

AWASTER Adopting WASTE as Resource

Final International Conference

16th June 2026

Agenda

The AWASTER Final International Conference brings together representatives from public authorities, businesses, educational institutions, and support organizations to discuss how circular economy initiatives can move from pilot actions to wider implementation and long-term impact.

The event will present the main achievements and lessons learned within the AWASTER project, together with examples of good practices and experiences from other EU initiatives. Through presentations, an interactive training session, and a panel discussion, participants will explore practical approaches for scaling up circular economy solutions, strengthening cross-sector collaboration, and supporting the transition toward more sustainable and resource-efficient communities in the Italy–Croatia cross-border area.

Venue: Korčula, Croatia

Italy – Croatia



AGENDA

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Part 1 – Final International Conference

Location: Korčula, [Hotel Aminess Liburna](#)

10:00-10:30	Registration of participants
10:30-10:35	Welcome speeches
10:35-10:50	<p>Presentation - Setting the scene: Circular Economy & AWASTER Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of circular economy (EU & regional context) • Key challenges that triggered AWASTER • Overview of AWASTER objectives and main achievements <p><i>Andrea Poldrugovac, IRENA</i></p>
10:50-11:10	<p>Presentation - From theory to practice: AWASTER approach to enhance circular economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops in educational sector • Engagement with businesses • Pilot actions and practical tools <p><i>Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić, SUNCE & Sara Ferigo, SINLOC</i></p>
11:10-11:25	<p>Presentation - Project FISHIMPACT (Interreg IPA Adrion)</p> <p>FISHIMPACT supports fisheries and aquaculture SMEs in adopting more sustainable and resource-efficient practices through ESG indicators and self-assessment tools. The presentation will highlight links with the objectives of AWASTER, particularly in promoting circular economy approaches, sustainability, and wider adoption of innovative practices across sectors.</p> <p><i>Mirela Petrić, PhD, Faculty of Marine Sciences, University of Split</i></p>
11:25-11:40	<p>Presentation - From Projects to Impact: Good Practices for Sustainable Coastal Development</p> <p><i>Antonija Odak, Regional Development Agency of Dubrovnik-Neretva County - DUNEA</i></p>
11:40-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-13:00	<p>AWASTER – Transferring & Capitalization of Results – 3rd Training session</p> <p>Format: Guided interactive session</p> <p>Presentation of WP3 policy recommendations</p>



Italy – Croatia



	<p>Validation with stakeholders Discussion on transferability to other regions</p> <p><i>LP & SINLOC</i></p>
13:00-14:00	<p>Panel discussion: Scaling up circular economy initiatives: From solutions to widespread adoption</p> <p>Building on the experiences and results of the AWASTER and similar initiatives, this panel will focus on how to scale up circular economy initiatives from pilot actions to broader implementation across sectors and regions.</p> <p>While many circular solutions have been successfully tested, their wider adoption remains limited. The discussion will explore key barriers and enabling factors for scaling, including policy frameworks, access to funding, business engagement, and cross-sector collaboration.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pompilio Giovanni Ottavio De Nuzzo, Mayor, Municipality of Casarano • Sanda Barkidija, Regional Development Agency of Dubrovnik-Neretva County - DUNEA • Stefano Marabotto, Cluster Manager, INNOSAP • Davide Poletto, co-founder and executive director, PlasticFree Venice Lagoon • Andrea Poldrugovac, AWASTER Project Manager, IRENA <p><i>Moderator: Maja Jurić, SUNCE</i></p>
14:00-15:00	Light lunch

***The event will be held in Italian and Croatian, and interpretation will be provided.**

Part 2 – Waste free event

Location: [City Park Korčula](#)

18:00-20:00	Waste-free event: showcase and workshops on circular economy best practices	
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