

iSea

Environmental Organisation for the preservation of the aquatic ecosystems

Prosfero Interim Report

Thessaloniki, 2023



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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Prosfero campaign

Prosfero campaign is funded by Procter & Gamble and AB Vasilopoulos and implemented by iSea with the aim to achieve cleaner beaches and coasts. Since 2018, 256 beach and underwater cleanups have been conducted throughout Greece in the context of the project and more than 87 tons of litter have been removed.

The 19th wave of Prosfero campaign was conducted in Volos and South Pelion including a total number of 8 beach cleanup actions. The organisation and coordination of the actions began in October 2023, while they were implemented in November and December 2023.

All the actions were coordinated by 3 iSea representatives. The representatives were responsible for the coordination of the participant volunteers, the introduction of the participants to the issue of marine litter, the presentation of the project and its actions and the data collection during the cleanups.

The present interim report refers to the activities conducted in the context of the 19th wave of Prosfero.

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Beach cleanups

During November and December 2023, 8 beach cleanups (A1-8) took place in the context of the 19th wave of Prosero campaign. In particular, beach cleanups took place in Volos and South Pelion (Table 1).

Beach cleanup details

1th Activity (A1): Almyros beach, Almyros

2th Activity (A2): Nea Agxialos beach, Volos

3th Activity (A3): Pefkakia beach, Volos

4th Activity (A4): Agios Stefanos beach, Volos

5th Activity (A5): Platanidia beach, Volos

6th Activity (A6): Kala Nera beach, South Pelion

7th Activity (A7): Milina beach, South Pelion

8th Activity (A8): Platanias beach, South Pelion

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Table 1: Supplementary data of "Prosero 19" beach cleanups conducted during November and December 2023.

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Litter collected (kg)
A1	28-11-2023	55	172
A2	28-11-2023	7	15
A3	29-11-2023	32	110
A4	29-11-2023	7	57
A5	30-11-2023	20	65
A6	30-11-2023	65	25
A7	01-12-2023	2	40
A8	02-12-2023	5	100
Total		193	584

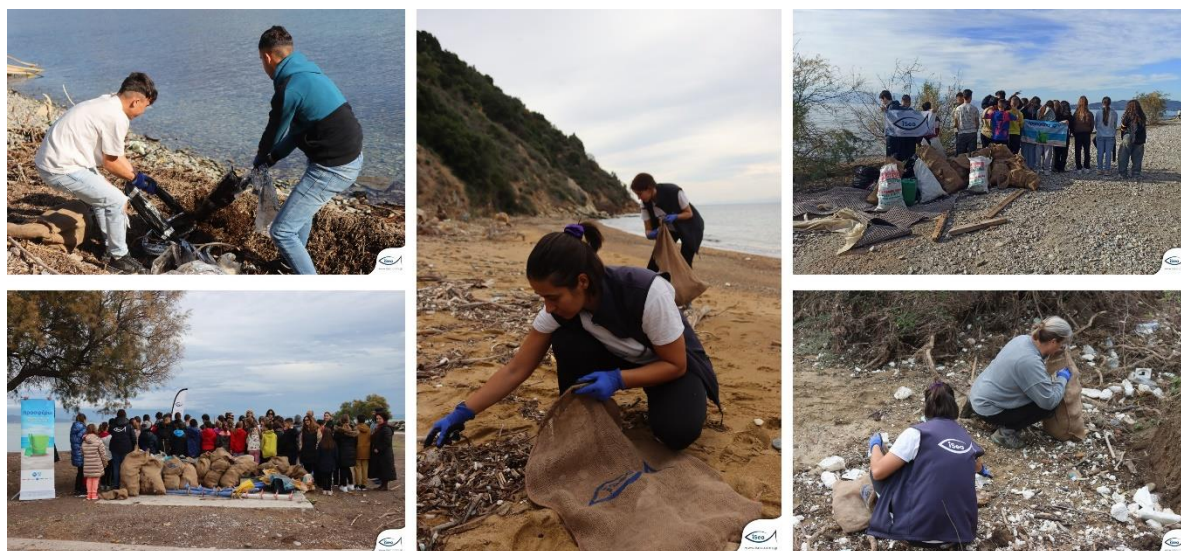


Figure 1: Aspects from the beach cleanups conducted in Agios Stefanos, Almyros, Platanidia and Platanias.



