took place during Covid-19, so the meeting took place in the open air. 50 participants took place in the lecture. During the lecture, the residents were introduced to the main environmental problems, in the second part of the lecture residents searched with the residents microplastics in the cosmetic products – toothpaste, as well as CCB booklet about microplastics were distributed to participants.
- WorldLab from Ukraine took part in the eco-action "Pavlov without garbage", which was held at the

- school in the village of Pavlov in September 2019. The action was held within the framework of the all-Ukrainian project "Zero Waste Day". Pupils of the school participated in an interactive eco-marathon "Let's save the environment together!". WorldLab organized an eco-fair, a workshop "Second Life", an exhibition of eco-newspapers, studied the rules of waste sorting. As part of the eco-action, director Petro Hrytsyshyn gave a presentation on the topic: "Microplastic is an invisible problem." Teachers and students were provided with information on the damage caused by microplastics to the environment and explained what citizens can do to reduce plastic waste.
- Polish Ecological Club published their [activities on EkoAgora.pl](#); here is information about:
 - [The innovative conference on 23 November 2019](#) - The conference in a format of brainstorming workshop was started with a short (20 minutes) lecture on 4 fields led by moderators. The moderators were academics from Tri-City universities. The metaplan technique was used. The strength of the workshop was the multidisciplinary of students and moderators. In order to maximize the achieved effect, the participants were divided into groups with which a moderator from a science field in turn worked for 15 minutes - chemistry, law, economy, politics and society.
 - [The multimedia material](#) "Your future your choice" presented on workshops and meetings organized by PKE OP in public sites e.g. conferences, workshops.
 - A lecture on conference: "Europe in Bytów - Bytów in Europe, 15 years of Poland in the European Union - EU values and challenges for the future" (3.10.1019) organized by Pomerania in the EU. Presentation on the topic: "**Do PFO have an impact on reducing anthropopression?**" was prepared by Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska and presented by: Ewa Podlesińska and Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska.
 - Lecture during the 21st Festival of Science and Art in Siedlce at a meeting ENVIRONMENT - NOT ONLY LOCAL DILEMMAS "Think globally act locally"

- memories, the environment, what's next...? Presentation was entitled "[WebBaltika - Threats to the Baltic Sea - Microplastics](#)".
- [2 workshops in rheumatological hospital for children in Sopot](#) on 3.07.2019 and 28.08.2019. In every workshop about 30 children participated. Introduction to the topic of single use plastic and microplastics was presented by Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska, afterwards they had a possibility to watch microplastics using 90x magnifiers.
- Expert of PKE OP - prof. Ewa Maria Siedlecka gave an [interview on regional television TVP3 Gdańsk in the breakfast program about microplastics in the Baltic Sea](#).
- organized stands of „Plastic Free Ocean” during:
 - Day of Fish at Hel Marine Station - 27.07.2019
 - VI Naturalists Island picnic on the Sobieszewo Island - 29.06.2019
 - Picnic "Biodiversity - Explore to save 2019" - 8.06.2019
 - Festival of Freedom and Solidarity - 3-4.06.2019
- Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFN) specialized in media activities, meetings, seminars and lectures.
 - Institute for Green Policy has launched a series of video programmes "Green Strategy". So, PFO have established a long-lasting partnership with NGO Institute for Green Policy and participated in several events organised by this institute. Collaboration with Institute for Green Policy during the 2019 River Cleanup Campaign, where LFN contributed to the educational part of the campaign with a lecture on microplastic in water.
 - Besides the study of microplastic effects to the environment, Ms. Rasa Tumaševičiūtė is a big enthusiast of sustainable lifestyle and she also is producing and broadcasting the program "Aplinka 1.5" (Environment 1.5.) in Start FM 94.2.
 - Under the initiative of the school for cosmetologists "Art of Beauty" the partnership was established and as a result LFN has delivered a lecture to the students of the school on microbeads in cosmetic and

health products.

- Center for Environmental Solutions in Belarus developed the following activities:

- [The movement “Schools without Plastic” in Belarus](#) -

Currently, approximately 20 schools in different regions of Belarus participate in the movement. The movement was organized by CES in spring 2019 in cooperation with the Gymnasium # 19 in Minsk.

All movement participants are able to get information, consultations and guidelines on how to implement principles of plastic free management in their schools activities. Also, schools do networking and share experiences, and their successes with movement colleagues during meetings and webinars.

These opportunities make the initiative more sustainable even without future participation of CES. Among the most popular plastic free measures, which are being implemented by schools:

- the rejection of disposable plastic cups for drinking;
- the abandonment of balloons on holidays;
- the replacement of plastic bags and other packaging;

- reducing the use of plastic school supplies.

Also, as a part of the initiative, [schoolchildren prepare scientific school projects, related to the topic of environmental pollution by plastic.](#)

Examples of publications in mass media on this topic are here: [1.](#) [2.](#) [3.](#) [4.](#) [5.](#) [6.](#)

- [Initiating pilot activity “Social canteen without plastic”](#) - in

Minsk is a food distribution point (canteen) for poor and homeless people, which feeds approximately 120 people with hot food daily, and more than 300 disposable plastic tableware are formed daily.

Thanks to the support of the project, it was possible to introduce an alternative, more sustainable practice in the canteen in 2019, and to replace all disposable tableware with reusable counterparts, and also to ensure that it is possible to wash them according to sanitary standards in the canteen. This initiative helped to not only significantly reduce the amount of disposable plastic tableware, which cannot be recycled, but also to help the food point to save

approximately 3,000 rubles (1,000 euros) annually, which was used for plastic tableware. Another important aspect of this initiative was to demonstrate the possibility to use normal tableware for social projects, where single-use tableware is typically used. Already at least 10 cafes and social canteens were interested in this opportunity. Unfortunately, the situation with COVID-19 prevented other social organizations from using this experience.

- **Development of a new layer on the greenmap.by about plastic**

- A new layer with the addresses of places and organizations that have abandoned single-use plastic is available on [Greenmap.by](http://greenmap.by). Recently, initiatives have begun to appear in Belarus to abandon single-use plastic. These are [schools](#), [cafes](#), [shops](#), [offices](#), church parishes. The plastic-free places are in the [mobile](#) and [web-versions](#) of the project.

[Initiating pilot activities on plastic prevention in faith-based organizations \(Church parishes in Belarus\)](#) - Activities with church parishes

(Belarusian Orthodox Church, and Roman-Catholic Church in Belarus) were on the topic of single-use plastic prevention in daily parish management.

Educational poster for churches has been prepared, one church parish (Vsecarica in Minsk, <http://pantanassa.by/>) has introduced multi-use tableware instead of single-use plastic in its Sunday school. A significant effort has been made to articulate the need to reduce usage of plastic flowers. Generally, these pilot activities became the first initiative to articulate the topic of single-use plastic within church communities.

- Discussions, lectures, and consultations on the topic of alternatives to disposable personal protective equipment during a COVID-19 pandemic (publication: [COVID-19. More dangerous garbage in cities](#)). In addition, special attention within the framework of the project was paid to the method of safe use of reusable mugs in cafes during a pandemic (publications: [Disposable vs Reusable. How the coronavirus changed our attitude towards garbage](#), [Reusable and](#)

[disposable products: what is important to know in connection with the spread of coronavirus](#)). Also, CES set up an initiative to sew reusable protective masks from reused textiles for the homeless and low-income people. More than 5,000 people received information about single-use plastic masks during a pandemic and possible strategies to reduce the amount of plastic waste during a pandemic (publication: [Where to dispose of single-use face masks](#)).

- **4 Public lectures for students on plastic** in the Faculty of Biology of the Belarusian State Pedagogical University, Polotsk State University in the city of Novopolotsk, A.A. Kuleshov Mogilev State University Belarusian State Technological University for more than 375 students and teachers
- **Lecture about plastic pollution in cooperation with mobile operator A1**
On March 3, 2020, Maria Suma from CES together with one of the most popular mobile operators A1, as well as with the leading information portal onliner.by, took part in a public

lecture "Plastic is a stranglehold of civilization" within the framework of the series of lecture "Voice of the Carried 2020". The lecture was attended by over 150 listeners, more than 53,000 read the final article based on the lecture and another 300 became the listeners of the podcast on the topic of plastic pollution.

Publications:

[Disposable tableware, bottled water, bags. The unpleasant truth about plastic](#) "The Voice of the Caring - 2020". Vol. 1: [Plastik - the noose of civilization](#).

Organizing Ecoidea talks - public discussion "[what you need to know about plastic today](#)" On January 23, 2020, PFO organized a public discussion about changes in the plastic legislation in Belarus. The participants of the discussion, together with more than 120 citizens of Minsk interested in plastic problems, discussed the innovation in the legislation of Belarus, challenges for business and the public and other important topics. In addition, more than 300 people were able to get acquainted with the results of the discussion online.

- **Organizing public viewing and discussion of the film "[Story of plastic](#)"** in Belarus On June 5, 2020, more than two hundred viewers from Belarus connected to the online viewing of the legendary film "Story of Plastic". After viewing, there was a live broadcast with employees of the organization Maria Suma and Yana Bondar in the official Instagram account of CES. 5 Publications in the media about the initiative: [1](#),[2](#),[3](#),[4](#),[5](#).

Capture of the legendary film "Story of Plastic".



Activity 2.1 National activities to promote ban/limitation for certain single-use plastic products within the BSR.

There were number of national events carried out that contributed to respective policy changes, e.g. Belarusian partners advocated mostly via the [website](#) and social media, as well as through participation in meetings with national authorities, that gradually led to discussing plastic pollution and measures to reduce it, e.g. by phasing out plastic food packaging at the level of the [Ministry of Environment](#), Cabinet of the Ministers and the [President](#) of Belarus. Additionally, within promotion of ban/limitation for SUP, PFO partners developed a variety of publications and educational materials, which voluntarily were translated into national language to support the process of decreasing usage of SUP. It is worth to emphasize following actions:

- **Running a national campaign in Belarus for limitation of single-use plastic products and for support of alternatives.** Belarus is not an EU member, and therefore EU Plastic Strategy is not directly applicable in Belarus, but in frame of the project we've been working with a variety of national stakeholders, including Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of

Households, Ministry of Anti-monopoly and trade, Belgospisheprom, Operator for secondary material resources, Gosstandart, and other stakeholders to push for the ban of single use plastic in Belarus and for choosing alternatives. Additionally, CES experts have contributed to policy discussions and developments of several important regulations, regarding management of single-use plastic in Belarus. The campaign was really successful with 3 important results:

- [Approved governmental plan to decrease usage of single-use plastic packaging in Belarus \(a Decree of the Council of Ministers of Belarus No.7 dated January 13, 2020 “On the phased reduction of the use of polymer packaging”\)](#).
- [Approved list of single-use plastic to be banned for usage in cafes/restaurants/food corners, starting from January 1, 2021 \(approved by the Ministry of Anti-monopoly and trade\)](#). - The list includes the following plastic items: forks; spoons; knives; sticks for stirring drinks; glasses; dishes;

straws (straws) for drinks; packaging for catering and food products (containers, trays, boxes, lunch boxes, coffees, cans, bottles), except for packaging for semi-finished culinary products and confectionery products; cups.

- [Increased fee for producers/importers of plastic products and/or packaging \(Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 24 dated January 16, 2020\)](#) - The fee was increased from 70 euro per ton to 135 Euro per ton.
- Wordlab from Ukraine maintained constant contact with the National Ecological Council of Ukraine, participated in meetings, provided information on plastic waste in water bodies and their harm to the environment and human health. They provided support in implementing measures to reduce pollution of rivers and preservation of the natural environment of this basin, preliminary prevention of pollution of the basin by plastic waste at follow events:
 - Meeting on invitation of the National Ecological Council of Ukraine On April 25, 2019 in Kyiv - the participants of the conference were presented a joint statement of public

organizations of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine, which cooperate in the basin rivers Western Bug and Sian, within the Coalition Clean Baltic on education about the use of plastic in the home.

