

A - Project identification

A.1 Project identification

Project id (automatically created)	NPA0100004
Name of the lead partner organisation	Oulun yliopisto
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	University of Oulu
Project title	Blue Circular Nets
Project acronym	CIRCNETS
Project priority	Strengthening the capacity for climate change adaptation, and resource sufficiency in NPA communities
Project priority and specific objective	2.3: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
Project duration in months	36

A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project and describe:

- the common challenges and opportunities of the programme area you are jointly addressing in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a transnational approach is needed;
- what is new/original about the project.

Marine litter has received a lot of attention in the past years as a most vivid sign of the degradation of our oceans' health. Single use plastics (SUP) and fishing gear are the main sources of marine litter in Europe, and significant steps have been taken to tackle this issue. Many SUP products have been phased out of production and have been replaced with products that are made from less harmful materials. However, transition from plastics to more degradable materials is not possible when it comes to fishing gear. Other actions are needed to decrease the impact of fishing gear in the pollution of marine environment.

When fishing nets are approaching their end-of-life (EOL), the nets should be collected and disposed appropriately. SUP directive, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Ports Reception Directive are pushing the whole sector towards this direction, but setting up a collection network in the demanding NPA circumstances requires extra efforts from all of those involved. On the other hand, this offers also an opportunity to recycle and eventually also reuse the collected materials, which is in align with the EU's goals for Circular Economy and resource efficiency.

The CIRCNETS project is following in the footsteps of previously implemented NPA projects of Circular Ocean, Blue Circular Economy and Blue Circular Tech, which have demonstrated, that this issue requires transnational approach. CIRCNETS is utilising outcomes of these projects and taking them further. The main outcome is a Blueprint for collection, treatment and reuse of EOL fishing gear for the NPA region and in delivering this CIRCNETS also prepares the stakeholders involved in fishing business for the implementation of these legislative changes. In the above mentioned projects certain aspects related to the issue have been already addressed, but these have lacked both the geographical extent and holistic view on the collection, recycling and re-use, which CIRCNETS will deliver.

A.3 Project budget overview

Programme funding			Contribution					Total
Funding source	Funding amount	Co-financing rate (%)	Automatic public contribution	Other public contribution	Total public contribution	Private contribution	Total contribution	
ERDF	642,184.99	65.00 %	90,003.20	255,788.73	345,791.93	0.00	345,791.93	987,976.92
Total EU funds	642,184.99	65.00 %	90,003.20	255,788.73	345,791.93	0.00	345,791.93	987,976.92
ERDF_FO	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ERDF_GL	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ERDF_NO	155,997.78	50.00 %	0.00	155,997.78	155,997.78	0.00	155,997.78	311,995.56
ERDF_IS	129,998.05	65.00 %	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,998.95	69,998.95	199,997.00
Total	928,180.82	61.88 %	90,003.20	411,786.51	501,789.71	69,998.95	571,788.66	1,499,969.46

A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title (short)	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Organisations cooperating across borders	1.00	organisations	Output 2.2	EOL Emerging Technologies model	1.00				
Jointly developed solutions	2.00	solutions	Output 2.1	An economic potential (for EOL gear)report outlining the findings and potential policy recommendations models for national policy makers will be delivered	1.00				
			Output 3.1	Blueprint for setting up collection and recycling system in the NPA region	1.00				
						Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	0.00	1.00	joint strategy /action plan

B - Project partners

Partners overview

Number	Status	Name of the Organisation in English	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Associated organisations	Partner total eligible budget
1	Active	University of Oulu	Suomi /Finland (FI)	UO	LP	P/F Vonin Håll Sverige Rent Laitakarin Kala Oy	367360.00
2	Active	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Norge (NO)	NTNU	PP	Arctic Tehcnology Center (ARTEK) Norwegian Plastics Recycling Company (NOPREC)	311995.56
3	Active	Western Development Commission	Éire/Ireland (IE)	WDC	PP		231397.78
4	Active	National University of Ireland Galway	Éire/Ireland (IE)	NUIG	PP		189219.12
5	Active	Marine Ecological Solutions	Ísland (IS)	MarEco	PP	Kaldera Group ehf	199997.00
6	Active	Municipality of Sotenäs	Sverige (SE)	SYMBIOS	PP		200000.00

B.1 Lead partner	
Partner number	1
Partner role	LP
Name of the Organisation in original language	Oulun yliopisto
Name of the Organisation in English	University of Oulu
Organisation abbreviation	UO
Department / unit / division	Water, Energy and Environmental Engineering Research Unit (WE3)
Partner main address	
Country	Suomi/Finland (FI)
NUTS 2	Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi (FI1D)
NUTS 3	Pohjois-Pohjanmaa (FI1D9)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Pentti Kaiteran tie 1 90014 University of Oulu
Homepage	www oulu.fi
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Suomi/Finland (FI)
NUTS 2	Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi (FI1D)
NUTS 3	Pohjois-Pohjanmaa (FI1D9)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	- P.O Box 4300 90014 University of Oulu
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Higher education and research organisations
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	FI02458955
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mrs Mirja Illikainen
Contact person	Mr Niko Hänninen

Contact	
Email	niko.hanninen@oulu.fi
Telephone no.	+358407045512
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>The University of Oulu (UO) is an international science university, which creates innovation and knowledge through multidisciplinary research and education. The key subjects of research are people in a changing environment, as well as opportunities that new technology provides for improving well-being and the environment. The University is also an expert in Northern and Arctic issues.</p> <p>UO's Water, Energy and Environmental Engineering Research Unit's (WE3) has been involved in several projects dealing with marine pollution, including as a lead partner in two NPA projects (APP4SEA & POPCORN) dealing with oil spill issues and marine plastics. The unit is also currently carrying out a national ERDF-funded project with focus on ports and their energy and environmental issues, including waste management. Waste management issues is one of the foundations of the unit and some of the staff members of the unit have been researching these issues for over 20 years. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) has been a specific research topic on this field, where the unit has left its mark.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>UO's W3 unit is the lead partner and applicant of the project. UO is in charge of the project management and that the project reaches the goals, which have been set for it. UO will coordinate the work between work packages so that the work progresses according to project plan. UO will draft the cooperation agreement and set up the procedures, which will guide implementation of the project, and assist partners in these issues. Financial management of the project - monitoring of project expenditure and reporting towards the programme - is also responsibility of UO, as well as communication with the programme.</p> <p>UO is also the WP1 leader and makes sure that the set deliverables of the WP are reached. UO takes part in the implementation of work packages 2 and 3 and collects information from Finland/Finnish NPA regions for these work packages. UO is also in charge of external communication and coordinates these actions with WP leaders.</p>	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	
<p>WE3 was the lead partner of NPA 2014-2020 funded APP4SEA, FREED and POPCORN projects, besides which WE3 has participated in RECENT and C4CA projects of the past programme period. WE3 has participated also on NPP 2007-2013 projects, such as MicrE and WARES, so the unit has a long history with the funding instrument. WE3 is involved also in other EU co-financed and other international projects.</p>	

Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		238,784.00	65.00 %
Partner contribution		128,576.00	35.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		367,360.00	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
UO	Public	38,572.80	10.50 %
Ministry of Labour and Economy, national match funding	AutomaticPublic	90,003.20	24.50 %
Total contribution			
Sub-total public contribution		38,572.80	10.50 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution		90,003.20	24.50 %
Sub-total private contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Total		128,576.00	35.00 %
State Aid			
State aid criteria self-check			
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?			
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No		
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No		
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?			
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No		

Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval	

B.1 Project Partner 2	
Partner number	2
Partner role	PP
Name of the Organisation in original language	Norges teknisk-naturvetenskapelige Universitet (NTNU)
Name of the Organisation in English	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Organisation abbreviation	NTNU
Department / unit / division	International Business
Partner main address	
Country	Norge (NO)
NUTS 2	Trøndelag (NO06)
NUTS 3	Trøndelag (NO060)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Postboks 8900, Torgarden - 7491 Trondheim
Homepage	ntnu.no
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Norge (NO)
NUTS 2	Trøndelag (NO06)
NUTS 3	Trøndelag (NO060)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	-- --
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Higher education and research organisations
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	NO 974767880
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Hans Solli-Sæther
Contact person	Mrs Siv Marina Grimstad

