Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin

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Go2 Recycling

Newsletter 3

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Transnational Cooperation for Sustainable Waste Management and Recycling Practices in the Black Sea Basin

BSB00027 Go2Recycling

Welcome to the Third Edition of the Go2Recycling Newsletter!

Dear stakeholders,

The Go2Recycling project aims to contribute to environmental sustainability in the Black Sea Basin and strengthen cross-border cooperation by reducing municipal waste and pollution. It promotes waste separation, collection, and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) practices, while also establishing infrastructure for sustainable waste management.

In this **third issue** of our newsletter, we will present to you updates on our latest project milestones being implemented across partner cities, as well as good examples and practices for raising public awareness on plastic pollution, waste management and recycling.



Follow also our website for updates:

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GÜNEKAB Güney Edirne Katı Atık Birliği

TEHNOPOL GALAȚI

Keşan, TÜRKİYE

GÜNEKAB
Güney Edirne Katı Atık Birliği

1st Class Waste Collection Center

The Lead Partner South Edirne Solid Waste Union started working on the construction of the stationary 1st Class Waste Collection Center in Keşan.

The center will be the first stationary bring center for recyclable waste established in the European part of Türkiye and at the same time will act as a HUB for 3-R principles and real nature-friendly practices as using of renewable solar energy sources and reusing of the rainwater, composting, etc. The investment is envisaged to be a Zero waste center and to promote the same principle among the members of the Union: Kesan, Enez, Ipsala, Beyendik, Yenimuhacır, Esetçe, Yenikarpuzlu Municipality administrations and Edirne Special Provincial Administration institution. The center will collect: paper, plastic, glass, metal, wood, textile, waste electrical and electronic goods (such as lighting equipment, television, radio, computer, refrigerator, washing machine, dishwasher, camera), bulky waste (such as cabinets, armchairs), End-of-life tires, waste vegetable oils, waste medicines, batteries and accumulators that must be brought by the citizens without mixing them with other wastes.





At the same time two mobile waste collection centers were installed - one in Ipsala and one in Enez - covering important wetlands, protected and coastal areas. They will provide a chance 7 different separate kinds of waste to be collected in the cities: paper, plastic, glass, metal, organic waste, battery and oil.

Main investment activities

Uzunköprü, TÜRKİYE

Mobile Recycling Collection Station

Similarly, **PP5 - Uzunköprü Municipality** successfully installed a mobile waste collection center and initiated the implementation of separate waste collection infrastructure at local level.



This investment is the first one of such kind and will also provide a chance 7 different separate kinds of waste to be collected in the city: paper, plastic, glass, metal, organic waste, battery and oil. The collected waste will be transferred to the waste center in Uzunköprü, which is managed by the Central Edirne Solid Waste Management Union - OREKAB.

In Romania and Georgia, investments focused on strengthening the operational capacity of recycling facilities through the delivery and installation of specialized equipment.

Galati, ROMANIA

New press container

In November 2025 for **PP2 - Galați Tehnopol Association,** successfully was contracted and delivered new equipment - a press container. It was installed at the Public Service of Ecosal.



Kutaisi, GEORGIA

New Waste Separation Equipment Strengthens Recycling in Kutaisi



PP4 - Imereti Scientists' Union "Spectri" has significantly strengthened the recycling infrastructure in Kutaisi by purchasing waste separation containers and modern equipment for the local Recycling Center.

The project provided:

- **150 household recycling bins** for families;
- **20 large waste separation containers**(1,100L);
- **25 recycling bins (240 L)** for schools;
- **One baling press machine with a stacker** for the Kutaisi Recycling Center.

The household and school containers will support the establishment of an effective source-separation system, enabling recyclable materials to be collected separately from mixed municipal waste.



This infrastructure will contribute to higher recycling rates, reduced landfill disposal and increased public awareness of sustainable waste management practices.

The newly purchased baling press machine with stacker represents an important investment in the operational capacity of the Kutaisi Recycling Center. The equipment enables recyclable materials, particularly plastic waste, to be

compressed into compact bales for efficient storage and transportation to recycling facilities. This significantly reduces handling and transport costs, improves workplace efficiency, and increases the overall capacity of the recycling center.

Schools participating in the project will use the new recycling bins not only for waste collection but also as practical educational tools. Students will gain hands-on experience in waste separation, learn about the principles of the circular economy, and become active ambassadors for environmental protection within their families and communities.

