

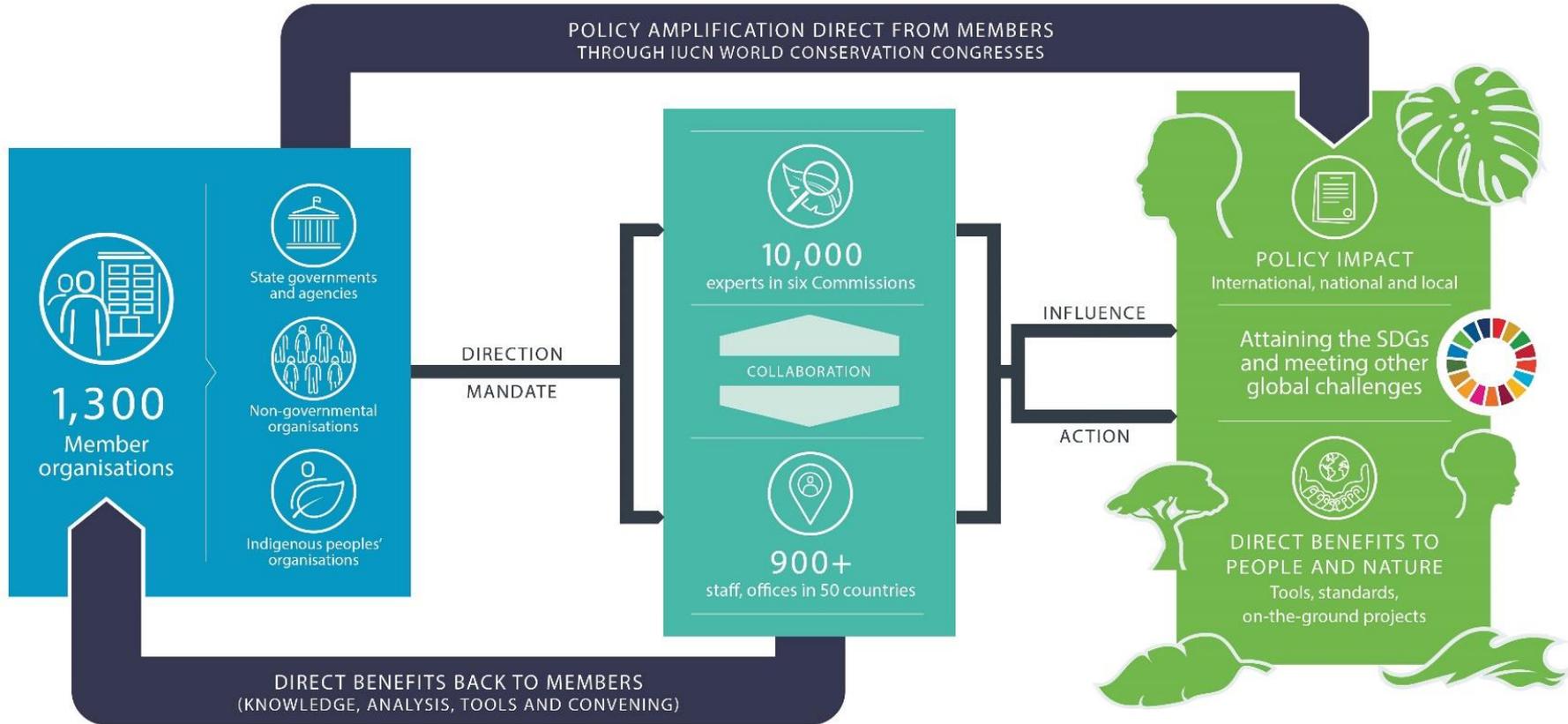
Global Marine Litter Situation

Katalin Czippan

deputy chair, Commission on Education and Communication



UNITED FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



- **Baltic Solutions Plastic Pollution Project:** assessment of all marine plastic litter in the Baltic Sea, climate change, biodiversity and human health impacts - funded by the Swedish Postcode Foundation
- **Plastimed:** assessment of all marine plastic litter plus annual contribution per country and sector into the Med – funded by Mava Foundation
- **Marplastics:** working together with South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam to tackle marine litter problem – funded by the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation



Invisible plastic: microfibers are just the beginning of what we don't see

Mary Catherine O'Connor

The tiny pollutants in our clothes are forcing us to look harder for, and think more carefully about, the ways humans have shaped the environment



Every time we wash our clothing the synthetic fibers are comprised of leach into our waterways, rivers and oceans. Photograph: Jeff Haynes/AFP/Getty Images

Swiss honey contains harmful plastic: TV report

Malcolm Curtis
news@thelocal.ch
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26 March 2014
10:38 CET+01:00

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Photo: SRF

Most honey from Switzerland contains plastic particles that endanger health, according to tests conducted for a Swiss consumer affairs TV programme.



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94% Of US Tap Water Has Micro Plastic Fibers In It, Study Finds (Oh, & That Sea Salt, Beer, Flour, & Honey That You Buy ... It Does As Well)



September 10th, 2017 by [James Ayre](#)

The scale of the world's current micro plastics pollution problem can't be overstated. Plastics, and more importantly their nearly invisible half-broken-down remnants, are now everywhere. They're in the food you eat, the water you drink, and even often enough in the air you breathe.



EMOTIONS

“ There will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish by 2050 ”



FACTS

“ You can't manage what you don't measure ”

- Poorly controlled waste sites
- Illegal dumping
- Tourism
- Industrial and agricultural activities
- Too small to be caught by water treatment plants (microbeads, microfibres)
- Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (nets, ropes)
- Sewage from fishing or shipping boats
- Oil rigs
- Waste from cruise ships
- Unintentional spilling of cargo (165 ton plastic pellet spill, Hong Kong 2012)



- Unable to move and search for food
- Inability to eat (nutrient deficiency)
- Leads to a false sense of satiation
- Slow starvation
- Death in marine animals

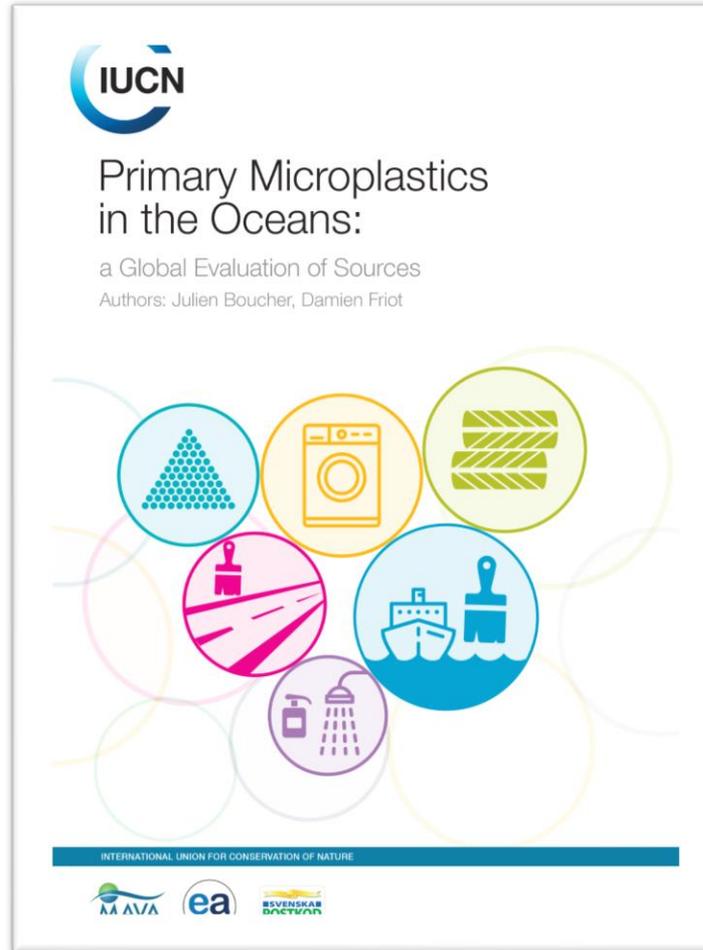


- **Habitat destruction**
- **Implications of the food chain**
 - **Bioaccumulation**
accumulation of
microplastics & pollutants
 - **Biomagnification** ->
accumulation of
microplastics & pollutants



