



ZP4All

ZERO PLASTIC 4 ALL

**Report for the 1st Transnational Meeting of Small-scale Partnerships - Erasmus+ - European Union
Project Nr: 2023-2-EL01-KA210-VET-000170094**

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1. Executive Summary

The 1st Transnational Meeting of the ZP4ALL project, under the Erasmus+ Small-scale Partnerships program, marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices across Europe. Held from May 26th to 29th, 2024, in Athens, Greece, and hosted by the RTIS Network, this meeting brought together key stakeholders from partner organizations including Formedil Bari from Italy and Brigada do Mar from Portugal.

The primary objective of the ZP4ALL project is to address the critical issue of plastic pollution through the enhancement of environmental literacy and the promotion of green skills among vocational education and training (VET) students and educators. This project aligns with the European Union's Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda, aiming to foster a circular economy and contribute to the EU's goal of becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

During the meeting, participants engaged in a series of strategic planning sessions, collaborative discussions, and educational activities designed to lay the groundwork for the project's successful implementation. The meeting commenced with an inspiring keynote address by Mrs. Vaso Tsorva, General Manager of the Green and Environmental Department at the Municipality of Alimos, who emphasized the project's importance and its alignment with broader EU sustainability goals.

Key highlights of the meeting included the visit to Efpallinio VET School, where partners observed the integration of environmental topics into the curriculum, and the comprehensive review and approval of the project schedule and budget. The collaborative development of the educational guide curriculum and the strategic planning for the project's e-platform and smart app were also critical components of the meeting.

Stakeholder engagement and dissemination strategies were meticulously planned, with the Municipality of Alimos playing a pivotal role in promoting the project's initiatives within the local community. The meeting concluded with a farewell dinner, providing a platform for informal networking and reflection on the progress made.

The outcomes of this meeting set a strong foundation for the ZP4ALL project's future activities, ensuring that partner organizations are well-equipped to drive the project's goals forward. By fostering a collaborative environment and leveraging the collective expertise of its partners, the ZP4ALL project is poised to make a significant impact on environmental education and sustainability practices across Europe.

2. Project Description

The project "Zero Plastic 4 All," under the auspices of the Erasmus+ program, aims to tackle the pressing issue of plastic pollution and its detrimental effects on marine ecosystems. By uniting various European partners, the project seeks to address these environmental challenges through a comprehensive approach that includes education, awareness-raising activities, and community engagement.

2.1 Objectives and Goals of ZP4ALL

The primary objectives of the ZP4ALL project are aligned with the European Union's priorities on climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. The project is designed to achieve several concrete outcomes. Firstly, it aims to raise awareness among vocational education and training (VET) students and teachers about the severe impact of plastic pollution on marine environments and biodiversity. This objective is critical for fostering a deeper understanding of environmental issues among young learners.

Secondly, ZP4ALL seeks to enhance the environmental literacy and green skills of VET teachers and students. By promoting a zero-plastic lifestyle, the project endeavors to instill sustainable habits and practices that contribute to environmental conservation. This educational initiative is pivotal in cultivating a generation of environmentally conscious individuals who are equipped to address future ecological challenges.

Another significant goal of the project is to engage young people in environmental protection efforts. By fostering critical thinking, social and cultural skills, and civic engagement, ZP4ALL empowers youth to become active participants in sustainability initiatives. This engagement is crucial for ensuring that the environmental conditions that have benefited human civilizations for over ten millennia are preserved for future generations.

In addition, the project explores and implements flexible educational approaches to meet the diverse needs of learners, particularly those who struggle within the traditional VET system. By providing alternative pathways and innovative teaching methods, ZP4ALL aims to make environmental education accessible to a broader range of students, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of the VET system.

Moreover, the project supports the shift towards a circular and bio-economy, which is a key component of the EU's Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda. By promoting sustainable economic practices, ZP4ALL contributes to the EU's goal of becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This objective underscores the project's commitment to integrating sustainability into educational frameworks and community practices. ZP4ALL aims to foster a deep understanding of circular economy principles among students and educators, encouraging them to adopt and advocate for waste reduction, resource efficiency, and sustainable consumption patterns. The project's emphasis on bio-economy not only addresses the immediate challenges of plastic pollution but also supports long-term environmental stewardship. By embedding these principles into the curriculum and daily activities of vocational education and training (VET) centers, ZP4ALL ensures that future generations are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to sustain and enhance environmental health.



