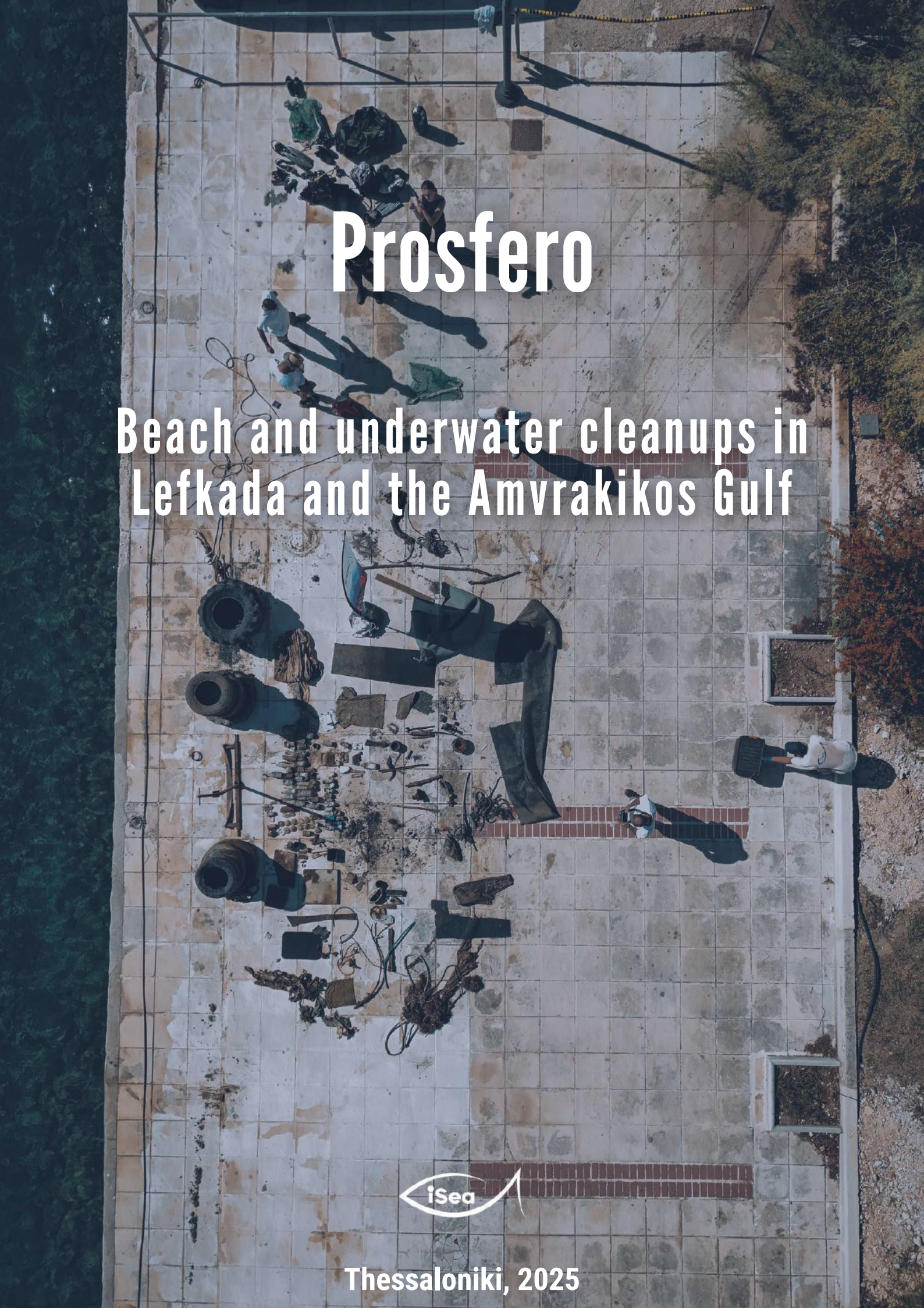




Prosfero

Beach and underwater cleanups in Lefkada and the Amvrakikos Gulf



Thessaloniki, 2025

Suggested Reference Doumbas, N., Kokkali, K., Charitou, A., Loughman I., Giovos, I. Beach and Underwater Cleanups in Lefkada and the Amvrakikos Gulf. iSea, Greece, 2025. 22pp.

