



Gull Bulletin 3/2025

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Introduction

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS) project! The end of the project is fast approaching, and these past three years have flown by for me, Gus the Gull, and for the whole CIRCNETS team. This last autumn of the project has been a busy one, and in this newsletter, I'll tell you more about the past events. We have been to Norway for the final partner meeting, the team has published many reports, and we are also getting ready for our final webinar of the project! Exciting times!



Bodø, Norway

Past events

We seagulls enjoy each other's company as we live in big colonies, and that's the reason why we cherish our relationship with friends and neighbors. We have had lot of activities in CIRCNETS this year, where we have been reaching out to the wider world. We have organized webinars and workshops for stakeholders but have taken part in also other kinds of events to meet the general public. Here are some highlights.

In June University of Oulu organized a webinar for Finnish stakeholders with three guest stars from key Finnish organizations involved in the producer responsibility and separate collection of fishing gear as speakers. ELY Centre for Pirkanmaa is the EPR authority in Finland, and Mika Heinonen talked about the producer responsibility of fishing gear in Finland and how their organization oversees the implementation of this in the country. Pekka Tsupari from The Finnish SUP Producer Group gave updates on the PROs activities, and Taneli Lumiaro from Finnish Packaging Recycling RINKI presented how the separate collection of fishing gear has been organized. The webinar was aimed at fishers, fishing gear producers and importers, and about 40 people attended it. You can find the presentation slides from [here](#).

In September, the Irish partners Western Development Commission and the University of Galway, supported by the Clean Technology Centre, hosted a workshop exploring the economic potential of EOL fishing gear and examining the preparedness of the sector for the EPR scheme in Ireland. This in-person workshop, and an EMD in My Country event, brought together industry experts, academics, and stakeholders to discuss circular economy opportunities in the Irish fishing sector with about 20 people attending. The event had presentations from Percy Foster from the Haul It Back scheme, Rodney O'Sullivan from Ships Nets and Wire, Sharon Barrington from IFF Plastics, and Frank Fleming from Verifact, followed by a participatory workshop.



Workshop participants in Ireland

As mentioned, the CIRCNETS team has not been confined just indoors or between the laptop and office chair, we have ventured out to the real world as well. In the beginning of August, CIRCNETS took part in the West Coast Week on the west coast of Sweden, where the project was presented to the public in an exhibition showcasing the work at the Sotenäs Marine Recycling Center. Later in the month, CIRCNETS was also presented in Finland in the Save the Bothnian Bay event organized in Oulu, where school children were introduced to different organizations and communities doing work on behalf of the Bothnian Bay. Read more about these events [here](#)!



West Coast Week in Sweden

At the end of September, partners travelled to the windy and autumnal Bodø, in northern Norway, for the final partner meeting and Interreg NPA Conference “Connecting the Dots”, celebrating 25 years of cooperation in the region. In the partner meeting, the final outputs of the project were on the menu, and in the conference, CIRCNETS organized a parallel session. CIRCNETS is not the first NPA project to address marine plastic pollution, in the past ten years we have moved from raising awareness to tackling the problem, both in the society and in the NPA projects. The conference dinner also brought an exciting award for CIRCNETS, when the project was awarded among others in a category called “Achieving synergies - Transnational projects that make the most of our resources for a resilient Northern Periphery and Arctic” with the project lead Niko Hänninen accepting the award. Read more about the trip [here](#)!





Team at the conference dinner in Bodø. Photo by: InterregNPA/Mariia Filiushina

Reports D.1.3.1, D.2.1.2, and D.3.1.1

CIRCNETS's autumn has not been only about fancy gala dinners and chitchatting with stakeholders and the public, the team has been busy also with finishing various reports. In Work Package 1, the report D.1.3.1 "Review of EOL fishing gear collection volumes and responsible parties in the NPA region" focuses on finding out how much EOL fishing gear waste is collected in the NPA countries and what happens to it after collection. In Work Package 2, the report D.2.1.2 "Review and analysis of Life Cycle Assessments in fishing gear waste management methods" analyses the environmental impacts of different waste management practices for EOL fishing gear through a literature review of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies on the collection, waste treatment practices, and recycling of EOL fishing gear. In Work Package 3, the report D.3.1.1 "Report about the implementation of EPR in the NPA area", highlights various good practices implemented in the different longer-running EPR schemes which should be considered when developing the EPR of fishing gear.

Read the full reports from our website: [Project reports](#)

Final webinar 2nd of December

And now please, some drum roll! CIRCNETS team welcomes you to join the final webinar of the project on Tuesday 2nd of December! The final webinar will present to you the story of CIRCNETS, from its background and the steps taken to reach the key findings, to the outcomes of the project. In addition, we have three guest speakers giving commentaries: Heikki Lehtinen from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, Percy Foster from the Irish Haul

It Back scheme, and Tuomo Leino from Rapala VMC and The Finnish SUP Producer Group's board.

Check out the program of the webinar and register here:

<https://link.webropolsurveys.com/EP/D41C81F1E30C1A26>

What are we up to next?

Although there is only a bit over a month left of the project, there are still some things to look forward to! Reports will be published from Work Packages 2 and 3 (D.2.2.3, D.2.3.2, D.2.5.1, D.3.3.1) as well as the final outputs of the project. In addition, the Norwegian partners will also be running a dissemination campaign for fishers.

I'll catch up with you again with the final newsletter of the project in January, until then, have a relaxing rest of the year!

Gus, on behalf of the whole CIRCNETS team

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Blue Circular Nets (CIRCNETS)

<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/circnets/home/>

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