- Meeting of [the Council of Western Bug and Sian on May 7, 2019](#) - director of the WorldLab acquainted the audience with the statement of public organizations of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine, which cooperate within the Coalition Clean Baltic in the Western Bug River Basin, to the authorities.
- [Forum of Successful Practices in the Field of Environmental Protection in Kyiv](#) on June 20, 2019, Forum was organised by the resource-analytical center "Society and Environment" and participated representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The issue of environmental pollution by plastic, including disposable tableware was raised by the PFO partner in the discussions of two sessions: "Waste" and "Atmospheric air, water and industrial pollution".

- [The Day of the Western Bug](#) (11 August 2020) was celebrated for the first time. The Agreement on Cooperation in the Western Bug Basin was signed between the Western Bug and Sian River Basin Water Resources Administration and the Regional Water Management Authority in Lublin (Poland).
- Meeting of the Basin Council of the Western Bug and Sian (December 4, 2019) - the presentation "Invisible problem of the Western Bug - microplastic" was presented. A proposal was prepared to include in the work plan of the Western Bug and Xiang River Basin Management and the Basin Council a discussion and consideration of the implementation of the EU Directive on single-use plastics.
- Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFN) cooperated with deputy chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Parliament Mr. Simonas Gentvilas led to very rapid response and delivery to the media about pollution with microplastic found in the capital river Neris. This news was covered by all central Lithuania's TV's.
- [Latvian Green Belt organized a campaign and a press conference together with the Latvian Trader's Association \(LTA\) regarding the launch of the campaign](#) - move away from the widespread use of single use plastic cocktail straws, which will include free stickers for cafes/shops that encourage the abandonment of plastic straws to be displayed in cafes, bars, restaurants and shops.
- Environmental Protection Club, advocated policy changes in Latvia through:
 - Active participation in 15 meetings in the Ministry of Environment and Regional development Working group on waste management and packaging issues to promote policy changes in legislation regarding single use plastic packaging issues. The following issues were raised:
 1. Presentation of "Investment Needs Assessment National Waste Management Plan for 2021-2028"
 2. Introduction of deposit system in Latvia and Terms of deposit On August 18, 2020, the "Regulations for the Operation of the Deposit System" came into force, by which the regulatory framework has been established and the deposit

system will start operating in Latvia on February 1, 2022.

3. Draft regulations on reducing the environmental impact of plastics.

Together with other working group members a lot of recommendations were submitted to the draft documents.

- Voluntary participation at the European Scientists' Night event at the Baltic Institute of Marine Aquatic Ecology on September 27, 2019, providing information on microplastics in cosmetics, distributed booklets. Approx.100 participants.
- Participation in a [discussion on plastic waste and ways to reduce it](#) at Green Expo on September 27, 2019 Approx.200 participants.
- Polish Ecological Club prepared [two specific letters](#) and sent them to [ecotourism guesthouses](#) and catering firms.
- Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) contributed following activities:
 - accompaniation in the process of implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive in Germany throughout the project period.

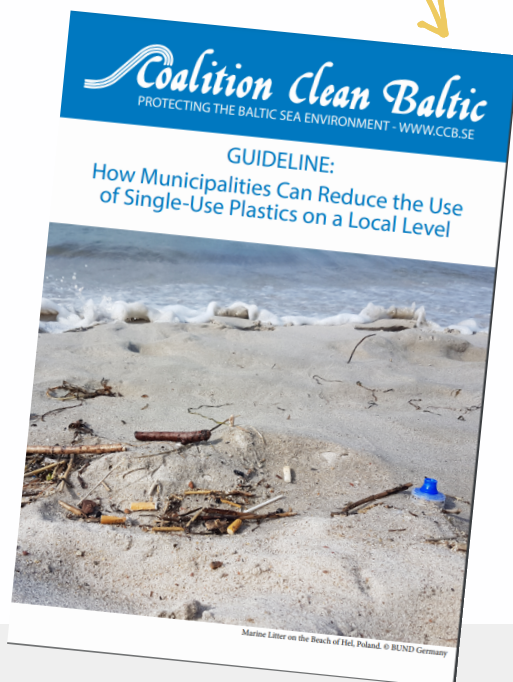
The work included the close exchange of information on the process with partner organizations on EU level such as Seas at Risk and Break Free From Plastic.

- Submission of the background papers to the ECHA public consultation on the intentionally added microplastics restriction proposal
- Researching, translating and writing a [Best-Practice-Guideline on “How municipalities can reduce the use of single-use plastics on a local level”](#) with best-practice examples from the Baltic Sea region. Available online on the project’s and CCB’s website. The layout file was provided to the other project partners to facilitate local translations and adaptation eg. Translated Guide was spread to towns’ and cities’ Municipalities in other countries.
- Participation in one workshop of the WG "Microplastics" of the Round Table on Marine Litter (Germany) on Evaluation of the sources of microplastics (29.01.2019).
- Translation of European Environmental Bureau examples of

waste prevention policies and other economic instruments to provide incentives for reduction of waste generation and explanation of the updates to the EU Waste Directive has been made into Latvian and Polish languages,

- No time to waste - Europe's new waste prevention and reuse laws: [PL](#); [LV](#)
- No time to waste - Examples of economic instruments and other measures to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy: [PL](#); [LV](#)

Best-Practice-Guideline on “How municipalities can reduce the use of single-use plastics on a local level”.



No time to waste - Europe's new waste prevention and reuse laws

Activity 2.2. Public monitoring and developing national lists of single-use plastic products and available alternatives

Project partners investigated the most common single-use plastic products, available on the market, as well as with available alternatives. Examples of reported activities among PFO partners:

- In Belarus, volunteers and activists with the support of the CES in frame of the project conducted an audit of plastic waste within the period September-October 2019. The monitoring took place in different places of Belarus on the banks, forests, city parks and other natural areas. 55 volunteers collected about one thousand liters of various plastics (40 bags). Among the popular garbage are disposable dishes, food packaging and bottles from drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), small rubbish from smokers (butts, filters, cigarette packages, lighters). Among the finds waste are tetrapak, wet wipes, parts of fishing nets, household goods and their components, construction and polyethylene foam. Publications in the media about the initiative: [interfax](#), [minsk.news](#), [ecopress](#), [gp](#), [news 21](#).
- In Poland, monitoring, where SUP is still used, was carried on. Monitoring of plastics in restaurants was carried out from the beginning of the project. Joanna Lepczak Michalska from PKE said:
“It shows that, unfortunately, many restaurants, even all-year-round ones, have not completely got rid of SUP. Plastic straws are also most often used. Served without asking, especially for cold drinks, e.g. iced coffee, cocktails...”
Interventions and educational talks were undertaken on this matter. Letters were sent to restaurants encouraging them to resign from SUP.
- “Latvian Green belt” produced an informative article for newspapers on [6 possible alternatives to single use plastics](#). It was published in 3 newspapers.
- BUND in Germany elaborated and provided a list of alternative products to single-use plastics available in the Baltic sea area and made it available to the project partners in English.

Activity 2.3 Contributing to policy development process on marine litter and plastic (revision of HELCOM BSAP, EU Plastic Strategy, Eurasian Economic Union, UNEP/UNEA)

Region-wide advocacy was carried out at following HELCOM and EUSBSR events, where plastic related work of CCB was presented:

- [Baltic Sea Day in Saint-Petersburg, 21 March 2019](#); CCB co-moderated the [Marine Litter Roundtable](#) within the event and presented [proposals for policy and public measures](#) to reduce single-use plastics and microplastics in the Baltic Sea region, as well as [public monitoring of riverine inputs](#) of microplastics as well as [measures to reduce microplastic inputs from stormwater](#). It was attended by ca. 30 people and resulted in the list of proposals compiled and [presented](#) to the plenary session.
- [10th Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area, Tallinn, Estonia, 9-12 April 2019](#); CCB presented the [proposals for updating HELCOM Recommendation 23-5](#) measures to reduce plastic inputs from stormwater, which was accepted and the formal process has been launched with a view to have it adopted within the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan update. CCB has

already submitted this proposal earlier, but only in 2019 it was [accepted](#) for revision. The meeting was attended by 37 participants representing national ministries of environment and/or EPAs of HELCOM countries, as well as observers.

- [Seminar on plastic in the societies: “Close plastic tap – Plastic does not belong to environment!” at the 10th EUSBSR Forum in Gdansk, 12-13 June 2019](#).

A seminar gathered over 100 participants from municipal and provincial authorities, academia, NGOs, media from the whole BSR and addressed both policy challenges as well as solutions, e.g. offered by the industry in reducing plastic inputs. One of the important discussions was related to municipal actions to minimise single-use plastic and [next steps in implementation of Single-Use Plastic Directive](#) at EU and the national level. The city of Gdansk [presented](#) their concept of Plastic Free City, to a large extent prepared in collaboration with CCB project partners, Polish Ecological Club.

- [XV UBC General Conference](#)
[Building an inclusive and resident-focused city. The Baltic way”](#) The Union of Baltic Cities is the largest municipal authorities network in the BSR that acts as one of the best fora for dissemination of knowledge and sharing experiences. Plastic Free Ocean project partners [presented](#) at the event good practices in St. Petersburg on addressing plastic pollution. PFO presented the PFO project at the Union of the Baltic Cities meeting in St. Petersburg in April 2019 and at the annual UBC conference in October 2019 in Lithuania. PFO and Clean Games was the only public organization who presented St. Petersburg at the conference. It was a big meeting of local authorities and NGO experts from all over the Baltic Sea Region countries. Their awareness of the problem and solutions has increased and hopefully they will support and initiate measures to reduce plastic pollution.

- [The conference of the European Marine Science Educators Association \(EMSEA\)](#), on the island of Sao Miguel (Azores) on September 16-20, 2019 - poster entitled "[Looking for effective methods of marine litter education - how to make a real difference?](#)" was presented.
- [Fifth HELCOM Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter \(WS RAP ML 5-2020\)](#), online, 12 October 2020 - Coalition Clean Baltic submitted and presented [5 recommendations resulting from Plastic Free Ocean Project](#).
- [13th Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area \(HELCOM PRESUSSURE\)](#), online, 13-16 October 2020

Some of the posters entitled "Looking for effective methods of marine litter education - how to make a real difference?"

PLASTIC FREE BALTIC project

The Plastic Free Baltic (PFB) project was implemented in 2017 by Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), as a reaction to the growing problem of plastic pollution in the Baltic Sea. The project aimed at providing knowledge and raising awareness on microplastics among society of the Baltic Sea region. It was based on several components, including both educational and scientific characters (Fig. 1).

For educational reasons, an open-access online course was prepared by the Polish Ecological Club (PKE)*. It was created in a cooperation with scientists and computer graphic designers, and translated into five Baltic Sea languages. Along with the course, lots of cosmetics containing microplastics were made by the countries involved. Lists are available online and supported by pocket informative materials for download (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1 Components of the PFD project

→ 5 languages of the Baltic Sea Region (English, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Russian)

→ Lectures, videos, graphics, tests, homework + certificate

ON-LINE COURSE LIST OF COSMETICS WITH PLASTIC

→ Specific cosmetics containing microplastics

→ Pocket leaflets with microplastics

Fig. 11-Poland, educational materials of the PFD project can be found in the ecological portal ElinAgres

*Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)-politically independent, non-profit association networking 12 organizations and 2 observers from the Baltic Sea Region Countries (Denmark, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine)

**Polish Ecological Club (PKE)- one of the oldest NGOs in Poland, united in a mission of fighting for nature preservation for the future generations, active member of CCB.

PLASTIC FREE OCEAN project

The Plastic Free Ocean - Plastic Free Ocean (PFO) project was implemented by CCB in 2019 as a continuation of the PFB project, as well as a support for the 2019 EU Plastics Strategy. The project is focused mainly on the single-use plastic (SUP) products and puts a lot of pressure on awareness raising. The program targets mostly the civil society and its active involvement. Thus, educational workshops and events are being organized from the beginning of the project, using various methods and reaching different age and social groups (Fig. 3-5). "Citizen science" works are also included, which consists of microplastic monitoring in rivers and collection of data on SUP products (Fig. 6). The project is ongoing and some activities are still under development.