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This interim report concerns actions implemented within the framework of the 23rd wave of Prosfero.

We would like to warmly thank the KDAP Mea Lefkada, the Vasiliki Kindergarten and the Amateur Fishermen's Sports Association of Arta Prefecture "Amvrakikos" for their voluntary participation in the actions of the region. At the same time, we thank the Municipality of Lefkada, the Municipality of Preveza, the Municipality of Arta, the Municipal Port Fund of Lefkada, the Port Authority of Lefkada, the Port Authority of Nydri, the EFA of Aitolokarnania and Lefkada, NECCA, the Land Service of Preveza and the Land Service of Lefkada for their cooperation.





Until now

315 beach & underwater cleanups

95 tons of litter have been removed



Beach cleanups

1st Action (D1): Ammoglossa Beach, Lefkada

2nd Activity (D2): Kathisma Beach, Lefkada

3rd Activity (D3): Vasiliki Beach, Lefkada

4th Action (D4): Vala Island, Amvrakikos Gulf

Table 1: Data on beach cleanups in the context of project, October 2025.

ACTION	DATE	VOLUNTEERS	LITTER
D1	07-10-2025	9	18 kg
D2	08-10-2025	1	21.9 kg
D3	09-10-2025	13	10 kg
D4	11-10-2025	8	51 kg
Total		31	100.9 kg

Results of beach litter recording

As part of the actions to study the abundance of marine litter in the area, the marine litter on the beaches we visited was recorded and measured according to the protocol established by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In total, **100.9 kg** of litter was removed from four beaches in Lefkada and the Amvrakikos Gulf. During the recording and quantification process, **1.081 pieces of litter** were identified, of which **90.29% corresponded to plastic materials**.

These results are in line with the findings of the international literature, according to which plastics are the dominant type of litter in marine and beach ecosystems. Their high proportion confirms the need for targeted actions to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the areas under consideration.

Litter categories

The average percentage of plastics recorded across all beaches was 90.29%. Across all coastal cleanups, plastic was the most abundant of all litter categories.

