



# National roadmaps for single-use plastic reduction in the tourism sector in Lebanon & Jordan and the MedWaves Low Plastic Zone Initiative

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**MedWaves** is a centre for international cooperation which works to establish more sustainable and toxic-free consumption and production patterns and circular economy.

The Centre develops its activity under the Barcelona Convention/[Mediterranean Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. It belongs to the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and acts as one of the Regional Centres of the [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\)](#).

MedWaves was established in by means of a collaboration agreement between the [Spanish Ministry of Environment](#) and the [Government of Catalonia](#) and it is legally hosted by the Catalan Waste Agency and is based in Barcelona.



# The Barcelona Convention framework in relation to marine litter

- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (2013): a legally binding instrument addressing monitoring, prevention, removal, cooperation, etc.
- Updated in 2021 (COP 22, Antalya) with stronger provisions particularly on circular economy of plastics. New provisions and measures, including:
  - Phase out single-use plastic items and promote reuse options
  - Support the application of prevention measures to achieve a circular economy for plastics
  - Promotes voluntary agreements with industry



# Phasing out single-use plastic products (SUPs)



- Technical support to countries, including:
  - Lebanon
  - Jordan



- Outcome: National roadmaps to tackle SUPs

<http://www.cprac.org/en/news-archive/general/guidelines-to-tackle-single-use-plastic-products-in-the-mediterranean-region-a->

# The case of Lebanon

Suggested Mediterranean Priority list of SUPs per group of items:

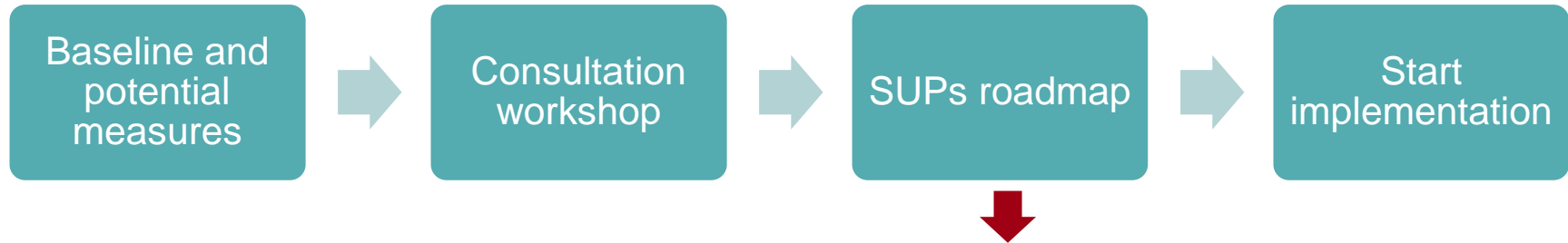
[https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/)

GROUP OF ITEMS	ITEMS
Packaging	Bags
Smoking-related	Cigarette filters
Food and beverage packaging	Drink bottles, caps and lids
	Crisp packets and sweet wrappers
On-the-go food and beverage packaging	Cutlery, plates and trays
	Straws and stirrers
	Drinks cups and cup lids
	Food containers including fast food packaging
WC flushed items	Sanitary applications, including cotton buds, wet wipes and sanitary towels
Personal protective equipment	Masks and gloves



# The case of Lebanon

[https://www.wes-med.eu/activities\\_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/](https://www.wes-med.eu/activities_type/n-e-lb-2b-policy-support-to-address-single-use-plastic-items-in-lebanon/)



Timing	Measures
Phase 1: 2023 - mid-2024	Voluntary agreement with private companies; Information campaign; Advocacy; EPR/DRS
Phase 2: Mid-2024 – 2025	Certification scheme/accountability; Sales restriction
Phase 3: 2026 - 2027	Consumption levies; Mandatory labelling; Specific requirements on product design
Phase 4: 2028 - 2030	Ban of certain products

# The case of Lebanon

- The Voluntary Agreement with private companies > expected signature by the Ministry of Environment and the Syndicate of Restaurants
- Syndicate of Restaurants to promote buy-in by member businesses
- Specific support to businesses to assess consumption of SUPs and implement improvements (through Marine Litter Med project)



Adaptation of a tool to increase accountability and avoid greenwashing



# The Low Plastic Zone Initiative in the Western Balkans

- Partnership agreement between MedWaves and GIZ to help businesses in the Hotel, Restaurant and Café (HORECA) sector phase out the use of the SUPs that are most commonly found during clean-ups in Montenegro, Albania, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- Based on a voluntary approach



<https://www.medwaves-centre.org/new/the-low-plastic-zone-initiative-launches-in-municipalities-of-montenegro-albania-and-bosnia-herzegovina-to-help-reduce-plastic-pollution/>

