

## **International travelling exhibition opens in Paris**

### **The Ocean Plastics Lab opens in Paris on 4 November 2017 / International outdoor travelling exhibition in four shipping containers presents latest research on plastic pollution of the oceans**

Paris, 02.11.2017. Plastic bottles in the sand, coffee cups encrusted with seaweed, plastic bags floating above schools of fish: These pictures of everyday litter on our beaches and in our seas are a sad reality. But what we actually see is just a fraction of the huge quantities of plastic – around 850 shipping containers' worth of waste per day – which are ending up in our seas and oceans. Most of this plastic litter is invisible to the naked eye. Larger pieces of plastic are broken down into tiny fragments by UV radiation and wave action. This microplastic is transported even to remote regions – a devastating development because it takes hundreds of years for some plastic materials to fully degrade.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has launched the international Ocean Plastics Lab travelling exhibition in association with the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM) and with support from the European Commission and other partners to draw attention to the problem of plastic waste in the oceans.

Visitors entering the four shipping containers will gain an insight into current international research on marine pollution and are encouraged to participate in a dialogue between science and society. The mobile outdoor exhibition includes installations, animations and interactive content, inviting the visitor to face up to the topic of plastic litter in the oceans. Plastics are almost everywhere in our lives. We all use plastic on a regular basis – as packaging, bottles, toys or furniture. How can we successfully meet both social and environmental needs? The exhibition is an invitation to all visitors to consider this question in depth and develop approaches to its solution. It will also present citizen science projects on the topic of plastic litter.

The 8th Global Social Business Summit, which will be held in Paris on 6-7 November 2017, provides contributions as well as logistic support for the Ocean Plastics Lab during its stop in Paris. One of the topics addressed by this year's Summit will be the problem of plastic litter in the environment. French exhibits have been contributed by the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (Ifremer), the Tara Expeditions Foundation and the Surfrider Foundation as well as Mercator Océan. These organizations are also involved in events

which are taking place during the exhibition in the city hall to enable a dialogue between the scientific community and the interested public on this topic.

The Ocean Plastics Lab will open its doors on the Paris city hall square from 4 to 17 November 2017. Admission is free.

Further information is available at:

**[www.oceanplasticslab.net](http://www.oceanplasticslab.net)**

**Press contact**

Dr. Julia Schnetzer

Campaign Manager

[info@oceanplasticslab.net](mailto:info@oceanplasticslab.net)

KDM

German Marine Research Consortium

Markgrafenstr. 37

10117 Berlin, Germany

[deutsche-meeresforschung.de](http://deutsche-meeresforschung.de)