2.2 Importance of the Project in Addressing Environmental Issues

The ZP4ALL project addresses some of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time, including plastic pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. By focusing on educational content related to waste management and sustainable practices, the project aims to halt global warming and mitigate its impacts. This is in line with the EU's broader environmental goals. Youth engagement is a cornerstone of the ZP4ALL project. By targeting VET students, the project empowers the next generation to take active roles in environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. This engagement is crucial for ensuring that the environmental conditions benefiting human civilizations for millennia can be sustained beyond this century.

The project promotes innovative educational practices that integrate environmental issues into the curriculum. This includes hands-on, experiential learning activities that foster awareness and inspire action among participants. Such educational innovation is essential for creating a culture of sustainability within educational institutions and the broader community. The ZP4ALL project also aims to create a ripple effect, where the awareness and behavioral changes among VET students and teachers extend to their communities. This broader societal impact is vital for promoting widespread shifts towards sustainable living practices. By embedding environmental literacy and green skills in the education system, the project lays the groundwork for long-term environmental stewardship.

3. Meeting Preparation and Inaugural Session

3.1 Organizational Setup and Logistics by RTIS Network

The organizational setup and logistics for the ZP4ALL project's inaugural session were meticulously handled by the [RTIS Network](#). The preparation phase involved detailed planning and coordination to ensure the seamless execution of the event. This included the selection and preparation of the venue, which was equipped with the necessary technological infrastructure to support both in-person and virtual participation. The logistics team also ensured that all materials and resources required for the meeting were available, including presentation equipment, informational brochures, and other essential documents. Additionally, accommodations and transportation for participants were arranged to facilitate their smooth arrival and stay. The RTIS Network's comprehensive approach to logistics ensured that every aspect of the meeting was carefully managed, reflecting a high standard of organizational efficiency and professionalism.



3.2 Pre-Meeting Coordination and Communication

Effective pre-meeting coordination and communication were critical components in the successful planning of the inaugural session. Prior to the meeting, the RTIS Network established a robust communication framework to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged. This included the dissemination of a detailed agenda, which outlined the objectives, topics for discussion, and schedule of the meeting. Regular updates and reminders were sent to participants to ensure they were well-prepared and aware of their roles and responsibilities. The coordination team also organized pre-meeting briefings and practice sessions to familiarize presenters with the meeting's flow and to address any potential technical issues. This thorough preparation phase fostered a collaborative atmosphere and ensured that all participants were aligned with the meeting's goals and expectations.

3.3 Kick-off Meeting Commencement and Speech by Mrs. Vaso Tsorva

The kick-off meeting commenced with an inspiring speech by Mrs. Vaso Tsorva, General Manager of the Green and Environmental Department at the Municipality of Alimos and a prominent figure in the field of environmental education and sustainability. Her address set the tone for the inaugural session, emphasizing the importance of the ZP4ALL project in addressing the critical issue of plastic pollution. Mrs. Tsorva highlighted the project's alignment with the EU's Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda, underscoring the urgency of taking immediate action to mitigate environmental degradation. She also articulated the project's objectives, focusing on the development of environmental literacy and green skills among VET students and teachers. Her speech was not only motivational but also provided a clear vision for the project's future, inspiring participants to commit to the goals of ZP4ALL with renewed enthusiasm and determination. The opening address by Mrs. Tsorva was a pivotal moment in the inaugural session, setting a precedent for the level of engagement and dedication expected throughout the project's duration.



4. Collaborative Discussions and Best Practices

During the collaborative discussions, participants from various partner organizations shared insights and strategies on how to tackle the pressing issue of plastic pollution. These discussions were meticulously structured to foster an environment of robust knowledge exchange and collective problem-solving. Representatives from diverse regions brought their unique perspectives and experiences, significantly enriching the overall dialogue. Each participant contributed valuable insights into their local challenges and successes, providing a comprehensive view of the plastic pollution issue across different contexts. The exchange of best practices was particularly valuable, as it highlighted successful initiatives and methodologies that could be replicated or adapted by other partners. For instance, the innovative approaches employed by certain regions in waste management and public awareness campaigns offered practical models for others to emulate. This collaborative approach ensured that the meeting was not just a platform for theoretical discussion but a catalyst for actionable solutions and strategies.