→ Different types of EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

In 2019, Polish Ecological Club conducted several educational events within the PFO project. One of them was held in Szopet Rheumatological Hospital and was addressed to children (Fig. 3-5).

Fig. 3 Working on plastic in the sea with children from Szopet Rheumatological Hospital, July 2019

Fig. 4 Magnifying glass attached to a smartphone shows microplastics in a magnification workshop in Szopet Rheumatological Hospital

Fig. 5 Children's works concerning knowledge gained during the workshop in Szopet Rheumatological Hospital

→ SINGLE-USE PLASTIC products REPORTS by SOCIETY

Reports on SUP products found in everyday life are made by society on voluntary basis. The main point is to attract people's attention to the problem and to collect information on specific places where SUPs are used (Fig. 6). In the later phase of the project letters to the companies are planned.

No	Type of plastic product	Place	Date	Comments
1	Coffee and tea bags	Gdańsk, Poland	May 2019	Experiments and reports
2	Teabags	Gdańsk, Poland	May 2019	Experiments and reports, used labels (CCCB's list of plastic in SUPs)
3	Earplugs	Bydgoszcz, Poland	May 2019	Solid responses
4	Ice cream cones	Częstochowa, Poland	June 2019	Ice cream cones found in a large number of places

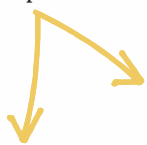
Fig. 6 Table prepared for volunteer monitoring of SUP with example entries made by Polish citizens

Activity 2.4 Organizing a seminar on Plastics&Toxics in the Baltic Sea

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the workshop “[Plastic Free Ocean –global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastics pollution](#)” was organized remotely via ZOOM and did not take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 18 March 2020 at Ecocentrum office.

See the following documents of the workshop: [Agenda](#); [List of participants](#); Presentations: from [Estonia](#), [from Poland](#) and [from Russia](#).

Event of “Plastic Free Ocean – global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastics pollution”



Activity 3.1 Public monitoring of plastic and microplastic in river catchment as a tool to raise local awareness about the plastic problem.

PFO have been working on organizing public monitoring of microplastic and macroplastic in several rivers and seashore in Poland, Estonia, Russia and Latvia:

- [In Poland monitoring of plastics and microplastics was investigated in small rivers.](#) In the Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship 6 regions were selected, in each region one person monitored a 2-kilometer section of 5 rivers. For each river 3 samples of microplastics were taken and analyzed using a phone magnifier. In total, 90 samples of microplastics were taken and 60 km of different rivers were monitored for the presence of microplastics and macroplastics in river water.
- In Estonia, a river microplastic workshop was run: equipment with a special layer of coffee filter at the bottom was used, then participants looked at the filter through a microscope.
- In Latvia, several activities of monitoring were carried out:
- VAK Participation [in the framework of the research project, which investigated the occurrence and amount of](#)

[microplastics particles in lakes of Riga and Pieriga in order to evaluate their potential impact on freshwater microscopic organisms.](#) VAK

participated as a volunteer sampling in 3 lakes in cooperation and guidance with the Latvian Institute of Hydroecology, which has started to implement a postdoctoral research project on the occurrence of microplastics in Latvian freshwaters.

- Educational Seminar and Workshop for coastal municipality teachers [“Integration of Environmental Actions and Coastal Pollution Monitoring Principles into School Programs”](#) with organizing practical public monitoring activities of plastic and microplastics on the coast of the Gulf of Riga was held on October 24, 2019. 20 teachers.
- organizing education lectures in several schools on plastic and microplastic pollution:
- Green lessons with lectures on microplastics 5.10.2019. Riga Classical Gymnasium – 35 students and teachers participated in the event.
 - A lecture for students of Jurmala private kindergarten at

Jurmala Environmental Education Center – 20 children:

- 5.02.20220. -6.02.2020. lectures for [Babite Primary and Secondary school](#) students,
- 11/29/2019 VAK representatives participated in a seminar and workshop group on coastal waste and information on microplastics, at the Ministry of Environment.
- In Russia, the results of five years of research on marine litter on the Gulf of Finland coast have been summarized. 10 marine litter surveys, explored 7 different beaches on the Gulf of Finland coast within St.Petersburg and Leningrad region have been provided. An [infographic](#) with Top-10 plastic pollutant goods was published. The selected top 10 plastic products are most often found as pollutants of the Baltic sea, so these items need to be dealt with. This data is the basis for state restriction of single-use plastics. The published infographic helps to promote zero waste concept and reusable alternatives, which can replace SUP.

Infographic with Top-10 plastic pollutant goods



- In Lithuania, investigating the amount of the waste on the bottom of lakes and seashore was conducted thanks to partnership with scuba divers. Also, scuba divers have started more actively participating in the clean-up campaigns.
- In Ukraine, Worldlab was prepared for training (March 2020) for schoolchildren of Sokal district on the harm of plastic waste to the environment and the refusal to use disposable plastic utensils and plastic bags. *However, the plans were affected by the COVID 19 pandemic and PFO partner could not hold any planned events. Communicated only through the Internet, but in such conditions promoted the rejection of plastic, especially since the actual such waste in a pandemic has increased (masks, gloves, syringes).*



Activity 3.2 Awareness-raising exhibition on Plastics/Toxics and Oceans Health in several BSR countries

Due to COVID restrictions the preliminary plan of travelling Exhibition has changed and PFO focused on another format of online “exhibition” which is closer to a long-term platform joining different people, professionals and activities for making our knowledge on urgent environmental issues wider. In a summary the activities can be reported as follows:

- Artist documenting conference with [sketch: different artists - different art perspectives on environmental issues](#).
- Fulfilling web page with: [Video-art, photos, documentation of installations, graphics](#)
- [Short Interviews/ Talks experts](#) and artists from 4 different countries on plastic pollution - to represent problems from experts point of view and to highlight local problems.
- [Online activities for children on land art](#): how to create art pieces during quarantine times without plastic or using old toys or old cloths to create new and environmentally friendly ones.
- promotion through social media ([instagram](#) and [facebook](#))

PFO partners supported the promotion of online exhibition, sharing posts on their social media and [a press release](#). Information was published in several newspapers in Latvia: eg.NTZ, [Ziemeļlatvija](#), “Praktiskais latvietis”.

Additionally partners from Latvia, Poland and Russia organized local exhibitions:

- Latvian Green belt organized [3 exhibitions in Latvia regarding single use plastic bags and their alternative offers](#); [2 exhibitions in Riga shopping malls](#) and one in Liepaja with audience about 500 000 who visited the malls. In cooperation with company «Multipack» and Latvian University of Life sciences and Technologies “Latvian Green belt” prepared 7 educational large size posters with information on alternatives to single use plastics exhibited in University, Faculty of Food Technology and in product exhibition hall of “Multipack” company.
- Friends of the Baltic (Russia) have developed **the educational exhibition “About plastic: from challenge to solutions”** in

cooperation with: *More Baltic Less Plastic project*. Exhibition included **4 stands with information** and 2 suitcases with **equipment for microplastics and marine litter monitoring** (both for the fieldwork and laboratory analysis), set of glass jars with **examples of microplastics** from various sources and **zero waste set**: examples of good practices to decrease plastic pollution (thermo cup, reusable bottle, textile bags, reusable shoe covers and replacement for polymer sponges for dishes -brush and jute loofa).

2 info centers were with the exhibition in St.Petersburg. One was placed in the center of the city in municipality Sennoy Okrug - **local people were educated** on the basis of this expedition - on ways to reduce waste, and particularly single-use plastics. Second infopoint with exhibition on plastic was placed in the largest center of environmental education in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region - **Ecology-biology center "Krestovsky island" of**

St.Petersburg Central Palace of youth creativity. To establish it there PFO had received positive recommendations from the St. Petersburg Nature Management Committee and approval from the St. Petersburg Education Committee. The official Opening of the center attracted a lot of attention from the media, even a video report about the opening was released.

- Polish Ecological Club organised an exposition with the boards [„How not to drown in plastic”](#) during the workshop "Feasting on the grass or about the art of picnicking" in one of the Gdańsk districts and in the media library in Gdańsk during Circular Week 2020. Additionally the comic about 4R rules was available in the printed version.

Exposition with the boards
„How not to drown in plastic”



Activity 3.3 To organize a final conference of the project

Coalition Clean Baltic and partners of [Plastic Free Ocean Project](#) held [the final conference](#) on 8 June 2020 from 14:00 to 19:00 CET and on 9 June 2020 from 9:00 to 14:00 CET, via Zoom. The aim of the conference was to address the growing pollution of the Baltic Sea (and through it – the world ocean) by single-use plastic items, primary and secondary microplastics, and associated toxic chemicals through a combination of policy-oriented measures, awareness-raising public campaigns, monitoring activities, assistance to identify target groups from private and municipal sectors in switching to plastic-free alternatives. On the first day PFO explored the issue of plastic pollution and its effect on our environment and life with presentations by scientists on the topic and discussions in breakout groups, concluding with a panel discussion on the future after the COVID-19 pandemic. 7 external specialist was invited and they prepared presentations as well as participated in the debate.

On the second day, PFO presented success stories of PFO project's Partners and considered the biggest challenges for Plastic Free Ocean. PFO discussed possible ways to reach a future free from plastic pollution, through moderated debate and talks in breakout groups. As part of the conference, a virtual screening of [The Story of Plastic](#) film was made available. PFO partners supported the organization, preparation and realization of the project's final conference through participation in pre-meetings, running a common campaign in social media (eg. [from Latvia](#)), sending the invitation in their countries, eg. to the members of the Round Table on Marine Litter (Germany) which led to a successful participation of several important organizations and administration from Germany. They [provided a report](#) after the conference.

Final conferenc of the
Plastic Free Ocean Project



PLASTIC FrEE Ocean - How not to drown in PLAsTic? WHAT is the DANGER coming from PLAsTICS?

It is expected that if the amount of plastic discarded does not decrease, soon there will be more plastic than fish in the seas

Plastic and microplastic are eaten by seabirds, fishes and marine organisms, poisoning them by penetrating the tissues and clogging the digestive tracts

Outputs

The project has led to a significant number of outputs in several spheres of the project activities. PFO partners implemented routines to assess various project-related indicators, including number of participants of project events, readers of materials, and etc. Indicators reported by particular partner can vary depended on specific activity and kind of aimed sphere of project (eg. one partner specialized with media activities, other with developing materials). PFO conduct regular PR and mass media monitoring, which gives us information about presence and visibility of project and specific project messages in the mass media, and in public discussions. There were 2 external factors, which influenced significantly on the project activities, and results: COVID-19 pandemic, and

start of political campaign in Belarus (presidential elections). Both these factors had a negative influence on project implementation.

Belarus - Center for Environmental Solutions (CES):

- Number of direct participants in various project events/direct recipients of project materials and information: 19.000
- Number of project events/activities: more than 50
- Number of project-related or project-initiated publications in mass media, and specialised websites: more than 50
- Number of readers/viewers of project-related publications: at least 200.000
- Number of organizations who decided to decrease/ban single-use plastic in their operations because of the project activities: at least 23 (schools, churches, HoReCa segment)
- Developed and utilized recommendations for various target groups on minimization of single-plastic use: 5
- Implemented public monitoring of plastic pollution in Belarus.

Friends of the Baltic, Russia:

- 7 materials were created/redeveloped/translated. Over 17,850 people saw the materials at least in social networks.
- 13 materials were published in various media channels during the

project-articles, interviews, videos, podcasts, TV programs, radio broadcasts. For example, RTR radio, where PFO were invited guests on the air, the daily audience of the radio is about half a million people.

- 26 educational events were held. Not counting particularly large events with more than 100 participants, 742 people took part in the events.
- almost 13,000 more people watched recordings of broadcasts, lectures and conferences. It feels like COVID and the ability to hold only online events even helped to increase the audience.

Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND):

- produced 12 documents in either German or English or both languages throughout the project period
- participated in 9 project meetings with all project partners throughout the project period
- The release of the „Ökotipp“ on the Brief Q&A on plastic and Covid-19 was well received in the media. It was accessed about 880 times within the first week and published on 41 Websites and Social-Media-Accounts.
- The German version of the consumer’s guide to microplastics

in cosmetics on BUND's website was downloaded at least 6.000 times within the last 12 months and is BUND's most accessed publication.

Latvian Green Belt:

- Produced 2 fact sheets/ infographics on single use plastic bags
- Produced 7 large size posters (exhibited in Latvian Technical University, Faculty of Food Technology and company "Multipack") on the ban of SUP products and available alternatives. Audience ~ approx.700 people.
- A movie on microplastic regarding (micro)plastic pollution in the TV story "Microplastic in Cosmetics" broadcasted in national Latvia television.
- 3 Awareness raising exhibitions on alternatives to plastic bag usage in the shopping malls with population which attended the exhibition exceeding 500 000 inhabitants.
- 300 posters for public transport shelters, 30 columns and 5 large format billboards have been prepared and displayed in Riga, Liepaja, Ventspils for Social campaign – I Have my own - #Coffee mug #Shopping bag #Water bottle. Total audience of outdoors media- above 700 000

people.

Environmental Protection Club (VAK), Latvia:

- organized campaign «Whatever you buy or taste, make no waste» for service providers :approx. 30 enterprises and institutions were directly involved and surveyed
- 500 table information stands as well as they displayed In Jurmala enterprises, institutions.
- App. 500 people were involved in educational activities. Amount of directly involved participants would be larger, but due to Covid 19, some activities were restricted in participant amounts.
- App. 30 teachers were educated
- App. 20 000 inhabitants were informed by newspapers articles.
- 2 draft regulations were supplemented with proposals on Plastic packaging and plastic bottle deposit issues.

Estonian Green Movement:

- Pupils with lectures: around 50,
- Bar and cafe owners: 31 people took part in the conference,
- No Plastic Challenge: 278 participants,
- Facebook post: more than 20 110 people reached information
- Tallinn Zoo birthday: 90 signatures were collected to appeal to the

government about Estonia's dated energy and waste treatment systems

- Plogging: around 50 people attended.

Lithuanian Fund for Nature:

- 8 interviews in TV reportage
- 21 posts reached more than 22500 people on social media
- 6 lectures

Western Center of World Laboratory:

- Up to 100 school children took part in the meetings.
- 60 people took part in the meeting of the National Ecological Council.
- invited representatives of the organizations (45 people in total) attended the two meetings of the Western Bug and Sian Basin Council together with the council members.
- At public meetings, information was provided for 100 people.

Polish Ecological Club Pomeranian Branch:

- 6 educational posters exhibited 2 times, [accompanying Circular Week 2020](#) – 3 weeks.
- Letters sent to: 82 [restaurants](#), 86 [guesthouses](#).
- Letter to the [Minister of Environment](#) concerning overpackaging of products.

- [Comic-booklets](#) “5R Rule” - 50 printed, available to download on EkoAgora.pl
- [Brainstorming workshop](#) - 5 moderators + 20 participants
- cooperation in the production of 2 films on local problems with plastic waste
- Facebook posts and publications on the portal ekoagora.pl; social media campaign: 137 posts reached 32500 people.

Online Exhibition / Ekokoncepcija:

- 4 - experts, 11 - artists from 6 countries were involved in project,
- 14 - materials at the exhibition,
- Accounts in Instagram and Facebook were established to promote the project in a wide international context.
- 1272 subscribers on the page in instagram, coverage of individual posts 9,500 / 6,200 views (more than 40 posts were published)
- 7 unique art projects were created and shown, 3 workshops for children were developed and filmed and 4 conversations between artists and activists were filmed.
- dedicated page in instagram and fb were made
- 2 types of press-releases for international and Belarusian media

Coalition Clean Baltic:

Coordinated project by joint and traditional channels, e.g. the dedicated [webpage](#) and project events shared in the [CCB's online calendar](#) and social media posts (see [Facebook](#) 2019, [Instagram](#) 2019, [Twitter](#) 2019 insights)

International conference “Plastic Free Ocean” Final Conference, June 8-9,2020. Online:

- 8 external experts were engaged in the conference
- Registration form had to be cancelled few days before the conference due to limit of participants on (zoom platform), around 60 % of registered people attended to live conference.
- all PFO partners attended the final conference
- 11 posts were published as social media campaign connected with final conference
- recordings are available online.

PLASTIC FREE Ocean - How not to drown in PLastic?

WHAT can YOU use INStEAd of single use plastic (SUP)?

Innovative materials and technologies



multi use, lightweight, durable, renewable materials consisting of cellulose fibrils on a nano scale



SCOBY

(Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast)

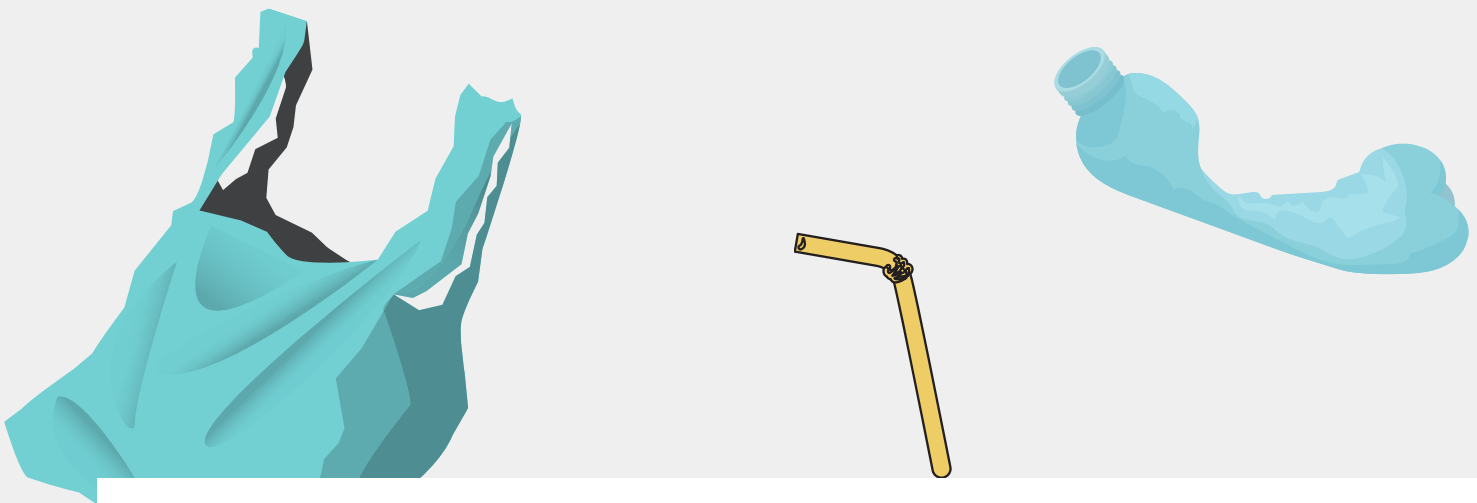
Multifunctional and quick to obtain material made from kombucha mushroom (specific conglomerate of fungi and yeast). It can be used to package food, extending its

Outcome

The project has made a qualitative improvement and raised awareness on SUP and microplastics, as well as alternatives to single use plastic products. Despite the fact that COVID-19 strongly rejected many years of work to prove the harm of single-use plastics, PFO have achieved great results in this project.

A challenge for the project was Covid-19 and the fact that during the project period single use plastic packaging for products even increased due to health and infection risks. It was a challenge, therefore all project partners made additional efforts and provided explanatory press releases in national languages and infographic on the use of SUP during the Covid-19.

One of the main obvious results is the **growing interest in the problem and its solutions**. Thanks to educational activities, more and more people are learning about plastic pollution and want to dive deeper into the issue and start solving the problem. So, the media respond to the request of the population and publish more and more news on the topic. Since the media is often not very immersed in the topic, they suggest to public experts to make comments. Our cooperation with the media in this project and in General on the topic of plastic pollution are leading to practical results. People join our activities, want to help promote solutions, and become translators of the knowledge that PFO carry. For example, Friends of the Baltic reported: *after the release of a podcast about plastic and microplastic*



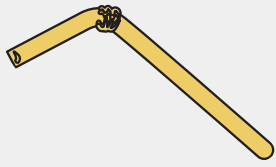
pollution, 4 persons came to the project manager with an aspiration to help, participate in a project and activity. 2 of them are currently helping with the management of the microplastics page in social network VKontakte which PFO are running as an educational resource. One girl is helping with distribution a petition prepared by us in partnership with other NGOs to restrict single-use plastic. One more girl came to us for face-to-face events.

Concrete examples of outcomes were reported by particular PFO partners:

- Environmental Protection Club, Latvia emphasized:
 - By conducting surveys in various non-environmental audiences (enterprises, etc.) in Jurmala, VAK was convinced that compared to 2018, the general awareness of population on plastic negative impact has

become higher and population is aware of SUP impact on the environment.

- In 2020 VAK revisited enterprises which were surveyed in 2019 and monitored the use of plastic products in these enterprises. It was monitored, that the usage of plastic products has decreased, and the cafeterias and are refilling drinks in the same glasses several times. The enterprises requested additional table information stands, as they considered them to be relevant in informing the population on the usage of SUP.
- Center for Environmental Solutions (CES) in Belarus concluded that:
 - New companies and organizations in Belarus (at least 23) started to voluntarily ban or significantly decrease the usage of single-use plastics

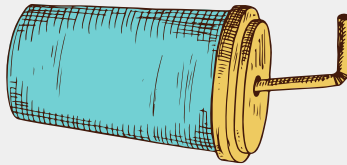
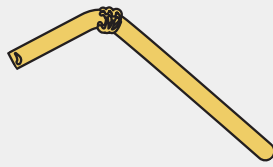


in their daily operation.

- Improved national regulation and legislation on plastic topic in Belarus, which now sets clear vision for limitation of single-use plastics and promotion of alternatives (biodegradable packaging, deposit schemes, improved technical regulation, and etc.)
- Limited the number of single-use plastic tableware, which are allowed in HoReCa in Belarus since Jan 21.
- The relation between toxics and plastics became more visible in public perception in Belarus.
- The implementation of the project in Ukraine contributed to the intensification of the process of citizens' perception of the importance and necessity of solving the problems of plastic impact on the environment and human health not only locally in

the Western Bug basin, but also regionally for the Baltic Sea and globally.

Online exhibition materials strengthened multidisciplinary relationships between artists and activists and highlighted environmental problems through the sources of “socially engaged art”. Artists who were outside the environmental agenda were influenced by the topic and planned to develop projects which were started within the framework of the exhibition. Roman Aksenov shooted a video project about a landfill near Minsk. Maria Znachenok and Maxim Kruk, inspired by the upcycling approach, plan to shoot and hold 2 more workshops for kids and parents, they also conducted offline workshops based on one they filmed for the exhibition. That was very important for us as curators to start work with 2 artists



that PFO did not know before: Sara Eckholm Ericksom from Sweden, Laura Ociepa from Poland. PFO did research to find them and to establish an appropriate communication for realisation of common projects.

As a side effect of the project, PFO improved our work with social networks. Our usual format of work via email and publishing on the website. But during the project, thanks to our partners and our planned activities, such as an information campaign, PFO realized that it is important to establish communication with the audience through social networks. Elizaveta Merinowa from Friends of the Baltic said: PFO started paying more attention to work with the public in VKontakte (Russian social network). PFO can attract new supporters and better distribute information about our activities, events, our publications, etc. PFO

started to publish information mostly in social networks. So, compared to the beginning of the project, the number of followers in our organization page has increased by more than 400 people. There is also a growth of the registrations to our events. Also, the cooperation between PFO partners had improved during the project, PFO partners were more and more willing to next online meetings and exchanged their experience among partners. Through cooperation CCB has significantly increased its internal capacity and experience to work on plastic issues.

