

# Engaging Citizens in scientific research about plastic pollution of watercourses

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Plastic Pirates – Go Europe! started  
in Germany, followed by Portugal  
and Slovenia.



**ARRS**

JAVNA AGENCIJA ZA RAZISKOVALNO DEJAVNOST  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND SPORT





# Addressing key societal challenges

The main objectives:

- 1) conduct research on the plastic pollution of rivers (seas),
- 2) raise awareness on participants own consumer behaviour
- 3) increase science literacy by familiarising students with scientific methods and the work of researchers.



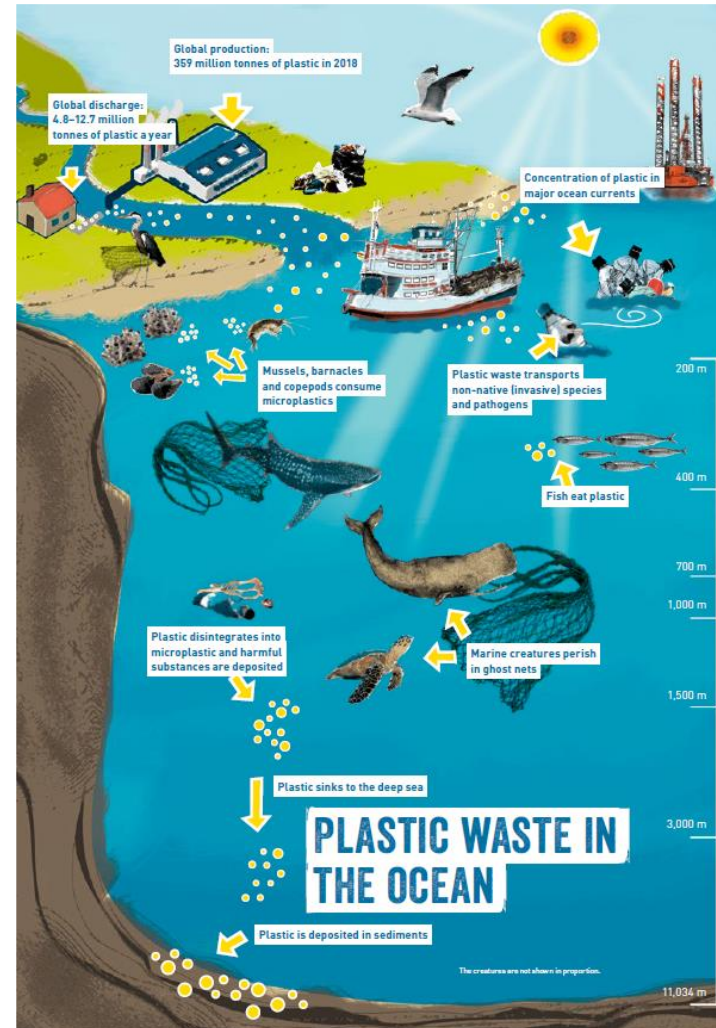
# Public mobilisation

10-18 years old citizens

Hierarchical design

- Mass emails
- Webinars
- Hotline hours
- Social media
- [explainer videos](#)

Printed didactic material in national languages (teaching material and project booklet) and microplastic net sent to schools



# Protocol and Data quality

- Detailed and simple instructions
- Methods adapted to age group eq. litter categories (25 vs 184 MSFD)
- Data check = verification of photos
- Verification of river flow velocity
- Microplastic sorting and FTIR analysis at NIB