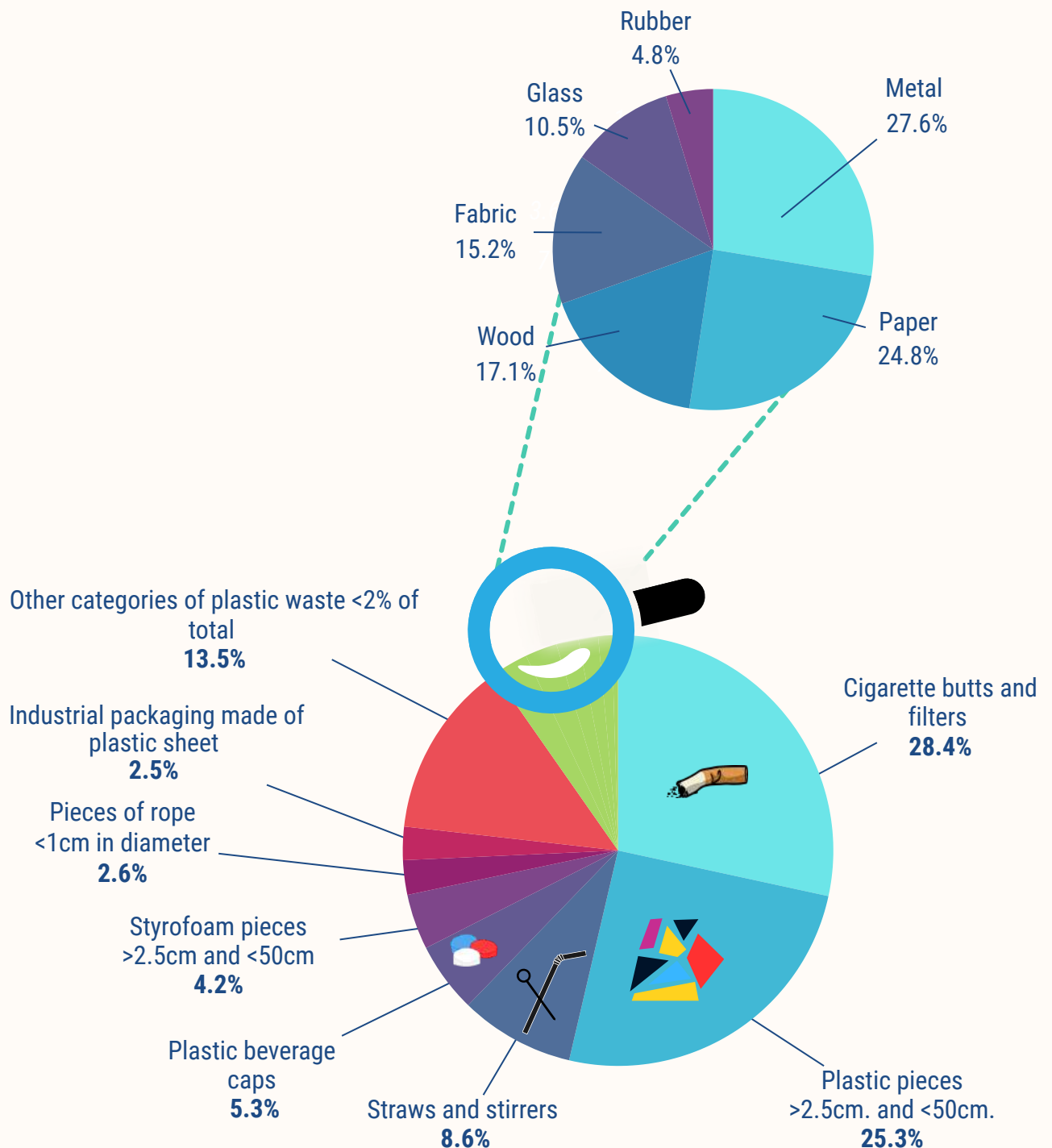


Figure 1: Litter categories in percentage (%) in beach cleanups.

