

Work Package 4

CAPACITY BUILDING

WP4 Leader: INCDM – NIMRD



Partners: NIVA, CNR, STICHTING VU, CSIC, NILU, AWI, AU, AFNOR



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WP4 to achieve EUROqCHARM's specific objective 5

EUROqCHARM's overall objective: to develop **optimised, validated and harmonised methods** for **monitoring and assessment** of plastics in the environment, as well as **blueprints for standards and recommendations** for policy and legislation.

EUROqCHARM's specific objectives :

SO1. Identification of state-of-the-art methods for **sample collection, sample preparation and analysis of plastics (nano-, micro-, macro-) in four different environmental matrices (water, soil/sediment, air and biota)** currently in use by research institutes, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and other relevant research units through a systematic review of current practices amongst researchers, institutions and international working groups.

SO2. Identification of state-of-the-art protocols, recommendations and guidelines, which are currently being used for **monitoring and assessment of plastics in different environmental matrices** by European member states, through a systematic review of current practices of international working groups and institutions.

SO3. **Harmonising sample preparation, analysis and data reporting formats as recommendations for standards** through validation and quality assurance of identified candidate standard methods in a European wide intercalibration exercise, using newly prepared certified reference materials and quality assured and controlled studies.

SO4. **Harmonising monitoring methods** that can be used by stakeholders to formulate and implement **policy and legislation** at European and international levels, through the development of recommended guidelines.

SO5. **Capacity building to facilitate and accelerate adoption of developed standards and guidelines** by EU policy and legislation through the creation of a platform for knowledge exchange between **scientists, industry, standardisation bodies** (CEN, ISO etc) and **governance**.

The EUROqCHARM project uses the following **working definition of capacity building (CB)**:
“learning and being capable of adding something new relevant to a previously defined perspective” .

The EUROqCHARM capacity building strategy distinguishes individual, institutional and infrastructure capacity development. The strategy aims to coordinate and elaborate an existing efforts.

The EUROqCHARM project aims to make this strategy operational.



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WP4 aims to build capacity for geographically distributed plastics monitoring activities & the assessment of plastic pollution at national levels in EU member states.

Specifically, the objective is to support European institutes and laboratories in acquiring and improving skills and tools, enhancing knowledge and putting forward resources necessary for monitoring programmes to support the amendment of current legislation.

WP4 focuses on ***best practice dissemination***, in particular, in European countries that currently lack skills and resources.

