

PRESS RELEASE BY THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

## **The Ocean Plastics Lab international travelling exhibition provides information about plastic litter in the sea**

**The Ocean Plastics Lab exhibition has been launched in Turin on 27 September 2017 / International outdoor travelling exhibition in shipping containers presents state-of-the-art research on plastics contamination in our oceans / Further stops in Europe and North America planned**

Turin, 27 September 2017. Plastic bottles in the sand, disposable coffee beakers encrusted with seaweed, plastic bags floating above schools of fish: These pictures of everyday litter on our beaches and in our seas are unfortunately too familiar. But what we actually see is just a fraction of the plastics which end up in our seas and oceans every year. In fact, the equivalent of around one shipping container full of waste is dumped into the sea every two minutes. What is so terrible is that it takes hundreds of years to fully degrade many plastic materials.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is launching 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 our oceans. The Lab's first stop is Turin.

Johanna Wanka, German Research Minister, has officially opened the exhibition on 27 September. The opening ceremony has been attended by Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Mauro Laus, President of the Regional Council of Piedmont.

Visitors entering the four shipping containers of the Ocean Plastics Lab will gain an insight into current international research on marine pollution and be encouraged to participate in a dialogue between science and society. The mobile outdoor exhibition includes installations, animations and interactive content, inviting the visitor to confront the topic of plastic litter in the oceans. Plastic is a central component of our everyday lives and is used in almost every area. We all use plastic on a regular basis – in the form of packaging, bottles, toys or as microplastic particles in peeling products or synthetic clothing. How can we succeed in taking equal account of the needs of society and the environment? 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.

Interested public can visit the Ocean Plastics Lab on Piazza Solferino in the centre of Turin daily from 27 September to 7 October. Opening times are from 9am to 8pm on weekdays and until 9pm on weekends. Admission is free.

Further stops on the exhibition's route after Turin include Paris in November 2017. For 2018, a stop in Brussels is planned, as well as stops in the USA and Germany in the coming years.

Further information is available at:

**Ocean Plastics Lab**

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

and in the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research:**

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