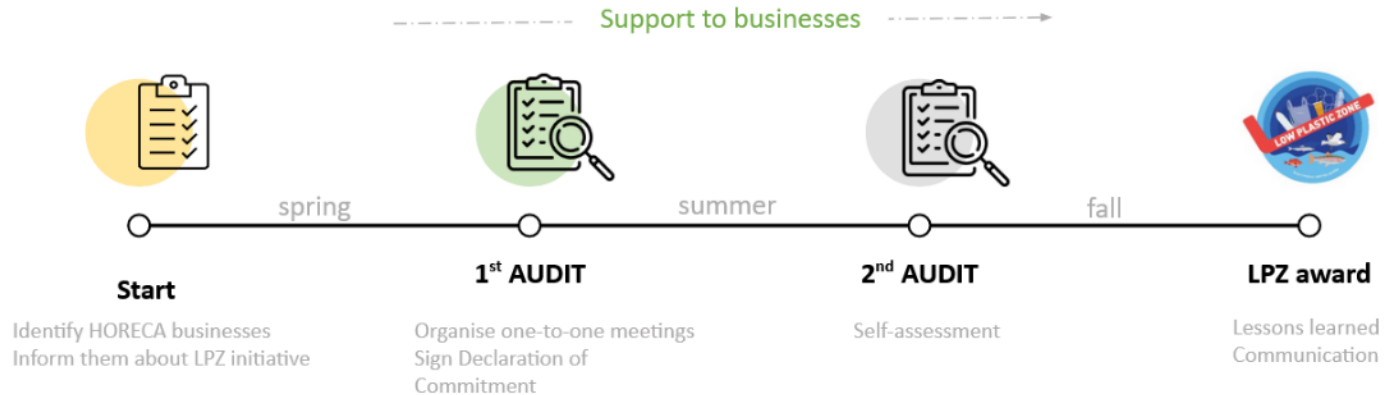


# The Low Plastic Zone Initiative in the Western Balkans

- The process
- Adaptation of self-assessment tool to the countries
- Guide for HORECA businesses (alternatives to SUPs)



## - Field work

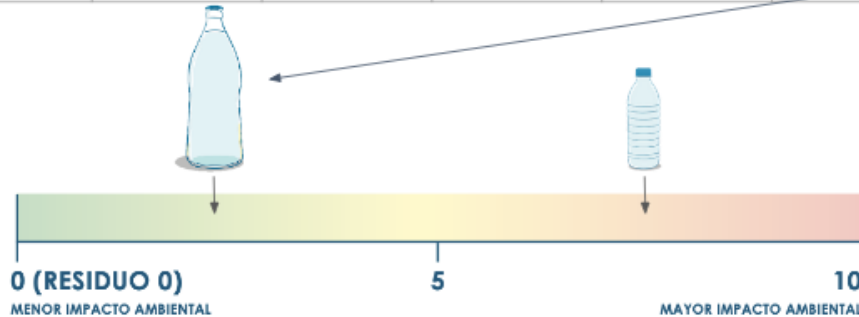


# The Low Plastic Zone Initiative in the Western Balkans

- The self-assessment tool: HAPI (Honest Alternatives to Plastic Index), developed by Save the Med Foundation and partners

How does it work? Example: water bottles

Waste prevention	Law compliance	Reusability	Materials optimisation	Material impact	HAPI
No	Yes	Reusable	Medium	Glass	2,20
10	9	0.5	0.75	0.62	




Baseline assessment (certain HAPI score)


Improvement plan (HAPI scores of different options)


Audit and recognition (lower HAPI score)


# The Low Plastic Zone Initiative in the Western Balkans


- Results (ongoing): > 100 businesses participating in 3 municipalities.

 Hotel City Mostar - Small hygiene products in plastic packaging in rooms have been replaced with dispensers.

 Restaurant Europa - Plastic straws have been replaced with paper ones, and plastic ice cream spoons have been discontinued

 Hotel & Spa Villa Luxe - Plastic cups have been replaced with paper ones, and plastic stirrers with metal spoons.

 Hotel, Restaurant "Kriva Ćuprija" - Plastic straws have been replaced with paper ones, and single-use plastic gloves have been replaced with reusable rubber gloves.

 Caffe bar Lav - Plastic water bottles have been replaced with glass ones.



## MOSTAR



# Conclusions

- The importance of addressing Tourism – HORECA sector as a source of marine litter:

*Plastic bottles and caps, food containers, bags, packets, and wrappers, as well as cans are among the **top 10 litter items** most commonly found during clean-ups along the coasts of Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina*

- Voluntary schemes seem adequate in a first phase (front-runners and snow ball effect), but further regulatory action may be needed
- Opportunity for joint public-private action
- This approach shall be included in the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty (and countries could include it within their national action plans)
- In order to prevent greenwashing and false claims, and ensure a level playing field: use of objective tools for assessment of plastic use and their alternatives

Thank you!

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