By investing in both collection infrastructure and recycling equipment, the Go2Recycling project is creating an integrated waste management system that supports the transition toward a circular economy. These activities represent another important step toward cleaner, greener, and more sustainable communities in Georgia and across the Black Sea region.





Also, PP4 carried out a comprehensive survey across all 12 municipalities of the Imereti region as part of the preparatory process for developing Zero Waste Strategy. The survey analysed the current situation in waste management and recycling and identified key institutional and technical needs.

Sozopol, BULGARIA

Municipal Center for Science, Creativity, Recycling and Climate Adaptation

The main investment activity of **PP3 Municipality of Sozopol** includes a major renovation of the existing building on the territory of the "Hristo Botev" Primary School in the town of Chernomorets and the supply of the necessary equipment for its normal operation.

Full technical documentation was prepared for the renovation works in accordance with the Bulgarian national legislation. The building was already supplied with electricity, water and sewage before the works. A rainwater storage facility was built next to the building, which will be used to maintain green areas around the building and outdoor educational activities.

The place will become an innovative educational center with a real laboratory for learning good practices and implementing methods for adapting to climate change. It will also become a base for conducting educational and inclusive activities for various target groups. The proactive work of local experts will include the active participation of local





The building before the investment

communities, will encourage numerous campaigns to provoke responsible public behavior, to promote the importance of recycling and the impact of climate change on our normal existence.

The necessary furniture and laboratory equipment are to be delivered in April 2026.

Official opening ceremony of the center will be organized in May 2026.



The building after the investment





‘Waste Management Planning’ Training program

Regarding capacity building and knowledge transfer, multiple training activities were successfully implemented. Training sessions on waste management planning and recycling practices were organized for local authorities, public service providers, teachers, and other stakeholders, significantly enhancing institutional and technical capacity.

PP2 finalized its local training activities - **‘Waste Management Planning’ Training program** after selection and registration of their trainees - experts from the local administrations, working in the field of waste management, implemented local trainings according to the developed joint training program and prepared their presentations in local languages. The event was carried out between 08th and 12th December 2025 in Galati, Romania. Among the participants there were representatives of the following authorities or public services involved in waste management systems: City Hall of Galati, County Council of Galati and Public Service ECOSAL Galati. During the event there were distributed and promoted materials, such as: 3R Guide, notebooks, pens, textile bags and leaflets in the national language.







‘Waste Management Planning’ Training program

Study visit in Galati, Romania

After the theoretical part of the ‘Waste Management Planning’ Training program, it was planned that the trainees will participate in two study visits in countries from the European Union, namely Bulgaria and Romania.

The main objective of these study visits is the participants to see at place the European practices in planning and implementation of the waste management strategies and plans.



The **first realized study visit** under the **Go2Recycling** project was to Galati, Romania in the period 25th – 27th March 2026. Participants were trainees from all partnering countries – Romania, Bulgaria, Türkiye and Georgia.

Main topics of the discussions during the three-day event were connected with the strategic planning, governance and policy frameworks, roles and responsibilities of public authorities, institutional coordination and decision-making mechanisms.

All representatives of public authorities were interested in the implementation challenges and lessons learned in the other countries. Current practices and key challenges were shared in their presentations of the institutions and public authorities,



participating from the different countries.

During the implementation and site visits day a few interesting field visits were realized. The first field visit was in the Recycling center and landfill, situated in Valea Marului, Galati County. There the participants witnessed an example of an Integrated Waste Management System (landfill for non-hazardous waste and sorting station). Discussions with the responsible operator were held on topics such as: operational realities vs. planning assumptions; costs, capacity and performance; quality of separate collection streams.







The second study visit will be realized in Sozopol, Bulgaria. It is upcoming in May 2026.

Second field visit was realized in the Sorting and Composting Station, located in Barbosi, Galati. There once again the participants saw examples of separate waste collection systems and learned about the local implementation practices of waste management and collection. The hosts also shared the importance of public engagement aspects in their work.

As a wrap-up of the field visits the transferability of the practices were discussed during the last day of the visit. Joint reflections of the event and cooperation opportunities were considered by the project partners. Everyone shared willingness for participation in follow-up initiatives for strengthening the transnational cooperation in the Black Sea Basin.

