

iSea

Environmental Organisation for the
preservation of the aquatic ecosystems



Prosfero Interim Report

Thessaloniki, 2023



ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

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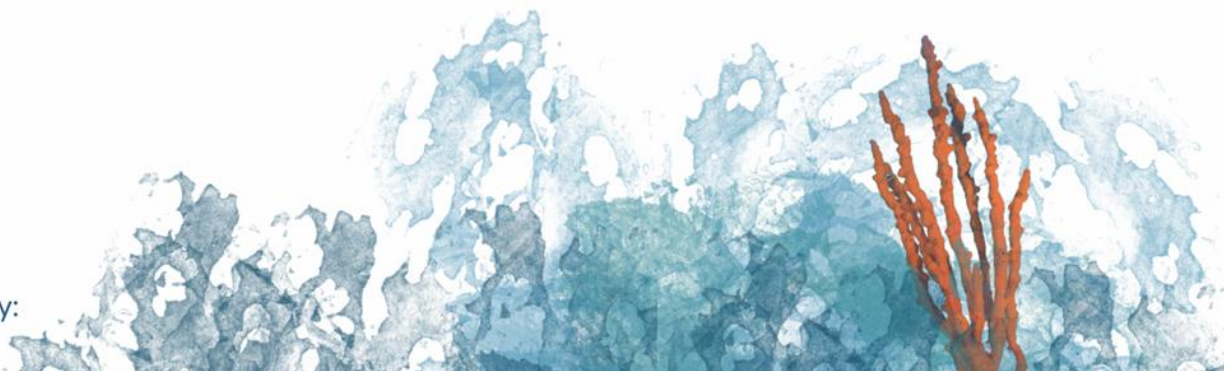
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Prosfero campaign

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, 248 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 18th wave of Prosfero campaign was conducted in Ambracian gulf, Acherontas river, Agios Efstratios, Lemnos island, Lesvos island, Chios island and Psara island including a total number of 2 informative events, 6 beach and 4 underwater cleanup actions. The and coordination of the actions began in August 2023, while they were implemented in October 2023.

All the actions were coordinated by 2 iSea representatives. The representatives were responsible for the implementation of the informative events, 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.

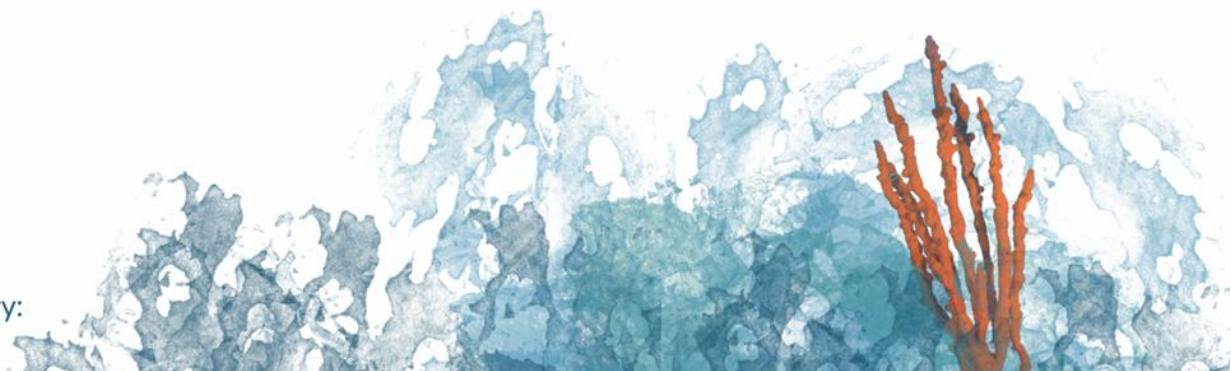
The present interim report refers to the activities conducted in the context of the 18th wave of Prosfero.

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Beach cleanups

During October 2023, 6 beach cleanups (A1-6) took place in the context of the 18th wave of Prosero campaign. In particular, beach cleanups took place in Ambracian gulf , Acherontas river and 4 beach cleanups took place in North Aegean islands (Table 1).

Beach cleanup details

1th Activity (A1): Ambracian gulf, Amfilochia

2th Activity (A2): Acherontas river, Souli

3th Activity (A3): Agios Efstratios beach, Agios Efstratios island

4th Activity (A4): Keros beach, Lemnos island

5th Activity (A5): Sourada beach, Lesvos island

6th Activity (A6): Afanis Naftis, Chios island

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Table 1: Supplementary data of "Prospero 18" beach cleanups conducted during October 2023.

