



Understanding better microplastics and identifying how to address the issue

Module 2: **Political frameworks** to address microplastics.  
Primary microplastics: **pellet loss and intentionally added microplastics** in products

24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# Recap from Module 1 (12th May 2022)



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- “plastic particles smaller than 5 mm”
- Primary and secondary microplastics
- Overview of microplastics monitoring approaches & knowledge gaps and research needs
- Effects of microplastics
- Few actions specifically on microplastic by beneficiary countries



# Introduction Modules 2 and 3: Measures on microplastics



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- Primary microplastics:
  - Intentionally added: in cosmetics, detergents, paints, etc.
  - Unintentionally released:
    - ✓ Pellets, flakes and powder
    - ✓ from tyres, textiles, etc.
- Secondary microplastics:
  - Those resulting from the fragmentation of larger plastics already released in the environment.

Module 2

Module 3



Estimation of amounts, measures and their effects,  
views and position from different stakeholders



# Overview Module 2



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## PART 1

- Political frameworks addressing microplastics: focus on Barcelona Convention and EU

## PART 2: FOCUS ON “PELLET LOSS”

- Introduction: State of the art and potential measures
- A regulatory supply-chain approach to pellet pollution and documented pellet loss events
- Operation Clean Sweep

## PART 3 “INTENTIONALLY ADDED” MICROPLASTICS

- Introduction: State of the art and potential measures
- Responses from civil society organization: the case of Beat the Microbead
- Position from the cosmetic industry: the case of the Spanish association on perfumes and cosmetics



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/13/the-plastic-backlash-whats-behind-our-sudden-rage-and-will-it-make-a-difference>



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*– it's in our household products, coffee cups, teabags and clothing – but it seems to have escaped our ability to catch it.*

**The long read**

# **The plastic backlash: what's behind our sudden rage – and will it make a difference?**

Decades after it became part of the fabric of our lives, a worldwide revolt against plastic is under way. By Stephen Buranyi

**The  
Guardian**



## Political frameworks addressing microplastics: focus on Barcelona Convention and EU

Pedro Fernández  
WES NKE (MedWaves)



# The global political framework



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- **United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA)**  
Resolutions on (i) marine plastic litter and **microplastics** (UNEP/EA.1/Res.6; UNEP/EA.2/Res.11; UNEP/EA.3/Res.7; UNEP/EA.4/Res.6)
- UNEA 5.2: Resolution established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a mandate to **negotiate a legally binding global agreement** to address plastic pollution with the objective of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment by covering **all stages of the plastic life cycle** and by adopting a circular economy approach to plastics.



**BASEL CONVENTION**

## **Basel Convention**

- **Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP)** to improve and promote the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste

This Project is funded  
by the European Union





# The regional political frameworks

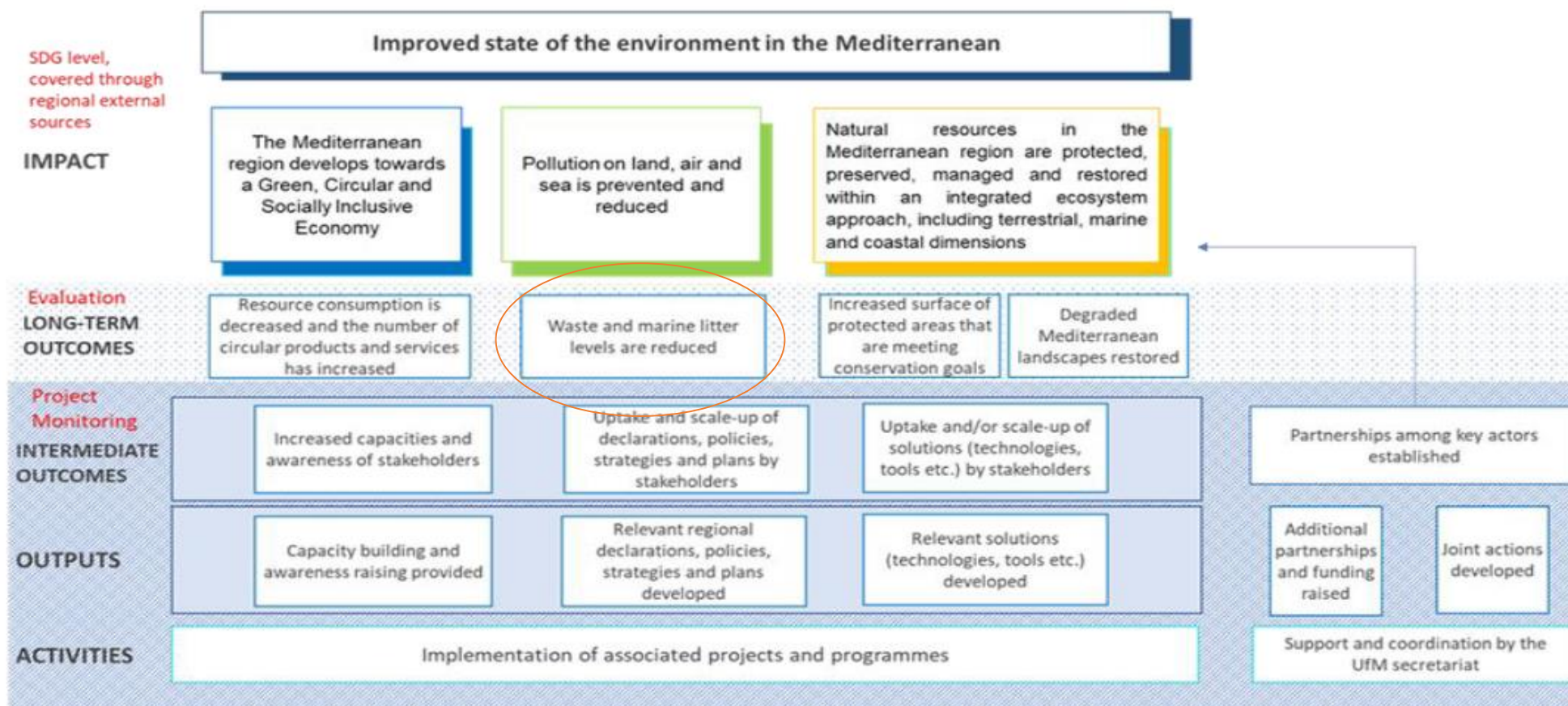


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- 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action
- The UfM's 2030 GreenerMed Agenda

## 2030 GreenerMed THEORY OF CHANGE







# The regional political frameworks



- COP22 (December 2021, Antalya)
- Programme of Work (PoW) 2021-2022
- Regional Guidelines on measures to phase out Single-Use Plastic items
- Upgraded Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

- Enhancement on measures to address plastics through a circular Economy (prevention of secondary microplastics)
- Specific provisions on microplastics (Article 9):

*Regulate the use of **primary microplastics**, as appropriate, by promoting voluntary commitments (e.g. certification schemes) or other actions (e.g. legal instruments);*

*Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with the plastic industry in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic and reduce **microplastic**;*





## EO 10 Marine litter

- Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including **microplastics** and on the seafloor



Contracting Parties and Secretariat to collaborate in monitoring and assessments



# The EU framework



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Various Directives addressing plastic pollution: MSFD, SUPs Directive, Packaging and packaging waste Directive, etc.