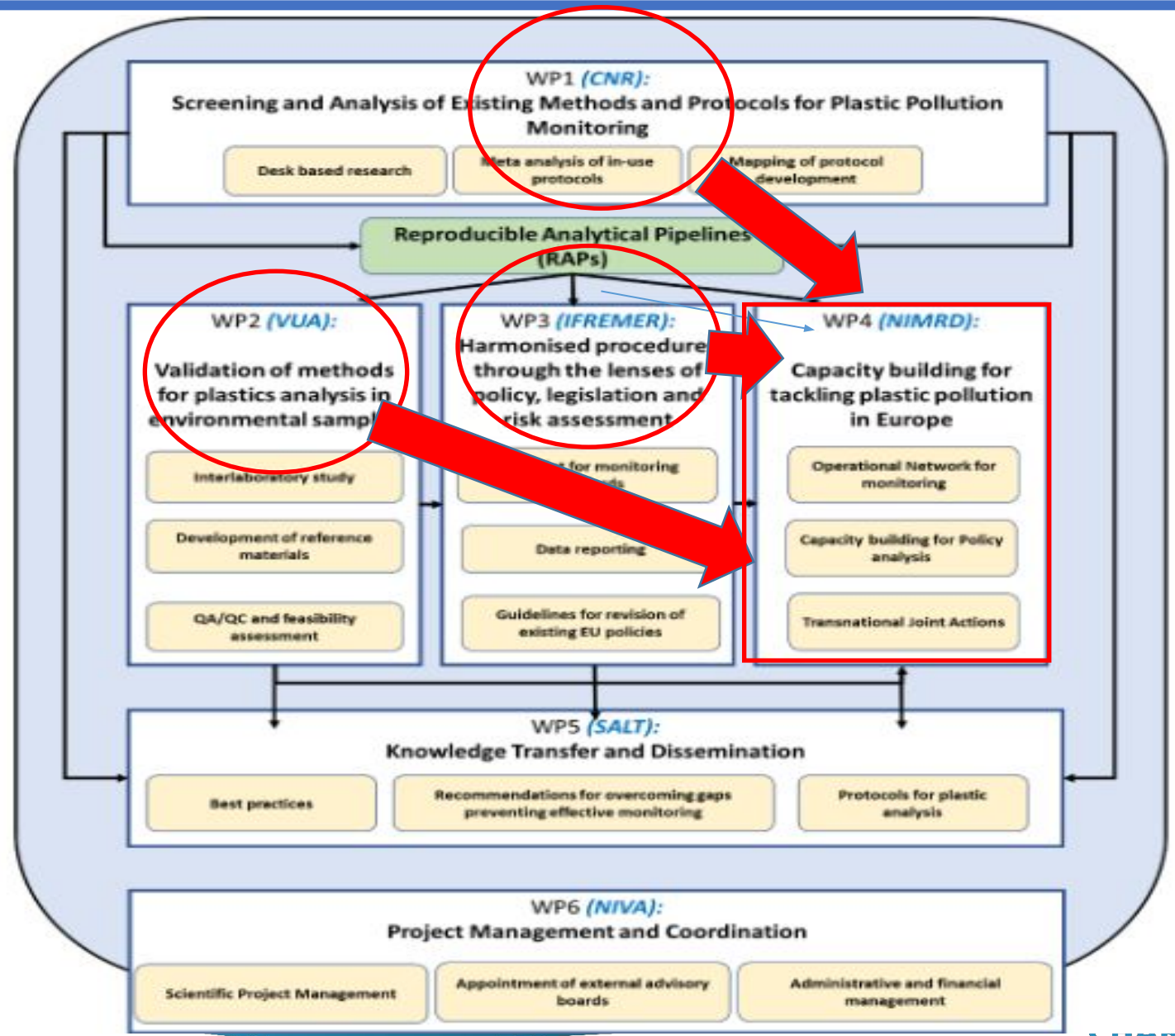
To maximise impact, EUROqCHARM will also establish and consolidate ***an operational network for plastic monitoring, stimulating Transnational Joint Actions built on existing and future European and international initiatives.***



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Dependencies on other WPs and Tasks

Based on the outcomes of **WP1**, **WP2** and **WP3**, **the WP4 main objective** is to support European laboratories in acquiring and improving skills, tools and knowledge and other resources necessary for monitoring programmes to support the amendment of current legislation.



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WP4 Tasks & Deliverables

WP4. T4.1 Operational Network of Plastic Monitoring (Lead: NIMRD;

Partners: NIVA, CNR, AWI, VUA, AU, CSIC)

D4.1 Report on the establishment of Operational Network (ON) for Plastic Monitoring

D4.2 Handbook of relevant European plastic monitoring entities, projects and initiatives

WP4. T4.2 Capacity building for policy analysis and policy coherence

(Lead: NIMRD; Partners: NIVA, AFNOR, CSIC)

D4.3 Report on development of *National and Regional Plastic Litter Capacity Building Action Plans*