PLASTIC FrEE Ocean

= How not to drown in PLASTic ?

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (CE)



Discover the ZERo
WASTE Lifestyle

FOLLOW the 5R Rule

REFUSE ↘
e.g. advertising leaflets
and disposable packaging

REDUCE ↘
the number of items
in your daily life

REUSE ↘
e.g. reusable packaging

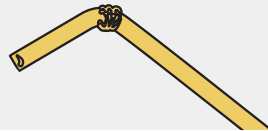
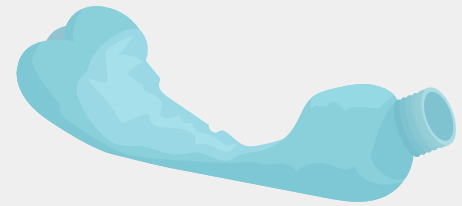
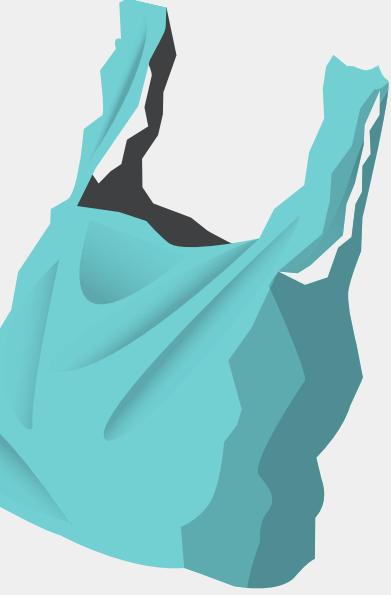
Long-term impact

Implementation of the project was contributing to fulfilling requirements of the EU Plastics Strategy in EU member states around the Baltic Sea, as well as contributing to creating a new policy agenda on plastics in non-EU Baltic countries (Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine), and thus will have a long term impact.

Developed and promoted within the project, pilot voluntary measures on phasing-out single-use plastics in many public sectors involved new organizations and companies into this work. PFO saw a significant interest from municipalities, and schools, which in general, tend to work on specific issues on a long-term period. Public awareness and capacity of environmental NGOs to work on plastics issues were increased.

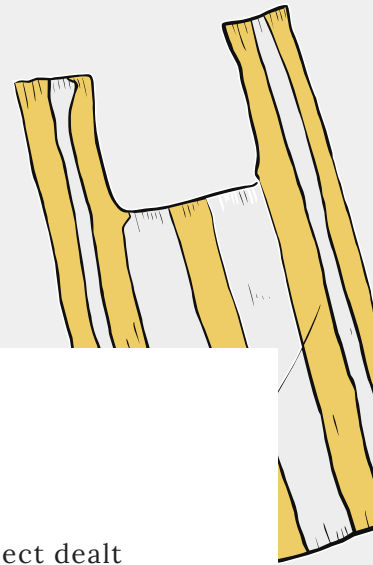
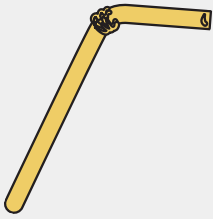
There is a growing pressure and demand from the public to authorities and businesses in all project countries to address the issue of plastic pollution and it will definitely contribute to sustainability of project results.

The project has contributed to minimization of plastic pollution of the global ocean by minimization of single-use plastic pollution of the environment and water resources in Belarus. It was done through successful contributions to **policy changes**, eg. in Belarus (ban of certain SUP products), successful involvement of various organizations, who decided to voluntarily limit usage of single-use plastics in their operations, and through increased public awareness about the topic.



All materials developed within the project will be in open use for all interested parties and can be useful even after the end of the project:

- The guide with sustainable practices for bars and cafes will continue to be used and developed. During working meetings with the owners of establishments, PFO realized that there is a request for help in switching to a more eco-friendly service. This is a great **start for a great future work on sustainability of the small business.**
- Prepared in the project educational exhibition on plastic and info centers will continue work. Ecology-biology center "Krestovsky island" plans to organize **regular tours on the exhibition** (for scholars, parents, teachers and all other guests of this center like the general public) and develop **special educational programs on plastic pollution** using info-center resources and our educational materials.
- Jointly developed materials (boards, comics, films) are generally available tools. Promoted on portals and in social media, they will serve not only PKE members but all interested parties. The educational materials are prepared in editable versions, in English, ready to translate into other languages used within CCB.
- Conclusions and suggestions developed together with the students as part of the workshop "how not to drown in plastic" opened their wider perspective of the problem of plastic waste. Sent to the EU has a chance to find fertile ground. German studies, eg. [Guideline for Municipalities](#), Revised [Consumer Guide](#) and policy brief ([ENG/GER](#)) on microplastics in cosmetics, policy briefs on plastic inputs from



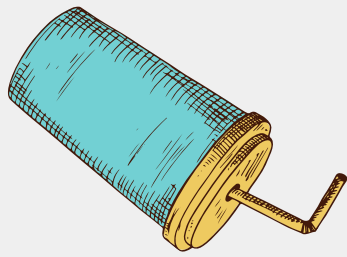
artificial turfs ([ENG/GER](#)) and from tyres ([ENG/GER](#)), as well as inputs to the [2019 Plastic Atlas](#) and to the [leaflet](#) and [brochure](#) on 11

Tips for Plastic-Free Living will form the basis for joint actions.

- The online exhibition will be continued to work after the completion of the project. Also, the platform developed for the exhibition will continue to be used and filled to similar interdisciplinary projects on the border of art and ecology, attracting new artists and revealing the topics of plastic pollution through art methods. Workshops can be used for educational purposes and in the future, can become part of educational programs for children and young people. Due to the easy to interact formats (video talks, infographics) very wide social groups can be involved in the project in future.

PFO partners within the project dealt with **education**, which is a long process. It requires constant stimulation, the formation of positive habits and the ability to easily apply them in everyday life. School is the place where changes begin, so PFO will see big practical results when students who have experienced and learned about plastic pollution grow up. Partner from Russia plan to continue **working on greening schools**. The developed strategy on the transition to a plastic-free existence of schools and the acquired cooperation with the partner SPARE project are the basis for this work.

Various **public sectors and industry** were encouraged to phase-out or limit application of plastic compounds. The positive aspect which is worth mentioning is that producers and resellers are continuously doing market research for more

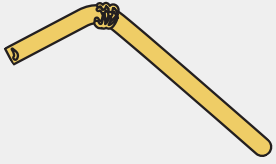


environmentally friendly alternatives for such products, and if SUP will be restricted, companies are ready to offer more environmental solutions. Some successful stories was emphasized by PFO partners in that matter:

- Within the project “Latvian Green belt” was successful in approaching several industrial enterprises, traders of plastic packaging and retailers, bringing the issue of single use plastic products on the table. “Latvian Green belt” produced together with production company “Multipack” and in co-operation with Latvia University of Life Sciences and technologies poster series on alternatives available instead of plastic products. “Latvian Green belt” had a meeting with plastic producers and retailers: General conclusion of the meeting was: the representatives generally agreed

that awareness on the negative impact of SUP (single use plastics) has increased among the general population, and it has certainly a negative impact on the environment. They would be ready to sell more environmentally friendly products, but as there is still demand for such cheap plastic products from consumers, they are not ready to stop selling them individually until these products are restricted by law, because if they stop doing it individually, they lose market share.

- With the assistance of WorldLab from Ukraine, Interlogic company (where Adrian Hrytsyshyn works) has undergone significant changes in the treatment of disposable plastic waste. Garbage cans were installed for separate garbage collection, instead of using disposable cups, reusable ceramic cups were purchased, and ceramic



cups were purchased, and ceramic plates were also purchased.

PFO partner's organizations declared to continue the work with the topic of plastic pollution in the future, to maintain the achieved results, and to push for more progress. Eugeny Lobanow from CES said: "PFO plan to continue working with all project components, and to support their proper implementation in Belarus".



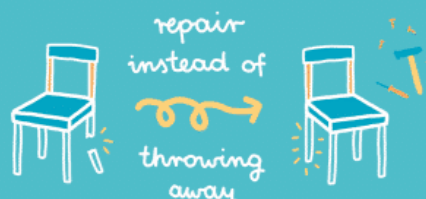
use your own vegetables and fruits bags



buy loose products



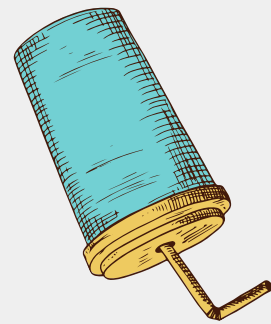
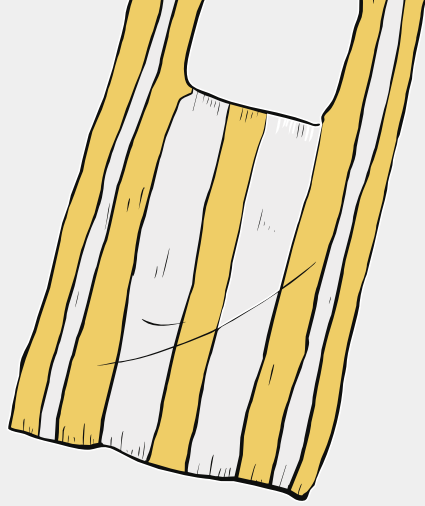
do not use



Specific evaluation

See the full version of the below summary table [here](#)

Number of people reached by the plastic-free Baltic State Region Campaign (target 100 000 in at least 8 countries)	855249
Number of national lists produced of single-use plastic Products/processes (target at least 7)	7
Number of actors who have decided to decrease/ban usage of single-use plastic products after work of project partners (target 5)	29
Progress on advocacy work for the implementation of the EU strategy and directive	fulfilled
Number of participants at the plastics and toxics seminar	ca. 1000 views online
Number of people who have seen the open-air exhibition (target 2500 people in each of the at least 4 countries)	1272 and 138 subscribers on Instagram and Facebook; 9,500 reach and 6,200 views



Generally the project was implemented as planned.

The Covid 19 pandemic forced the finalization of certain activities into the virtual environment. Project coordinator regularly communicated with project's partners. Online meeting with partners was organised on specific occasions and one per month on the last stage of the project.

The second day of the final conference was dedicated to summarising the project achievements, evaluation, experience and lessons learned exchange. Every partner prepared a presentation about main success, but discussion was also organised in breakout rooms. Conference was open to the public.

Minor deviations due to **Covid-10 restrictions** - some open attendance events were substituted by media campaigns or informative press releases. These modifications have not left any important consequences on project implementation or results.

Together with project partners, PFO planned a workshop to meet and exchange experiences within the framework of the international forum Baltic Sea Day, but the event was canceled by the organizers in March 2020. PFO decided to organize a workshop online form: [Plastic Free Ocean – global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastics pollution](#), and this gave rise to a tradition of meeting online and exchanging experience more often during the last stage project (usually one meeting per month). [Plastic Free Ocean Final Conference](#) was also conducted online.

The COVID 19 pandemic has affected not only our work, but also the work of our target groups. For example, bars and cafes that PFO worked with were closed during some especially dangerous periods of the pandemic. After they returned to work,

consumers began attacking them with requests for disposable items. And they had to cancel already implemented measures to reduce single-use plastics. Together with our project partners, PFO considered that it is important to react and inform the wide public and our target groups that disposable is not safer than reusable. PFO have released an infographic with questions and answers about reusable and the pandemic on national languages. And while many people still remain skeptical about the safety of reusable, our personal contacts in bars and cafes tell us that fewer and fewer people are asking for single use explaining it as a more safe option in pandemic.