# Zero Pollution Action Plan



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Key 2030 targets to speed up reducing pollution at source include:

- Improving water quality by reducing:
  - plastic litter at sea by 50%
  - and **microplastics released into the environment by 30%**





# EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy



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Address the presence of microplastics in the environment:

- **Restrict** intentionally added MPL and tackle pellets
- **Develop** labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on unintentionally released MPL
- **Further develop and harmonise** methods to measure unintentionally released MPL
- **Close** the gaps in scientific knowledge

Ongoing process, by the end of 2022 there will be a clearer view of what can be expected at EU level

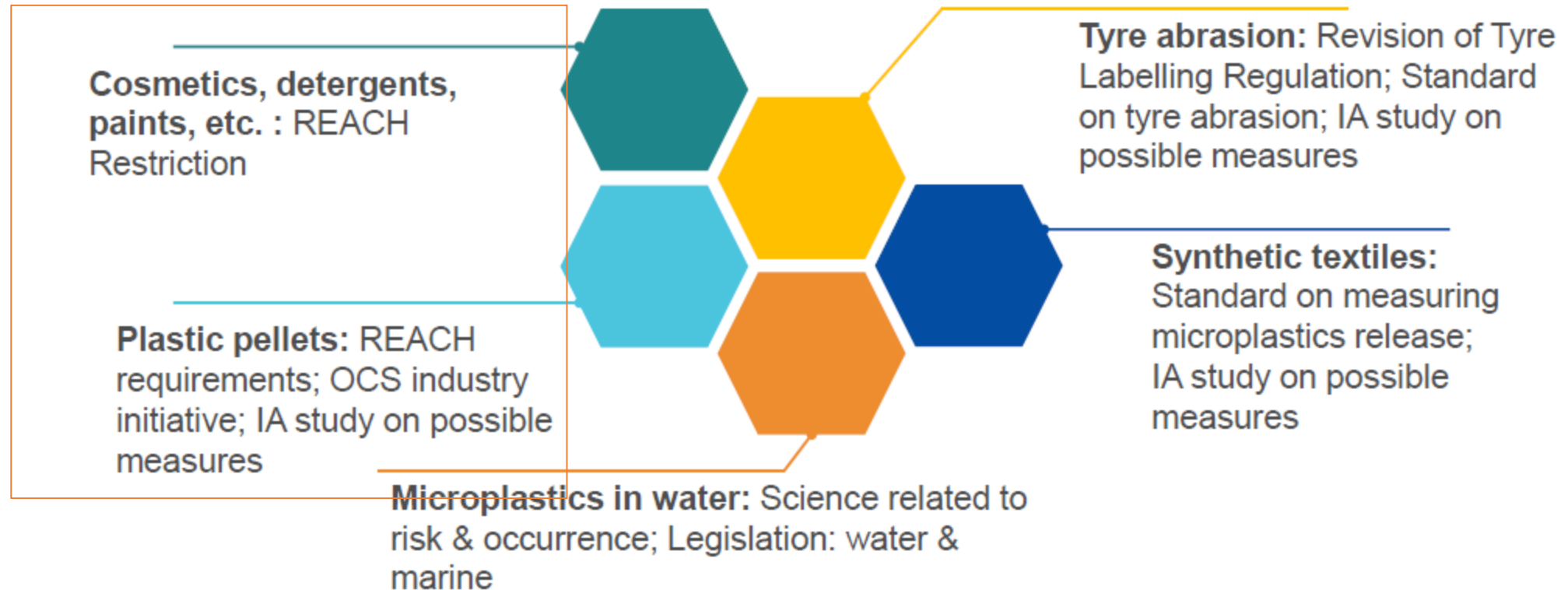


# Ongoing developments



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## Module 2







## Country level: specific examples

- France: Decree no. 2017-291 of March 6, 2017 relating to the conditions for implementing the ban on the marketing of **rinse-off cosmetic products for exfoliation or cleansing containing solid plastic particles** and cotton swabs for domestic use including the stem is plastic
- Spain: Law 7/2022, of 8th April, on wastes and polluted soils for a circular economy.
  - Bans the introduction in the market of intentionally added plastics microbeads < 5 mm, with the details and exemptions to be approved under European REACH Regulation (i.e. pellets production and commercialization)





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Thank you for your attention!