->app. 90% accepted datasets

**CS data are the only data we have!**

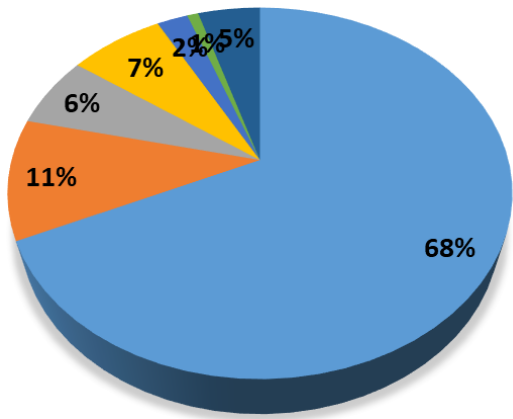




# Slovenia RESULTS 2021

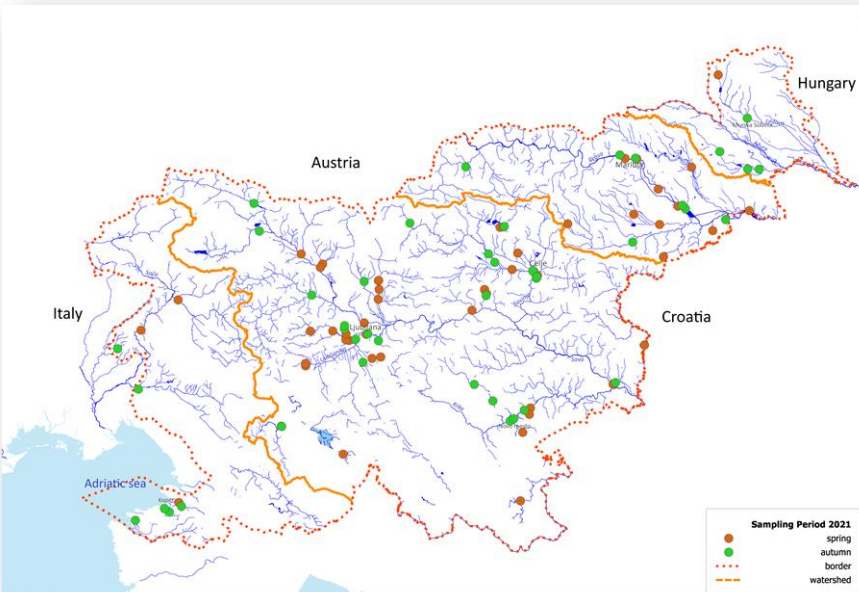
99 schools  
1533 students  
52 rivers and streams