In Belarus it was quite difficult to operate in 2020 because of COVID-19 and political electoral campaigns, which led to decreased number of conducted communications PR events, especially in physical form. That especially affected to Belarusian partner responsible for the PFO exhibition. They've reported it accordingly:

- The first challenge PFO faced preparing the Project release was the Global Pandemic situation with COVID which interrupted and shifted our plans for face-to-face collaboration with artists and environmentalists in a certain context. PFO changed the format of the project and re-established the “Travelling Exhibition” to Online art and Educational Platform “Live in / Leaving”. As a result the time PFO spent in online communication and the process of video editing was increased and prolonged 2-3 times as expected.
- The second challenge was the political situation in Belarus which has become a main factor that changed our daily life processes, especially from August till October, completely. According to the fact that our team (two curators and team lead were Belarusians and Minsk based) the social and political situation influenced us totally. PFO participated in civil protests and peaceful marches and environmental topics have become an issue of our political fight for law, right and freedom as well. Working in the context of danger and stress influenced the timeline compliance as well. More over our team leader Irina Sukhiy was sentenced for 12 days and it was a shock for all of us.
- The third problem that should be mentioned was concerning the release of online sound performances and zoom activities which PFO decided to deny for the reason of its complicated technical dimensions. It was inevitably difficult for us to coordinate all participants of the process. To gather all people at one time has become a real challenge.

PLastic Free Ocean – HOW NOT to DROWN in PLASTIC?

Let's take HoliStiC ApproACH to achieve mutual success!

ECONOMICS

subsidies and tax reductions for those using alternatives to plastic

financing research works

standardization of packaging and optimization of its consumption

spreading the concept of "sharing economy"

introduction of tax breaks, grants, awards for entities – subsidies for producers of raw materials, resources; Research

common standards on regulations

LAW

permanent law; unambiguous, understandable, uniformed texts of provisions regarding the sphere of waste

standardization of materials and plastics, increasing recycling possibilities

packaging derived from one raw material, easy to recycle with dimensions

Challenges

The biggest challenge for all partners was the unexpected **pandemic of COVID19**. A large number of face-to-face events planned in the project have become impossible to hold. But PFO were able to quickly rebuild and change the formats of activities so that PFO could achieve our planned goals. This challenge has given us a lot of experience in dealing with stressful situations, and PFO have become more adapted to external changes. For example, this understanding was practically implemented in the extension of the project deadlines. It seems that this substitution is even beneficial because it has resulted in more durable products that everyone can use in future activities (online exhibition, comics, film...).

Because of the global pandemic, both the Workshop "Plastic Free Ocean – global and holistic solutions in the fight against plastic pollution" and the PFO final conference of the project had to be arranged digitally. This challenge was perfectly dealt with but it was difficult to reach the same amount of exchange and interaction between the participants.

For partners from Belarus the greatest challenge was: difficult internal **situation in Belarus**, which also led to the problem of relatively low level of political and public interest in the topic. The organization from Belarus responsible for online exhibition gave a feedback that: "Not every step PFO planned before could be released in a way PFO planned. For instance, PFO could not have enough talks

and communication with participants also because of Internet blocking in Belarus from the authorities. During the whole process of project realisation PFO were forced to be adapted to new circumstances which sometimes changed our plan completely. For example, PFO decided to concentrate on workshops and talks between artists and environmentalists more than on art itself. The schedule of the project was also influenced to be changed because of illnesses of participants or shifting their plans and so on. Most of our friends, colleagues and even our Team Lead were arrested and stayed in prison sometimes within a couple of weeks. Which precisely influenced the schedule of the project. The big number of participants involved in the Project from different countries also put restrictions to our success”.

Other types of challenges was reported in the relation to the whole period of project:

- One of challenges regarding SUP and alternatives was that this issue on alternatives is not well studied and information about PLA cups and other possible alternatives can be dual regarding their friendliness to environment, therefore speaking about best alternatives for SUP

products, PFO really need more scientific advice, therefore for the next project phases, PFO would definitely foresee some scientist consultancy.

- Another challenge was the process of implementation of the EU Single-Use-Plastic Directive in Germany. Since during the project period most of the work, done on the implementation, was realized by German authorities and administration. Therefore the main goal on this issue was to accelerate this process.
- The challenge of the project was to create public interest in microplastics, because the public feels that if the problem is so minimally visible, then it may not exist at all.

Satisfactory, PFO got opinion from PFO partners that project management, controlling and monitoring systems worked as intended and satisfactorily.

PFO would like to thank the donor, who was open to discuss changes in the primal project plan.

In general PFO interacted with **project partners** through e-mail, zoom calls, shared dropbox, etc. with the coordination of the lead project manager. As a result PFO exchanged a lot of materials and translated it into national languages. PFO partners prefer personal meetings than contact by the internet. PFO got advice from Elizaveta Merinowa that “energy exchanges must exist for project partners when the pandemic ends. Live meetings give more motivation, inspiration and team cohesion”.

In several countries PFO saw interest in the project and co-operation with CCB local partners from **business** (including hotels, and restaurants), **specific local groups** (churches, charitable organizations). CCB and PFO Partners facilitated establishment of some new partnerships, while on the other hand some old established partnerships have been developed and got new formats during the course of the project. In the opinion of Aija Caune - CCB Chairperson: *“partnerships are needed to reach a bigger audience and resonance”*. Worth to emphasize selected partnerships formed by PFO project are:

- CES (Belarus) on the national level became a partner of the United Nations Development Program, which decided to launch a Platform on Plastic to facilitate the national stakeholders dialogue. They established cooperation with state organization Operator for secondary material resources, and the Ministry of the Environment of Belarus. Good co-operation was with Gymnasium #19.
- Friends of the Baltic (Russia) joined **«Alliance against burning, for recycling of waste»** - it is a union of Russian NGOs working on waste. Alliance is working on National Level and includes such organizations as GreenPeace Russia, Razdelny Sbor (they promote separate waste collection and recycling), ECA (environmental NGO who organize big events on waste topic), Center of Resource Economy (promote zero waste concept). They joined the Memorandum of Alliance. As part of Alliance’s joint work, is lobbying for legal restrictions on single-use plastics in Russia. They have made

several information campaigns and appeals to the Ministry of natural resources.

- Friends of the Baltic (Russia) worked with schools to reduce single-use plastic and managed to have an excellent collaboration with the **SPARE project**. SPARE is Russia's largest educational project for schoolchildren and teachers on climate change and the environment, on simple measures of energy efficiency and saving of resources. Strategy for educational institutions to reduce single-use plastic prepared in the PFO project now is distributed through the interested Russian schools from the SPARE project. The PFO project offered to add plastic components to SPARE competition and among the winners of 2020th year there are school projects on marine litter monitoring and reducing SUP.
- Cooperation with DD Academy in Estonia:
DD Academy is a non-profit organisation that holds a program where participants can develop soft skills. Estonian Green Movement gave them a problem: how to get local governments to implement microplastic separation from run-off water as a part of the water treatment plan. Their answers: local governments don't

implement anything this big without governments injunctions. Also, they offered that PFO use CCB's existing materials, translate them and make well informed material that is in collaboration with the government.

- Latvian Green Belt invited various cooperation partners to join organized events, e.g., Latvia wide contests regarding single use plastic bags - design contest was organized in cooperation with the State Education Center, Fashion and Entertainment and shopping Centre "Riga Plaza", Ogre State Technical School, Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Latvia State Nature Museum. In "Plastic Free picnic" they've cooperated with Association "Baltic mermaids".
- Polish Ecological Club strengthened good contacts with partners, members of CCB, Zero Waste Poland, European Environmental Bureau, Ambasada Czystej Planety, Centrum Informacji i Edukacji Ekologicznej, Fundacja Rozwoju Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, ELCEN Sp. z o.o., Baltic Clean Games, Voivodeship Gdańsk City Public Library. Additionally partnership with Gdansk University; Departments of Chemistry, Law, Economy, Social sciences, Biology in brainstorming

workshop and monitoring plastics and microplastics in small rivers was created.

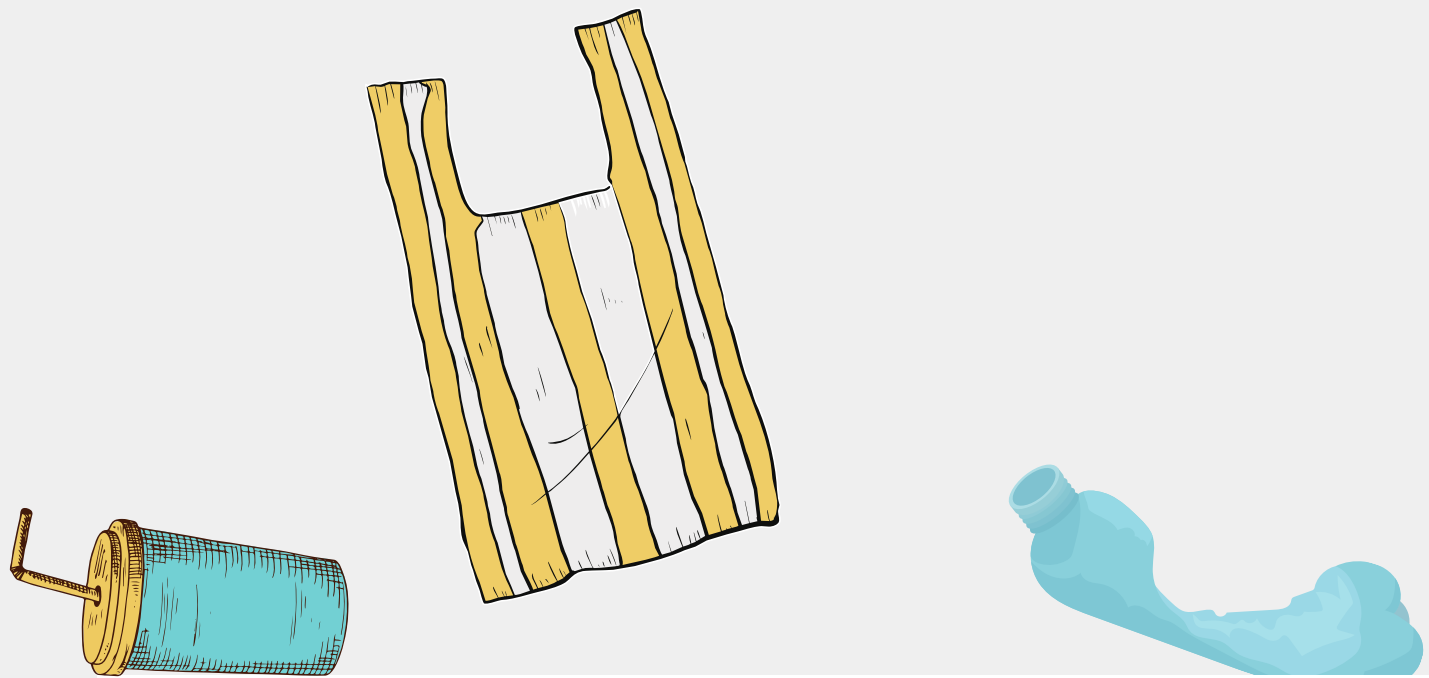
- Lithuanian Fund for Nature (LFN) continued and strengthened partnership with: deputy chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Parliament Mr. Simonas Gentvilas, scuba divers, Institute for Green Policy, Ms. Rasa Tumaševičiūtė - a big enthusiast of sustainable lifestyle, producer and broadcaster of the program "Aplinka 1.5" (Environment 1.5.) in Start FM 94.2., school for cosmetologists "Art of Beauty".

One partner - Ekokoncepcija responsible for online exhibition joined the team of PFO partners in the last stage of the project. That's the reason why they've reported that at the beginning of the project they did not know participants from Poland, Sweden and Ukraine. Finally they were satisfied because the artists from Sweden and Poland became a real partner for them, which allows them to reach very important results for any project - sustainable partnership and interaction. They are still on tune with everybody on social media, exchanging information and news, sharing project posts and supporting each other.

