

Date: 19th of March 2021

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/6J5EiUkAfmX7E3kh8>

Panel 2 –Circular Economy as a chance for the oceans' protection.

In the framework of the project Life'Adapt Island

Videoconference link: Zoom link to be sent out to registered participants.

2.00 pm CET to 4.00 pm CET (9.00 am Guadeloupe time to 11.00 Guadeloupe time)

A big global environmental concern is aquatic plastic waste, generally referred to as marine plastic debris. It affects aquatic organisms, breaches the stability of habitats, prevents marine plant development, accumulates, and transports pathogens that can cause disease and damage to marine creatures, plants and humans, and ends up in the food chain.

A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute, and this figure is reflecting into an ocean of challenges, that some campaigners predict will be as critical as Climate Change. Most plastic bottles used for soft drinks and water are made from Polyethylene terephthalate (Pet) which is highly recyclable. But as their use soars across the globe efforts to collect and recycle the bottles and prevention from ocean pollution are failing... In 2016, fewer than half of the bottles were collected for recycling, and just 7% of those collected were turned into new bottles. Instead, most plastic bottles produced end up in landfill or in the ocean. This is without mentioning the impact of plastic packaging of most products as every day's plastic is surrounding many packaging consumption items. The microplastics present in many manufactured products are increasing the challenges even further.

In 2019 and 2020, the European Commission has published several reports in this sense with the *2020 Mission Starfish 2030: Restore our Oceans and Water* from DG Research, but also the *2020 Circular Economy Action Plan*.

The current solutions include:

- Switching from the logic of a linear economy to a circular logic that operates at the interface between land and sea and acts on sources of pollution
- Treating marine debris and further inland land-based sewage flows (clean the beaches, treat excess water to reduce discharges to the sea...)
- Preventing aquatic pollution by implementing preventive and complex flow control mechanisms
- And stepping up toward a circular economy able by transforming outputs and consumption modes.

Panel 2 –Circular Economy as a chance for the oceans' protection

2.00 pm - Welcome address

2.05 pm: Keynote speech on the Circular Economy for the oceans' protection by **Ms Sita Narayanan**

2.15 pm: Informal address on "solutions for local authorities" by **Mr. Danko ALEKSIC**, Project Manager, ACR+

2.25 pm: Pressures faced by Marine Ecosystems: **LIFE Adapt Island project team**

2.35 pm: wrap up

2.40 pm : Panel discussion on Circular Economy as a chance for the oceans' protection. Panelists: **Piyush Dhawan**, Co-founder, The Circular Collective, **Technical team of the LIFE'Adapt Island Project**, **Nadège Gandilhon**, Expert

3.30 pm: Questions and answers with the audience

Moderation: Ms Pascaline Gaborit, Director Pilot4dev