Beach litter monitoring results

In the context of the actions and with the aim to survey the abundance of marine litter in each area, beach litter was monitored according to the monitoring framework and list of items of the protocol established in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

The 19th wave of Prosero differs from the previous ones as it was implemented in Volos and South Pelion, two areas that a few months ago faced unprecedented severe floods which led to tons of litter to be washed ashore, such as household equipment, construction materials, medical and pharmaceutical items and fishing equipment.



Figure 2: Aspects from the beach cleanups conducted in Almyros, Pefkalia, and Agios Stefanos.

In total 584 kg of litter were removed from the 8 beaches in Volos and South Pelion. A total number of 1742 litter items were recorded 93,7% of which were plastics. In accordance with the global bibliography and data, the most abundant litter type in all the actions conducted was plastic.



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Agios Stefanos beach (A4) comes first in terms of marine litter density, where 461 litter items were recorded during the survey. Agios Stefanos beach (A4) is a beach that is not easily accessible and possibly most of the litter items ended up on the beach because of the streams. Polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm, plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm and tire ups were the three most abundant litter items.

Almyros beach (A1) follows in density of marine litter as 446 items of litter were recorder during the survey. The most abundant litter type was plastic exceeded 94%. Particularly, polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm, plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm and strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) were the three most abundant items found. It should be noted that Almyros beach (A1) was the beach in which the greatest amount of litter removed.

Pefkakia beach (A3) plastic bottles \leq 0,5l and plastic bottles $>$ 0,5l were the two litter items mainly found. Pefkakia beach (A3) is close to Volos and its location makes it really easy to accumulate litter items, that ended up in Pagasitikos Gulf as the landfill of the city was damaged because of the floods.

Milina beach (A7) and Plataniias beach (A8) are in South Pelion, which was mostly affected by the floods, as houses and cars ended up in the sea due to the impetuous water. Numerous household equipment such as plastic bottles and containers of cleaning products, clothing, plastic pharmaceutical items, toys, and construction materials were recorded and removed during the cleanup actions.





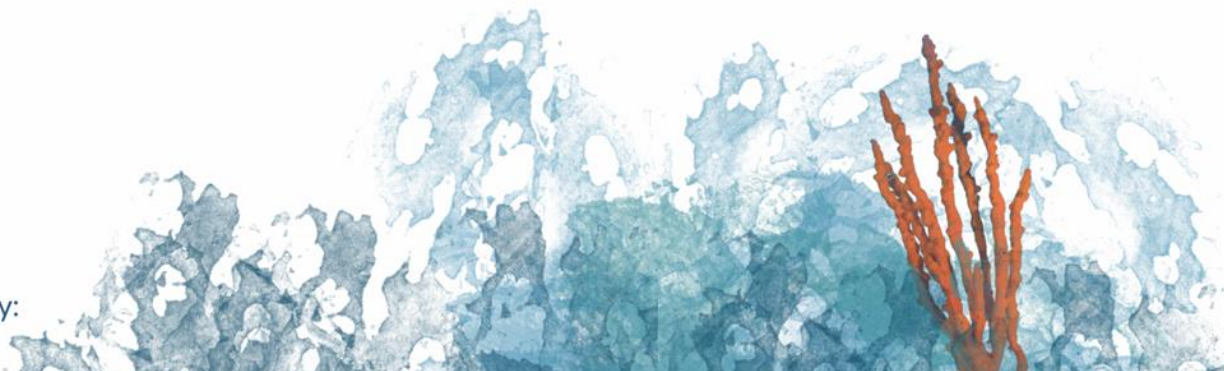
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Figure3: Aspects from the beach cleanups conducted in Platanidia, Pefkakia, Nea Agxialos and Kala Nera.

Litter types

The average percentage of plastic found on all beaches is 93,7%. In all the cleanup actions, plastic was the most abundant litter type. It should be highlighted that in Almyros beach (A1), Nea Agxialos beach (A2), Agios Stefanos beach (A4) and Milina beach (A7), plastic was by far the most abundant litter type, exceeding 94% of the total litter items recorded.