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Litter collected (kg)
A1	13-09-2023	2	10
A2	14-09-2023	6	38
A3	16-10-2023	20	22
A4	17-10-2023	5	22
A5	20-10-2023	18	26,5
A6	24-10-2023	39	12
Total		90	130,5



Figure 1: Aspects from the beach cleanups conducted in Agios Efstratios, Lemnos, Lesvos and Chios.



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.

In total 130,5 kg of litter were removed from the 6 beaches in Ambracian gulf, Acherontas river and North Aegean islands. A total number of 585 litter items were recorded 77% of which were plastics. In accordance with the global bibliography and data, the most abundant litter type in all the actions conducted was plastic.

In Sourada beach (A5), the area with the highest density of marine litter, 249 items of litter were recorder during the survey. The most abundant litter type was also plastic (71,49%). Particularly, plastic bottles >0,5l, cups and cup lids and polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm were the three most abundant litter items recorded in Sourada beach. It should be noted that this beach is in the city of Mytilene. Even though it is very small and rarely used for swimming it had accumulated a great amount of litter, possibly because of the streams.

Afanis Naftis beach (A6) follows in terms of marine litter density, where 127 litter items were recorded during the survey. In contrast with the area's abundancy of litter, only 12 kg of marine litter were removed. The most abundant litter type was cigarette butts and filters. It is a commonly used beach in which there are touristic activities, such as beach bars in the back of the street where it is located.

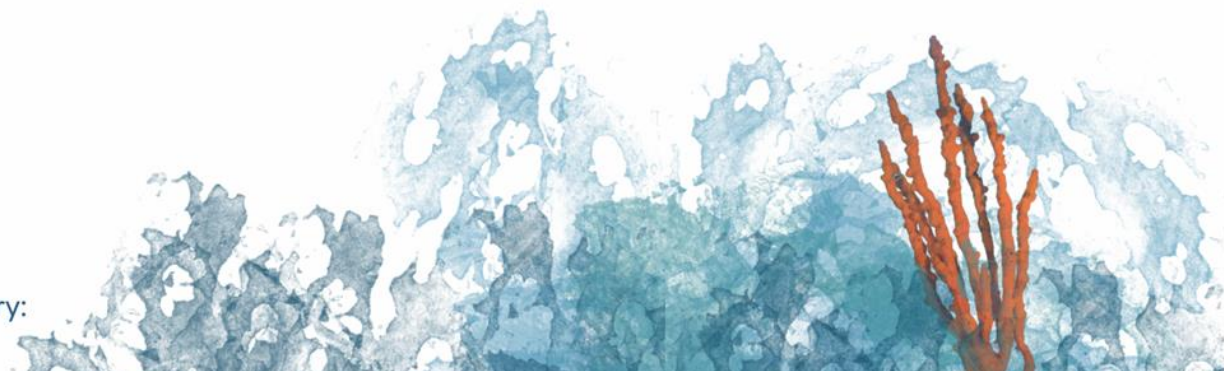




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Figure 2: Aspects from the beach cleanups conducted in Acherontas river, Sourada beach and Afanis Naftis beach.



Litter types

The average percentage of plastic found on all beaches is 77%. It should be mentioned that in Keros beach (A4) and Afanis Naftis beach (A6), plastic was by far the most abundant litter type, exceeding 80% of the total litter items recorded.

