

The Newsletter of Erasmus+ KA220-HED project **Education for Plastic in a Circular and Climate Neutral Economy - Preventing Waste Ending Up into the Environment**, project no. 2023-1-RO01-KA220-HED-000166242.

9TH NEWSLETTER

EDU4Plastic

SPECIAL EDITION

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The University of Insubria at "Fiumi di Primavera 2026": outreach, education, and concrete commitment to environmental sustainability in Mantua

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The University of Insubria took part in the 2026 edition of "Fiumi di Primavera," an initiative promoted on Friday, March 20 in Mantua by the Regione Lombardia and Globe Italia, with an in-person event and two live streaming sessions—one national and one international—contributing to dissemination and awareness-raising activities on environmental sustainability.

At the core of the University's participation was the project "EDU4PlastiCircular," an initiative dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and raising awareness about the proper use and management of plastic. The project is part of the Erasmus+ programme, specifically under action KA220-HED, and aims to strengthen cooperation between academic institutions, research bodies, and local stakeholders to address challenges related to the circular economy.

The University's presence through the project "EDU4PlastiCircular - Education for Plastic in a Circular and Climate Neutral Economy - Preventing Waste Ending Up into the Environment" was set within a broader context of environmental education and training on plastics.

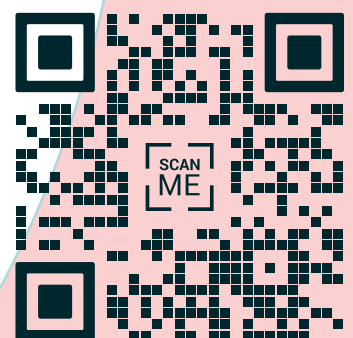


This is achieved through the development of educational content and training pathways aimed at schools and professionals, also available via a dedicated digital platform:

<https://microplastics.today/DIGITAL-LIBRARY/>

During the event, alongside the presentation of the project and the screening of a video in English with Italian subtitles (available on YouTube from minute 5:34:44 to 5:37:35 at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk6k85NxdP8>), an active environmental education campaign was carried out. This campaign focused on preventing plastic waste, as well as its recycling and reuse.

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The activities contributed to the development of green and digital skills in line with European priorities through:

- educational workshops on sustainable plastic management, with examples related to textiles, coffee pods, lightweight packaging, and similar materials;
- quizzes aimed at teachers and professionals—including scientists, officials, and technicians—as well as students and citizens, with the goal of strengthening knowledge and increasing awareness;
- session games and interactive activities designed to engage participants of all ages and educational backgrounds;

- presentations focused on understanding the impact of plastics on the environment and in everyday life.

Special attention was also given to analyzing the environmental impacts of plastic, both as a product and as waste, using a life-cycle approach and identifying innovative solutions capable of reducing pollution and promoting sustainable models. Additional in-depth materials on this topic are available in the project's digital library:

<https://microplastics.today/DIGITAL-LIBRARY/>

The initiative was carried out under the patronage of the Parco del Mincio and in collaboration with the Guardie Ecologiche del Parco del Mincio, demonstrating a synergistic approach between academic institutions and local organizations committed to environmental protection.

Representing the University of Insubria were Professor Elena Cristina Rada from the Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences, together with PhD candidate Lucrezia Maggi and Dr. Luca Giacomini. Their participation is documented in the official event video available on YouTube from minute 2:31:08 to 2:35:50:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B06FhrFfmT0&t=19s>

The initiative confirms the University's commitment—across all its degree programmes—to the transfer of scientific knowledge and the promotion of a culture of sustainability.

The event thus connected the academic world, institutions, and civil society, fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices for the protection of the environment and natural resources. "Fiumi di Primavera" also received the patronage of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, the Municipality of Mantua, the Municipality of San Giorgio Bigarello, and Regione Lombardia.

