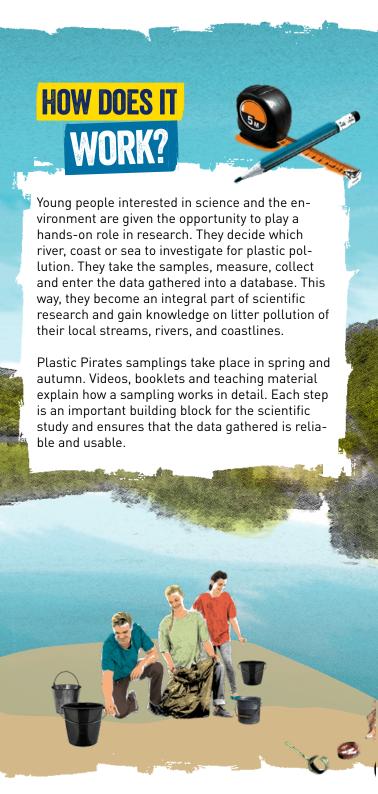


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First developed in Germany in 2016, the Plastic Pirates initiative is currently under way in 12 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. Thus, Plastic Pirates samplings take place in rivers, oceans, and seas all across Europe in a harmonised and standardised manner.

The European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda identified Plastic Pirates as part of the <u>ERA action 14</u> "Bring Science closer to Citizens". The initiative contributes to the key priority area: Taking up together the challenges posed by the twin green and digital transition, and increasing society's participation in the ERA.

The EU Commission is funding the "Europeanisation of the Plastic Pirates citizen science initiative" as part of the framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe, in the area of the Mission "Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030". The Europeanisation particularly supports the Mission's objective to prevent and eliminate pollution in European seas and waters as well as public mobilisation for the Mission's objectives. The initiative also contributes to key European environmental policy objectives.

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The official Plastic Pirates website is available in 10 different European languages: https://www.plastic-pirates.eu/en