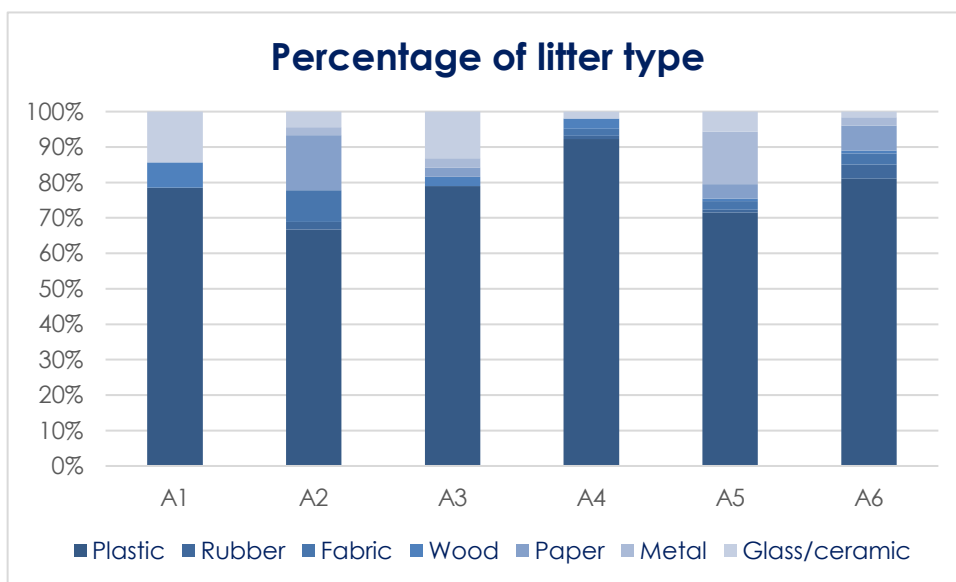
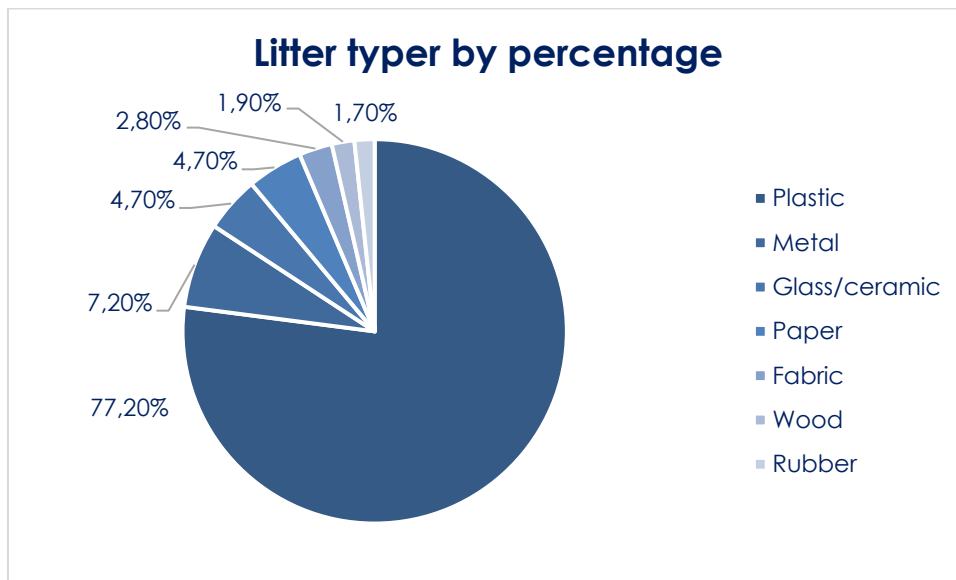


Figure 3: Collected litter types per beach cleanup, expressed as a percentage (%).



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Especially, in Ambracian gulf (A1) and Agios Efstratios island (A4), glass/ceramic were the second more abundant litter type after plastic.

In Acherontas river (A3), mainly plastic and paper cups and lids as well as straws and cigarette butts were recorded. All of the above are items of everyday life usually used during vacation. Acherontas river (A3) is one of the most popular destinations during the summer period. So, the accumulation of this kind of items could be attributed to the great amount of visitors.

In Keros beach (A4), the amount of plastic exceeded by far the amount of plastic in the other beach cleanup actions by reaching 92,23%. Keros beach (A4), is the most popular beach in Lemnos island and hundreds of tourists visit it during the summer, as there are many beach bars open. People usually visit Keros beach for Kitesurfing or camping. In Keros beach (A4) the most abundant litter items recorded were string and cord as well as plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm.

Litter items

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

Top 10 litter items	Percentage %
Cigarette butts and filters	11,1%
Plastic pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm	9%
String and cord (diameter less than 1 cm)	6,5%
Beverages and beer cans	6,1%
Plastic bottles <=0,5l	5,9%
Cups and cup lids	5,5%
Plastics bottles >0,5l	4,8%
Cotton bud sticks	4,8%
Polystyrene pieces 2,5 cm > <50 cm	4,1%
Plastic caps/lids from drink	3,6%



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In the context of the 6 beach cleanups, more than 60 cigarette butts and filters (11%) were recorded, followed by small plastic pieces (9%), string and cord (6,5%), beverages and beer cans (6%), plastics bottles $\leq 0,5l$ (5,9%) and cups and cup lids (5,5%).