Building Recycling Knowledge and Sustainable Practices across countries

Bulgaria



On 23rd and 25th October 2025, 10th, 12th and 14th November 2025 in the towns of Sozopol and Chernomorets, five local trainings were organized and held by **Project partner 3 Municipality of Sozopol** in implementation of Activity 1.4. of the project BSB00027 Go2Recycling. The organized events are part of the pilot campaign of the partners in the project for separate collection and delivery of waste. They provided the opportunity for all participants to attend a one-day training on separate collection of waste in the Black Sea Basin (BSB), to improve their knowledge of proper waste separation, to create practices that will make their regions a cleaner and better place to live.

As part of the planned initiatives to provide bins for separate waste collection for households and educational institutions, Project Partner 3 Municipality of Sozopol launched the 5 one-day trainings for different target groups - teachers, environmental NGOs, local government representatives, hoteliers, restaurateurs, etc., on the territory of the Municipality. A total number of 110 registered participants were trained.

The Bulgarian local trainers, who participated in the joint event held in



Building Recycling Knowledge and Sustainable Practices across countries





Kutaisi, Georgia, successfully disseminated what they learned and enriched it with examples and practices from their own experience.

The training aimed to promote the importance of separate waste collection and delivery, through:

- Correct separation of waste by type
- Creating a sustainable practice for the delivery of separately collected waste
- Promoting practices throughout the waste management chain
- Promoting circular economy thinking at the local level
- Engaging stakeholders in reducing the amount of mixed waste generated

At the events, educational materials developed under the project – Guideline on Plastic Recycling and Coloring Book – were presented to all attendees.





Building Recycling Knowledge and Sustainable Practices across countries

Georgia



The Project Partner 4 – Imereti Scientists' Union "Spectri" successfully organized **five training sessions on waste management and recycling** in Kutaisi, Georgia, bringing together representatives of municipalities, local communities, universities, schools, colleges, and other stakeholder organisations. Held on **10–11, 16, and 22–23 December 2025**, the training programme engaged **114 participants**, strengthening local capacities to promote sustainable waste management and environmental education.

The primary objective of the training was to enhance participants' knowledge of modern waste management practices and provide practical educational tools that can be applied within schools and local communities. The programme focused on environmental awareness, behaviour change, and the promotion of sustainable waste practices through interactive learning methods.



The training sessions covered a broad range of topics related to sustainable waste management. Participants explored the importance of waste management in environmental education, the impacts of improper waste handling on human health and the environment, different waste streams generated in schools and households, waste separation systems, and the journey of waste from collection to recycling.

Special attention was given to the **3R principles—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—**and the concept of the circular economy. Participants also learned about plastic production, the different types of plastics, modern recycling technologies, plastic pollution, and practical solutions for reducing plastic waste. Throughout the programme, practical exercises enabled participants to identify and

Building Recycling Knowledge and Sustainable Practices across countries

classify different plastic materials according to their characteristics and recycling potential, transforming theoretical knowledge into hands-on experience.

The training programme was supported by a comprehensive package of educational resources developed within the **Go2Recycling** project. Each participant received the **Guide on Plastic Recycling**, the **Coloring Book for Children**, thematic presentations, and specially prepared informational brochures. These materials provide practical recommendations and methodological guidance that participants can use in their future educational and awareness-raising activities.

To further support the dissemination of project results, **three thematic brochures** covering waste management, plastic production and recycling, plastic pollution, and innovative solutions were developed and printed. A total of **1,000 copies** of these brochures were produced and distributed among participants and other target groups.







UPCOMING

More trainings in Romania and Türkiye



Building Recycling Knowledge and Sustainable Practices across countries

Türkiye

The first training session for teachers and target groups for building recycling knowledge and sustainable practices was also realized by **PP5 - Uzunköprü Municipality** on 25th November 2025 in Uzunköprü, Türkiye.

A total number of 16 people were present at the event, representing primary and secondary schools on the territory of the Municipality. The session covered a broad range of topics related to sustainable waste management and was structured in a similar way as the ones in the partnering countries – Bulgaria and Georgia, enhancing joint approach of the project partners.



The training programme was once again supported by the package of educational resources developed within the **Go2Recycling** project. Each participant







received the **Guide on Plastic Recycling**, the **Coloring Book for Children**.

Very positive feedback and evaluation was given to the event by the participants, who also shared their suggestions and ideas on how similar topics could be integrated in their lessons and classes with the students.