Contact	
Email	sika@ntnu.no
Telephone no.	004770161263
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>NTNU as the largest university in Norway, has a broad range of contacts with International R&D actors, in academia as well as in industry. The annual budget of NTNU is around € 550 million, 25% of which is externally funded. NTNU is an active participant in the EU R&D Framework Programmes.</p> <p>Examples of other EU-funded projects NTNU is participating in is; Scenario-based sustainability assessment, - that is, the development of methods and THEMIS model for assessing sustainability impacts of large-scale penetration of new technologies through the integration of technological descriptions of technologies in the global economy and scenario analysis. Used to test the combined effect of several measures. Funded through FMR Cense linkage of the ESBL project and the EU FP7 project PROSUITE. SMART (2016-2019) sustainable market actors for responsible trade - the objective is to significantly advance the understanding of how non-development policies and regulations aimed at private and public market actors contribute to or undermine development policies. The SMART Consortium consists of a dedicated and well-integrated team of scholars from various disciplines and jurisdictions, representing 25 institutions from around the world. NTNU is a third party with UiO. This project is funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. NTNU was also project partner in the Circular Ocean Project (2015-2018) and Lead Partner of the recent project Blue Circular Economy (2018-2022) and also of the bridge project Blue Circular Tech (Jan 2022-June2022).</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>Our role is as WP-leader of WP 3 and to support the other WPs with information and decision-support models. In addition to leading and contributing to completing the 3 activities in WP 3, NTNU will feed data from our region into the following activities of WP1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Port reviews in the partner region 2) Annual additions of fishing gear in the NPA region 3) Collected EOL fishing gear volumes in the region and the responsible parties <p>and to WP2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Collecting best practices about collection and recycling operations in the region 2) Economic potential of EOL fishing gear 3) Review of the emerging technologies and best practices from the region 4) Organising regional workshops/webinars for SMEs 5) Current treatment and management criteria for EOL fishing gear 	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	

Motivation			
<p>The Department of International Business (IIF) offers education and research in the field of international business. Research is practised in close co-operation with the Norwegian industry, through the development of management models, tools and methods. Central areas of research are Corporate Social Responsibility, Circular economy, New sustainable business models, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, International business and marketing, Management Operation Analysis, Organisational Development, and Project Management. Marine and maritime research is one of four strategic focus areas within NTNU. Another of the four strategic areas is Sustainable Societal Development. A wide range of research groups are involved in the strategic areas. The cross-domain research targets on knowledge for a sustainable ocean has received particular attention in the period 2014-2023.</p>			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF_NO		155,997.78	50.00 %
Partner contribution		155,997.78	50.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		311,995.56	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
NTNU	Public	155,997.78	50.00 %
Total contribution			
Sub-total public contribution		155,997.78	50.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution		0.00	0.00 %
Total		155,997.78	50.00 %
State Aid			
State aid criteria self-check			
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?			
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No		
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No		

Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval	

B.1 Project Partner 3	
Partner number	3
Partner role	PP
Name of the Organisation in original language	Western Development Commission
Name of the Organisation in English	Western Development Commission
Organisation abbreviation	WDC
Department / unit / division	Regional Development
Partner main address	
Country	Éire/Ireland (IE)
NUTS 2	Northern and Western (IE04)
NUTS 3	West (IE042)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Dillon House - F45 WY26 Ballaghaderreen
Homepage	www.westerndevelopment.ie
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Éire/Ireland (IE)
NUTS 2	Northern and Western (IE04)
NUTS 3	West (IE042)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	-- --
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	IE9588395N
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	953493414
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Ian Brannigan
Contact person	Mr Ian Brannigan

Contact	
Email	ianbrannigan@wdc.ie
Telephone no.	+353866048012
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>As a regional development body the WDC has the following thematic competencies and experiences relevant to the project :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Its statutory remit is to "foster and promote socio-economic growth " in the west of Ireland region. as such its development, policy, investment and support functions are aligned with the proposals projected outputs 2. The WDC has engaged in almost €30M in EU funded projects in the last decade - giving it the skill and capacity to deliver on project commitments 3. The WDC has worked on several EU funded projects directly related to the themes of this submission. Sustainability and the circular economy(CE) themes have been worked on in - "Blue circular economy" in the NPA programme and "Extra SME£ under the Interreg europe programme (which engaged with blue economy SMEs and actors in the region and beyond). As such it is well positioned to engage on the proposal themes 4. As a regional body under the aegis of a Government department (Dept of community and rural development) the WDC has the ability to engage with national as well as regional agencies and stakeholders. 5.The WDC has a unique communications team and capability which enables it to disseminate the project findings and address PR requirements in a cost effective manner 6. To the previous point - as this issue (Marine plastic waste) is societal in nature the WDC would see the communications aspect as a key competency. This is also a transnational capability with regiostars finalist achievements on the recent BCE project as evidence of how this can deliver. 	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>The main roles of the WDC would be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act as the WP2 lead in assessing and evolving the end of life (EOL) systems currently in use in the NPA region. 2. Act as an enabler for the other WP's in our region . Through engagement and the provision of information etc. 3. Provide a robust communications capability to publicise and inform about the Circnets project . 	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	

Motivation

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is an independent state agency that is concerned with promoting the social & economic development in the Western Region (Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway and Clare).

The WDC adds value and regional focus to the work of national bodies, and actively engages with regional interests to initiate projects that build on the region's strengths and addresses its weaknesses. This is achieved through: Delivering a robust information base and regional perspective on policy issues which is acknowledged as a valuable input to national policy-making. Initiating regional projects with partners that build on the West's resources Project Management: Lead partner on the GREBE and Creative Momentum NPA Projects, and previously on RASLRES and BioPAD NPP-funded projects and three preparatory projects. Work package lead for LECO, FREED, RASLRES and Creative Edge. Additionally the WDC have participated in FP7, NWE and interreg europe programs incurring a wide experience of working in the EU realm.

This project management and financial experience has greatly increased the WDCs capacity to design and implement transnational projects.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	150,408.55	65.00 %
Partner contribution	80,989.22	35.00 %
Partner total eligible budget	231,397.78	100.00 %

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
WDC	Public	80,989.23	35.00 %

Total contribution

Sub-total public contribution	80,989.23	35.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Total	80,989.23	35.00 %

State Aid**State aid criteria self-check**

Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?

1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?

No

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval	

B.1 Project Partner 4	
Partner number	4
Partner role	PP
Name of the Organisation in original language	National University of Ireland Galway
Name of the Organisation in English	National University of Ireland Galway
Organisation abbreviation	NUIG
Department / unit / division	College of Science and Engineering, School of Civil Engineering
Partner main address	
Country	Éire/Ireland (IE)
NUTS 2	Northern and Western (IE04)
NUTS 3	West (IE042)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	University road Alice Perry Building H91 TK33 Galway
Homepage	https://www.nuigalway.ie/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Éire/Ireland (IE)
NUTS 2	Northern and Western (IE04)
NUTS 3	West (IE042)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	-- --
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Higher education and research organisations
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	IE0022578J
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	999978045
Contact	
Legal representative	Dr Eoghan Clifford
Contact person	Dr Alex Wan

Contact			
Email		alex.wan@nuigalway.ie	
Telephone no.		+353863704801	
Motivation			
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?			
<p>The MOREFISH research group in NUIG brings together a team of engineers, biologists, and scientists with a wide range of skills, experience, knowledge and expertise in the application of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) & Circular Economy (CE) models in the aquaculture, fisheries and seafood processing sectors both nationally and in the EU. Through involvement in the Neptunus (Interreg Atlantic Area Programme EAPA_576/2018 – NEPTUNUS), with a focus on the sustainability assessment of seafood products and the application of Circular Economy (CE), the group has gained extensive knowledge of strategies and CE models that deliver new products and working systems to the seafood sector. The team also have established a strong working relationship with the largest fisheries representative body nationally and engage in ongoing research with this group since 2019.</p>			
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?			
<p>NUIG will carry out lifecycle assessments, assessing the impact of the recovery of marine waste and the extent produced by fisheries. NUIG would conduct the following activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through engagement with the national representative fisheries organisations and port authorities complete an assessment of current EOL management and treatment of fishing gear in NPA fishing ports 2. Quantify the volumes, type and constituent elements of fishing gears used within the NPA region 3. Review the current LCA of fishing gears within the NPA and 			
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.			
<p>NUIG and Dr Eoghan Clifford's team have extensively participated in a number of international projects including the Interreg Atlantic Area program (EAPA_576/2018) NEPTUNUS project</p>			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		122,992.42	65.00 %
Partner contribution		66,226.69	35.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		189,219.12	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
NUIG	Public	66,226.70	35.00 %