Cigarette butts, which were the most abundant waste, are among the most abundant waste on the beach, but also in the whole of Greece and the Mediterranean. Most people don't think of them as waste because of their small size, but cigarette butts fall under the category of plastic. Based on the literature more than 15,000 microplastic fibers can be released from a single cigarette filter.





Underwater cleanups

During October 2023, 4 underwater cleanups (A9-10) took place in the context of the 18th wave of Prosero campaign. In particular, 4 underwater cleanups took place in North Aegean islands (Table 3).

Underwater cleanup details

7th Activity (A7): Moudros port, Lemnos island

8th Activity (A8): Skala Kallonis, Lesvos island

9th Activity (A9): Agia Paraskevi port, Chios island

10th Activity (A10): Psara port, Psara island

Table 3: Supplementary data of "Prosero 18" underwater cleanups conducted during October 2023.

Activity code	Date	Volunteers	Divers	Litter collected (kg)
A7	18-10-2023	80	4	150
A8	21-10-2023	31	8	180
A9	22-10-2023	10	2	90
A10	23-10-2023	35	2	80
Total		156	16	500



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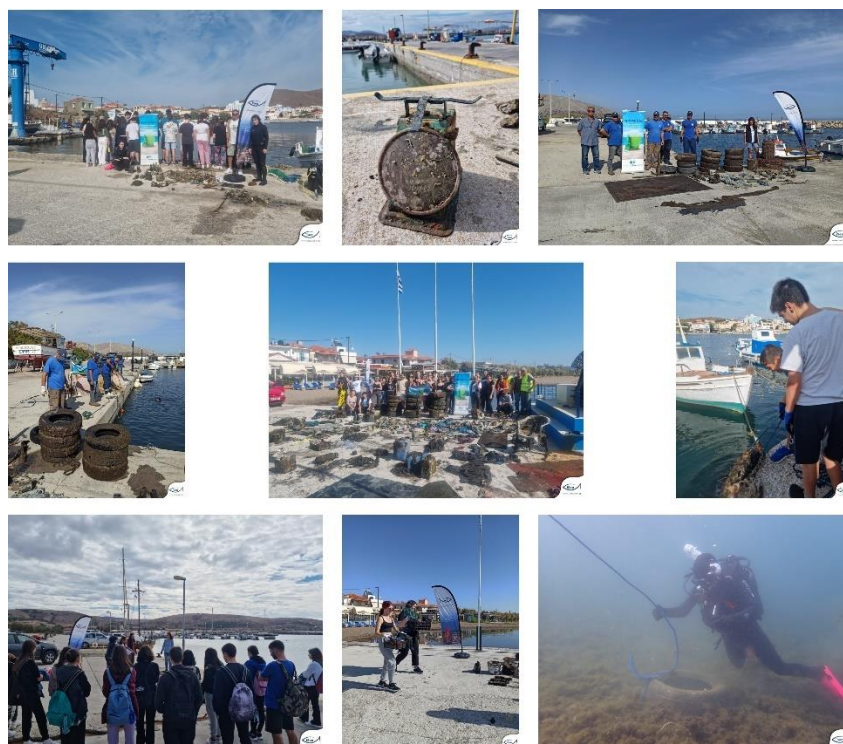


Figure 4: Some aspects of the underwater cleanups conducted in Moudros port, Agia Paraskevi port, Skala Kallonis port and Psara port.

Underwater litter monitoring results

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

In total 500 kg of litter were removed from the seafloor of the 4 ports in North Aegean islands, a total number of 830 litter items were recorded, more than 60% of which were made of plastic, in accordance with the global bibliography and data, followed by metal (17%).