- Loss of profit to commercial fisheries
- Hazards to boats and swimmers
- Lower beach enjoyment (eyesore)
- Lower levels of tourism
- Human health impacts

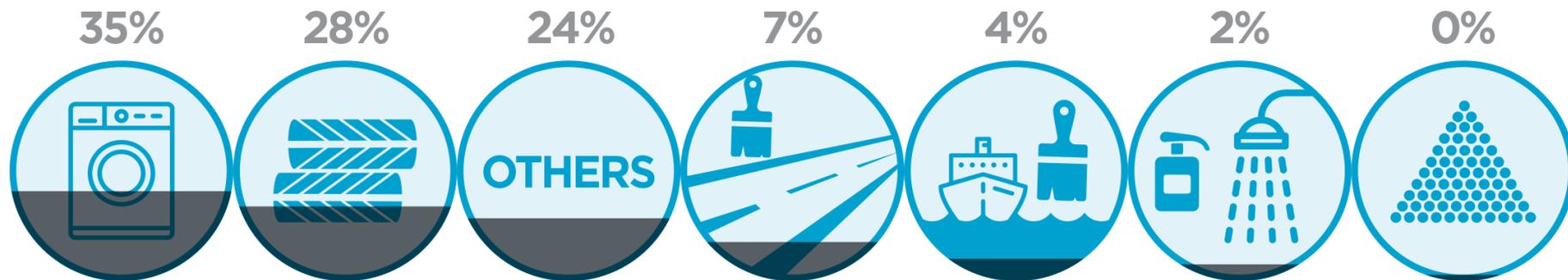




Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

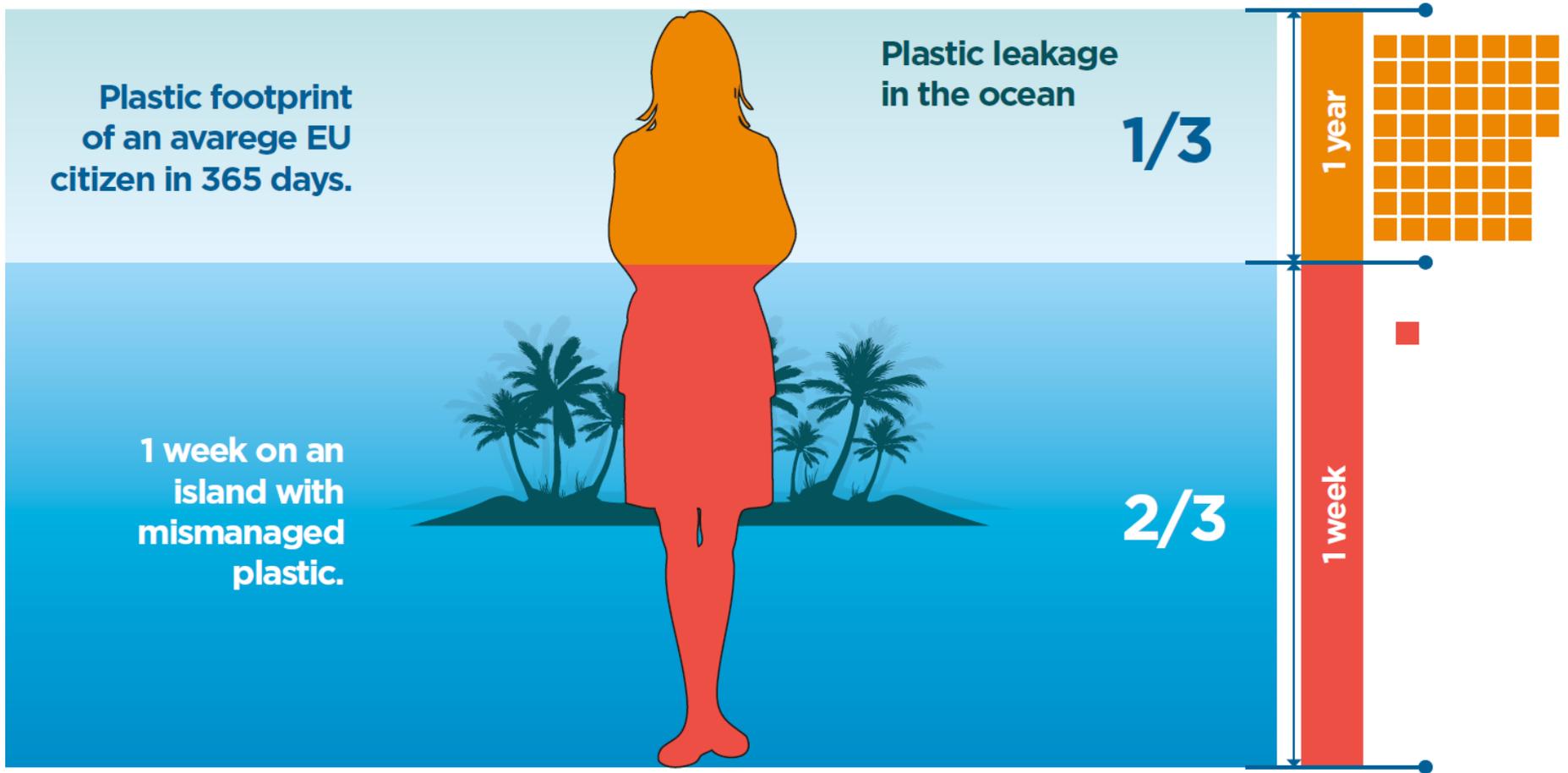
GLOBAL RELEASES OF PRIMARY MICROPLASTICS TO THE OCEANS: BY SOURCE (IN %).