The project activities in several countries and CCB work on plastic in general have been also presented to several other funders - Plastic Solution Fund, UNDP, SIDA. PFO also observe interest from national politicians to the project in Belarus, Lithuania, and Latvia, and from regional politicians - in Poland, Ukraine, Estonia, Russia, Germany.

Latvian Green Belt of Latvia broadened project idea on microplastic and raised issue of "Microplastic in cigarette butts" by attracting additional financing source and implementing supplementary project on cigarette butts.

Finally, the partners agreed that the cooperation with various partners from the project was productive and constructively friendly and they've enjoyed partnership.



Lessons learned

It is very important to find/have a good balance between different types of project activities, especially, policy and education. PFO learned that PFO can make a resonance and awareness, but it takes years to make a change in legislation or people behavior. So it is step by step work, PFO need to make intense continuous pressure to reach any significant change for our better future and environment. And it is not just a project based event, PFO should seek continuous support to reach our common goals. PFO also learned that the team spirit from our international team group offered us extremely valuable experience sharing possibilities. PFO learned from each other by doing and learning.

Cooperation in international teams gave the possibility to look at the wide

range of methods used in each country.

PFO got different thoughts from individual countries, eg.:

- From Russian side, PFO realized that legislative regulation and support of the government for actions to reduce plastic is very important for solving the problem. Unfortunately, in Russia, unlike in the European Union, there are still no restrictions on the production and sale of single-use plastics. Moreover, the government promotes and supports incineration as the main solution to overcome the waste crisis. PFO realized that public actions and rare business initiatives alone are not enough and started lobbying for plastic restrictions.

PFO conducted several information campaigns and launched a petition for limiting single-use plastic in Russia together with colleagues from leading Russian public organizations on the waste issue. Now the work on collecting votes continues, but PFO found out that such work is very necessary now in our country thanks to this project.

- Accordingly activity 3.1. «Public monitoring of plastic and **microplastic** in river catchment as a tool to raise local awareness about the plastic problem», a lot of public **microplastics monitoring** events and training sessions for public observers. This activity causes quite a large response, especially among activists and teachers and schoolchildren. But obviously, these data are difficult to interpret as valid results and compare with scientific ones. The most important thing that PFO have achieved over the years with microplastics monitoring is that now almost all research institutes and universities dealing with environmental issues started to work on the microplastics issue and develop more scientific research.

Therefore, PFO concluded that PFO will continue to provide expert and resource support to beginner researchers, promote the methodology of public research and the data map, but PFO will not aim to involve as many people as possible in research. Now, thanks to us, professionals are doing this, and their research is much more accurate than public research. Therefore, PFO will use public research as a tool to show and to engage in the problem, but on a smaller scale than before.

- PFO have found that a **small-scale educational material with a good design, interactive details and small amount of text** is perceived much better by any audience. Exhibition developed by Russia of 4 stands with a set of reusable alternatives to disposable plastic and a set of equipment for researchers became very popular and requested by NGOs, educational organizations and local citizens. It was printed and used at educational events by friendly Russian NGOs from Arkhangelsk, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad and reformatted and translated into Lithuanian by the project partner.

- The Polish partner recommended the Metaplan method run in a multidisciplinary group, because it gives special and rich outcomes.
 - The Ukrainian Partner focused on communicating with groups of people of different ages, which distinguishes different visions and awareness of their place in approaches to solving the problem of growing water pollution by plastic. They concluded that: *“each generation has its own unique features, due to the era, social norms and technologies. The generation of 50-70 years of the last century mentally gives priority to the economy of society. The solution to the problem of plastic waste pollution is seen by them at the level of government and management institutions. In our opinion, a common alternative for people of different generations to behave with plastic products may be the ideology of pollution prevention and waste minimization”*.
 - One partner from Latvia stated that: *“At the start of a project, the project budget must be relatively flexible so that it can be adapted to the situation. Although there is a tendency in project reports to seek for a significant number of informed people in communication*

about specific project issues, in the opinion of VAK the most effective method was direct contacts with residents or company representatives, because then feedback can be obtained from interviewed or educated project participants. When involving students in a project, it is important to provide opportunities for students to participate practically, as this will help students to learn better”.

- Special case was observed in Belarus, because of stressful social and political situations. They've learnt the skill of flexibility and are ready to react and re-establish their first plan to another. They did not give up and reduced the quantity of materials for the project and made them all. Sometimes in modified format but it was important to complete the project. They realise also that the video production demands more time for work, first of all technically. They concluded: *“Our managing skills were also forced to be more effective. Especially in a time and situation when PFO all were located in different places, countries and social contexts. But anyway it made us stronger and still open for new adventures and collaborations”*.

BUDGET



Deviations and financial monitoring

The budget was realistic.

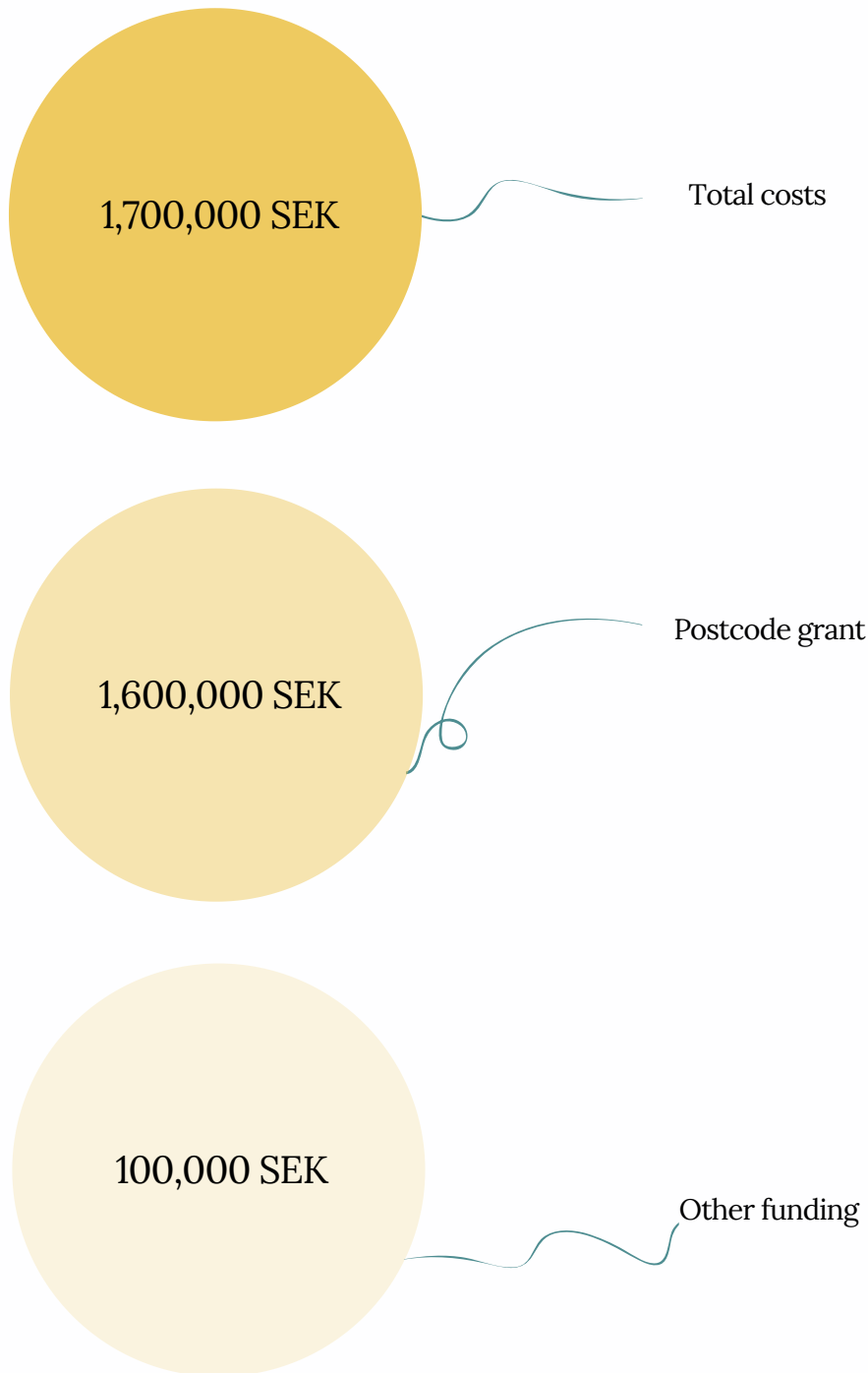
A few not significant deviations had to be done in the project implementation in comparison with the agreed application. The implementation of the prolonged project hit a very difficult time related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore part of the funds allocated to direct actions were transferred to various online activities. Delays in implementation of some of the activities in comparison with the original time frame was resulted by:

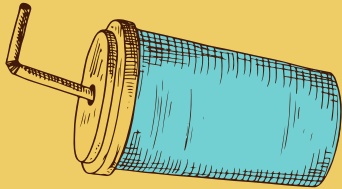
- Project partners needed more time to advance policy work on plastic in some of the countries, and it took longer time with setting-up voluntary phase-out projects. It gets quite slowly with national implementation of the EU Plastic Strategy in many countries,

because of the low national capacity, and therefore it took longer time for project partners to achieve results.

- Personal capacity of first PFO project manager due to personal reasons. Second PFO project's coordinator was not experienced with coordination of international projects, but had the possibility to consult work with previous coordinator and CCB secretariat.
- PFO requested prolongation of the project for the first time for 2 months due to above reasons.
- PFO requested prolongation of the project for a second time for 3 months second time due to COVID reasons and adjustments of some activities into online space, especially PFO online exhibition.

Budget





COMMUNICATION

General communication activities

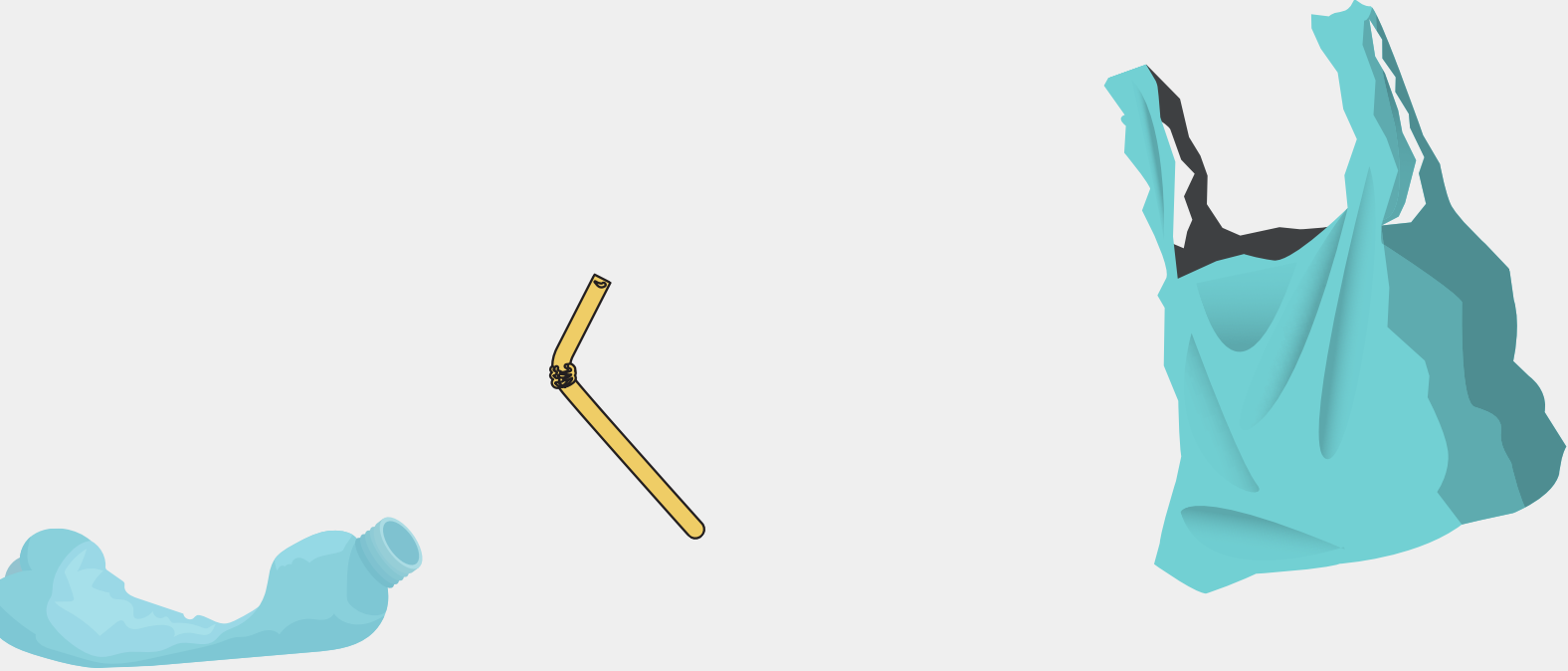
Information about the project was spread by many communication activities. They have been carried out through existing CCB's communication channels – mainly website and social media, as well as printed publications and open advocacy at various events. Types of communication media depended on target audiences – e.g. more popular and attractive materials were used for the general public and more informative – for decision-making. PFO have created a good flow of communication between partners and wider networks of stakeholders in the field.