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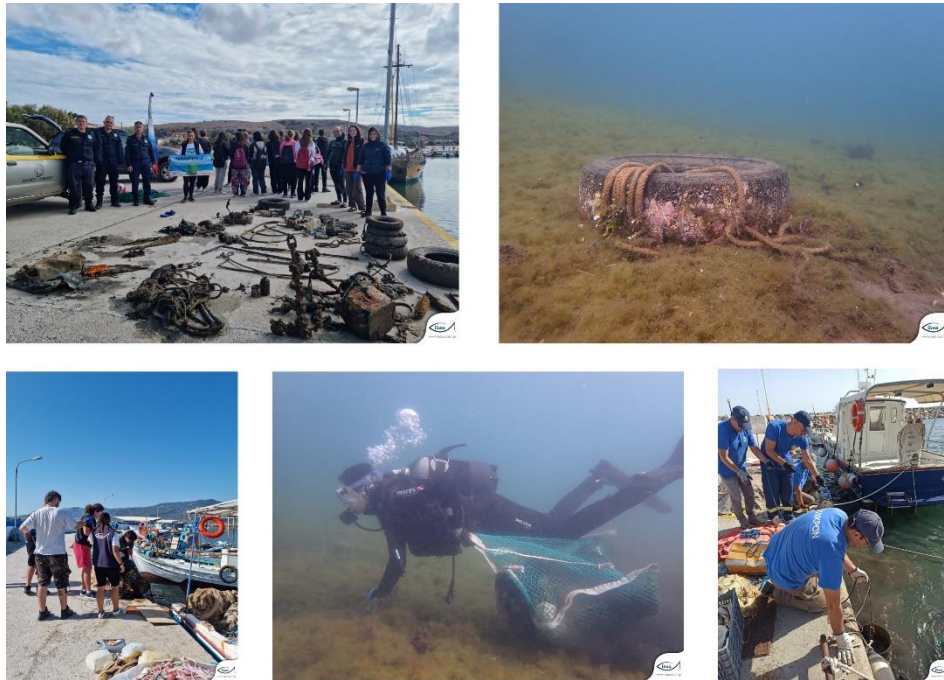


Figure 5: Some aspects of the underwater cleanups conducted in Moudros port, Agia Paraskevi port, Skala Kallonis port and Psara port.

Litter types

The average percentage of plastic found in the seafloor 3 of 4 ports exceeded 50% of the total litter recorded, followed by metal, in accordance with the findings of underwater cleanups taking place throughout Greece. On the other hand, wood and paper are not abundant benthic litter types mainly because of the durability of these materials.