Litter categories

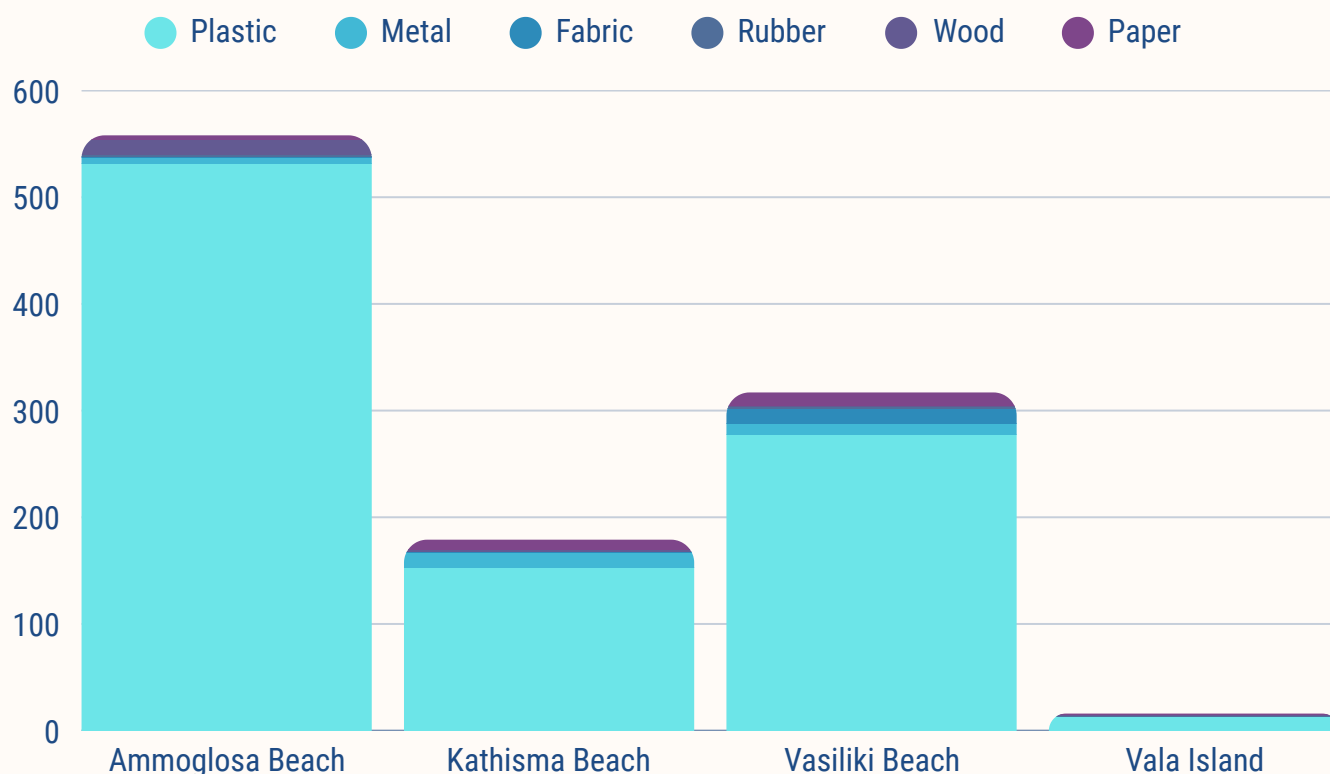


Figure 2: Categories of recorded litter per beach in percentage (%).

At Ammoglossa beach, 562 pieces of litter were recorded per 100 meters, at Kathisma beach 174 pieces of litter, while at Vasiliki 316 pieces of litter were found along the same length of coastline. At all three beaches, cigarette butts were the most frequent category of litter.

Finally, on Vala beach, 15 pieces of litter were found per 100 meters. However, this specific record does not fully reflect the true picture of the area, as significantly more litter was observed in the wider area of the beach, much of which was trapped in the wetland that forms there. Among them were also large objects, such as part of a chemical toilet, which highlights the need for further cleaning and environmental monitoring of the area.

Litter categories

Table 2: The most abundant beach litter in %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Cigarette butts and filters	28.4%
Pieces of plastic >2.5cm and <50cm	25.3%
Straws and stirrers	8.6%
Plastic lids	5.3%
Styrofoam pieces >2.5cm and <50cm	4.2%

Lefkada is one of the most popular island destinations in the Ionian Sea, with rich natural landscapes and intense tourist activity. Easy access via road connection with mainland Greece, as well as its proximity to major cities, contribute to increased visitor numbers throughout the year. At the same time, intense human activity, especially in the summer months, makes the area vulnerable to the accumulation of marine and beach litter.

Litter of local interest

During the clean-ups, litter classified as of local interest was identified on Kathisma Beach, as it is directly related to human activities taking place on the beach. Indicatively, among these were straws, stirrers, tire ups, bottle openers, as well as receipts and other small items related to the operation of the area's leisure shops.

The presence of this litter suggests that the largest percentage of pollution comes from the operation of coastal shops, but also from inadequate litter management. It is characteristic that the waiters' stands on some beaches were in very poor condition, with accumulated waste around them, which highlights the need for better organization, cleanliness and environmental awareness of businesses. Finally, as we visited the beach towards the end of the tourist season, it was observed that much litter from the businesses' bins had not been collected, even though they had been closed.



Suggestions

According to European Directive (EU) 2019/90412 and its incorporation into national legislation by Law 4736/202013, single-use plastic straws should have been abolished. However, they continue to be sold and made available, often even described as “reusable”. In order to limit this practice, stricter controls should be carried out on businesses to identify the illegal supply of single-use straws (Charitou A., “EVMAR” Program, 2024). At the same time, it is considered necessary to strengthen waste management in leisure establishments, through the installation of sufficient bins and regular cleaning around customer service points. Finally, the legislation also defines the obligations of businesses regarding the cleanliness of the beach. Our proposal is that the Municipality ensure the complete removal of all equipment (broken or functional), the cleaning of the beach after the removal of all equipment, as well as on-site inspection for compliance with the above measure. If the above is not complied with, the corresponding fines should be imposed on the business.



Underwater cleanups

5th Action (D5): Vasiliki Port, Lefkada*

6th Action (D6): Perigiali Port, Lefkada

Table 3: Underwater cleanup data in the context of the project, October 2025.

ACTION	DATE	VOLUNTEERS	WASTE
D5*	09-10-2025	-	-
D6	10-10-2025	5	530
Total		5	530

*The underwater cleanup that was planned to take place in Vasiliki was not possible due to intense turbidity of the waters and zero visibility.