Total contribution		
Sub-total public contribution	66,226.70	35.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Total	66,226.70	35.00 %
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval		

B.1 Project Partner 5	
Partner number	5
Partner role	PP
Name of the Organisation in original language	Marine Ecological Solutions
Name of the Organisation in English	Marine Ecological Solutions
Organisation abbreviation	MarEco
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Ísland (IS)
NUTS 2	Ísland (IS00)
NUTS 3	Höfuðborgarsvæði (IS001)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Saevidarsund 55 IS-104 Reykjavik
Homepage	www.polardoors.com
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	SME
Legal status	Private
VAT number (if applicable)	IS-80703
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	938975424
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Atli Mar Josafatsson
Contact person	Mr Atli Mar Josafatsson
Email	atlimarj@polardoors.com

Contact			
Telephone no.		3548986677	
Motivation			
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?			
<p>MarEco is an Icelandic SME involved in design, production and sale of fishing material, most importantly trawl doors and ropes. As the company is involved in production of fishing gear, it is affected by the SUP and EPR directives, even if Iceland is outside of the EU. MarEco is also well connected with the fishing sector in Iceland and has knowledge about the current state of collection, recycling and re-use of EOL fishing gear. MarEco is also interested to use recycled materials from fishing gears in their production instead of virgin materials and has knowledge about this aspect of the project. The company has developed a unique fishing door, which could be manufactured from recycled, worn-out fishing nets.</p>			
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?			
<p>MarEco's role in the project includes two major parts. First of all, MarEco will gather information from Iceland for the implementation of the work packages 1, 2 and 3, so that the Blueprint for collection, treatment and re-use of EOL fishing gear will include also relevant information and suggestions for Iceland. On the other hand, MarEco brings into project the aspect of a fishing gear producer, who is subject to the changes brought by the new legislation, and on the other hand that of a potential user of recycled materials from fishing gear, which can be utilised in the drawing of the recommendations.</p>			
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.			
<p>A Horizon 2020 project proposal, in which MarEco was involved, progressed to the second phase in application process, but was not funded in the end.</p> <p>In the past 8 years MarEco has been granted funding worth of 1,3 MEUR from the Icelandic Technical Development Fund.</p>			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF_IS		129,998.05	65.00 %
Partner contribution		69,998.95	35.00 %
Partner total eligible budget		199,997.00	100.00 %
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
MarEco	Private	69,998.95	35.00 %

Total contribution		
Sub-total public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	69,998.95	35.00 %
Total	69,998.95	35.00 %
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval		

B.1 Project Partner 6	
Partner number	6
Partner role	PP
Name of the Organisation in original language	Sotenäs kommun
Name of the Organisation in English	Municipality of Sotenäs
Organisation abbreviation	SYMBIOS
Department / unit / division	Division for Development and Strategy/Sotenäs center of Symbiosis
Partner main address	
Country	Sverige (SE)
NUTS 2	Västsverige (SE23)
NUTS 3	Västra Götalands län (SE232)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Parkgatan 46 46531 Kungshamn
Homepage	www.sotenas.se
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Sverige (SE)
NUTS 2	Västsverige (SE23)
NUTS 3	Västra Götalands län (SE232)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Abba Hagabergs Industrigata 1 45632 Kungshamn
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Local public authority
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	SE212000132201
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	901013310
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Mats Abrahamsson
Contact person	Mrs Louise Staxäng-Torbäck

Contact	
Email	Louise.staxang-torback@sotenas.se
Telephone no.	4679063360
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's thematic competences and experiences are relevant for the project?	
<p>Since 2018, Sotenäs Symbioscentrum, which is owned by the municipality of Sotenäs, has operated Sweden's only marine recycling center (MÅVC), where collection and disposal of marine waste such as end-of-life fishing gear, ghost gear and beach debris takes place. Today, MÅVC works closely with both producers of fishing gear and users of these, as well as actors who collect fishing gear from the sea and then hand it in to MÅVC. Sotenäs Symbioscentrum has a key role in this nation-wide fishing gear collection activities called "Fiskereturen", which is funded by the Swedish Marine and Water Authority. The Symbioscentrum is also involved in development projects both for the next step of the flow - upcycling and recycling of the collected plastic through their test bed for marine waste and in projects linked to the development of more circular fishing gear, such as SPIRAL.</p>	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
<p>The marine recycling center is a pioneer on its field in the Nordic Countries and the center has a lot of expertise regarding collection, sorting and recycling of fishing gear, which it has incurred since the operations were started in 2018. Sharing this information with the other project partners will provide lots of concrete, practical information about collection, recycling and re-use of end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear, which will benefit the NPA region. This information is vital, as the Blueprint for collection, treatment and reuse of EOL fishing gear in the NPA region is drafted, SYMBIOS practical expertise can be utilised and the MÅVC can be seen as an example for similar facilities to be set up in the NPA region. The partner has key role in the implementation of WP 2 and WP 3, and the SYMBIOS' experience of working with different actors in this field can be utilised to reach out to the stakeholders in the NPA region.</p>	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	

Motivation

The Municipality of Sotenäs has worked with several EU-funded projects since 1996. Some of the more recent projects are listed below:

- NIV: Participated in and acted as Swedish coordinator. An Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerak project between 2017-2020.
- SETS II: Participated in and acted as Swedish coordinator. An Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerak project between 2019-2022.
- Cirkulär bioekonomi i Sotenäs 2.0 (Circular bioeconomy in Sotenäs 2.0). Acted as project leader, EU-funded project 2019-2021 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.
- Ren kustlinje (Clean coastline). Acted as project leader. An Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerak project between 2016-2019.
- Etablering storskaligt landbaserat vattenbruk (Establishment of large scale landbased aquaculture) 2020-2023. Acted as project leader. A project funded by EMFF.
- Vattenbruksplan Sotenäs kommun (Aquacultureplan Municipality of Sotenäs) 2016-2018. Acted as project leader. A project funded by EMFF.
- KOBRA: Participated in. An Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerak project between 2015-2018.
- Pendlerbroen: Participated in. An Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerak project between 2015-2018.
- Maritim utveckling Bohuslän (Maritime development Bohuslän). Participated in. Project funded ERUF.
- Powerdoor (about design of fishing gear). Projectcoordinator. 2019-2023. A project funded by EMFF.
- SeaMe (locate and pick up lost fishing gear in the ocean). Projectcoordinator. 2020-2022. A project funded by EMFF.

Beside these project, we have participated in several projects funded by national and regional Swedish funds.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	130,000.00	65.00 %
Partner contribution	70,000.00	35.00 %
Partner total eligible budget	200,000.00	100.00 %

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
SYMBIOS	Public	70,000.00	35.00 %

Total contribution

Sub-total public contribution	70,000.00	35.00 %
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Sub-total private contribution	0.00	0.00 %
Total	70,000.00	35.00 %

State Aid	
State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No
2. Are there project activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme/de minimis to be filled after approval	

Associated organisations

Number	Status	Name of the Organisation in original language	Partner to which the organisation is associated to
1	Active	Arctic Tehcnology Center (ARTEK)	NTNU
2	Active	P/F Vonin	UO
3	Active	Norwegian Plastics Recycling Company (NOPREC)	NTNU
4	Active	Håll Sverige Rent	UO
5	Active	Kaldera Group ehf	MarEco
6	Active	Laitakarin Kala Oy	UO

Arctic Tehcnology Center (ARTEK) AO1	
Partner number	PP2
Name of the Organisation in original language	Arctic Tehcnology Center (ARTEK)
Name of the Organisation in English	Arctic Technology Center
Country	Greenland (GL)
NUTS 2	Qeqqata Kommunia (GL04)
NUTS 3	Qeqqata Kommunia (GL040)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	KTI, Box 1001 - 3911 Sisimut
Legal representative	Prof Lisbeth Ottosen
Contact person	Prof Lisbeth Ottosen
Email	lo@byg.dtu.dk
Telephone no.	4545252260

Arctic Tehcnology Center (ARTEK) A01

Partner role

Arctic Technology Center is the window of the project to Greenland. ARTEK has been involved in previous Circular Ocean and Blue Circular Economy projects as a partner. ARTEK is interested in following the CIRCNETS and contribute to the implementation of the project with information from Greenland. ARTEK can work also to other direction, disseminate outcomes of the project to stakeholders in Greenland.

