

"Plastic Smart Cities Croatia" and "For Plastic Free Croatia Island" are projects that aim to reduce plastic waste and use alternative solutions. They analyze the use of disposable plastics and waste plastic management in the local communities involved, develop and implement a "Plastic-Free Plan" with a participatory approach and workshops, as well as organize "plastic free" public events, ie "plastic-free" events, and public forums aimed at raising awareness of the local population about the consequences of plastic pollution. The cities of Dubrovnik and Trogir, as well as Stari Grad on Hvar and Sali on Dugi otok will be the first in Croatia to reduce plastic waste.

One of the important activities is the implementation of a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment and available sustainable solutions in the island communities on Hvar and Dugi otok. As we have learned from the Split Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development "Sunce", we are currently working on organizing workshops for networking partners and environmental organizations engaged in this topic.

It is in this project that the pioneer association "Sunce", which last year began implementing the projects "Plastic Smart Cities Croatia" and "For Plastic Free Croatian Islands" with the aim of reducing the plastic footprint in various segments of social life of local communities by reducing the use of disposable plastic and encouraging use of alternative solutions for waste plastics. One of their project goals is to raise the awareness of citizens and the public about the issue of plastic waste.

After the completion of the project, a final conference will be held aimed at disseminating the project results and encouraging further reduction of plastic waste for representatives of local island authorities, national and international NGOs, local government units, HGK, tourism community, relevant ministries and other stakeholders. the message "Reduce the use of disposable plastics and look for more sustainable solutions!", which the Sunce Split Association has been advocating for many years.

Disposable plastic products and fishing gear together account for 70 percent of Europe's marine litter, so it is expected that by implementing the directive, Europe's seas and seas will be significantly cleaner.

According to the Commission, the directive will bring many benefits for the environment and the economy. Environmental damage costing € 22 billion by 2030 would be avoided, and consumers would be able to save up to € 6.5 billion with an adjustment cost estimated at € 3.2 billion for manufacturers.

At the end of last year, the Commission adopted new rules on the import and banning of exports of plastic waste to third countries that do not have the capacity to manage it in a

sustainable way, which is one of the main points of the European Green Plan and EU Circular Action Plan.

Source: jutarnji.hr