The project activities, and results have been featured in national mass media. Coherent graphic image and **logo**, consistently used and clearly signaling to target groups what the project is

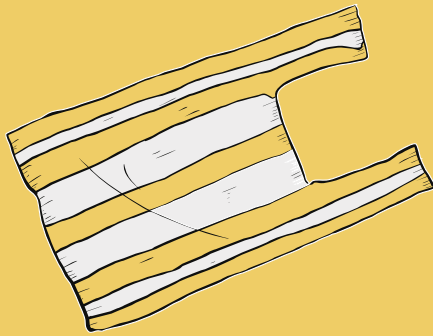
about.

Information about the project was reached by different channels depending on the target group and the country, description of communication activities has been shown on the previous parts of the report.

Finishing the report, thanks from one project partner should be mentioned: *Lithuanian Fund for Nature wants to thank you all for being a big part of our journey to “Plastic Free Ocean”! PFO are happy that during various lectures at public events, lessons at schools, interviews you have learned more about plastic pollution, microplastic (those small invisible plastic particles) and how it affects not only us, but most importantly the environment around*



us. PFO are proud to see the curiosity of children when they see the invisible world through the microscope lens for the first time, which inspires them from young days to take care of the environment. PFO are glad that showing you even small lifestyle changes, joint initiatives, community support, even raising questions can help take care of clean rivers, Baltic Sea and the oceans together. **Sincere communication, open discussions and great enthusiasm inspire us to take even bigger steps towards reducing plastic pollution and safer environment.**



PARTNERS OF THE PROJECT

Organisations involved in the project

Coalition Clean Baltic

The Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)

CCB is a regional network of grassroots environmental NGOs committed to the protection and improvement of the environment of the Baltic Sea catchment area. This network includes members from outside the EU, in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Cooperation is built on the idea that national NGOs need international representation and cooperation to strengthen their impact on policy development and implementation. The CCB Secretariat serves the following; to be a focal point for the network; to form a link between governance at the international and regional level to the national level and to spread relevant information to all members; to represent the network member NGOs internationally; to develop common positions and responses to consultations; to help with capacity building activities; to spread information about the activities within the networks' member organisations; to find funds to support activities in member organisations; and of course to keep the network cooperation working with an active board that meets three times a year and an annual meeting gathering all member organisations. An important part of the CCB network, besides the environmental aspects of policy development and implementation, is the basic function to uphold and develop the capacity of civil society to participate in their own governance and decision-making.



BUND

BUND, the German branch of Friends of the Earth, was founded in 1975 as a federation of pre-existing regional groups. The organisation is one of the most influential environmental organisations in Germany. BUND has 390,000 members and supporters. Members are active in some 2,200 local and regional groups, involved with everything from lobbying work to practical nature conservation. BUND works on all of today's major environmental issues and is a well-recognized lobbyist with a high media profile. In order to promote nature conservation, BUND carries out specific, topic-based campaigns every year. Not only are their groups influential on the local level, they also enable BUND to mobilize mass support on the national level.

BUND has long participated in Baltic Sea protection activities and is continuously working on various topics, from safer shipping, threats due to overfishing, offshore energy generation to marine and coastal nature protection. BUND is a long-time member of the Coalition Clean Baltic.



The Center for Environmental Solutions

The Center for Environmental Solutions is a non-profit non-governmental institution established in 2009. The CES mission is to promote an environmentally friendly lifestyle and principles of sustainable development, development of international cooperation for the conservation of the environment. CES is actively involved in international efforts to protect the environment and human health. In its activities, the Center for Environmental Solutions uses variety of methods to promote the ideas of environmental protection: from children's interactive exhibitions to regional infrastructure projects in cooperation with local authorities. In addition to the active work to educate and inform the population, CES is proactive in promoting environmentally-friendly solutions at the legislative level in Belarus, carrying out serious analytical work on ecologically significant questions. In addition CES and its dedicated staff is actively involved in CCB's Water Programme for Belarus, Hazardous Substances, Litter and Pharmaceutical' work.



Estonian Green Movement

Estonian Green Movement-FoE is a non-governmental, non-profit environmental organization. It was founded in 1988, becoming one of the first environmental NGOs in Estonia that started to deal with a wide range of environment and development issues. Estonian Green Movement-FoE rapidly developed into a nationwide grassroots organization. Subsequently, Estonian Green Movement-FoE earned credit as a leader in the Estonian independence movement. In its activities the Estonian Green Movement-FoE is backed by nation-wide active network of more than 1000 individual members. Today Estonian Green Movement is one of the most influential environmental groups in Estonia, raising environmental awareness among public, pushing government for strong policy and being quite visible in national media. Its activities are carried out in framework of environmental awareness, environmental policy and nature conservation.



Friends of the Baltic (FoB), St Petersburg, Russia

FoB is a non-governmental non-profit youth environmental organization. Founded in 1994 in Lomonosov FoB has 167 members and more than 250 teachers and 3.000 schoolchildren and students of St. Petersburg and Leningrad oblast are involved in the “Friends of the Baltic” actions and projects. FoB is an inter-regional organization. It has departments in St. Petersburg and in three provinces of Leningrad oblast (Lomonosov, Kipen, Primorsk). FoB projects are devoted to protection of the Gulf of Finland ecosystem and networking in the Baltic Region. It’s activities include: environmental education for children and youth; information-methodical support for teachers; networking of teachers, mothers and youth NGOs on the Gulf of Finland shores; schoolchildren ecological monitoring on the Gulf and small rivers shores; youth nature protection actions on the coastal areas of the Gulf and small rivers; informing people on the environmental situation in the Baltic region, educating them on the environmental friendly lifestyle; supporting local sustainable initiatives.



Ecopartnership, IPO

IPO “Ecopartnership” was created as a non-governmental non-profit organization in Minsk, Belarus in 2000, with the aim to improve the awareness of environmental issues and the need to save nature resources for present and future generations.

The organizations carry out activities in the fields of:

- sustainable development at the local level
- waste management
- water management and eco-sanitation
- ecological education
- toxic chemicals



Lithuanian Fund for Nature

(Lietuvos gamtos fondas, LGF) is a non-governmental nature conservation organisation that aims to encourage and support nature protection and the sustainable development of Lithuania. Established in 1991, the LGF became the first non-governmental environmental organisation and has since operated over 25 projects. The Lithuanian Fund for Nature was established as a support and charity organisation by 30 nature conservation specialists, non-governmental organisations and business representatives. The founders' annual meeting is the highest management body of the LGF. The meeting elects the LGF Board of 11 members to perform the LGF management. The Board then approves programs, projects, elects the head of the administration (Executive Director) and a financier. The Director heads the LGF management, implements policy, represents the LGF abroad and coordinates all activities in relation to programs and projects.



Polish Ecological Club Pomeranian Branch

Founded in 1980, the Polish Ecological Club (Polski Klub Ekologiczny-PKE) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit environmental organization founded in Krakow. PKE is active in promoting sustainable development and improving the state of the environment in Poland. The main goals are:

- Environmental education - spreading knowledge about our impact on the environment,
- Educational project - raising people's awareness to stop antropopression,
- Organize workshops, debates, training, and conferences,
- Participate in national and international conferences and organize workshops and educational booth,
- Educational projects (EkoAgora and WebBaltica).

Polish Ecological Club is also working with a strategy to influence consumers to make the right choices. This has focused on laundry detergents, bleachers and washing-up liquid.



Environmental Protection Club of Latvia (VAK)

VAK-FOE Latvia is a non-governmental non-profit making organisation. The aim of VAK is to involve inhabitants in environmental protection, to stop pollution, to promote healthy environment, to care about friendly relationships between people and environment, to promote human rights, democracy and non-violence, to involve people of different nationalities, religions and political parties in environmental and social activities. It was founded in 1987 and has 3.000 members. The national office has 3 staff.

Fields of activity: promotion of democratic principles and citizens' involvement in the decision-making processes, environmental protection, promotion of green lifestyle, sustainable development, green counties, clean-ups, alternative agriculture, forestry, sustainable energy, protection of Baltic Sea, environmental education at all levels, eco-technologies, actions against pollution, lobbying etc.



The Western Centre of the Ukrainian Branch of the World Laboratory (WCUBWL)

The WCUBWL is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, established 1992, as an independent Branch of the World Laboratory with the main seat in Lausanne (Switzerland). The goal of the organisation is to join the efforts of Ukrainian and foreign scientists to solve the topical problems in the field of the environment protection, economics, education and engineering, including those under international projects. In addition to a full-time staff of 6 people, WCUBWL works in cooperation with more than 50 persons, including doctors of sciences, engineers and volunteers. The priority directions of WCUBWL activity are the following: Development and execution of regional, national and international projects and programs, conferences, workshops and trainings; Development of projects aimed at solving the environmental problems of the Western Ukraine; Activity for incorporating information and education activity among population and within the Ukrainian industrial sector on the problem of environmental protection; Development of the Local environmental action plan.



„Zaļā josta” Ltd

„Zaļā josta” Ltd. is a Latvian company that cares for clean Latvia and responsible business activity. The goal of „Zaļā josta” Ltd. is to form a society in which entrepreneurs take responsibility and care for collection and recycling of used packaging, environmentally harmful products and electrical appliances used or generated by them as well as to educate and motivate members of this society to sort their waste and to dispose of them in designated places and to have a caring attitude towards natural resources in general.

„Zaļā josta” gives significant contribution to environmental education of all segments of society including large scale competitions for youngest generation, enhancement of level of environmental knowledge of teachers as well as campaigns comprising whole society, paying special attention to environmentally active citizens.

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Coalition Clean Baltic

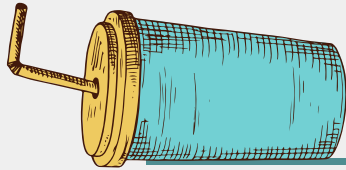
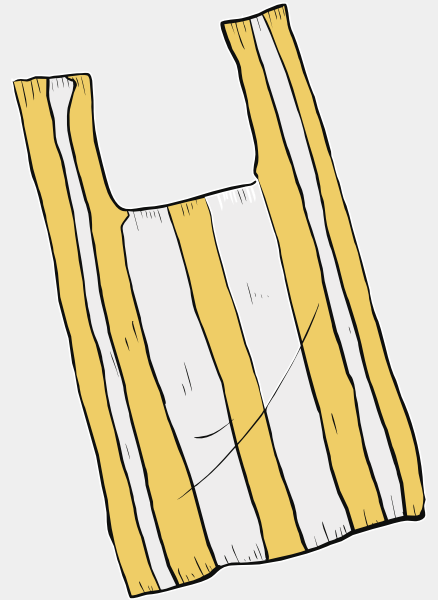
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