



Blue Circular Economy (2018-2021) is a NPA project that supports the development of fishing net waste industry. This project builds on Circular Ocean and aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) offering products and services within fishing gear recycling solutions to attain a greater market reach. As part of Blue Circular Economy, we operate www.birdsanddebris.com, a crowdsourcing, community science project, which seeks to better understand and highlight the extent of bird-debris interactions.

Lead partner: NTNU, Norway, represented in this project by Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI, Scotland

<https://bluecirculareconomy.eu/>



Photos courtesy of Circular Ocean project, Hazard project, Silke Falkus, Elizabeth Masden and Niko Hänninen.



Implementation period: 1.7.2021-30.6.2022

Lead partner:



Partners:



 @APP4SEA_NPA

Website: <https://popcorn.interreg-npa.eu/>





POPCORN – a joint effort of four projects

POPCORN – Preventing oil and Plastics contamination of Northern Ocean Region - is a clustering project that brings together three Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme projects and one Baltic Sea Region (BSR) project. All the projects share a common general aim, which is to improve environmental protection of Northern seas and to contribute to the wellbeing of marine environment. However, each project has addressed this issue from a different angle.

POPCORN will disseminate and share the outputs of the participating projects to new regions and organisations in order to maximise the outreach of the outputs. What has been created in one project, does not have to be invented again in another one. Keeping the seas free of plastics and minimizing the impacts of potential oil spills is a common challenge. The methods and best practices, which are being used in one region to address these challenges, could be suitable for other regions as well.

POPCORN will organise webinars and seminars for organisations and authorities, who are working with oil spills and plastic pollution of seas. The aim of these events is to promote the practices, methods and tools that have been developed in the projects. POPCORN will also raise awareness about these environmental hazards among the general public by making podcasts, infographics and publications.



APP4SEA – Arctic Preparedness Platform for Oil Spill and Other Environmental Accidents (2017–2020) – was a NPA project with a focus on improving the oil spill response preparedness in the NPA region. APP4SEA has published several reviews and surveys dealing with Arctic oil spill response (OSR) preparedness, including gap analysis and recommendations. One key output of the APP4SEA project was a smart map (<https://app4sea.com/>), which can be used as an educational tool by OSR experts, but it can also serve general public as a platform to raise awareness about Arctic issues and oil spill response.

Lead partner: University of Oulu, Finland

<https://app4sea.interreg-npa.eu/>



CIRCULAR OCEAN (2015–2018) was a NPA project with focus on developing innovative and sustainable solutions for marine plastic waste. Through transnational collaboration and eco-innovation Circular Ocean developed, shared and tested new sustainable solutions to incentivise the elimination, collection and, reprocessing of discarded fishing nets and assist the movement towards a more circular economy. Circular Ocean won the prestigious EU RegioStars 2016 inaugural Public Choice Award and was a finalist in the category Sustainable Growth: Circular Economy.

Lead partner: Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI, Scotland

<http://www.circularocean.eu/>



The **OIL SPILL** Project (2019–2021) strengthens the oil spill response capability in the Baltic Sea Region by enhancing cross-border and cross-sectorial cooperation between and within relevant stakeholders. The key outputs include improved cooperation models between competent authorities and volunteers, a review of national procedures and legal issues, and an international cooperation network. The project is co-funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme of the European Union.

Lead partner: University of Turku, Finland

<https://blogit.utu.fi/oilspill/>