

## **003.5**

### **Collaborative process for the reduction of marine litter – RIVERSEA Project**

Lia Vasconcelos, Filipa Ferreira, Ana Pires, Graça Martinho, Paula Sobral

MARE – Marine and Environmental Science Center & NOVA School of Science and Technology, Portugal

#### **Abstract**

The prevention and reduction of marine litter has a key role in the quality of fishing resources, due to its negative impact in marine biodiversity and in the fish diet, impacting human.

The RIVERSEA Project focus in the terrestrial sources of marine litter and microplastics promoting the implementation of strategies at the hydrographic basin level that will contribute to the prevention and reduction of the amounts of waste of terrestrial origin – today accounting for 80% of the marine litter – from reaching the sea. To achieve this a search for joint solutions engaging and mobilizing multi-stakeholders aiming the prevention and the reduction in the source is attempted. The project integrates the collection and characterization of samples and the evaluation of inputs to the Ocean, simultaneously promoting the literacy about the liberation of microplastics through a collaborative process of involvement and capacitation of stakeholders. This type of process has the capacity to reduce possible conflicts and to allow the identification of joint or individual solutions for the implementation of strategies for the reduction of marine litter.

Due to the pandemic COVID – 19 situation, this collaborative process expected to be conducted face to face, had to be reformulated to online sessions. In this paper the implemented process is described calling attention to the role played by the FMEA – Failure Mode and Effects Analysis - methodology in the engagement and mobilization of the stakeholders. This methodology aims to support the industries and their activities in minimizing the liberation of microplastics to the environment.

In this paper a reflection is done how this central element played a key role with added importance for the involvement of the stakeholders, having the project team worked as a facilitator element towards science communication.

#### **Keywords**

collaborative processes, marine litter, FMEA, multistakeholders