Benthic litter recording results

As part of the actions and to study the abundance of marine litter in the area, the marine litter on the beach we visited was recorded and measured according to the protocol established by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

A total of 530 kg of litter was removed from the port of Perigiali. 171 items of litter were counted and recorded, 58.5% of which were plastic. In line with global bibliography and existing data, plastic was the most abundant litter recorded in all clean-up actions.

Litter categories

The average of plastics found at the port was 58.5%, followed by metal items with a percentage of 21.1%.

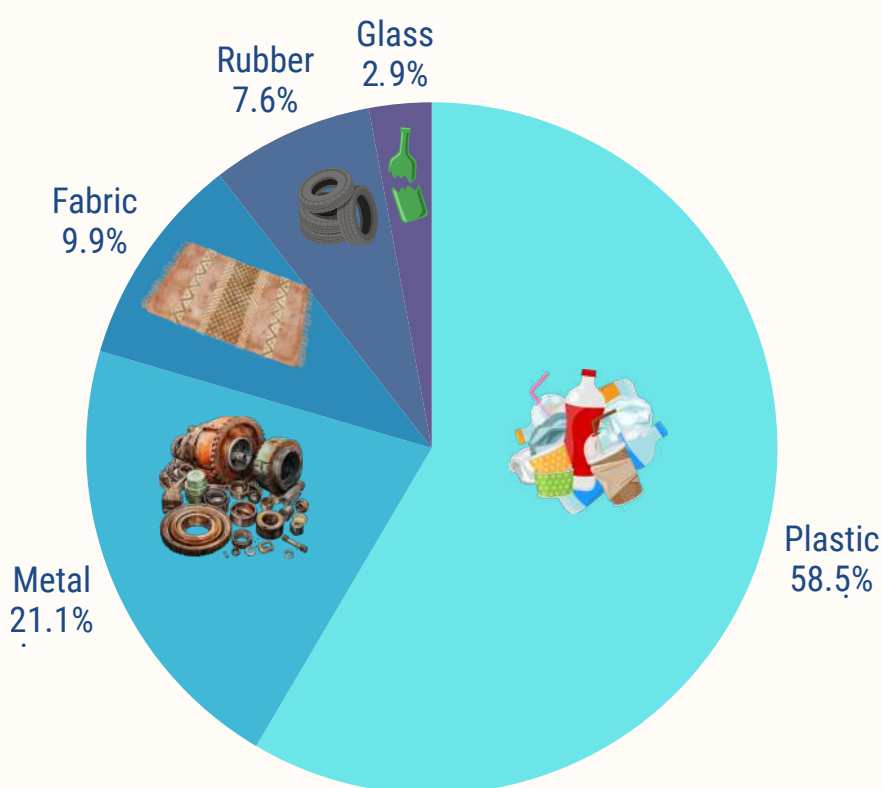


Figure 3: Litter categories collected in underwater cleanup, as percentages (%).

The main waste recorded during the underwater cleanup mainly concerned plastic materials, with the most frequent findings being plastic bottles, plastic cups and their lids. At the same time, several soft drink cans were found, while car tires, pieces of carpet and nets stood out from the bulky litter. The composition of this litter reflects the frequent pollution observed in port areas, where human activity leads to the accumulation of materials that significantly burden the marine ecosystem.