RELEASES





The tourist plastic trap



Plastic footprint of an average EU citizen in 365 days.

Plastic leakage in the ocean

1/3

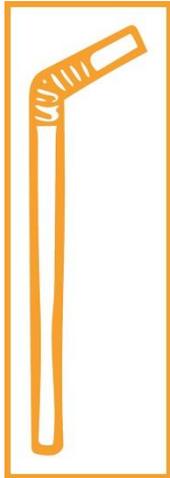
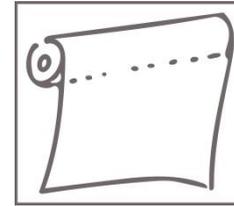
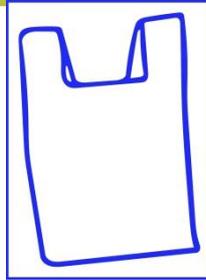
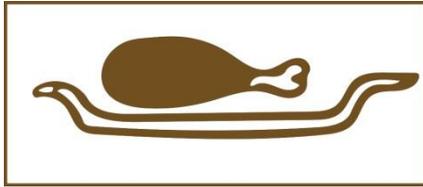
1 year

1 week on an island with mismanaged plastic.

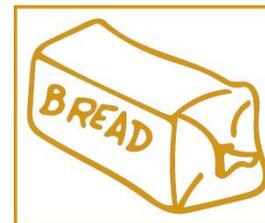
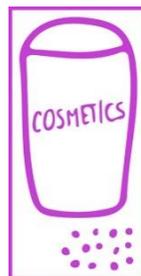
2/3

1 week

Multiple solutions



- Design for recyclability
- Alternative material solutions
- Improving and enforcing legislation
- Improved logistics, collecting and sorting
- Improving wastewater facilities
- Changing consumption behaviour patterns – education, communication, awareness raising
- Different geographical approaches (continent Vs Islands)



Thank you for your attention!

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Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

Partners: General Directorate of Water Management, Hungary | Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, Slovakia | International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River | Ministry of Water and Forests, Romania | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary | National Administration "Romanian Waters", Romania | National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania | Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine", Serbia | Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary | The Jaroslav Černi Institute for the Development of Water Resources, Serbia | Water Research Institute, Slovakia | World Wide Fund for Nature Hungary

Associated Partners: Interior Ministry, Hungary | Republic of Serbia Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection – Water Directorate | Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC), Austria | State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine | Tisza River Basin Water Resources Directorate, Ukraine