Schools and households in the partnering cities were actively engaged in the project implementation through the distribution of waste collection bins and preparation for pilot initiatives. The groundwork for the implementation of the “Zero Waste Neighbourhood” campaign and the cross-border Go2Recycling Movement was established, including selection of target groups, preparation of training content, and coordination of upcoming joint campaigns.

Go2Recycling Days Inspire Young Environmental Champions

International competition for collecting plastic waste

From 1 to 31 March 2026, the cities of the project partners became the centre of an inspiring environmental movement as schools joined **the Go2Recycling Days plastic waste collection campaign**. Organized within the **Go2Recycling project, the month-long initiative** encouraged schoolchildren to put environmental knowledge into practice by collecting plastic waste, promoting recycling, and adopting responsible waste management habits.

The campaign was designed to demonstrate that environmental protection begins with everyday actions. By combining environmental education with a friendly competition, students gained practical experience in waste separation while contributing directly to cleaner schools and a healthier environment.



Türkiye

The campaign brought toge-ther **five public schools in Keşan**, which participated in the month-long plastic collec-tion race.



Throughout March, the schools collected plastic waste separately and reported their weekly progress.

By the end of the campaign, the schools had collected **196 kilograms of plastic waste**, demonstrating the commitment of students, teachers, and school communities to environmental protection.

At the same time **in Uzunköprü** also **five public schools** were involved together in the international plastic waste collection race. In a similar way throughout the whole month, the schools collected plastic waste separately and reported their weekly progress.

By the end of the campaign, the schools in Uzunköprü had collected **466 kilograms of plastic waste.**

Romania

Three public schools in Galati — Schools No. 25, 28, and 29 — participated in the international competition for plastic waste collection, part of the Go2Recycling Days. According to the elaborated joint methodology, the schools collected plastic waste separately and reported their weekly progress.

By the end of the campaign, the schools in Galati had collected **245 kilograms of plastic waste.**

Bulgaria



In the period 01 - 31 March 2026, the teams of **six educational institutions in the Municipality of Sozopol,** students and their families participated in the international competition for collecting plastic waste, part of the "Go2Recycling" campaign.

For the successful implementation of the campaign, three-tier bins for separate waste collection were provided in schools and kindergartens, containers for separate waste collection /yellow and green/ were provided in all schools, separate transportation and delivery was organized.





As a result of the campaign, the impressive **700 kilograms of plastic waste** ready for recycling had been collected.

As a gesture of gratitude, the Municipality of Sozopol provided all schools with garden tools, flowering plants and bulbs for planting.







Georgia



The campaign brought together **five public schools in Kutaisi—Schools No. 2, 13, 21, 28, and 32**—which participated in the month-long plastic collec-tion race.

Throughout March, the schools collected plastic waste separately and reported their weekly progress through a structured monitoring system, creating a transparent and motivating competition among participants.

By the end of the campaign, the schools had collected an impressive **627 kilograms**



of plastic waste, demonstrating the commitment of students, teachers, and school communities to environmental protection.





Celebrating Environmental Achievement

The achievements of the participating schools were celebrated during the **Go2Recycling Days Winners Award Ceremony**, held on **8 May 2026** at **Kutaisi Public School No. 2.** The event recognized the outstanding commitment of students, teachers, and school communities to environmental protection and sustainable waste management.

During the ceremony, the most environmentally active classes received **diplomas and prizes** in recognition of their dedication to recycling and responsible environmental behaviour.

The award ceremony served not only to celebrate success but also to inspire even greater participation in future environmental initiatives.

More than simply collecting recyclable materials, the Go2Recycling Days campaign helped transform environmental awareness into practical action. Students learned about waste separation, recycling, and the importance of reducing plastic pollution while actively contributing to measurable environmental improvements within their communities.

The campaign demonstrated that schools can play a vital role in promoting sustainable behaviour and that well-organized educational initiatives can successfully combine learning with real environmental

impact. The structured monitoring system and weekly reporting also enabled participants to follow their progress and encouraged healthy competition among schools.







Future activities

Study visit in Bulgaria in continuation of the 'Waste Management Planning' Training program and **a seminar "Europe and We in Waste Management" in May 2026**

International clean-up events in all partnering countries with the school children in important natural ecosystems and areas will be realized on 5th June 2026

'Zero waste neighborhood' campaign in June 2026

Study visit of teachers, representatives of the winning schools that participated in the Joint International Go2Recycling Movement campaigns. It will be realized in July 2026 in Sozopol, Bulgaria

Final closing conference in Uzunköprü, Türkiye in October 2026

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