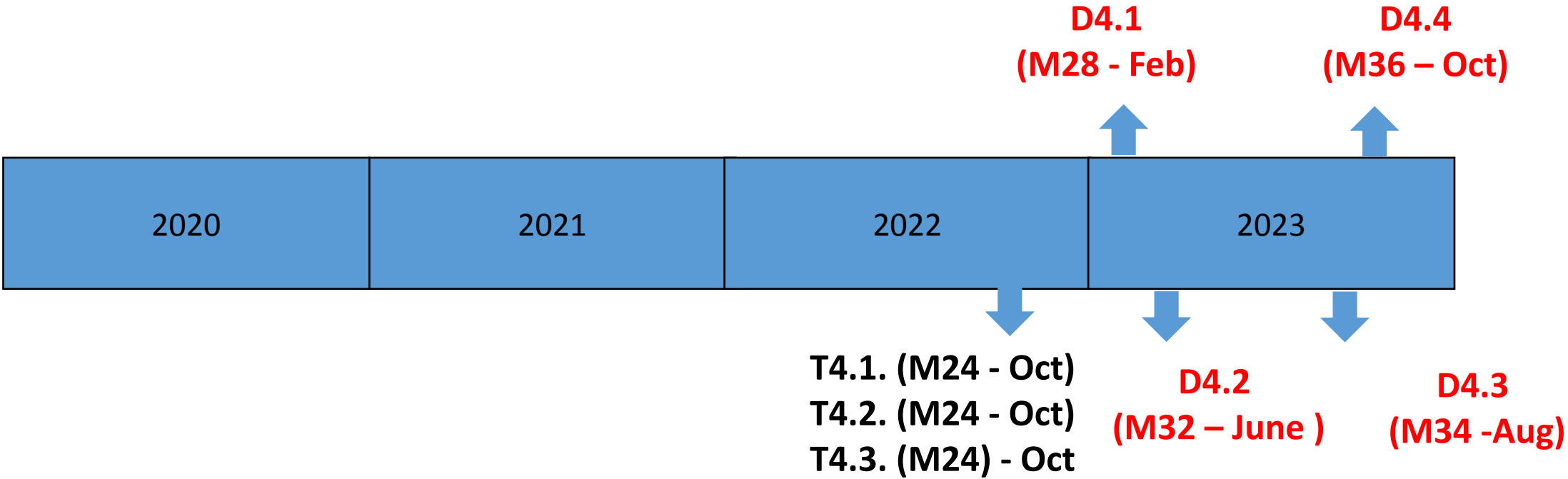
WP4. T4.3 Transnational Joint Actions (TJA) (Lead: NIMRD; Partners: NIVA, NILU, AWI)

D4.4 Report on the Transnational Joint Actions



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WP4 Timeline



The WP4 outcomes: *Operational Network of Plastic Monitoring*



Task 4.1. Operational Network of Plastic Monitoring (*Lead: NIMRD; Partners: NIVA, CNR, AWI, VUA, AU, CSIC*) (Months 24-36).

One of the specific WP goals was **to establish a network** involving the key existing regional and national actors involved in monitoring of plastic pollution.

The Operational Network (ON) of plastic monitoring is envisioned to support and enhance knowledge exchange, fostering scientific cooperation on a large European scale.

