

ALBANIA

ALIGNING FUNDER'S EXPECTATIONS WITH THE NEEDS OF FIELD ACTORS IN TERMS OF ACTION PRIORITIES



BEYOND PLASTIC MED - UNOC-3 SIDE-EVENT IN NICE

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 beyondplasticmed.org

There is a gap between short-term actions needs on the field to improve waste management in order to limit leakage into the environment and the longer-term vision, prioritized by the funders, which focuses on reduction of plastic production and consumption, namely through support to the private sector.

REGULATIONS

Priorities for field actors:

Work directly with cities to develop plans for reducing plastic use.

Implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems.



Priorities for funders:

Advocate and support actions with decision-makers to implement strong regulations that ban or reduce plastic production.

Support the implementation of existing plastic legislation.

Advice and good practices

1. Implement **advocacy actions** at national and local levels to encourage ambitious public policies for reducing production and toxicity.

Tips:

- Rely on existing data and highlight the impact on human health.
- Propose accurate communication adapted to the target audience, highlighting potential pitfalls.

Example of effective action:

Effective advocacy requires experience. Offering advocacy training to other organizations/actors and sharing tools can be a good way of strengthening advocacy in the Mediterranean.

2. Implementation of actions to **support the application of the law**

Example of an impactful action:

Include obligations to reduce plastic use in local action plans as a condition for obtaining permits from local authorities (e.g. authorisation to set up a beach bar is granted only if no single-use plastics are used). Beware of false solutions that appear good: prioritise reusables.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Priorities for field actors:

Improve public infrastructure for waste collection and treatment.

Provide municipalities with funding, particularly to set up waste management and treatment systems.

Train informal waste collectors and provide them with the appropriate equipment.

Encourage municipalities to set up a waste collection sorting system.



Priorities for funders:

Circular economy: work on waste management, focusing on the upstream: eco-design, reduction in use, reuse to delay disposal, etc.

Advice and good practices

This aspect was primarily emphasised by those working in the field. A discrepancy is emerging between the needs on the ground and those of the funders. While the field actors attach great importance to waste management, the funders focus more on reducing plastic use and production.

Quote from a funder: "The priority is on upstream activities and solutions; if relevant, these can be supplemented by downstream activities."

Tips for field actors:

- Identify funders likely to finance infrastructure or improved waste management projects.
- Consider source reduction and reuse as a means of reducing waste production.
- Justify local needs and demonstrate how proposed downstream actions are completed by upstream actions.
- Avoid recycling actions that present a risk of impact transfer.
- Work jointly with local authorities to ensure project sustainability.

Tips for funders:

- Take into account the reality on the ground.
- Define 'upcycling'.

ACTIVITY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Priorities for field actors:

Develop water treatment infrastructures and install filtered water fountains.



Priorities for funders:

Supporting the private sector in reducing plastic consumption.

Avoiding impact transfer: false solutions.

Find/help develop eco-environmental income-generating activities for local populations to replace polluting activities.

Advice and good practices

Apart from the work needed on the water treatment system to reduce the use of single-use bottles, this issue was not identified as a priority by the field actors. It would be useful to understand the reasons for this and to consider how these actions could be integrated.

RAISING AWARENESS

Priorities for field actors:

Raise public awareness on the need to reduce pollution during the production process and its impact on soil, biodiversity and food production.

Increase awareness and education among young people.



Priorities for funders:

Raising awareness on the plastic pollution risks for the health.

Raising public awareness: training, education to encourage plastic reduction.

Educating people about better alternatives

Advice and good practices

Priority targets: **public authorities**, the **private sector** (see above), the general public and the schools.

General public:

Advice:

- Avoid sporadic actions
- Prioritize multi-actor campaigns on a regional scale, with coordinated actions.

Schools:

- Advice: Avoid sporadic actions. One-shots actions have no long-term impact.

Example of effective actions:

- Add a module into the teaching program of students.
- Train teacher trainers and build a training module that remains in place from one year to the next.
- Involve a school in monitoring a Marine Education Area (long-term monitoring).

Participatory science: an interesting tool for all target groups.



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