P/F Vonin A02	
Partner number	LP1
Name of the Organisation in original language	P/F Vonin
Name of the Organisation in English	Vonin Ltd
Country	Faroe Islands (FO)
NUTS 2	Faroe Islands (FO00)
NUTS 3	Faroe Islands (FO000)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Bakkavegur 66 FO-530 Fuglafjørður
Legal representative	Mr Hjalmar Petersen
Contact person	Mr Daniel Hakunsson Dam
Email	dhd@vonin.com
Telephone no.	298230115
Partner role	Vónin Ltd is a major Faroese trawl maker that is operating worldwide. Vonin is also one of the founding members of The Faroese Sustainable Business Initiative, which was launched in September 2021 and the company is actively involved in collection of used fishing gear in the Faroese Islands. The company is important for the project as a producer of fishing gear, whose operations will be impacted by the EPR and SUP directives, even if Faroese are not part of EU. The company is eager to learn more about these changes and share their knowledge about collection activities in the Faroese, but it is also important to have fishing gear producer in the project, so that the manufacturing side of the issue can be addressed properly. Changes in the design of fishing gear could make recycling and re-use of the materials used in the fishing gear easier, which is the ultimate aim of EPR. Having Vonin on board gives the project also a possibility to explore this aspect.

Norwegian Plastics Recycling Company (NOPREC) A03	
Partner number	PP2
Name of the Organisation in original language	Norwegian Plastics Recycling Company (NOPREC)
Name of the Organisation in English	Norwegian Plastics Recycling Company (NOPREC)
Country	Norge (NO)
NUTS 2	Trøndelag (NO06)
NUTS 3	Trøndelag (NO060)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Matmortua, Foldavegen 6012 NO-7940 Ottersøy
Legal representative	Mr Tom Richard Hamland
Contact person	Ms Maliheh Salimi
Email	maliheh@oceanize.no
Telephone no.	4793682129
Partner role	This partner is a major player in the plastics recycling value chain in Norway, which adds another important stakeholder group into the partnership. NOPREC is interested to find about the best practices in recycling and re-use of fishing gear, and also share their own experiences in this field with the project.

Håll Sverige Rent A04	
Partner number	LP1
Name of the Organisation in original language	Håll Sverige Rent
Name of the Organisation in English	Keep Sweden Tidy
Country	Sverige (SE)
NUTS 2	Stockholm (SE11)
NUTS 3	Stockholms län (SE110)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Rosterigrand 4 11761 Stockholm
Legal representative	Mrs Johanna Ragnartz
Contact person	Mrs Eva Blidberg
Email	eva.blidberg@hsr.se
Telephone no.	46725516471

Håll Sverige Rent A04

Partner role

The Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation (KST) works with marine litter issues and have a great interest in abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear. KST has arranged litter dives both for general litter and fishing gears for more than a decade. KST was a partner in the Interreg. project Marelitt as well as the project Fiskereturen, that collect and recycle EOL, although KST does not do the operational work. Moreover, KST work closely with the Marine Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM). For instance, KST's annual preventive campaign is aimed at recreational fishermen to reduce the risk of losing their fishing gear at sea. KST are also responsible for a submitted application about ALDFG and EOL to the Central Baltic Sea Programme 2021-2027. There is a lot going on in Sweden when it comes to EOL fishing gear. KST are therefore interested in following the project CIRCNETS since it provides an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experience between us and participating organizations. We also want to start working with producers of fishing gears which is very much in line with some of the activities in CIRCNETS. Moreover, are KST strong in communication and can, if the project is interested, help to spread information about the project and its result to a broader public. KST is a non-profit organization that promotes recycling and combats litter through public awareness campaigns and environmental education. To be able to do that, we also work in projects for knowledge acquisition, and we do monitor litter in different habitats. The results can be used to evaluate and adjust the actions being taken to reduce littering. KST is strong addition to the stakeholder network of the project, especially, when it comes to dissemination issues.

Kaldera Group ehf A05	
Partner number	PP5
Name of the Organisation in original language	Kaldera Group ehf
Name of the Organisation in English	Kaldera Group Ltd
Country	Ísland (IS)
NUTS 2	Ísland (IS00)
NUTS 3	Höfuðborgarsvæði (IS001)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Tjarnargata 4 101 Reykjavik
Legal representative	Mr Thor Thormodsson
Contact person	Mr Haukur Alfredsson
Email	haukur09@gmail.com
Telephone no.	3546900022
Partner role	Kaldara Group is a SME that is involved in production of plastic containers, which can be manufactured with recycled plastics. The company is interested to find out more about the best practices and technologies, which can be used in reuse of collected EOL fishing gear, and promote the collection of EOL fishing gear.

Laitakarin Kala Oy A06	
Partner number	LP1
Name of the Organisation in original language	Laitakarin Kala Oy
Name of the Organisation in English	Laitakari Fish Ltc
Country	Suomi/Finland (FI)
NUTS 2	Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi (FI1D)
NUTS 3	Pohjois-Pohjanmaa (FI1D9)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Routuntie 1 90140 Oulu
Legal representative	Mr Timo Pauli Karjalainen
Contact person	Mr Timo Pauli Karjalainen
Email	tpkarjalainen@gmail.com
Telephone no.	0400662171
Partner role	Laitakari Fish Ltd is a SME involved in fish farming activities in the Oulu Region, Finland. The company is interested to find out more about the legislative changes involving EOL fishing gear and how the company's gear can be collected and recycled appropriately.

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

Programme priority specific objective chosen in section A.1.

2.3: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Project overall objective

Please define the overall objective of the project. Make sure that it clearly contributes to the selected programme specific objective and falls within the scope of the action(s) supported inside the programme's objective.

The overall objective should:

- be realistically achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- describe the broader goal of the project for the benefit of its target group(s), pointing to the results (change) to be achieved;
- be measurable.

CIRCNETS will map out the current EOL fishing gear situation in the NPA region, and give recommendations, how collection should be organised taking into consideration local circumstances and legislative requirements. This will help the regions to be ready when legislative changes enter force. The project will point out also the possibilities that the separately collected EOL fishing gear holds, as this can be used as raw material, and how this can support a circular economy in the NPA region.

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1 What are the common territorial challenge(s) or joint asset(s) that will be addressed by the project?

Referring to the challenges and opportunities identified in the Interreg NPA Cooperation Programme document, please describe which ones are going to be addressed by your project and why.

Long distances and lack of critical mass are key challenges for organising waste management in many parts of the NPA region. This is highlighted even more in the case of EOL fishing gear, which due to the changes in legislation, has to be collected separately. Setting up of a collection system in the NPA regions will be challenging due to the abovementioned general "NPA reasons" and other, more specific factors, but the directives have to be followed, no matter the costs. Finding out, how collection can be organised regionally in a most efficient and economic way, which also adheres to the "do no significant harm" principle, requires solutions to be looked at from other regions, which have already taken steps towards this. However, the collection of fishing gear opens up a possibility to proceed towards a more circular economy, and find out ways, how the collected materials can be recycled and reused also regionally. CIRCNETS will create solutions for both of these issues by drafting the blueprint for the collection, recycling and reuse of EOL fishing gear in the NPA region.

C.2.2 How does the project approach the identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what is new about the approach the project takes?

Please describe the project approach chosen to address the challenges and opportunities described in C. 2.1. Please also explain how the approach goes beyond existing practice in the sector, programme area, and participating countries, demonstrating the innovativeness of the approach.