Litter categories

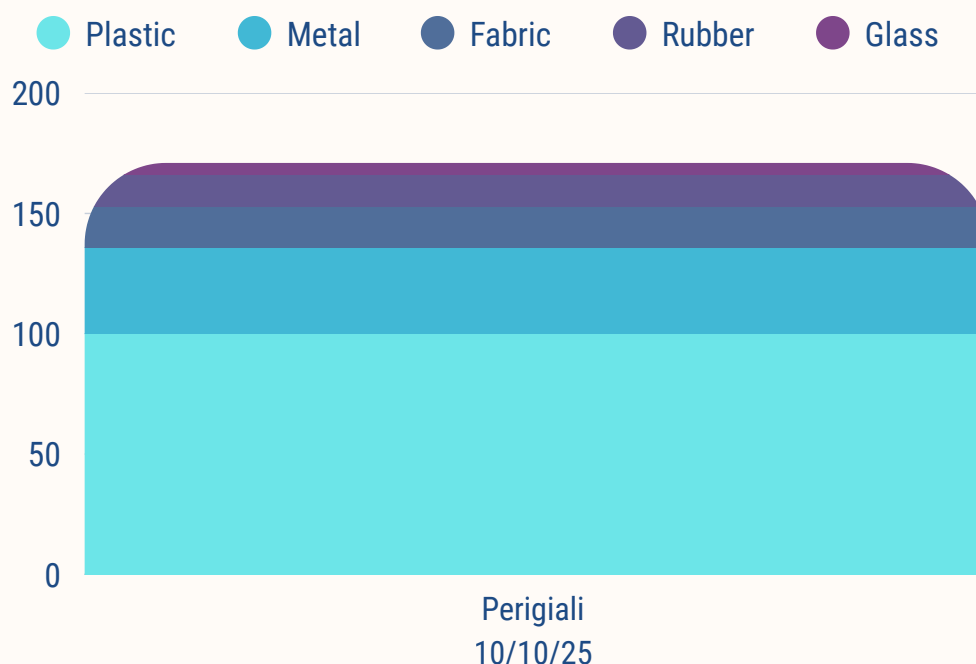


Figure 4: Litter categories collected during underwater cleaning in number of pieces.

The most abundant litter recorded belongs to the category of plastics (100pcs) and metal objects (36pcs). These results are in line with the results of all our previous actions.

The port of Perigiali is a small-scale port facility, which mainly serves pleasure boats and fishing vessels, presenting increased tourist activity during the summer months. The nature of the litter identified is directly linked to the uses and activities taking place within the port, which suggests that a significant part of the marine pollution originates from the port users themselves.

Litter categories

Table 4: The five most abundant underwater cleanup items in %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Plastic bottles	24%
Plastic cups and lids	12.9%
Soft drink cans	9.9%
Tires	7.6%
Metal items	5.3%

A total of 41 plastic bottles, 22 single-use plastic cups, 17 aluminium soft drink cans and 13 vehicle tires were removed.

Participation

In total, more than 35 volunteers participated in the actions that took place in Lefkada and the Amvrakikos Gulf.

Members of the environmental organization iSea, as well as representatives of local organizations and educational structures, participated in the actions, contributing decisively to the success of the cleanups and raising awareness among the local community.