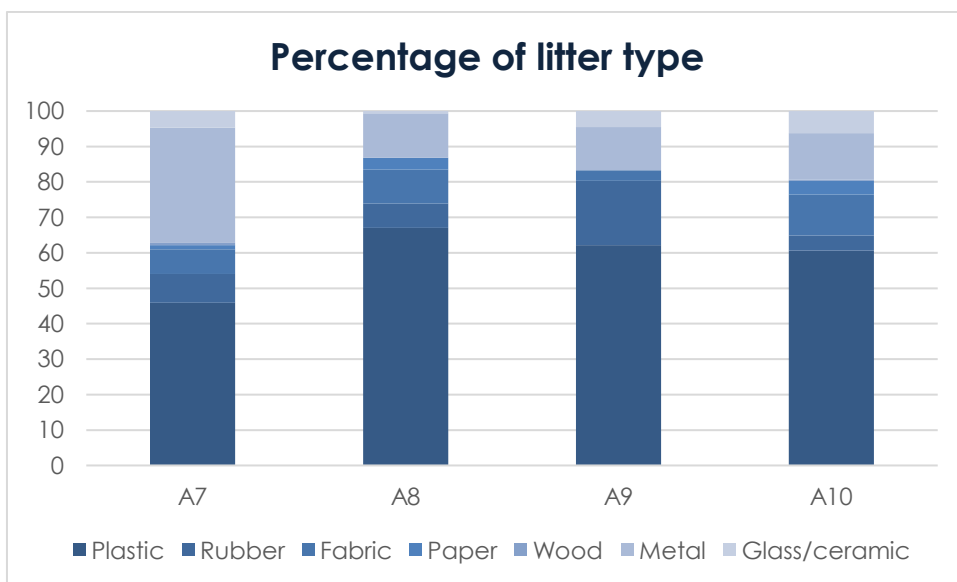
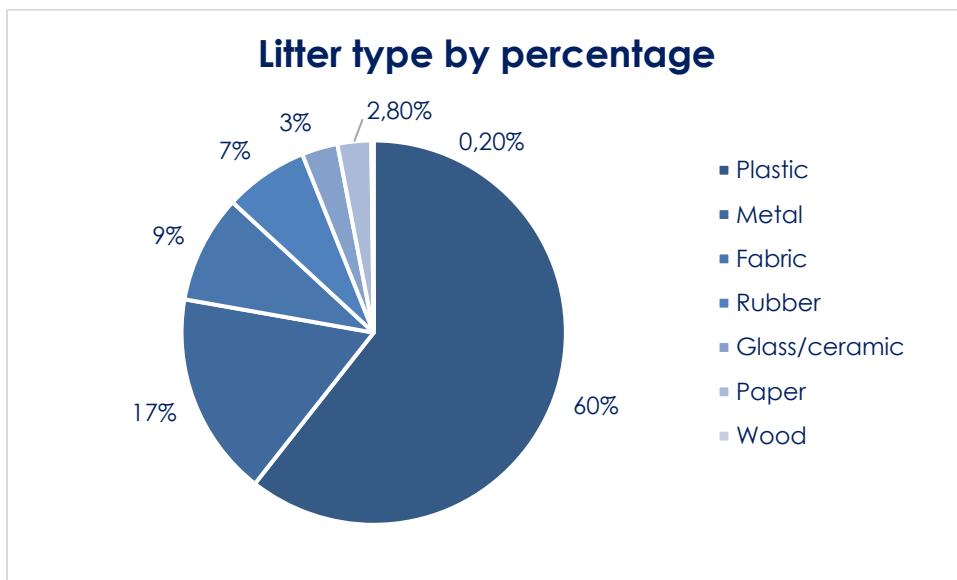
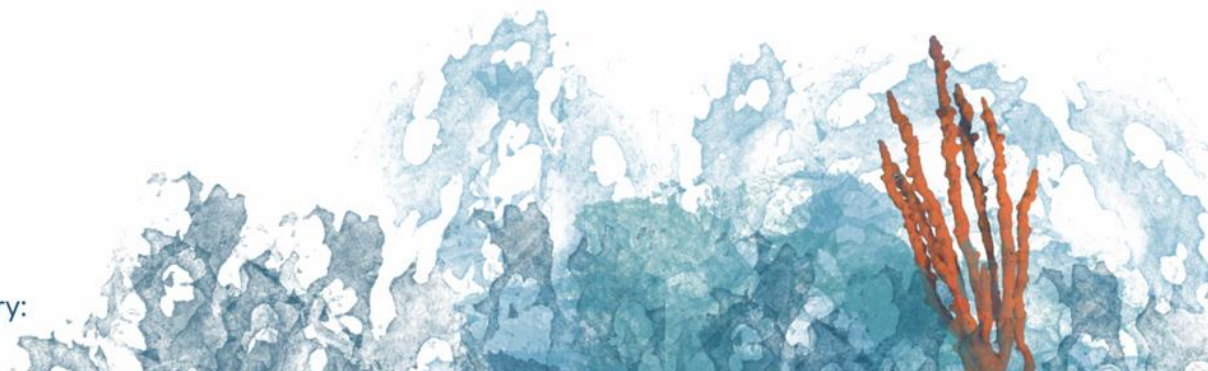


Figure 6: Litter type according to the data collected from 4 underwater cleanups expressed by percentage.





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Particularly, in Moudros port (A7), 32 % of litter recorded were metal exceeding the average percentage of metal in the other ports. In Moudros port 38 beverages and beer cans were collected as well as 7 anchors. This could be explained due to the fact that there are many touristic businesses in the port.

In Skala Kallonis port (A8), 67% of the litter recorded were plastic while in Agia Paraskevi port (A9), 62% were plastic, making these two ports exceeding the average percentage of plastic. Skala Kallonis port (A8) is used mainly as a fishing port with many small vessels. As Skala Kallonis is one of the most touristic villages in Lesvos island, it has a number of touristic activities, such as restaurants and coffee bars which are located in the port. Furthermore, it belongs to a wider protected area (GR4110007) that is characterized as NATURA 2000 and hosts 94 bird species.

In Psara port (A10), plastic was 60% of the total litter recorded, followed by metal (13%) and fabric (11,5%). In particular, Psara port (A10), is a small-scale fishing activity place which is visited by a great number of tourists during the summer. Even though the main population of the island is less than 500 people, the port of Psara island had accumulated a large amount of food packaging compared to its population and islands' size.



Litter items

Table 4: Ten most abundant benthic litter items, expressed as a percentage %.