CIRCNETS will take a holistic view into the EOL fishing gear problem, which is not confined just to local, regional or national borders, but affects the whole NPA region. Aiming for whole NPA-wide coverage, the volumes and qualities of the fishing gear, what is done to EOL fishing gear at the moment, which best practices are already in use in the collection in partner regions, etc. will be covered. Based on this and the experiences from outside of the NPA region, guidelines will be drafted for the NPA region, which will take into consideration the SUP and EPR legislation that applies to fishing gear, as well as the Port reception directive, and their national variations. These only require the collection to be done, so the project takes the next step towards circular economy and will connect with SMEs interested in generating resources from waste gear. Separately collected fishing nets should not end up in the incinerator plants, but the materials should be given another lease of life, and preferably in the region, from where they originate. SMEs will be given greater insight into emerging technologies, upcycling opportunities, and product development strategies. Good, already used practices will be shared with other regions and introduced to the NPA region from outside of the programme area. The overall goal is a blueprint for collection, recycling and reuse of EOL fishing gear and preparing the NPA region for the implementation of these legislative changes.

C.2.3 Why is transnational cooperation needed to achieve the project's objectives and result?

Please explain why the project objectives cannot be efficiently reached acting only on a national/regional /local level and describe what is the added value for the partnership and the project area in taking a transnational cooperation approach.

The challenge itself - of collecting, recycling and reusing EOL fishing gear - is a common one for the NPA region. The region has thousands of kilometres of coastline, thousands of lakes and other freshwaters, which are the scene for commercial fishing and fish farming, but also for recreational fishing. Making sure that the fishing gears, which catch cod out in the North Atlantic, or pike and perch on the thousands of lakes in Finland, are disposed appropriately, is a common challenge. Finding out, how this has been done elsewhere, and what factors are crucial in setting up this system, is a key factor in drafting plans for the NPA region. Sweden has been mentioned as a pioneer in this field, at least among the Nordic countries, but there is best practices and policies already placed in other NPA countries, which are worth considering, as the blueprint for NPA regions is put together. The wide partnership, which covers the whole NPA region, is a key instrument in this sharing of knowledge and best practices. What works in one corner of the NPA region, might be worth considering in other regions as well. The partners have seen the value of this, as they have decided to join their forces and put together a project to address this issue.

Local, regional or national plans can be put together, as the Swedish example shows, but they are much more difficult to make without the transnational cooperation approach. It seems that the EOL fishing gear issue has received more attention in Sweden when compared to other NPA countries, maybe it has not been that high on the national "to-do list", but that has changed as the marine plastic problems have received more attention and steps have been taken on EU level. An NPA project like CIRCNETS can have a significant role in supporting and helping the implementation of national legislation, helping the NPA region to get ready for these changes that the SUP and EPR directive will have. Taking similar steps on a national/regional or local level would be less effective, more time-consuming and would not necessarily lead to expected results. It is also worth noticing, that since we are dealing with the well-being of our oceans, seas and freshwaters, time is of the essence here.

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?

Please select the relevant target groups from the drop-down list. For each of them, please provide a more detailed specification and explain how they will benefit from your project outputs and results. Please ensure consistency with the target groups addressed in the activities (section C.4).

Target Group	Specification
Local public authority	Local authorities working in waste management
Sectoral agency	Agencies working with waste management and fishing issues
Infrastructure and (public) service provider	Waste management service providers
Interest groups including NGOs	Interest groups for fishers and fishing industry
SME	SMEs involved in fishing & fish farming, fishing gear production, utilising recycled materials
Regional public authority	Regional public authorities working in waste management
National public authority	Authorities involved in fishing and circular economy issues
General public	General public involved in recreational fishing

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?

Please select to which strategies and policies your project will contribute and briefly describe in what way.

Strategy	Contribution
EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Strategy	PA Hazards. Supporting preventive measures, which PA Hazards is working with. Contributing to proper disposal of EOL fishing gear
European Green Deal Strategy	Protecting the environment and oceans with the Green Deal - moving towards a circular economy & improving waste management. Blueprint for collection, recycling and reuse of EOL fishing gear.
Atlantic action plan 2.0 Strategy	Pillar 4. Coastal resilience and healthy oceans. Supporting actions against marine litter by contributing to proper disposal of EOL fishing gear.
A stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic Strategy	Supporting actions against environmental degradation by contributing to proper disposal of EOL fishing gear.
Other Strategy	Supporting HELCOM's goal of a "Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter". Contributing to proper disposal of EOL fishing gear.
Other Strategy	Supporting the new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU. Making the NPA region ready for the renewal of the fishing gear design standards.
Other Strategy	UN's Sustainable development goals. Contributing to proper disposal of EOL fishing gear, which supports the implementation of target 14.1, "By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution"

C.2.6 Which synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of? How will your project make use of synergies with other Interreg projects (especially from other transnational and Arctic Cooperation programmes), and other EU, international or local initiatives (e.g. Horizon, Nora, national/regional programmes, etc)?

Project or Initiative	Synergy
Baltic Sea Region project MARELITT	Plans for litter reception facilities and recycling in the Baltic Sea region
Fiskereturn.se	Experiences from the collection of EOL fishing gear in Sweden
Smart policyutveckling för producentansvaret för fiskeredskap av plast, SPIRAL	Experiences from introduction of EPR for EOL fishing gear in Sweden

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?

Please describe the experiences/lessons learned that the project draws on, and other available knowledge the project builds on.

CIRCNETS utilises some of the methods and outcomes of the Baltic Sea Region project MARELITT. The project aimed to reduce the impact of the marine litter from derelict fishing gear (DFG - abandoned and lost in the seas) and one of the WPs was dedicated to marine litter reception facilities and recycling. This is relevant also for CIRCNETS, even if CIRCNETS addresses EOL fishing gear, not DFGs. Outcomes of this project will be utilised in CIRCNETS, as recommendations and plans are put together for the NPA region.

The municipality of Sotenäs has been running a dedicated marine recycling centre for 5 years, making them pioneers in this field in the Nordics. SYMBIOS has accumulated a lot of practical experience in these years, and will undoubtedly be an important source of information for the project and the NPA region. Having SYMBIOS on the project as a full partner ensures, that the project has access to vital, up-to-date expertise, which money can't buy, as they are involved also in Fiskreturen.se and SPIRAL.

The project builds on the work that has been done in three NPA projects, Circular Ocean (2016 Regiostars Public Choice Award winner), Blue Circular Economy (2020 Regiostars Awards finalist), and Blue Circular Tech. In the course of these projects, it has become clear, that there is a continued need to engage SMEs and other stakeholders in the marine sector to develop solutions for EOL fishing gear while also generating new opportunities in the circular economy. Discussions with SMEs working in this sector, also in the planning phase of CIRCNETS, have confirmed the need for more concrete actions, which CIRCNETS will deliver. As a testimony of this, several SMES have joined the project partnership. The projects have created a foundation, from which the next step can be taken, create a holistic blueprint for collection, recycling and reuse of EOL fishing gear for the NPA region and prepare it for the implementation of SUP and EPR directives in fishing gear.

C.3 Project partnership

What is the rationale of the partnership composition and how are partners complementary to each other? Please describe the structure of your partnership and why the involved partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve the project objectives.

The project partnership consists of universities, a regional development organisation, a recycling facility and a SME involved in production of fishing materials. The partners have not been selected just for achieving as wide geographical extent as possible, each one has a special role to play in the project, which complement each others' competences.

UO as the lead partner is an experienced NPA project leader, but has extensive experience from EPR, recycling and waste management issues, but also maritime questions and ports. NTNU has shown their mark already in the previous projects. Clustering, business opportunities and know-how of the legislative side are strengths of NTNU. WDC has been involved in these three projects as well, and brings in to the project unsurpassed know-how of their region and its business, including fishing sector. WDC strengths include also external communication, which took the BCE project into the Regio Stars. NUIG has a dedicated team involved in research of fishing sector, with expertise on the life cycle analysis of fishing gear, end of waste issues and other related topics.

MarEco brings into the project their knowhow of the Icelandic fishing sector and that of an fishing gear designer, producer and seller, who will be affected by the changes in legislation, but is also looking into the possibilities of utilising recycled fishing gear. This unique approach will be highly beneficial for the project, as well as that of SYMBIOS, which runs the only dedicated fishing gear recycling center in the Nordics. Their vast experience from all aspects related to collection, recycling and re-use of EOL fishing gear will be of utmost benefit for the NPA region.