4.1 Presentation by Partner Organizations

The meeting featured in-depth presentations by partner organizations, including [Formedil-Bari](#) from Italy and [BRIGADA DO MAR](#) from Portugal. Formedil-Bari presented their innovative educational programs that integrate waste management and sustainability into vocational training. They showcased how their curriculum not only educates students about the impacts of plastic pollution but also equips them with practical skills to address these issues. BRIGADA DO MAR, on the other hand, presented their community-driven initiatives that engage local populations in beach clean-up activities and environmental education. Their presentation highlighted the importance of community involvement and grassroots efforts in combating plastic pollution. Both presentations provided valuable insights and served as exemplary models of how educational institutions and community organizations can play pivotal roles in environmental sustainability efforts.



4.2 Discussion on Blue Schools Initiative and Innovative Ideas

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the Blue Schools Initiative, which aims to integrate ocean literacy and sustainable practices into school curricula. Participants explored various innovative ideas to enhance this initiative, such as incorporating digital tools and interactive learning modules to engage students more effectively. The discussion also delved into the potential for collaboration with local businesses and environmental organizations to provide students with real-world experiences and mentorship opportunities. This dialogue underscored the importance of a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to environmental education, emphasizing that the success of the Blue Schools Initiative relies on the active participation of all stakeholders, including educators, students, and the broader community.



4.3 Engagement with the Municipality of Alimos

Engagement with the Municipality of Alimos was a key highlight of the meeting, showcasing a successful example of local government involvement in environmental initiatives. Representatives from the municipality shared their ongoing efforts to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable practices within the community. They discussed specific projects, such as the implementation of recycling programs and public awareness campaigns, which have significantly contributed to reducing the municipality's environmental footprint. The collaboration between the ZP4ALL project and the Municipality of Alimos was emphasized as a model for other regions to follow. This partnership illustrates how local governments can effectively support and enhance the impact of environmental education and sustainability projects through policy-making, resource allocation, and community engagement.

5. Educational Engagement and Training

The educational engagement and training activities conducted during the meeting were instrumental in advancing the overarching objectives of the ZP4ALL project. These meticulously planned activities were crafted to directly engage VET (Vocational Education and Training) students and educators, immersing them in comprehensive educational experiences that imparted essential knowledge and skills. The focus was on equipping participants with a deep understanding of plastic pollution, its environmental impacts, and sustainable practices that can mitigate such issues. By fostering a hands-on and interactive learning environment, these activities aimed to inspire a proactive approach among students and educators alike, encouraging them to become champions of sustainability within their communities. The sessions were not only informative but also transformative, designed to cultivate a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals who are well-prepared to tackle the pressing environmental challenges of our time. Through these efforts, the ZP4ALL project seeks to build a robust foundation for long-term environmental stewardship and sustainability education within the VET sector.

5.1 Visit to Efpallinio VET School and Presentation on Educational Areas

A key highlight of the meeting was the visit to the [Efpallinio VET School](#) in Alimos. During this visit, the three partner organizations - RTIS Network, Formedil-Bari, and BRIGADA DO MAR - were welcomed and given a comprehensive presentation on the school's five thematic educational areas. The presentation detailed the curriculum and pedagogical approaches used to educate the 290 students enrolled at the school. The thematic areas covered various aspects of vocational education, reflecting the school's commitment to providing a well-rounded and practical education. This visit underscored the school's role in shaping the future workforce and its dedication to incorporating sustainability into its educational framework. The partners were able to observe firsthand the integration of environmental topics into the curriculum, which served as a valuable case study for the ZP4ALL project.



5.2 Introduction of ZP4ALL Project to VET Students and Educators

The introduction of the ZP4ALL project to VET students and educators at [Efpallinio VET School](#) was a significant step in fostering awareness and engagement. The partners outlined the vision, mission, and objectives of the project, emphasizing its focus on addressing plastic pollution through education and practical action. This session was designed to inspire and motivate both students and educators by highlighting the importance of their roles in combating environmental challenges. The introduction also detailed the various tools and resources that the project would provide, such as an e-platform and a smart app, which are designed to support educational activities and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge. The response from the school community was overwhelmingly positive, with commitments to collaborate closely with the ZP4ALL partners and integrate the project's resources into their teaching practices.



