

BLUEISLANDS

Seasonal variation of waste as an effect of tourism





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Malta, September 26, 2018



BLUE ISLANDS IN A NUTSHELL

The BLUEISLANDS project aims to identify, address and mitigate the effect of the seasonal variation of waste generated on Mediterranean islands as an effect of tourism.

By improving knowledge about waste streams, building common guidelines and improving synergies among MED islands' communities, BLUEISLANDS project aims to fuel local loops of circular economy and promote sustainable tourism patterns.



BLUE ISLANDS IN A NUTSHELL

Funding approval in 2016;

Project Duration: 2016-2019;

Total Budget: EUR2.75m

Partners: 14



BLUE ISLANDS PARTNERS

- Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Department of Environment, Cyprus (Lead Partner)
- Wasteserv Malta
- Rhodes Municipality, Greece
- Region of Crete Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning, Greece
- Municipality of Mykonos, Greece
- Network of the Insular CCI of the European Union, Greece
- Primorje and Gorski Kotar County, Croatia
- Taormina Etna Consortium, Italy
- Sardinia Region VET Department, Italy
- EA Eco-Entreprises, France
- Autonomous University of Barcelona Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Spain
- National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences, Italy
- Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource Management, Belgium
- Council of Mallorca Environment Department, Spain





Studying Phase





Sand surveys were carried out at the following beaches in March, May, June, July, August, September and November 2017:

- Golden Bay (highly touristic)
- Gnejna Bay (remote)
- Marsaxlokk (mostly visited by locals)

The samples which were collected from 100m portions of sand included:

- Visible micro-plastics (5mm or less)
- Cigarette butts
- Marine litter
- Sand samples (1L of sand)





Results for Golden Bay:

- 6748 items collected in total;
- Lowest number of items was collected in September and highest number of items was recorded in November;
- The amount of marine litter is constant between March & July;

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- According to the **Clean-Coast Index**, Golden Bay beach can be considered as moderately clean during the low season and clean during the high season;
- The Accumulation Index shows that the accumulation of marine litter can be considered as very high during both the low and high seasons;
- Composition of marine litter at Golden Bay is largely dominated by artificial polymer materials (over 90%).



Results for Gnejna Bay:

- 4552 items collected in total;
- Lowest number of items was collected in September and highest number of items was recorded in November;
- The amount of marine litter continuously decreases from March to September before a sharp increase in November.

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According to the Clean-Coast Index, Gnejna Bay beach can be considered as moderately clean during the low season and clean during the high season; The Accumulation Index shows that the accumulation of marine litter can be considered as very high during both the low and high seasons; Composition of marine litter at Gnejna Bay is largely dominated by artificial polymer materials (over 90%).



Results for Marsaxlokk:

- 4591 items collected in total;
- Lowest number of items was collected in November and highest number of items was recorded in May;

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According to the Clean-Coast Index, Gnejna Bay beach can be considered as moderately clean during the low season and dirty during the high season; The Accumulation Index shows that the accumulation of marine litter can be considered as very high during the low season and extremely high during the high season; Composition of marine litter at Gnejna Bay is largely dominated by artificial polymer materials (over 80%), followed by glass/ceramics (9%).

STUDYING WASTE CHARACTERISATION STUDY



STUDYING WASTE CHARACTERISATION STUDY



This is taking place between June and October 2018.

Waste from beaches and their surroundings (including public establishments) is being collected for characterisation.

The number and type of beach visitors is being counted to determine the impact of tourism on waste generation.

The following data will be collected from the selected beaches:

- Waste generation
- Waste composition
- Number of tourists, type & demographics
- Means & frequency of waste collection





Testing Phase



TESTING PILOT DEMONSTRATION ACTIONS



Implementation of schemes of an experimental nature to test, evaluate and/or demonstrate its feasibility with the aim to capitalise on those results and transfer practices to other institutions and territories.

The pilot project will involve a small scale investment.

This activity is foreseen during 2019 and will be implemented by all partners.

The effects of the pilot actions need to be measurable.



PROJECT PARTNERS





CoNISMa Cansarzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare



Departament de Medi Ambient













REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA





THANK YOU

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Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