In addition to the full partners, there is several associated partners, which widen the geographical extent of the project to Faroes and Greenland, but also to other stakeholder groups, such as fishing net producers, plastic recyclers and environmental NGOs.

C.4 Project work plan

Number	Work package name
1	Analysis of fishing gear volumes and collection responsibilities & practices in NPA ports
2	NPA Marine plastic mitigation model (collection, treatment, reuse)
3	Implementation of EPR for EOL fishing gear in NPA countries

Work package 1

Work package title

Analysis of fishing gear volumes and collection responsibilities & practices in NPA ports

Objectives

Please define one project specific objective that will be achieved by your project through the implementation of the work package. The specific objective should be:

- realistically achievable by the end of the project;
- specific;
- measurable – indicate the change aimed for.

This WP will map out the overall fishing gear volumes that are in use in NPA countries, collected EOL fishing gear volumes and the EOL fishing gear collection responsibilities and practices in NPA ports.

To be able to deliver a work package, the project may need to engage with relevant target groups, for example through awareness raising, changing attitudes or beliefs, or changing behaviour. For this reason, applicants are asked to formulate one or more communication objectives.

The communication objective of the work package is to increase stakeholders' awareness of the future legal requirements for the collection of EOL fishing gear and how this has been organised in the NPA region.

The primary target audiences are 1) ports where EOL fishing gear is generated, 2) Local and regional public authorities & public service providers working with waste management issues 3) professional and recreational fishers

Activities

Activity 1.1	
Title	Port review – collection and disposal of EOL fishing gear in the NPA fishing ports
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 1.1	
Description	The aim of this activity is to find out, how end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear is collected and disposed of in ports, and whether any good practices are already in place. The port review will be done in participating regions and the inventory will cover both coastal and inland fishing ports. The inventory is performed by several methods; First, a more general mapping is done mainly through literature and web searches and online surveys. Based on the results of the initial mapping, three to five ports from each of the project partner countries will be selected for studying more specifically with direct personal contacts, like interviews, port visits etc. The WP lead is responsible for preparing inventory and assessment templates, and all partners will conduct visits in the participating areas.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, UO, WDC

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.1	NPA Port Report: Review of the current gear collection and disposal practices in NPA fishing ports	The report provides an overview of the current collection and disposal practices for EOL gear in the NPA ports. It summarizes practices and differences between them, and assesses the functioning of existing systems. It also identifies good practices and highlights gaps that need to be addressed.	Period 2 , 7 - 12

Activity 1.2	
Title	Review of the quantity and quality and annual additions of fishing gear in the NPA region
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 1.2

Description	<p>This activity assesses the quantities and qualities of fishing gear in the NPA area. The aim of this activity is to find out how much and what kind of gear is placed on the market in the NPA area and how much EOL gear is generated each year. It examines also domestic production and imports, as well as the materials used in the equipment, with the aim of forming an overall picture of the material flows, operators and economic value of the fishing gear sector in the whole NPA area.</p> <p>The activity is carried out mainly as a literature search and is based on a wide range of research and project reports, statistics and other databases, company classifications and directories, but also personal contacts, e.g. expert interviews can be used to obtain the most comprehensive and up-to-date information possible. The WP lead will compile a report based on literature reviews and the partners' findings.</p>
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO, WDC

Deliverables 1.2

Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.2.1	Fishing gear report: Review on quantities and qualities of fishing gear in the NPA area	The report provides an overview of manufacturers and other parties, who will be subject to EPR. It also assesses quantities and qualities of fishing gear put on the market in the NPA area aiming to provide an accurate understanding of the cumulative quantities and materials of gear in the NPA area.	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 1.3

Title	Review of EOL fishing gear collection volumes and responsible parties in the NPA region
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 18

Activity 1.3**Description**

This activity assesses quantities and qualities of EOL fishing gear in the NPA area. The aim of this activity is to find out how much and what type of fishing gear is collected and disposed of each year in the partner countries and who is responsible for receiving and handling it. Activities will also examine how the collected waste is currently treated in each country, what other treatment options are available nationally and to what extent. This is carried out mainly as desktop research and it utilizes e.g. research and project reports, statistics and other databases. Also, personal contacts, e.g. expert interviews can be used to obtain the most comprehensive and up-to-date information possible. The WP lead will compile a report based on literature reviews and the partners' findings.

Partner(s) involved

MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO, WDC

Deliverables 1.3

Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.3.1	EOL fishing gear report: Review of EOL gear collection and responsibilities in the NPA region	The report provides the annual collection volumes of EOL fishing gear in the NPA areas and parties responsible for collecting them. In addition, it includes an inventory of current fishing gear EOL treatment methods and an assessment of the processing capacity in each NPA country.	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.1.3.2	Dissemination campaign for professional and recreational fishers	Social media campaign about the EOL fishing gear collection issues highlighting the need to dispose them appropriately, how this can be done, etc.	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Work package 2

Work package title

NPA Marine plastic mitigation model (collection, treatment, reuse)

Objectives

Please define one project specific objective that will be achieved by your project through the implementation of the work package. The specific objective should be:

- realistically achievable by the end of the project;
- specific;
- measurable – indicate the change aimed for.

Develop a model to sustainably use EOL gear
-Analysis of the current EOL fishing gear disposal systems
-Current End of waste criteria for fishing gear
-Economic potential of EOL fishing gear
-Emerging technologies and best practice dissemination

To be able to deliver a work package, the project may need to engage with relevant target groups, for example through awareness raising, changing attitudes or beliefs, or changing behaviour. For this reason, applicants are asked to formulate one or more communication objectives.

The communication objective of the work package is to increase stakeholders' awareness about the gaps in current EOL fishing gear collection systems and about the potential circular economy business opportunities that separately collected EOL fishing gear offers.

The target audiences: 1) ports where EOL fishing gear is generated (local, regional public authority & public utility providers), 2) SMEs interested in circular economy 3) sectoral agencies 4) Interest groups 5) National authorities

Activities

Activity 2.1	
Title	Analysis of the current EOL fishing gear disposal systems
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 3, 13 - 18

Activity 2.1	
Description	<p>Assessment/analysis, through engagement with the national representative fisheries organisations and port authorities, of current EOL management & treatment of fishing gear to cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the gaps and possibilities in the current disposal system based on the findings of Activity 1.1. • Identification of best practices/BATs that are currently in use in collection and recycling operations outside of the NPA region, examples also from MARELITT, Fiskereturen.se, etc. • Quantification of the volumes, type and constituent elements of fishing gears used within the NPA region • Review of current Life Cycle Assessment of fishing gears within the NPA to identify environmental hotspots within the value chain and potential EOL and circular economy opportunities for valorisation of EOL fishing gear.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO

Deliverables 2.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.1	Development report for NPA EOL collection system	The report describes the improvement needs of the current EOL collection practices in the NPA region and how these could be improved using examples of best practice & BATs from outside of the NPA region.	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Activity 2.2	
Title	Economic potential of EOL fishing gear in the NPA region
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 2.2	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic analysis of the annual fishing gear collection for secondary material markets Activity 2 and 3 will feed into this, LP will compile, and partners will assist if needed
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, UO

Deliverables 2.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.1	EOL Economic potential workshop	A stakeholder workshop to review the potential economic opportunities for macro plastic EOL gear. This will be transnational in nature and involve reviews of feedstock, end product development, marketing, processing and community involvement. This will incorporate the EPR findings of WP3.	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.2.2.2	EOL economic potential webinars	In preparation for the EOL economic potential workshops a series of national and transnational webinars will be held to share best practice, review circular economy themes and provide inputs into the EOL best practice workshop and report /model. Transnational inputs used from Norway , Finland etc	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.3	EOL Economic report	Based on the webinars and workshop , a report outlining the findings and potential policy recommendations models for national policy makers will be delivered .	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Activity 2.3	
Title	Emerging technologies and best practices from existing companies about reuse of recycled fishing gear, sharing these with other regions
Start period	Period 5, 25 - 30
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36

Activity 2.3	
Description	<p>In this WP we will co-ordinate the partners and investigate with EOL stakeholders what are suitable emerging technologies to mitigate and upcycle the EOL plastic.</p> <p>LP together with partners will map these out in each partner region -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the best practices from NPA regions replicable in other NPA regions? • Are the best practices outside of NPA region replicable in the NPA region? • Are these technologies viable considering the material flows/quantities? • Regional workshops/webinars for local SMEs interested in circular economy business opportunities, not only for those, who are involved in fishing sector and in reuse of material from fishing gear? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Partners organise in their own regions their models - WP lead will collate the final findings in a best practice model.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO

Deliverables 2.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.3.1	Regional EOL technology audit needs	Each partner region to assess what technologies are most suitable for advancing EOL marine plastic reuse and mitigation . This can involve processing , track and tracing, and even marketing of end products. Equally it can identify technology gaps based on sector inputs .	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.3.2	EOL Technology best practice report	Based on the EOL technology audit needs the WP lead will deliver a report on EOL technology BP	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 2.4	
Title	Support the Information campaign on EPR and perhaps implement any concepts of value chain activation
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 2.4	
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	Support from a communications perspective CirNETS – specifically information on the following: -EPR legislation -SUP -Mitigation -SMEs -Communities -Municipalities
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO

Deliverables 2.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.4.1	Information campaign (workshops, webinars , misc. activities) to inform /advise on EOL EPR impacts	Taking inputs and findings from WP2 on legislation and EPR type drivers for the EOL marine gear sector, activities will be engaged to disseminate these findings to the stakeholders and SMEs.	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 2.5	
Title	Current treatment and management criteria for EOL fishing gear
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of issues/challenges with implementation of EPR scheme for EOL fishing gear within the NPA region. • Develop a roadmap for implementation of EPR of EOL fishing gear to take into account relevant policy and NPA region-specific peculiarities.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO, WDC

Deliverables 2.5			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.5.1	Report on issues with implementation of EPR scheme for EOL fishing gear within the NPA region	Review of issues/challenges with implementation of EPR scheme for EOL fishing gear within the NPA region	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Outputs

Output 2.1	
Output Title (short)	An economic potential (for EOL gear)report outlining the findings and potential policy recommendations models for national policy makers will be delivered
Programme Output Indicator	RC0116_2.3: Jointly developed solutions
Measurement Unit	solutions
Target Value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Output Description	This model will inform policy makers on key next steps in evolving the EOL sector. Based on workshops and webinars to review the potential economic opportunities for macro plastic EOL gear, transnational in nature and involving reviews of feedstock, end product development, marketing, processing and community involvement, incorporating the EPR findings of WP3.
Output 2.2	
Output Title (short)	EOL Emerging Technologies model
Programme Output Indicator	RC087_2.3: Organisations cooperating across borders
Measurement Unit	organisations
Target Value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 5, 25 - 30

Output 2.2

Output Description

In this WP we will co-ordinate the partners and investigate with EOL stakeholders what are suitable emerging technologies to mitigate and upcycle the EOL plastic. WP leader together with partners will map these out in each partner region. This will result in a BP Model for technology adoption in EOL stakeholders in the NPA partner region

Work package 3

Work package title

Implementation of EPR for EOL fishing gear in NPA countries

Objectives

Please define one project specific objective that will be achieved by your project through the implementation of the work package. The specific objective should be:

- realistically achievable by the end of the project;
- specific;
- measurable – indicate the change aimed for.

Contribute to implementation of EPR for EOL fishing gear in the NPA

- Review the implementation of EPR in other sectors
- Review of fishing gear EPR, SUP and EU port reception facilities directive in NPA
- Implementation of EPR in fishing gear sector

To be able to deliver a work package, the project may need to engage with relevant target groups, for example through awareness raising, changing attitudes or beliefs, or changing behaviour. For this reason, applicants are asked to formulate one or more communication objectives.

Raise awareness about the future legal requirements for the collection of EOL fishing gear, the gaps in implementation of EPR in NPA regions and how these can be addressed. There will be also scientific journals targeting academic and research institutions.

The main target groups include 1) ports where EOL fishing gear is generated (local and regional public authority, public utility providers), 2) SMEs 3) sectoral agencies 4) Interest groups 5) professional and recreational fishers

Activities

Activity 3.1	
Title	Review of the implementation of EPR in other sectors
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 3, 13 - 18

Activity 3.1	
Description	Within this activity, the implementation of EPR in other sectors in NPA countries will be studied. This will highlight the various good practices, the "do's" and "do not's", which should be taken into account as the EPR collection and treatment system is put in place in NPA regions. The lead partner is responsible for the analysis of the cases, and partners in regions will assist in providing nation-specific data for the analysis
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, UO, WDC

Deliverables 3.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.1.1	Report about the implementation of EPR in other sectors	The reports describes in detail the lessons learnt and best practices from implementation of EPR in other sectors, which should be considered in implementation of EPR in fishing gear collection and treatment	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Activity 3.2	
Title	Review of the fishing gear EPR, SUP and EU port reception facilities directive
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Description	The WP will look into when these directives will be introduced and what it means for the parties involved. Are there differences in the way they will be implemented in the different regions. There will be organised webinars and stakeholder workshops.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO, WDC

Deliverables 3.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period

Deliverables 3.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.2.1	Workshops	Partners running workshops in local areas with support from the leader of WP 3 and LP. The goal is to involve those affected by the changes from the new directives	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.3.2.2	Webinars	Live web-based video conference targeting both fishing gear producers and others in the value chain of recycled fishing gear	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 3.3	
Title	Implementation of EPR in the EOL fishing gear sector – recommendations for setting up collection and recycling systems
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	Implications of the findings in the activities 3.2. for policymakers are to be identified and advised. Activity 2.1 (in WP2) will inform of what local NPA-region peculiarities need to be taken into account for implementing EPR for EOL fishing gear in the different regions.
Partner(s) involved	MarEco, NTNU, NUIG, SYMBIOS, UO, WDC

Deliverables 3.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.3.1	Report	Based on the results on activity 2.1 and 2.2. we will collate the information from all partners in a report that will advice how to set up well-functioning collection and recyclingsystems in the different partner countries.	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.3.3.2	Dissemination campaign for professional and recreational fishers	Social media campaign about the changes brought by EPR, SUP and port reception directives for EOL fishing gear collection	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Deliverables 3.3

Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.3.3	Journal article	Based on the findings from activity 3.2 and and 1.3. an academic article will be published in a suitable journal, targeting academic and research institutions.	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Outputs

Output 3.1	
Output Title (short)	Blueprint for setting up collection and recycling system in the NPA region
Programme Output Indicator	RCO116_2.3: Jointly developed solutions
Measurement Unit	solutions
Target Value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Output Description	Set of recommendations, which adhere to the regional peculiarities and differences in legislations, based on which a collection and recycling system for EOL fishing gear could be set up in the NPA regions.

C.5 Project Results

Please select and quantify the relevant programme result indicators to which your project will contribute. For each selected result indicator, please briefly describe the contribution of the project and the relevant project results (change) you expect to achieve through the implementation of the foreseen activities and outputs as defined in the work plan. Please also specify the output(s) which are directly related to this result.

Result 1	
Programme result indicator	RCR79_2.3: Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
Measurement unit	joint strategy/action plan
Baseline	0.00
Target value	1.00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Result description	This includes recommendations about setting up of collection and recycling system for EOL fishing gear for the NPA region and (output 3.1) utilising the economic potential of these collected raw materials in the NPA region through the EOL Emerging Technologies model (2.1. and 2.2.).

C.6 Project Time Plan

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
WP1 Analysis of fishing gear volumes and col...	[Orange bar]					
A1.1 Port review – collection and dispos...	[Orange bar]	D1.1.1				
A1.2 Review of the quantity and quality ...	[Orange bar]	D1.2.1				
A1.3 Review of EOL fishing gear collecti...	[Orange bar]		D1.3.1			
	[Orange bar]		D1.3.2			
WP2 NPA Marine plastic mitigation model (col...	[Dark Blue bar]					
A2.1 Analysis of the current EOL fishing...		[Dark Blue bar]	D2.1.1			
A2.2 Economic potential of EOL fishing g...		[Dark Blue bar]		D2.2.2		D2.2.1
		[Dark Blue bar]				D2.2.3
A2.3 Emerging technologies and best prac...				D2.3.1	D2.3.2	[Dark Blue bar]
A2.4 Support the Information campaign on...				[Dark Blue bar]	D2.4.1	[Dark Blue bar]
A2.5 Current treatment and management cr...	[Dark Blue bar]					D2.5.1
RCO116_2.3						O2.1
RCO87_2.3					O2.2	
WP3 Implementation of EPR for EOL fishing ge...	[Green bar]					
A3.1 Review of the implementation of EPR...	[Green bar]		D3.1.1			
A3.2 Review of the fishing gear EPR, SUR...		[Green bar]		D3.2.1	D3.2.2	
A3.3 Implementation of EPR in the EOL fi...				[Green bar]		D3.3.1
				[Green bar]		D3.3.2
				[Green bar]		D3.3.3
RCO116_2.3						O3.1
Result indicator						

C.7 Project management

In addition to the thematic work planned in the Work Plan (C.4), the project needs enough resources for project management, coordination and internal communication.