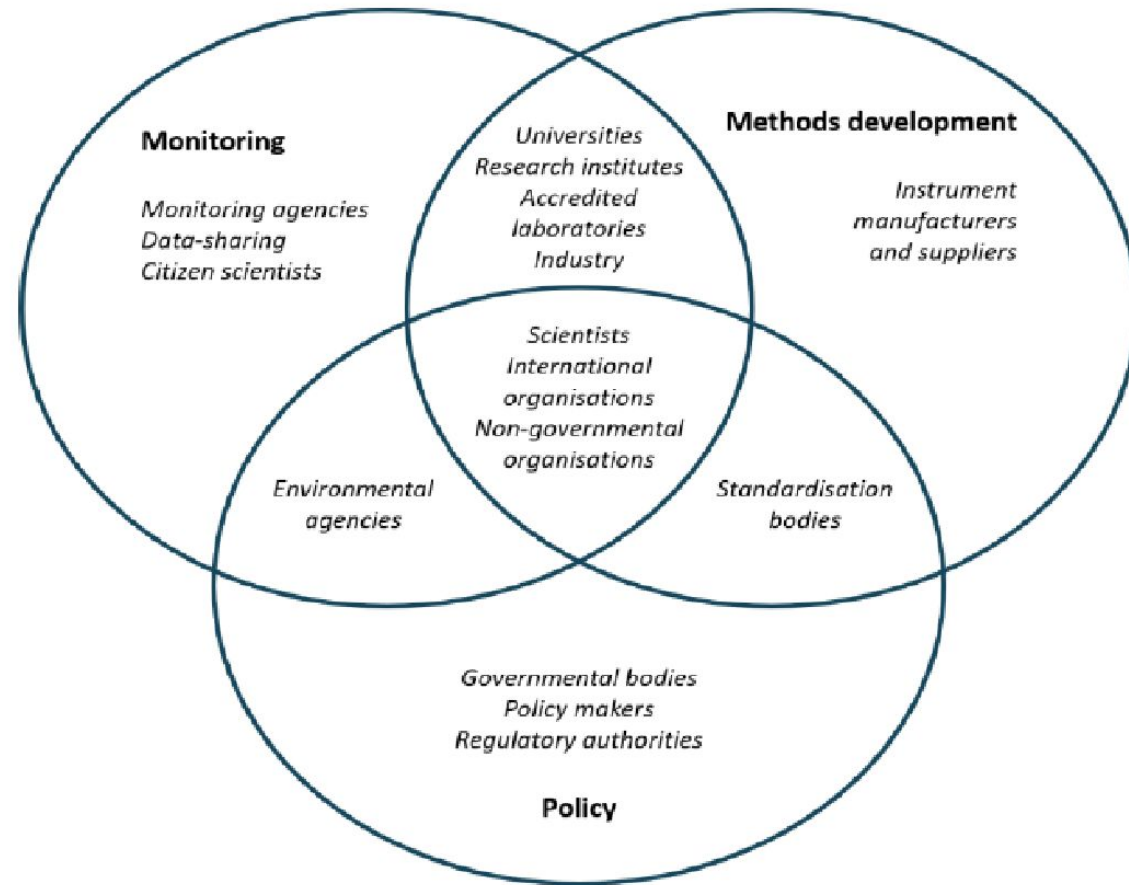
Building the EUROqCHARM ON of national and international actors involved in different phases of plastic monitoring is key to achieving the EUROqCHARM WP4's specific goals.

The main component of the ON encompasses all the monitoring aspects.



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The WP4 outcomes: *Using the EUROqCHARM Stakeholder Database to shape the Operational Network*



Schematic overview of stakeholders within the EUROqCHARM project

Operational Network highlighted in blue colour

The initial EUROqCHARM Stakeholder Database was set up and is a central point of reference for all stakeholder's data and interactions during the running time of the project. This served the purpose of enabling the project's stakeholder interaction, laying the ground for the establishment of the EUROqCHARM Operational Network (ON) for Plastic Monitoring.

The WP4 outcomes: *Fundamental steps in EUROQCHARM stakeholder identification*

Identification of stakeholders is an important step in ensuring the potential external experts who might have an interest in the project's results.

To compose the EUROQCHARM project stakeholder list, a number of implementation steps and instructions were considered .

The information collected in the List includes:

- o Category and type of stakeholder
- o Work package interest
- o Location (region, country)
- o Name and acronym of stakeholder
- o Name of contact person at the stakeholder (only if this is publicly available)
- o Email of contact person at the stakeholder (only if this is publicly available)
- o Stakeholder's website
- o Stakeholder activity & interest

The WP4 outcomes: *Categories and sub-category of stakeholders engaged within different works packages of the EUROqCHARM project*

Category and type stakeholder engaged	Commercialization/ Industry	Development/ Academic	Monitoring	Policy	Other
WP1 – SCREENING AND ANALYSIS OF METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical laboratory Instrument manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary research project Project Cluster University Research Institution Standardisation bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-sharing / Integration Governmental Intergovernmental Regional Monitoring company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO
WP2 – VALIDATION OF METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical laboratory Instrument manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary research project Project Cluster University Research Institution Standardisation bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental Regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental 	
WP3 – HARMONISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical laboratory Instrument manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary research project Project Cluster Research Institution Standardisation body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-sharing / Integration Governmental Intergovernmental Regional Monitoring company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO
WP4 – CAPACITY BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical laboratory Instrument manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary research project Project Cluster University Research Institution Standardisation body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-sharing / Integration Governmental Intergovernmental Regional Monitoring company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO
WP5 – KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND DISSEMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical laboratory Instrument manufacturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-disciplinary research project Project Cluster University Research Institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-sharing / Integration Governmental Intergovernmental Regional Monitoring company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governmental Intergovernmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO



The WP4 outcomes: *The method of operation (“modus operandi”) of ON*

Three pillars of the Operational Network	
1. Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing capacities for plastics pollution monitoring in Europe.• Advising or supporting members and partners in the development of projects or special initiatives such as training programs and learning tools to address the needs of its membership.• Stimulating Transnational Joint Actions built on existing and future European and international initiatives.• Developing the Knowledge and Best Practices Plan containing a set of protocols to ensure that all relevant knowledge coming out of the project is carefully managed.• Enhancing collaboration opportunities in the future.
2. Standard-settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributing to the achievement of formulating harmonised sampling, analysis and data reporting methods and to standardise approaches to plastic pollution.• Facilitate and accelerate adoption of developed standards and guidelines by EU policy and legislation.
3. Knowledge & Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge exchange between scientists, industry, standardisation bodies (CEN, ISO etc.) and governance.• Best practice dissemination, in particular, in European countries that currently lack skills and resources.• Facilitates access to information in the fields of terrestrial, freshwater and marine plastic, and act as a repository for and portal to third party sources.

The WP4 outcomes: Future activities through the Stakeholder Operational Network

The strategy of the EUROqCHARM Operational Network (ON) will be the basis for all WP4 deliverables.

Deliverable	Action (brief description)	Planned delivery
<i>D4.2: Handbook of relevant European plastic monitoring entities, projects and initiatives</i>	Activities to be performed in order to create a manual containing the comprehensive description of the most representative entities, projects and initiatives tackling plastic pollution and monitoring in Europe, designed in a way that allows more effective interactions during the project duration: academia, private sector and policy-oriented entities; infrastructures including data management and observing systems; recently finished, ongoing projects and forthcoming calls focused on plastic in the European region	M32
<i>D4.3 Report on development of national and regional plastic litter capacity building action plans</i>	Activities to be performed in order to develop plastic litter capacity building action plans at national and regional level through the two workshops organized as part of Tasks 4.1.	M34
<i>D4.4 Report on the Transnational Joint Actions</i>	Activities to support the design and implementation of new transnational joint actions (e.g. joint actions on training/education, ecosystem and innovation) between the EU countries (at least the countries of the project partners) to consolidate the Operational Network for plastic monitoring and to demonstrate at the pilot scale how the improved plastic litter strategy will be implemented.	M36





Task 4.2. Capacity building for policy analysis and policy coherence

(Lead: NIMRD; Partners: NIVA, AFNOR, CSIC) ([Months 24-36](#)).

Tasks 4.2 aims to strengthen the capacity of academia, governments and private sector to initiate a dialogue on:

- (1)** *how plastic pollution problem can be properly addressed by existing and new policies targeting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and*
- (2)** *how policy proposals emerging from international stakeholder fora can be implemented at national and EU level.*

This task will focus on: (1) raising awareness of the implications of multilateral commitments for domestic policies; (2) mainstreaming international commitments into national policy frameworks; (3) ensuring consistency between international commitments and domestic policies; and (4) lessons learnt and formulation of recommendations for a coherent policy framework tackling plastic pollution.

D4.3: Report on **development of national and regional plastic litter capacity building action plans** (M32)



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Task 4.3. Transnational Joint Actions (Lead: NIMRD; Partners: NIVA, NILU, AWI) (Months 24-36).

TJAs will include at least three actions along three general themes:


- (1) Education** – with the scope to develop and share best practices and innovative approaches in the fields of terrestrial, freshwater and marine plastic education and training;
- (2) Ecosystem** – with the scope to focus on ecosystem-based management, in a broader scale.; and
- (3) Innovation** – aiming to promote novel approaches regarding optimisation of existing monitoring activities.

D4.4: Report on the Transnational Joint Actions (M36)



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 euroqcharm@niva.no

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