Litter

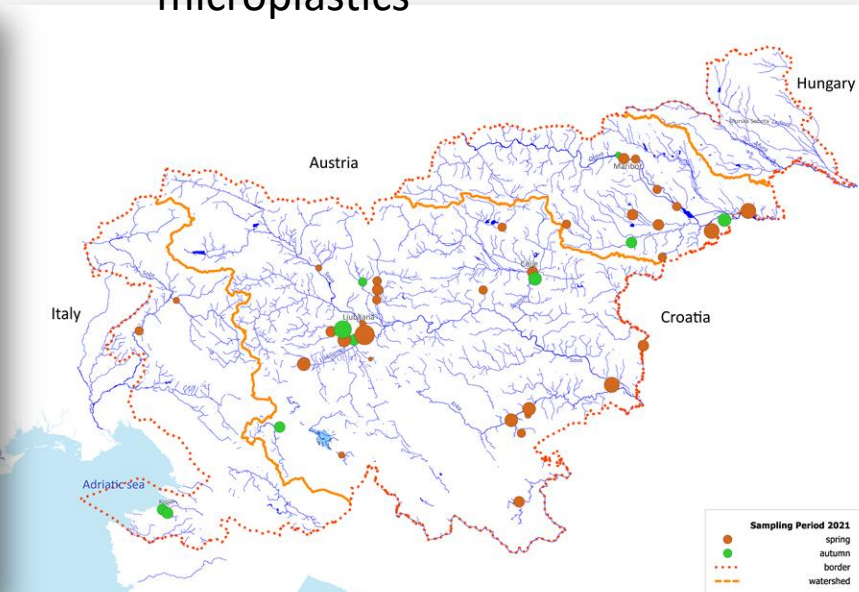


- Plastic
- Metal
- Glass
- Paper
- Textile
- Rubber
- Other

Sampling locations



Sampling locations with microplastics



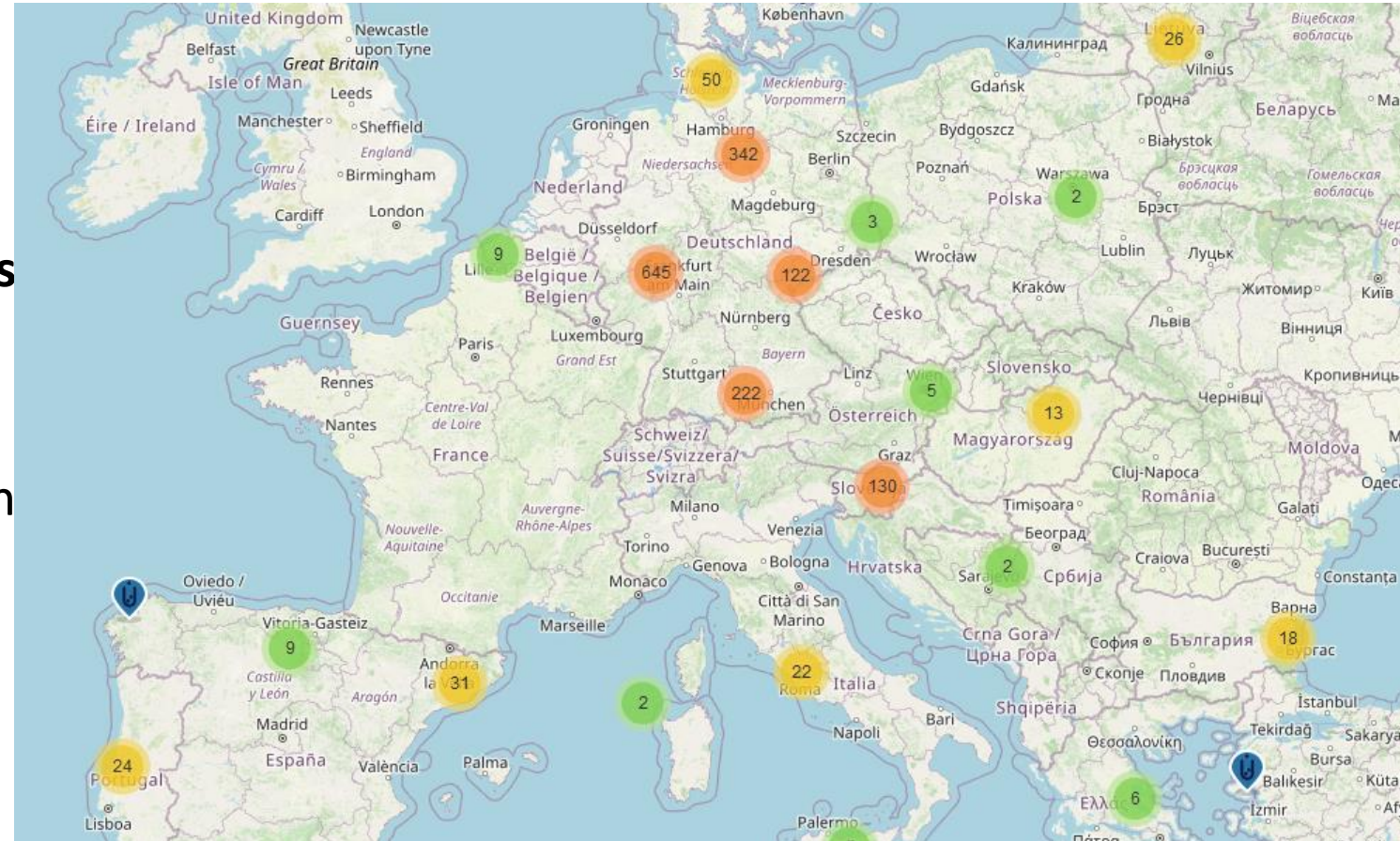


# EUrope Autumn 2022

Results map:

- **1.000+** data sets uploaded and verified
- So far more than **19.000** participants

→ first mass collection of data on the quantities and types of riverine litter in Europe



# Way forward

- Very positive response from young citizens
- Large scale data and time series
- Unified monitoring protocols for sampling of riverine litter at EU level are still under development (WFD)
- Expanding the protocol to sea and coastlines
- EMODnet database
- Citizenscience.si

Thank you for your attention!



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Ana Lah

**(FOTO) Pirati plastike ozaveščajo mlade: Plastenka v Dravi vpliva tudi na Črno morje**



ODPRI GALERIJO

Ko bodo vsi rezultati obdelani, pa se ponovno oglasimo s svežimi novicami o tem projektu. Vabljeni k ogledu spletne strani <https://www.plastic-pirates.eu/sl> in k odgovornemu ravnanju z odpadki v vsakdanjem življenju. Najlepša hvala!



+6

Ti, Vanja Kovacic in 24 drugih oseb

4 komentarji 7 delitev

Všeč mi je

Komentiraj

Delj z drugimi