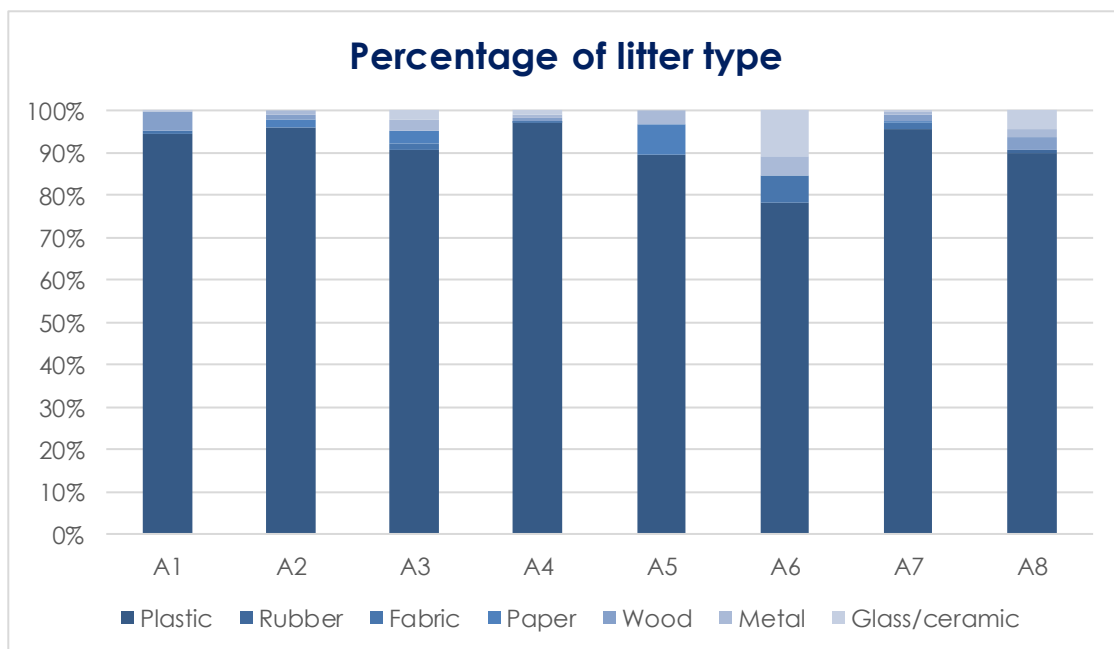
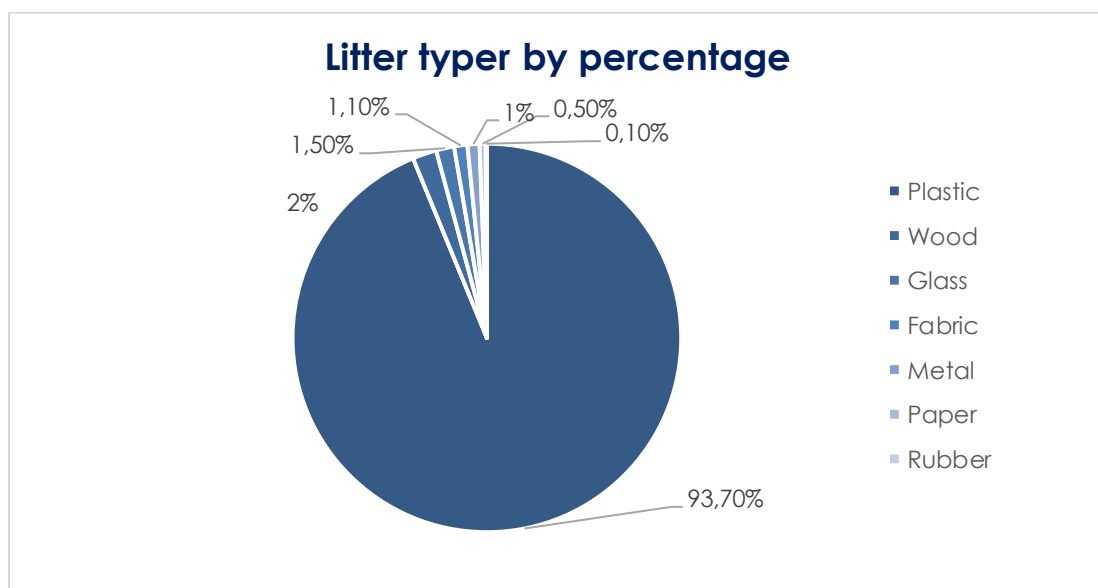
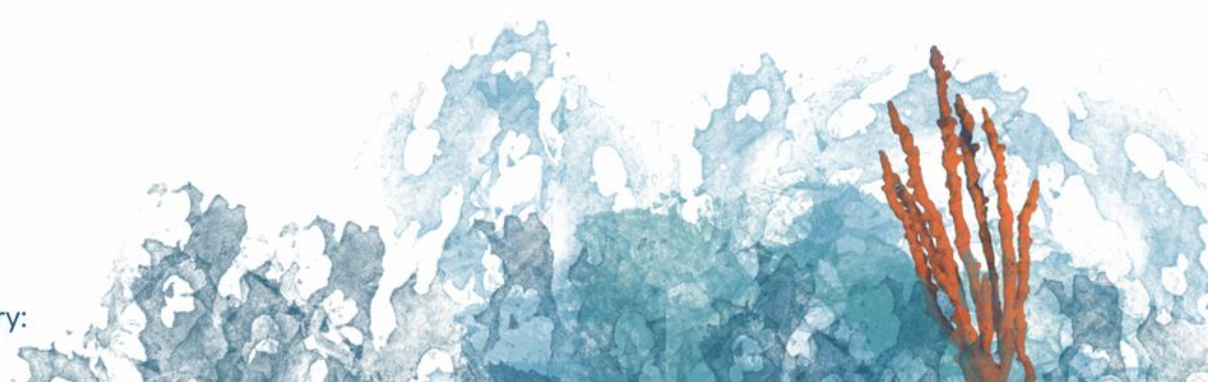


