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TREASURE

NEWSLETTER #2



Photo: HHNK

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

THE TREASURE LIVING LABS ARE TAKING SHAPE

With the first sunny days of the year, the TREASURE project is picking up speed. The five regional living labs in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France are taking shape.

www.interregnorthsea.eu/treasure



Photo: IVN

Both the German and the Danish Living Lab are also progressing, with extensive stakeholder analyses carried out and concrete campaigns being planned. The German Living Lab “Plastic-FREEsia” has invited key stakeholders from the region to participate in the Living Lab kick-off event that is taking place in Wilhelmshaven on April 17th, 2024.

The Danish and German Living Labs are also investigating the possibility to roll-out the previous wooden-drifter research by the University of Oldenburg to the Danish Living Lab region. This would majorly shape the Danish activities and present a crucial contribution to the region’s macro plastic research.

The Living Lab Nieuwpoort has also had an eventful start to the year: They have carried out their first sampling and training on board of RV Simon Stevin, as well as a first citizen science activity with students (VIVES), and two TREASURE posters were presented during the VLIZ Marine Science day.

In France, a TREASURE challenge was presented at the Ocean Hackaton in Boulogne-sur-Mer. Nausciaá held an open door event to present the Blue Academy and TREASURE to local stakeholders. They have also organised a micro-conference on plastic pollution, which was given by ULCO students to secondary schools pupils.

For more information:
www.interregnorthsea.eu/treasure or follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

The beginning of 2024 has been a busy time in the Dutch Living Lab:

In January, Noria and the HHNK conducted a day field visit to access the area where CirCleaner will be potentially installed in the coming years. Additionally, multiple bridges were also visited to finalise where monitoring with camera and GPS will be installed (photo above).

In the period from February 15 to March 15, approximately 200 volunteers measured litter on the banks of the Maas Delta and the Rotterdam region. The first reports show more litter is found this year than in recent years due to a long period of flooding in the rivers this winter. A reporter from the online news site Nu.nl accompanied a volunteer and project leader Joost Barendrecht during the investigation and published [this article](#) on their news site.

On March 23, a major clean-up event will take place along the entire Meuse: the Maas Cleanup. This annual event is an initiative of companies in Limburg and will be expanded this year for the first time towards the sea in the Rotterdam and Maas Delta region.

The campaign “Together we keep the Biesbosch clean” has been continued in De Biesbosch nature reserve. On March 9, more than 150 volunteers participated in a clean-up campaign.

One specific problem has become very visible, as Arnold Verbakel, a volunteer in the citizen science research of Clean Rivers has identified:

“During our research on the banks of the Hollands Diep we came across another persistent problem: nurdles. We counted as much as 456 nurdles in an area of 50 by 50 cm of washed-up organic material!”.

TREASURE includes nurdles in their scope to further investigate and tackle the nurdle-problem.

Last but not least, you might have already spotted our other exciting news: TREASURE’s new project visual! The logo was created by the wonderful Paula Lang. Her design reflects the four pillars and the five TREASURE living labs...or is it plastic floating in a river...

or even something entirely different?

What do you see in it?