Items	Percentage%
Plastic bottles (water, beverages)	18,1%
Plastic bags	14,3%
Beverages cans	10,4%
Tires	6%
Food packaging	5,3%
SUP cups and lids	5%
Clothes and pieces	3,7%
Plastic caps	3,2%
Glass bottles and pieces	2,2%
Ropes and twines	2%

In the context of 4 underwater cleanups, the total number of more than 150 plastic bottles (18%) were recorded, followed in number by 119 plastic bags (14%), beverages cans (10%), tires (6 %), food packaging (5,3%). Plastic bottles and plastic bags are commonly used in the fishing ports and it is really easy for them to end up in the sea because of their light weight.

Many items dating back to previous decades were also removed from the marine environment. In particular, a beverage can with an expiration date of 1985 was among the litter items removed from Psara Port (A10) and a food packaging with an expiration of 1982 collected from Agia Paraskevi port (A9).



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Informative Events

In the context of "Prosfero" project two informative events took place in Lesvos island and Psara island, attended by more than 200 people. The iSea representatives informed all the attendees about the aim and the actions of Prosfero project and distributed informative material on marine pollution and measures for its prevention and mitigation. Adults and children who attended these events had the opportunity to learn about the 10 most common beach litter and to see items removed from the seabed during underwater cleanups as well. Children played with the floor game and answered questions about how they can change their everyday habits into zerowaste and zeroplastic. These two events were implemented with the collaboration of the Municipality of Mytilene and Psara and with the participation of iSea's volunteers and local population of the islands.



Figure 7: Some aspects of the event conducted in Lesvos and Psara.





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Participation details

A total number of more than 240 people participated in “Prosero campaign 18”. In particular, 90 volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of litter from beaches and 156 volunteers contributed to the activities and the removal of marine litter from the ports. Volunteers included iSea members, as well as representatives of associations and entities actively working in each area. The entities were; Primary School, Middle School and High School of Agios Efstratios, Middle School and High School of Moudros, High School of Vrontados Chios, Special Needs School of Mytilene, Middle School and High School of Psara and Cultural Association of Moudros. Individual volunteers also joined the cleanups. As far as it concerns the diver volunteers, two divers of iSea coordinated and conducted all the underwater cleanups. Apart from the volunteers, representatives from the local authorities took part in the actions (i.e. municipal authorities, coast guard) mainly as ambassadors of their affiliated entities. In particular, representatives from the local Municipalities (8), the Coast Guard (6) and the Port Authorities (3) contributed to the implementation of the cleanups. Namely, representatives of the Municipalities of Amfilochia, Souli, Agios Efstratios, Lemnos, Mytilene, West Lesvos, Chios and Psara and the Coast Guard of Agios Efstratios, Moudros, Chios and Psara participated in the actions, along with the Municipal Port Fund of Lesvos, Lemnos and Chios.

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 2 posts were published in Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn presenting the results of the actions in each area and reaching up to people.



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Table 5: Facebook posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
12-10-2023	2,079	92	3	Link1
31-10-2023	2,667	114	3	Link2

Table 6: Instagram posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
12-10-2023	563	64	-	Link1
31-10-2023	803	86	-	Link2

Table 7: Twitter posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Link
12-10-2023	391	6	3	Link1
31-10-2023	343	9	1	Link2

Table 8: LinkedIn posts presenting the results of the actions

Date	Impressions	Reactions	Shares	Clicks	Link
12-10-2023	241	8	-	4	Link1
31-10-2023	439	24	2	48	Link2

In addition, a total number of 18 "stories" 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.



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A press release was created and shared with the local press inviting the local community to participate in the campaign.

Media	Link
LimnosReport.gr	Link1
Astraparis	Link2
News-24	Link3
Lesvosnews	Link4
iNewsgr.com	Link5
Alithia	Link6
Limnosfm100	Link7
Ertnews.gr	Link8
Aeolostv	Link9
Lesvospen	Link10
Lesvosvoice.gr	Link11



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AgiosEfstratios.gov	Link12
ChiosPress	Link13
Chiosnews	Link14
Chiospen	Link15
Alithia	Link16
Astrapari	Link17
Xiakoslaos	Link18
Politis Chios	Link19

Furthermore, the following articles were published in the local press and post on social media with the aim at informing the community about the actions and achieve high participation.

Media	Link
Limnosfm100	Link1
Alfavita	Link2
News	Link3
Limnoslive	Link4
Kathimerini	Link5
SEPE	Link6
MSN	Link7
iNewgr.com	Link8
Neatora.gr	Link9
OTA magazine	Link10
Aeolos	Link11



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Lesvosnews

[Link12](#)

Stonisi

[Link13](#)

Thesspress

[Link14](#)