Figure 4: Collected litter types per beach cleanup, expressed as a percentage (%).





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Almyros beach (A1) had also a significant amount of processed wood (4%), most of them being vessels parts.

It is impressive the fact that in Agios Stefanos beach (A4) the amount of plastic recorded is 97%. Among the most common liter items found there were polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm, plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm, strings and cords (diameter less than 1 cm) as well as tire ups.

In Kala Nera beach (A6), the amount of plastic (78%) was the lowest compared to the amount of plastic found on all the other beaches. Also, there was a significant amount of glass (11%) items, such as pieces of glass/ceramic > 2,5cm.

Numerous items, such as cleanser bottles and beverage cans dating back several decades, were recently removed from the environment. It's possible that some of these items originated from the Ksirias river, considering the presence of a landfill in the area.

It must be also highlighted the fact that toys and pharmaceuticals containers were removed from all beaches in Magnesia.

Litter items

Table 2: Ten most abundant beach litter items, expressed as a percentage %.

Top 10 litter items	Percentage %
Polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm	33,6%
Plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm	27,7%
Plastic bottles <=0,5l	5,6%
String and cord (diameter less than 1 cm)	3%
Plastic bottles >0,5l	2,3%
Processed wood	1,8%
Plastic construction waste	1,6%





Top 10 litter items	Percentage %
Plastic caps/lids drinks	1,5%
Plastic straws	1,4%
Plastic shopping/carrier/grocery bags	1,4%

In the context of the 8 beach cleanups, more than 580 polystyrene pieces (33,6%) were recorded, followed by small plastic pieces (27,7%), plastic bottles \leq 0,5l (5,6%), strings and cords (3%) and plastic bottles $>$ 0,5l (2,3%). It should be noted that bigger polystyrene pieces end up in smaller pieces as it is a material that is easily broken. This is attributed to the fact that water from the floods carried away numerous items, among them construction equipment and fishing equipment.

Participation details

A total number of more than 190 people participated in "Prosero campaign 19". In particular, 193 volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of litter from beaches. Volunteers included iSea members, as well as representatives of associations and entities actively working in each area. The entities were 3rd Primary School of Almyros, Filoproodos Assocation of Nea Agxialos, 28th Primary School of Volos, Arsis Makrinitza, Middle School of Kato Lechonia, 2nd Primary School of Milies-Kala Nera, 3rd Primary School of Milina, 3rd Kindergarten of Sipiada-Milina, Platania Environmental Association. Individual volunteers also joined the cleanups. Apart from the volunteers, representatives from the local authorities took part in the actions (i.e. municipal authorities) mainly as ambassadors of their affiliated entities. In particular, representatives from the local Municipalities (3) contributed to the implementation of the cleanups. Namely, representatives of the Municipalities of Almyros, Volos and South Pelion.





Communication plan

iSea based on the findings of Prosero Campaign shared all the results via its social media and websites aiming not only to distribute the significant impact of the actions, but also to raise awareness about the issue of marine litter and its impact on marine ecosystems. To achieve this goal, a total number of 1 post were published in Facebook, Instagram and Twitter presenting the results of the actions in each area and reaching up to people.

Table 3: Facebook posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
28-11-2023	15,732	222	21	Link1

Table 4: Instagram posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
28-11-2023	658	70	-	Link1

Table 5: Twitter posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
28-11-2023	949	15	4	Link1



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In addition, a total number of 10 “stories” with an impact of 2037 impressions were published via Social Media during the actions, to inform the public about the progress of each action and keep their interest in the project alive

