



The **Low Plastic Zone (LPZ)** Initiative started in the Western Balkans in 2023 as a joint effort funded by the German Government and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Montenegro. The EU-funded project **Marine Litter Med Plus** offers the opportunity to implement this approach in the Southern Mediterranean in the 2025-2026 period, including in Lebanon and Tunisia, and to build on recent initiatives. This project further supports the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean at national, sub-regional and regional level. The project is implemented by UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and MAP Components, including MedWaves, which is responsible for the plastic pollution prevention through the Low Plastic Zone approach.

MedWaves, a centre for international cooperation based in Barcelona, develops innovative solutions addressing shared environmental challenges based on circular economy and sustainable consumption and production principles. It operates under the legal framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, which Secretariat is ensured by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). MedWaves is actively addressing plastic pollution in the Mediterranean through outreach, technical cooperation, and policy work, as well as the development, implementation, and scaling of innovative solutions for businesses.

In **Lebanon**, MedWaves partnered with **The Syndicate of Owners of Restaurants, Cafés, Night-Clubs and Pastries** to implement the LPZ in the country.



Get in touch

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Co-funded by
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Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



WORKING TO BECOME LOW PLASTIC ZONE



By joining the Low Plastic Zone Initiative, you will:

- Contribute to reducing plastic pollution.
- Enhance your business's sustainability profile.
- Attract and retain eco-conscious customers and staff.
- Safeguard your business from future regulatory changes.
- Save money!

Did you know?

It is estimated that 35%—or approximately 42,134 tonnes annually—of all SUPs produced in Lebanon are attributable to the F&B sector (UNDP, 2021).

Lebanon has one of the highest per capita consumption rates of single-use plastic bags globally, with each resident using approximately 506 units annually (Kayed, 2022).

A 2022 study by Gareiou et al., found that over 80% of Lebanese residents reported that they believe plastic pollution to be one of three largest environmental issues in the country and over 60% believed that SUPs should be completely eliminated (Gareiou et al., 2022).

The world uses 500 billion plastic cups every year and 500 thousand plastic straws each day.

SUPs can be eliminated without compromising the customer's experience.

Poorly managed plastic waste turns into plastic pollution, which has negative impacts on:

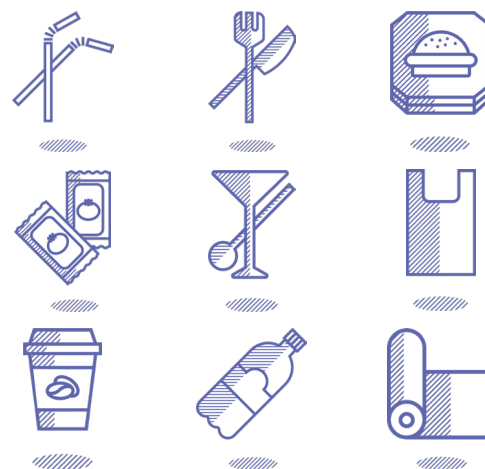
- The tourism sector, by reducing the attractiveness of coasts and cities, potentially reducing visitor numbers, jobs, and revenues.
- Human health and well-being.
- Terrestrial and aquatic animals and habitats.
- Taxpayers due to increased costs for clean-ups.

The Low Plastic Zone (LPZ) Initiative aims to engage hotels, restaurants and cafes (HORECA sector) in reducing disposable plastics during their daily operations. It is a community of forward-thinking businesses committed to reducing plastic waste by eliminating problematic single-use plastic products.

Reduce plastic pollution NOW!

Single-Use Plastic products (SUPs) are designed to be used once – often for a few seconds, and then disposed of. Unfortunately, when waste is not managed properly, they often end up in rivers and seas causing long-term pollution.

Common SUPs used by hotels, restaurants and cafes:



Participation in the Low Plastic Zone Initiative is completely FREE.

How to get involved:

Option 1: Get started!

Sign the DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT and display the LPZ logo to inform customers on your engagement to reduce SUPs.

Implement actions to reduce SUPs in your establishment.

Option 2: Deepen your action

Meet with our experts to complete the SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS will be automatically generated to eliminate and/or reduce SUPs in your business.

Build your ACTION PLAN with our experts and start the implementation of the solutions identified.

Get assistance in tracking progress and communicating achievements to your customers.