



الجمهورية التونسية
وزارة الفلاحة والموارد المائية والصيد البحري



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The second national Training on Ecohydrology "PLASTICTRAIN" in North Africa

Plastic monitoring of anthropized lagoons under climate changes effects

May 14th– 15th, 2024 (In person)

INSTM, TUNISIA

Goals of the training session on Plastic monitoring of North African anthropized lagoons under climate changes effects

The goal of the proposed training course is to communicate about ecohydrological principles and solutions in Coastal Lagoon ecosystem as a transdisciplinary, scientific approach to achieve water quality and biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable development of activities in this demosite. PLASTICTRAIN aims to provide scientific knowledge and practical tools to assess the impact of plastic pollution on Tunisian lagoons, particularly the Ghar El Melh lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is experiencing a growing accumulation of plastic waste, contributing to the degradation of water quality, biodiversity loss, and the deterioration of natural habitats.

Plastic Training main steps

The objective of this training is to identify the accumulation areas of microplastic particles along the coastal regions of Ghar El Melh. It also identifies the dispersion vectors of microplastics in marine water and/or beach sediments.

Step 1: Laboratory methodology for microplastic monitoring

PLASTICTRAIN aims to build capacity and deepen knowledge on the principles of microplastic sampling and analysis, adopting a scientific and transdisciplinary approach to monitor the abundance and concentration of these microparticles. In addition, the course allow acquisition





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of theoretical and practical skills in laboratory protocols for microplastic identification and analysis.

Step 2: Field campaign and data-collection

The fieldwork session in Ghar El Melh lagoon and beach, will focus on the practical application of microplastic sampling techniques in sea water and sandy beach. Trainees will start by review of sampling protocols before conducting hands-on sampling exercises to collect and analyse microplastic samples. Following the field activities, a wrap-up session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss findings, share insights, and reflect on the methodologies learned.

Step 3: Identification and analysis of microplastic component

A post-training follow-up will be conducted to consolidate the knowledge gained. Data collected from both laboratory and field activities will be compiled and analysed, and participants will receive a summary of key findings. A specific training in the use of the stereomicroscope and FTIR spectroscopy for the identification of microplastics is also provided.

A feedback and evaluation survey will help assess the effectiveness of the training and identify areas for improvement. To maintain engagement, participants will be encouraged to contribute to ongoing research on microplastic pollution and stay connected through a communication network, fostering continued knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Target group: The target candidates for this training course are young scientists working in the environmental, water and agricultural sector, institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, protected areas authorities, central and local government. The detailed agenda will be sent later to selected candidates.

Important dates: 27 April, 2025 deadline of the applications for the training course.

Application: Send your CV & Motivation letter to Dr. Sana Ben Ismail by Email.



Email: sana.benismail@instm.rnrt.tn

