

Eco-Poverty and Plastic Waste

The challenge of environmental degradation at the times of pandemics and the answers of Environmental Mainstreaming Approach (EMA)

Aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, **plastic waste** has become a major component of the global environmental challenge. Negatively contributing to pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change, the ubiquity of plastic represents a triple emergency that must be tackled with effective and innovative initiatives. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has estimated the negative spill-over effects of plastic waste on fisheries, tourism and maritime transport alone be \$40 billion per year. Furthermore, up to 1 million people die each year in developing countries because of diseases related to mismanaged plastic waste. Plastic has undoubtedly become a leading driver of **Eco-Poverty**, a new concept marking the environmental dimensions of global poverty, and often the most vulnerable communities disproportionately bear the impact of ecological degradation triggered by plastic pollution.

All sectors of global society – public and private, in particular the Cooperation and Development community – share equal, yet differentiated, **responsibilities** towards addressing this grand societal challenge.

With the help of international field-experts, academia and practitioners, the workshop sets the ambitious goal of exploring the role of **Environmental Mainstreaming Approach** in current policies and practices to address the “pandemic” of plastic. More specifically, it aims at: originally contributing to the understanding of the nexus between plastic and Eco-Poverty; exploring the challenges and opportunities in policy making; presenting original and promising responses from the private sector, civil society and the development communities.

Link the introductory video *Eco-Poverty and Plastic Waste*: <https://youtu.be/CIFFHEpBRvY>

Date: July 30, 2021

Time: 4:00 - 7:30 PM CEST

Format: 4 webinar sessions

Participation: free access (pre-registration required)

Objectives: With the help of international field-experts, academia and practitioners, the workshop sets the ambitious goal of exploring the role of Environmental Mainstreaming Approach in current policies and practices to address the “pandemic” of plastic. More specifically, it aims at: originally contributing to the understanding of the nexus between plastic and Eco-Poverty; exploring the challenges and opportunities in policy making; presenting original and promising responses from the private sector, civil society and the development communities.

Target group: Development Cooperation practitioners; Private Sector and Public Administration actors involved in Sustainable Development initiatives; Academia; General Public interested in the Plastic Crisis and Eco-poverty

Environment, Climate Change and International Cooperation
July 30, 2021 Workshop – VI Edition

Organizer: The Task Force of all trainees at “Environment, Climate Change and International Cooperation” course (VIII edition) by VIS Advanced Training School (supervisor prof. Massimo Zortea).

Agenda:

- Opening and Introduction: Eco-Poverty and Plastic Waste
- Session 1 – The pandemic of plastic: challenges and opportunities in policy-making
- Session 2 – ‘Out of the Plastic’ approaches for a sustainable circular economy after Covid-19 crisis
- Closing remarks

Session Structure

Time	Session Format	Speakers
4:00 – 4:10pm CEST	Opening: Eco-Poverty and Plastic Waste	Organisers' Event Host(s)
4:10-4:30pm CEST	Keynote speech	Dr. Memon, UNEP Asia Pacific Regional Office
4:30 - 5:30pm CEST	Session 1 The pandemic of plastic: challenges and opportunities in policy-making	Ms. Catherine Weetman Ms. Indriany Lionggo Mr. Cyron Chan
5:30 – 5:35pm CEST	Technical Break	
5:35 – 6:35pm CEST	Session 2 'Out of the Plastic' approaches for a sustainable circular economy after Covid-19 crisis	Dr. Versari, Novamont Ms. Lakshmi Menon Mr. Manuel Castelletti Ms. Camila Lucena
6:35 – 6:40 pm CEST	Technical Break	Host
6:40 – 7:10pm CEST	Closing remarks	Eng. Lotta (VIS Chairman) Prof. Massimo Zortea
7:10 – 7:15 pm CEST	Closing	Hosts

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Speakers

Keynote speaker



Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon
*UNEP Regional Office Asia and the Pacific
Jakarta, Indonesia*

Session 1 – The Pandemic of Plastic: Challenges and Opportunities in policy-making



Ms. Catherine Weetman
*Director, Rethink Global
United Kingdom*



Mr. Cyron Chan
*Founder of the CEO Class
Hong Kong SAR, China*



Ms. Indriany Liongo
*Reseracher, Erasmus University
Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Session 2 – Out-of-Plastic Approaches for a Sustainable Circular Economy after Covid-19 Crisis



Dr. Marco Versari
*Novamont,
Novara, Italy*



Ms. Lakshimi Menon
*CEO, Pure Living
Kerala, India*

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Mr. Manuel Castelletti
Celim Country Manager
Albania



Ms. Camila Lucena
Entrepreneur at ZeroWaste
Porto Alegre, Brazil

Closing Remarks



Eng. Nico Lotta
VIS Chairman
Rome, Italy



Prof. Massimo Zortea
Course Instructor
University of Trento, Italy

Registration

Register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqc-yuqjggGNyDDCmT0g313k6fh1-VI_R. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.