12 participants

KDAP Mea Lefkada



8 participants

iSea Members and 3 volunteers



4 participants

iSea Members and one volunteer



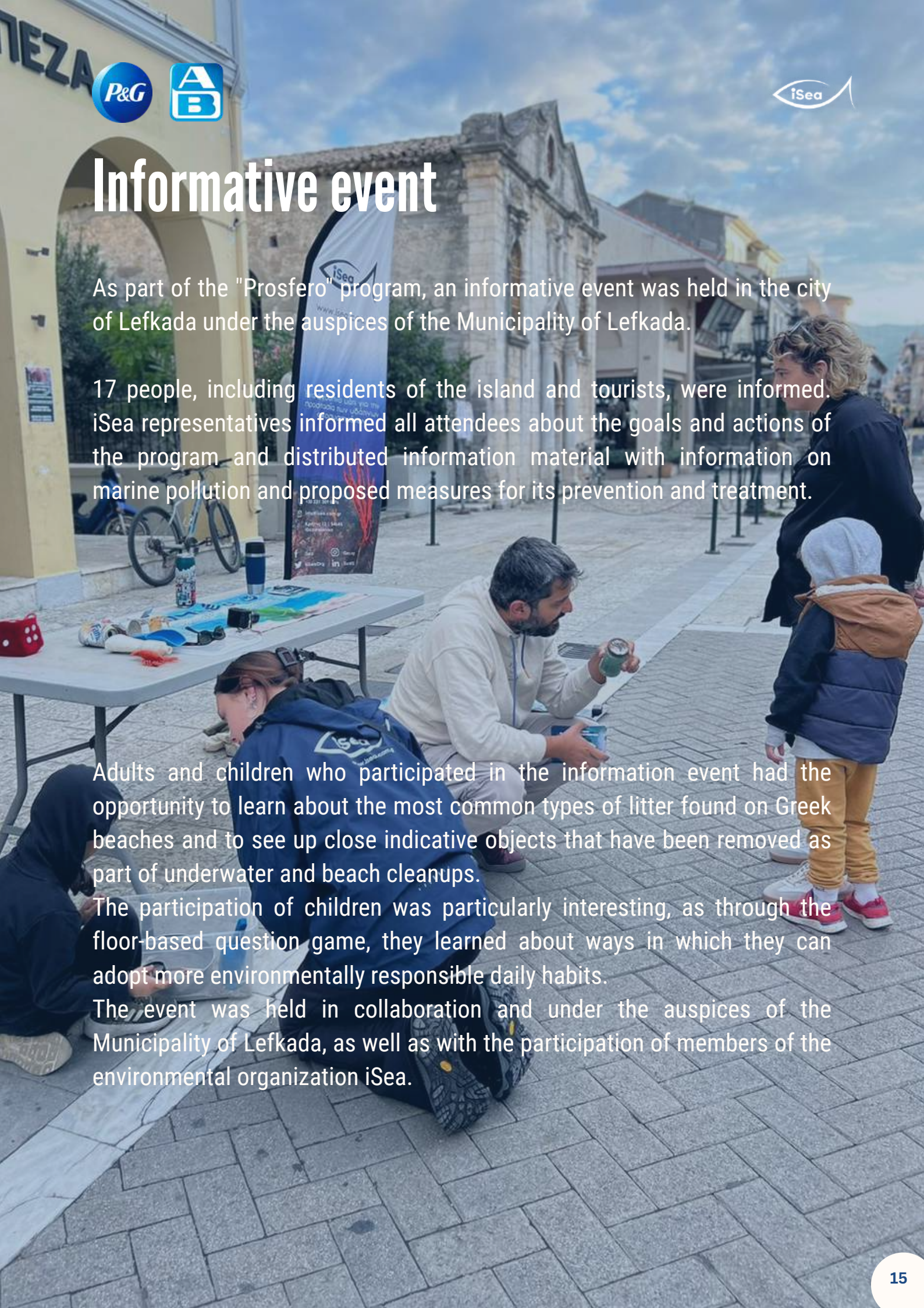
11 participants

**Amateur Fishermen's Sports Association
of Arta Prefecture "Amvrakikos"**



16 participants

Vasiliki Kindergarten



Informative event

As part of the "Prosfero" program, an informative event was held in the city of Lefkada under the auspices of the Municipality of Lefkada.

17 people, including residents of the island and tourists, were informed. iSea representatives informed all attendees about the goals and actions of the program and distributed information material with information on marine pollution and proposed measures for its prevention and treatment.

Adults and children who participated in the information event had the opportunity to learn about the most common types of litter found on Greek beaches and to see up close indicative objects that have been removed as part of underwater and beach cleanups.

The participation of children was particularly interesting, as through the floor-based question game, they learned about ways in which they can adopt more environmentally responsible daily habits.

The event was held in collaboration and under the auspices of the Municipality of Lefkada, as well as with the participation of members of the environmental organization iSea.

Communication plan

A total of 5 “stories” were created and shared on iSea’s Social Media during the actions, with the aim of informing the public about the progress of the actions, maintaining interest in the program and raising public awareness about the problem of marine litter and its impacts on the marine ecosystem.

INSTAGRAM STORY REACH

iSea 1	1.479
iSea 2	482
iSea 3	1.281
iSea 4	1.243
iSea 5	1.260
Total	5.745

TIK - TOK STORY REACH

iSea 1	1.015
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Communication plan

FACEBOOK

STORY

REACH

iSea 1	524
iSea 2	261
iSea 3	206
iSea 4	385
iSea 5	593
Σύνολο	1.969

PRESS RELEASE

VISITS

We offer cleaner seas and
beaches in Lefkada and the
Amvrakikos Gulf

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Communication plan

A Press Release was created and shared with local media and posted on the iSea website, inviting the local community to participate in the program and providing information about the planned actions.

Table 5: Press articles regarding the Prosfero program on the island of Lefkada.

MEDIA	LINK
Lefkaditika Nea	<u>Link 1</u>
Aroma Lefkadas	<u>Link 2</u>
Akarnanika nea	<u>Link 3</u>
Sinidisi	<u>Link 4</u>

Learn more about the
Prosfero program



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