

# the free litter at goal

The overall objective of Free LitterAT is to protect and preserve biodiversity and reduce pollution by developing, testing and implementing innovative approaches to prevent and reduce marine litter, with special emphasis on ALDFG (Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gears) and microplastics and to understand location, sources and abundances. The project will combine knowledge, tools and technology development with implementation through pilot actions and multi-stakeholder engagement.

## specific objectives

1 Preventing marine litter by improving waste management and recycling and facilitating the implementation of SUP and PRF Directives.



2 Understanding the origin and location of litter accumulation by identifying major sources, pathways and hotspots of marine litter (by monitoring and modelling).

3 Reducing and removing marine litter and associated risks.



4 Promoting Litter Free local communities by developing pilot actions and awareness raising activities.

## working streams

### 1 Prevention by improving waste management and recycling

- Analysis of relevant aspects for Single-use plastic products (SUPs) and Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directives and current practices for waste management in ports.
- Management/Recycling of End-of-Life Fishing Gears.
- Management of Waste Incidentally Fished.
- Socio-economic analysis.

### 3 Modelling approaches from micro and macro litter: from modelling outputs to sources and hotspots

- Increased knowledge regarding the degradation mechanisms of plastics.
- Improved modelling of macro and microplastics.
- Modelling drift behaviour of nets, ropes and fishing tools.
- Improving usability of Marine Litter Lagrangian model for end-users and stakeholders.

### 2 Assessing and Monitoring micro and macro litter contamination

- Advancing new methods and tools to survey and monitor macro marine litter.
- Improved microplastics monitoring.
- Identification of activity and geographical sources of marine litter.
- Comprehensive assessment of macro and microlitter pollution in the Atlantic Area.

### 4 Reducing marine litter and associated risks

- Development and testing of action plans for abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gears (ALDFG) detection, mapping and retrieval.
- Promotion of Fishing for Litter.
- Marine litter removal in coastal accumulation sites, including remote areas.
- Removal of microplastics.

## expected results

Free LitterAt will significantly contribute to reduce marine litter inputs, enhance monitoring and modelling capabilities, facilitate access to data, knowledge and technology, promote alliances and increase stakeholder awareness.

As main outputs, it will deliver good practices, improved protocols and systems for waste management and recycling, advanced monitoring and modelling tools for macro and microlitter, maps of sources and hotspots, collaborative platforms and actions plans for reducing ALDFG that will be transferred to key end-users.





# partnership



Centro Tecnológico del Mar (CETMAR)  
Spain (Coordinator)



Agência Regional para o Desenvolvimento da Investigação, Tecnologia e Inovação (ARDITI)  
Portugal (Madeira)



An Taisce  
Ireland



Centre de Documentation, de Recherche et d'Expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des Eaux (CEDRE), France



Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental (CIIMAR)  
Portugal



Direção Regional do Ambiente e Ação Climática (DRAAC), Portugal



Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos  
Portugal



Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer  
France



Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO-CSIC)  
Spain



Instituto Tecnológico para el Control do Medio Mariño de Galicia (INTECMAR)  
Spain



Marine Institute  
Ireland



Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (USC)  
Spain



Université Bretagne Sud (UBS)  
France



Universidade Lusófona  
Portugal

# associated partners



Spanish Association of Marine Litter (AEBAM)  
Spain



Associação Portuguesa de Lixo Marinho (APLM)  
Portugal



Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM)



OSPAR Commission



Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) – Ireland



Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et de la cohésion des territoires, France



Ministerio de Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico (MITECO)  
Spain



Municipalities for Sustainable Seas (KIMO)



Vertidos Cero Association  
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# contact us

## Project Coordination team

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# free litterat

ADVANCING TOWARDS LITTER - FREE ATLANTIC COASTAL COMMUNITIES BY PREVENTING AND REDUCING MACRO AND MICRO LITTER

## Free LitterAT PROJECT

**TITLE:** Advancing towards litter-free Atlantic coastal communities by preventing and reducing macro and micro litter

**PROGRAMME:** Atlantic Area Transnational Program 2021-2027

**TOTAL BUDGET:** 3,626,336.22 €,  
**ERDF FUNDING:** 2,719,752.15 €

**DURATION:** 3 years (1/11/23 – 31/10/26)

**COORDINATOR:** Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Fundación CETMAR

**WEBSITE:** [www.freelitterat.eu](http://www.freelitterat.eu)