

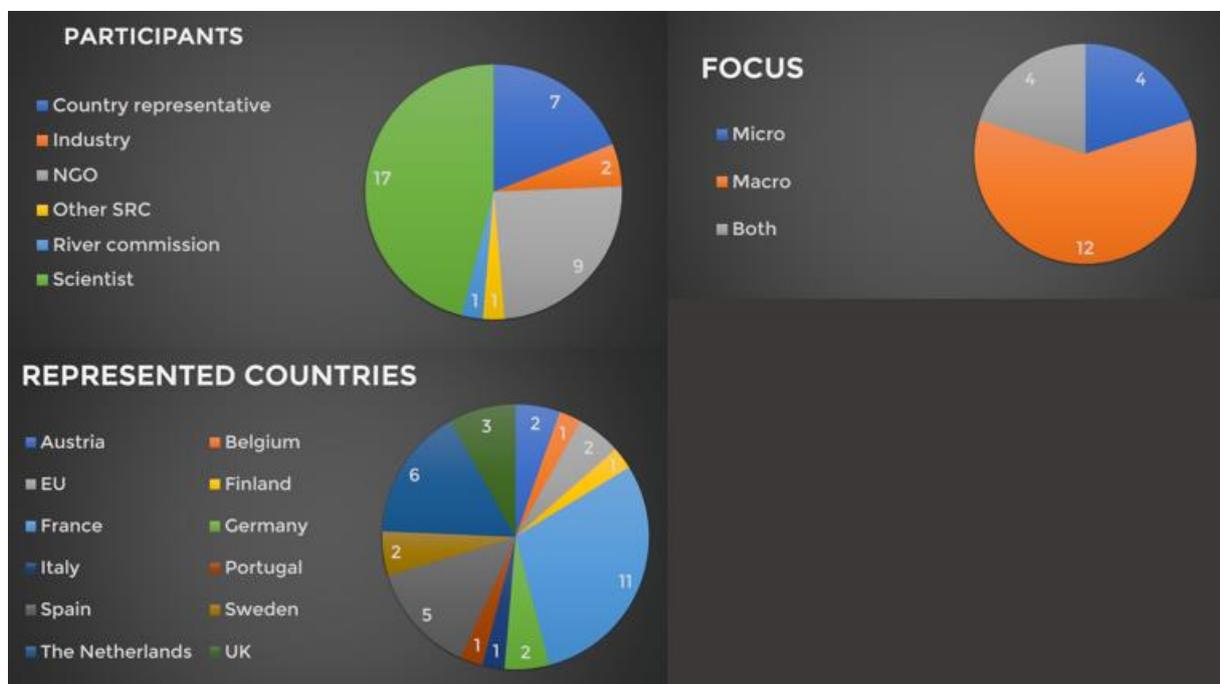
Minutes Workshop on Riverine Litter

Paris, June 4th – 5th, 2019

This workshop was organized by the French Ministry of Ecology and Solidary transition with the help of Surfrider Foundation Europe and the OSPAR commission.

The aim was to share results and methodologies of existing projects which analyze riverine plastic pollution. Harmonized methodologies are needed for long term plastic pollution monitoring in rivers and should help assess measures efficiency. The outputs of this workshop were an exchange of knowledge, improved relations between researchers and NGOs running riverine litter monitoring projects and a first draft summarizing advantages and disadvantages of every method discussed during this workshop.

The workshop gathered 37 participants coming from eleven countries. Twenty presentations were given over the two half days. The majority was on macroplastics distribution in freshwater environment. Due to the high number of talks, only twenty minutes were left for discussion.



Some takeaways from those two half days

Microplastics:

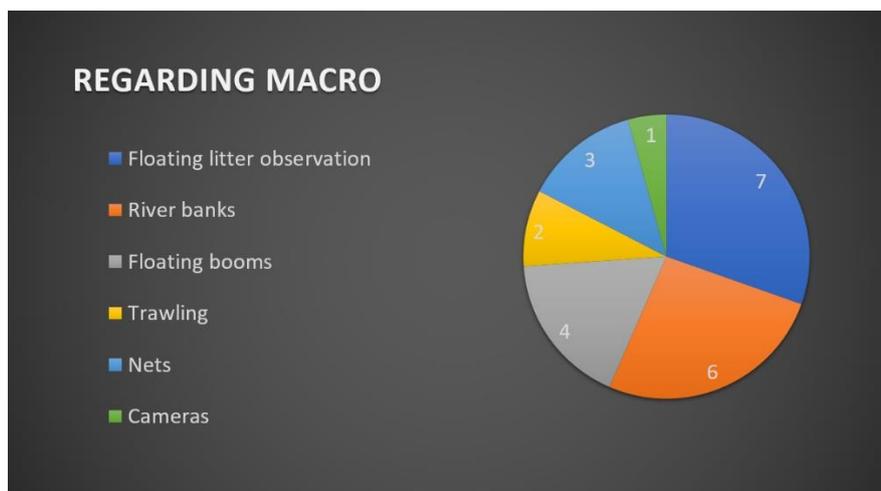
- Yearly loads at Hainburg for microplastics in an average year is < 20t/a (presentation from Marcel Georg Liedermann)
- On the Elbe river, more plastics in sediments (100-16000 particules/kg) as in water (1-13 particules/m³), esp. PE, PP and PS (presentation from Friederike Stock)
- Concentrations of mp between 2.9 particules/m³ in the Rhine, and 214 particules/m³ in the Emscher (presentation from Tabea Stoetter)

Macroplastics:

- Plastic transport at the Danube varies between 15 to 80 kg / day (presentation from Marcel Georg Liedermann)
- Estimates of macroplastics fluxes on the Seine river are strongly different according to the methodology used (presentation from Romain Tramoy)

Methods presented during the workshop

Most of the presentations given were about macro-plastic contamination. Floating litter observation and river banks monitoring are the two methods most applied.



Works on microplastics were not well represented since only four talks were dedicated to this topic.

Way forward

The PowerPoint presentations, documents shared, the agenda, the document summarizing information related to projects and the list of participants are available [in this folder](#).

Two points could help move forward:

- Precise the European framework for riverine litter monitoring (WFD vs. MSFD)
- Launch a working group at the EU level together with a platform to exchange information.

A similar riverine litter workshop should be organized next year by France, the Netherlands and Germany. If you are interested in helping in the organization of this event, please, get in touch with us. We will keep you informed anyway.

Thank you again for participating in this workshop and for your commitment for cleaner and healthier rivers and oceans.