5.3 Training of Trainers and Drafting the Educational Guide Curriculum

An essential component of the educational engagement was the training of trainer's session hosted by RTIS Network. This session was aimed at equipping educators with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively deliver the project's educational content. The training covered various aspects of environmental education, waste management, and sustainable practices, providing trainers with comprehensive tools to educate their students. Additionally, the drafting of the Educational Guide Curriculum was initiated, involving all partners in the collaborative development process. This curriculum is intended to serve as a foundational resource for VET educators, offering structured content and methodologies for teaching about plastic pollution and sustainability. The collaborative drafting process ensured that the curriculum would be robust, inclusive, and adaptable to different educational contexts. By the end of the session, a draft outline of the curriculum was agreed upon, setting the stage for its further development and eventual implementation across participating VET institutions.



6. Strategic Planning and Implementation

6.1 Review and Approval of Project Schedule and Budget

A critical component of the strategic planning and implementation phase was the comprehensive review and approval of the project schedule and budget. During this session, the project's coordinating entity, RTIS Network, presented a detailed timeline outlining all key milestones and deliverables. Each partner organization reviewed the proposed schedule to ensure feasibility and alignment with their respective operational capabilities. The budget was meticulously examined to confirm that all financial resources were appropriately allocated to support the project's activities, ensuring transparency and accountability. This thorough review process culminated in the formal approval of the schedule and budget, providing a clear roadmap for the successful execution of the ZP4ALL project.



6.2 Work Plan and Task Distribution

Following the approval of the project schedule and budget, the next crucial step was the development of a detailed work plan and the equitable distribution of tasks among the partner organizations. This phase involved identifying the specific roles and responsibilities of each partner, ensuring that all tasks were assigned based on the expertise and strengths of the respective organizations. The work plan was designed to facilitate efficient collaboration and coordination, outlining clear timelines and expected outcomes for each task. By establishing a well-structured plan, the partners were able to synchronize their efforts and maintain a cohesive approach towards achieving the project's objectives. This systematic task distribution was essential for optimizing resource utilization and ensuring that all project activities were conducted in a timely and efficient manner.

6.3 Introduction to the Project's e-Platform and Smart App

The introduction of the project's e-platform and smart app represented a significant advancement in the strategic implementation of the ZP4ALL project. These digital tools were designed to enhance the educational experience by providing accessible, interactive, and comprehensive resources for both educators and students. During the session, a detailed demonstration of the e-platform and smart app was conducted, highlighting their key features and functionalities. The e-platform serves as a central repository of educational materials, including lesson plans, multimedia resources, and interactive modules on plastic pollution and sustainability. The smart app complements this by offering on-the-go access to these resources, enabling users to engage with the content anytime and anywhere. The introduction session also included training on how to effectively utilize these tools to maximize their impact. This technological integration is expected to significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of the ZP4ALL project, facilitating a more dynamic and engaging learning environment.



7. Stakeholder Engagement and Dissemination Strategies

7.1 Definition of Key Stakeholders and Communication Plan

A crucial element in the success of the ZP4ALL project is the identification and engagement of key stakeholders. During the meeting, significant attention was dedicated to defining the stakeholders essential to the project's success, including educational institutions, local governments, environmental organizations, community groups, and industry partners. A comprehensive communication plan was formulated to facilitate effective and continuous engagement with these stakeholders. This plan includes regular updates, targeted communication campaigns, and interactive forums to ensure stakeholders are well-informed and actively involved in the project's activities. The communication plan also emphasizes the importance of feedback loops, enabling stakeholders to provide input and insights that can be integrated into the project's ongoing development and implementation.



7.2 Dissemination Strategies and Role of Municipality of Alimos

The dissemination strategies for the ZP4ALL project were meticulously planned to ensure wide-reaching and impactful communication of the project's objectives, activities, and outcomes. The Municipality of Alimos plays a pivotal role in these dissemination efforts. As a key partner, the municipality is tasked with leveraging its local networks and communication channels to promote the project's initiatives and successes. This includes organizing community events, workshops, and seminars that highlight the importance of reducing plastic pollution and adopting sustainable practices. Furthermore, the municipality will facilitate the dissemination of educational materials and resources developed by the project to schools, community centers, and local organizations. By utilizing its established relationships and influence, the Municipality of Alimos will significantly enhance the project's visibility and reach within the community.