C.7.1 How will you coordinate the project?

Please describe how the project management on the strategic and operational level will be carried out, including the set-up of management structures, responsibilities and procedures, as well as risk

The lead partner will designate an overall project coordinator who will be the central point of contact for partners, the NPA Secretariat and Managing Authority. Each full partner will also designate a representative who will be responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination actions for the project in their organisation. The partnership agreement will be made, which will outline the rights and obligations of the partners and internal communication procedures will be set up. Virtual partner meetings involving all partners will be organised monthly or more often if necessary, and there will be at least 2 physical partner meetings a year. In connection to these physical partner meetings, steering group meetings will be organised. The LP together with WP leaders follows the progress of the project and acts fast and decisively, if the risks of not achieving set project goals, deliverables, etc. seem to be getting higher. Issues will be addressed by the LP and if necessary, brought up in additional steering group meetings and brought also into attention of the NPA secretariat, if this is required. The aim is to be proactive in this sense and not to let potential challenges grow up into problems, which might cast a shade on the implementation of the whole project and jeopardize achieving of the set project aims.

C.7.2 Which measures will you take to ensure quality in the project?

Describe the approach, processes and responsible partners for quality management. If you plan to carry out any type of project evaluation, please describe its purpose and scope here.

LP will follow the progress of the project, activities and meeting of deadlines closely. LP will make sure that the activities are carried out on that high level, as is required to meet the goals of the project. The steering group is the more formal quality management tool of the project, which will assess the quality of the project work on a regular basis. The steering group will meet at least twice a year in connection with the physical partner meetings. External experts will also be consulted at times to determine the quality of the project deliverables and their relevance.

C.7.3 What will be the general approach to communicate about your project?

Explain how the communication objectives (ref. work plan C.4) will help achieving the project result(s). Please add who will coordinate project communication and how the involvement and contribution of all partners will be organised. What tools and channels will be used to support the uptake of your project results? Please acknowledge the mandatory communication requirement (ref. Programme Manual) and note that all communication activities should be included in the relevant work packages, not in this section.

LP together with WP leaders coordinates communication activities. LP will take care of the mandatory communication requirements, including setting up and updating the project mini-website and having a social media presence. Stakeholder/associated partners will be utilised in external communication, they can assist in getting the message through to the stakeholders. Potential stakeholders have been contacted already during the planning of the project and they include among others authorities and business organisations/representatives of the fishing sector. All the support that the project has met in the field during the planning phase of the project has not materialised in associated partnerships or support letters, but the aims of the project have been well received and have raised lots of interest. The existing networks of the partners, associated partners and those of already mapped out stakeholders will be used to ensure the dissemination and uptake of project results. LP is also experienced in organising of social media campaigns and other means to reach the general public, which will be put in use in the dissemination campaigns towards professional and recreational fishers.

C.7.4 How do you foresee the financial management of the project and reporting procedures for activities and budget (within the partnership and towards the programme)?

Please describe how you will ensure a smooth reporting process between partners and their controllers, as well as partners and the Lead Partner. Please also reflect on how the Lead Partner will monitor spending levels, keep an eye on the need for changes, ensure that reporting deadlines are kept, and ensure a swift transfer of funds to the partnership.

Lead partner has extensive experience from the previous programme periods of the NPA (&NPP) programme, including lead partner role from several projects. The partnership includes partners, who have been involved in NPA projects, and are thus familiar already with the general reporting procedures of the programme. The LP will guide and advice all the partners about the reporting procedures, including about the changes of the new programme. Clear deadlines will be set for reporting and submitting of partner reports, and the LP will follow the spending level of partners during the reporting periods and as partner reports are submitted. Partners are asked to give financial updates in the middle of reporting periods as well. Partners' progress with project activities will be followed closely and needs for changes will be addressed appropriately. Once funds are received from the Managing Authority, these will be transferred without delays to partners based on their approved expenditure levels.

C.7.5 Cooperation criteria

For each cooperation criterion, describe briefly how they will be implemented in your project. Please note that the joint development, joint implementation and joint financing criteria are mandatory

Cooperation criteria		Description
Joint development	Yes	All the partners have taken part in the planning of the project. The partnership has utilised the different experiences and know-how of individual partners, as the plan has been put together, and how this transnational challenge can be tackled. Besides this, the national and regional peculiarities have been taken into account in the planning of the project, which could not have been done without local knowledge.
Joint implementation	Yes	The project activities will be implemented jointly, with majority of partners participating in most activities, which make them truly transnational in nature. The activities and work packages are not carried out in "bubbles" by a WP leader alone, partners will participate in them actively, so that the transnational goals of the project are met. The WP leaders together with LP ensure, that activities lead in to planned deliverables, which will feed into another activities and work packages.
Joint staffing	No	
Joint financing	Yes	The project has been built on joint financing of the project activities. LP will monitor expenditure spending, collect reports and pass these to the MA and distribute granted funds to partners accordingly.

C.7.6 Horizontal principles

Please indicate how your project contributes to the horizontal principles (see the Programme Manual).

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Sustainable development	positive effects	The project will have positive impacts on sustainable development. The project delivers recommendations, based on which the recycling of EOL fishing gear recycling can be increased. This will result in better environmental status, as the nets will be disposed appropriately. These measures will lead also to more efficient raw material use, as recycled plastics can be used instead of virgin plastics. All of these actions will support circular economy and EU's green deal.
Equal opportunities and non-discrimination,	positive effects	The project contributes positively to equal opportunities and non-discrimination. Appropriate steps have been taken during the planning to comply with these principles and will be done during the implementation of the project itself.
Equality between men and women.	positive effects	The project contributes positively to equality between men and women. Both men and women have had equal opportunities to participate in the planning of the project and same principle will be applied during the implementation of the project itself.

C.8 Long-term plans

Projects should have a long-lasting effect for the relevant target groups in the programme area. Please describe below how this will be ensured.

C.8.1 Ownership

Please describe who will ensure the financial and institutional support for the outputs (and relevant deliverables) developed by the project, and explain how they will be made available at local and/or transnational level.

The outputs do not require financial support after the end of the project. Different stakeholder groups will be involved in the implementation of the project, and the outputs are handed over to relevant authorities and other stakeholders, who will utilise these after the end of the project. The aim is, after all, capacity building of these stakeholders, so they are ready for the changes that the changes in legislation brings and also ready to support the circular economy aims, when it comes to utilisation of collected EOL fishing gear.

C.8.2 Durability

Outputs and deliverables should be made available and used by relevant target groups (project partners or end users) after the project's lifetime, to have a lasting effect in the programme area. Please describe how and by whom the outputs and deliverables will be used after the end of the project.

The blueprint will be presented to national, regional and local public organisations, waste management service providers and also sectoral authorities and Interest organisations. It is expected that the recommendations will be taken up by these bodies in their own operations, as they prepare for the legislative changes that will be introduced. Many of these stakeholders have been contacted already in the planning phase of the project, and the overall aims of the project have been warmly welcomed among these stakeholders.

C.8.3 Transferability

Please describe how outputs and deliverables could be adapted or further developed to be used by additional target groups or rolled out in other territories beyond the partnership. How will communication activities make relevant groups aware of the available outputs and deliverables?

The outputs of the project are transferable to other regions to a certain extent, or can be used as a basis for making of similar recommendations for EOL collection and recycling. If possible, the project can organise specific communication activities to promote these outputs beyond the NPA region in relevant events, such as EU Regions Week in Brussels and European Maritime day. just to mention two potential events.