

Tackling microplastics pollution: can biodegradable textile and coating be a solution?

Stakeholder Labs workshop
20 June 2022 – 10.00-13.00 CET (online)

Organiser	<p>Glaukos project is funded by BBI JU under the EC programme Horizon 2020 to develop innovative alternatives for textiles and coating to significantly reduce the carbon and plastic footprint of clothing and fishing gear.</p> <p>The workshop is organized in collaboration with the European Bioeconomy Network.</p>
Context	<p>Microplastic pollutions is becoming one of the world’s environmental main concerns, since is widespread in the environment threatening human health¹ and biodiversity. The European Green Deal (EGD), the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and the EU Plastics Strategy announce measures to tackle pollution from microplastics that are intentionally added or unintentionally released into the environment (from e.g. synthetic textiles). According to the EU Action Plan 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' states that by 2030 the EU should reduce plastic litter at sea by 50% and microplastics by 30%². The Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters” ambition is to meet these objectives and targets to restore the health of the EU’s ocean and waters by 2030.</p> <p>To respond to these challenges, there is an urgent need to explore innovative solutions to address microplastic pollution. Biodegradable plastics can play a role in reducing the accumulation of microplastics in the environment, especially for applications where it is difficult or expensive to remove it from the environment, but, according to the SAPEA Group of Chief Scientific Advisors³ <i>“biodegradable plastics are not a ‘silver bullet’ to solve the problem of plastic pollution”</i>, since they also present certain challenges.</p> <p>The EC funded several projects and initiatives to investigate under which conditions biodegradable plastics (and microplastics) can contribute to reduce</p>

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research_and_innovation/groups/sam/ec_rtd_sam-mnp-opinion_042019.pdf

² [Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ [Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment – SAPEA](#)

	pollution in our ecosystems.
Objectives	<p>In this context, the workshop “Tackling microplastics pollution: can biodegradable textile and coating be a solution?” promotes a multistakeholder debate with regards to unintentionally released microplastics in two specific applications: textiles and coating, with a special focus on the fishing gears and clothing sectors.</p> <p>The objective of the workshop is to identify and discuss how biodegradable solutions can address microplastic pollution along the lifecycle stages of textiles and coatings.</p>
Expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate mutual learning and cross-fertilisation of experiences among stakeholders • Provide recommendations in light of incoming EU initiatives and policies
Target participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientific/research community • policy makers • textile and coating industries • multipliers and innovation ecosystem enablers (associations, clusters, NGOs, Institutions, initiatives, etc.) • Investors • standardisation and certification bodies • civil society representatives • end users (e.g. fishing, clothing, agri-food sectors)
How to participate	<p>The workshop is free of charge. To participate, please register at: https://forms.gle/eNnubap8H5Xvid6q6</p>

Draft Agenda

From	To	Contents	Presenters
10.00	10.05	Opening and overview of the workshop from Glaukos coordinator	Zsofia Kadar - BBEPP
Introductory talks to set the scene			
10.05	10.30	Framing the problem Framing the political scene Framing the business Framing the market scene	Glaukos (Quantis/Plastic Leak project) or SAPEA (TBC) European Commission (Elisabetta Balzi - Mission Ocean - TBC) CBE JU/BIC (TBC) Eurocord & BSI
10.30	10.35	Mentimeter questionnaire to break the ice	
Safe and sustainable by design			
10.35	10.55	<i>Setting the scene talks to stimulate the discussion: solutions, insights, gaps</i> <i>Topics:</i> eco-design, optimizing manufacturing processes, thread, yarn, other raw material for garment production, garment production, pre-wash cycles after production	Glaukos Moderator introducing topic and related challenges (B4Plastics/I-COAT/UM) Speaker 1: Saskia Manshoven - Environmental Agency (ETC CE Consortium) Speaker 2: EFFECTIVE project (TBC)
10.55	11.15	Open and interactive discussion with participant stakeholders	
11.15	11.25	Coffee Break	
Purchase and usage			
11.25	11.45	<i>Setting the scene talks to stimulate the discussion: solutions, insights, gaps</i> <i>Topics:</i> wear and tear, washing and drying, eco-labelling, traceability and transparency	Glaukos Moderator introducing topic and related challenges (UM/UVIGO) Speaker 1: Constance Ißbrücker – European Bioplastics Speaker 2: Sofía García -DBSchool & ECOBAS
11.45	12.05	Open and interactive discussion with participant stakeholders	
End of life			
12.05	12.25	<i>Setting the scene talks to stimulate the discussion: solutions, insights, gaps</i> <i>Topics:</i> biodegradability in different environments, eco-toxicity, unintentional and mismanaged disposal of microplastics	Glaukos Moderator introducing topic and related challenges (UVIGO/Quantis) Speaker 1: Lara Dammer – NOVA Institute Speaker 2: TBC
12.25	12.45	Open and interactive discussion with participant stakeholders	
12.45	13.00	Conclusions + next steps + Q&A	

For more information: FVA - Glaukos project communication partner

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