7.3 Ensuring Project Sustainability and Impact

Ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of the ZP4ALL project is a primary objective that was thoroughly addressed during the strategic planning sessions. To achieve this, the project incorporates several key elements designed to embed sustainability into its core activities. Firstly, the development of robust educational resources, such as the e-platform and smart app, will provide lasting tools that educators and students can use beyond the project's duration. Additionally, the training of trainers ensures that the knowledge and skills imparted during the project are continuously passed on to new educators and students, creating a ripple effect. The project also aims to establish strong partnerships with local businesses, governments, and community organizations, fostering a collaborative approach to sustainability that extends beyond the initial project scope. By embedding these strategies into the project's framework, ZP4ALL is poised to create enduring positive impacts on environmental literacy and sustainable practices among VET students and educators across Europe.



8. Reflections, Feedback, and Networking

8.1 Participant Reflections on Meeting Activities

As the meeting progressed, participants engaged in reflective sessions to share their thoughts and insights on the various activities and discussions that had taken place. These reflections were vital in assessing the effectiveness of the meeting and identifying areas for improvement. Participants from each partner organization provided feedback on the presentations, collaborative discussions, and strategic planning sessions. This collective reflection highlighted the strengths of the meeting, such as the depth of knowledge exchange and the practical relevance of the discussed initiatives. Additionally, constructive feedback was gathered on how future meetings could be enhanced to ensure even greater productivity and engagement. These reflections underscored the commitment of all stakeholders to the continuous improvement of the ZP4ALL project.



8.2 Collaborative Problem-Solving and Future Deliverables

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to collaborative problem-solving and planning for future deliverables. Participants worked in cross-functional teams to address potential challenges and develop innovative solutions to ensure the successful implementation of the project. This collaborative approach fostered a sense of ownership and accountability among the partners, as they jointly explored ways to overcome obstacles and enhance project outcomes. The discussions also focused on the forthcoming deliverables, with detailed plans and timelines being established for each major milestone. The creation of the Educational Guide Development was identified as a top priority, and the session generated valuable insights and suggestions for its development. By the end of the meeting, clear action plans and responsibilities were assigned, ensuring alignment and readiness for the next phases of the project.

8.3 Farewell Dinner and Informal Networking

The meeting concluded with a farewell dinner hosted by the RTIS Network at an impressive rooftop garden in Alimos. This informal gathering provided a relaxed and convivial atmosphere for participants to reflect on the accomplishments of the past days and to strengthen the relationships forged during the meeting. The dinner facilitated informal networking opportunities, allowing participants to exchange contact information, discuss potential collaborations, and build professional connections beyond the immediate scope of the project. This social event was instrumental in fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among the partners, which will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of the ZP4ALL project. The evening not only celebrated the achievements of the meeting but also set a positive tone for future collaboration and collective effort.



9. Expected Outcomes and Conclusion

9.1 Positive Changes and Improvements in Partner Organizations

The ZP4ALL project is poised to bring about transformative positive changes and substantial improvements within the partner organizations. By actively engaging in the project's comprehensive initiatives, these organizations will significantly enhance their capacity to address the pervasive issue of plastic pollution and to promote sustainable practices both within their institutions and in their wider communities.

One of the critical advancements will be the integration of environmental literacy into the educational frameworks of the partner organizations. This integration will facilitate the development of more comprehensive and impactful curricula that not only educate students on the theoretical aspects of environmental sustainability but also engage them in practical, hands-on activities. Such an enriched curriculum will foster a deeper understanding and a stronger commitment to environmental stewardship among students.



The collaboration facilitated by the ZP4ALL project among diverse partners from various regions will also drive significant organizational growth and adaptation. This collaborative environment will enable the exchange of best practices and innovative solutions, allowing each organization to benefit from the collective expertise and experiences of the others. By learning from the successes and challenges faced by their counterparts, partner organizations can implement more effective and innovative strategies in their own contexts.

Moreover, the project's strong emphasis on training and capacity building is designed to equip educators with the essential tools, knowledge, and methodologies needed to effectively teach and inspire their students about sustainability and environmental issues. This professional development aspect of the project will elevate the overall quality of education provided by these institutions, ensuring that educators are well-prepared to incorporate sustainability into their teaching practices.

As a result of these enhancements, partner organizations will be better positioned to contribute to the broader goals of environmental sustainability and community engagement. They will become more proactive in their environmental initiatives, setting a benchmark for other institutions to follow. Additionally, the positive changes within these organizations will likely have a ripple effect, inspiring other educational institutions and community groups to adopt similar practices and principles, thereby amplifying the project's impact.

Explore the transformative impact of ZeroPlastic 4 All as we bring innovative education and sustainable practices to the forefront, nurturing a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders committed to a plastic-free world.



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