



EMD

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY



The impact of the project

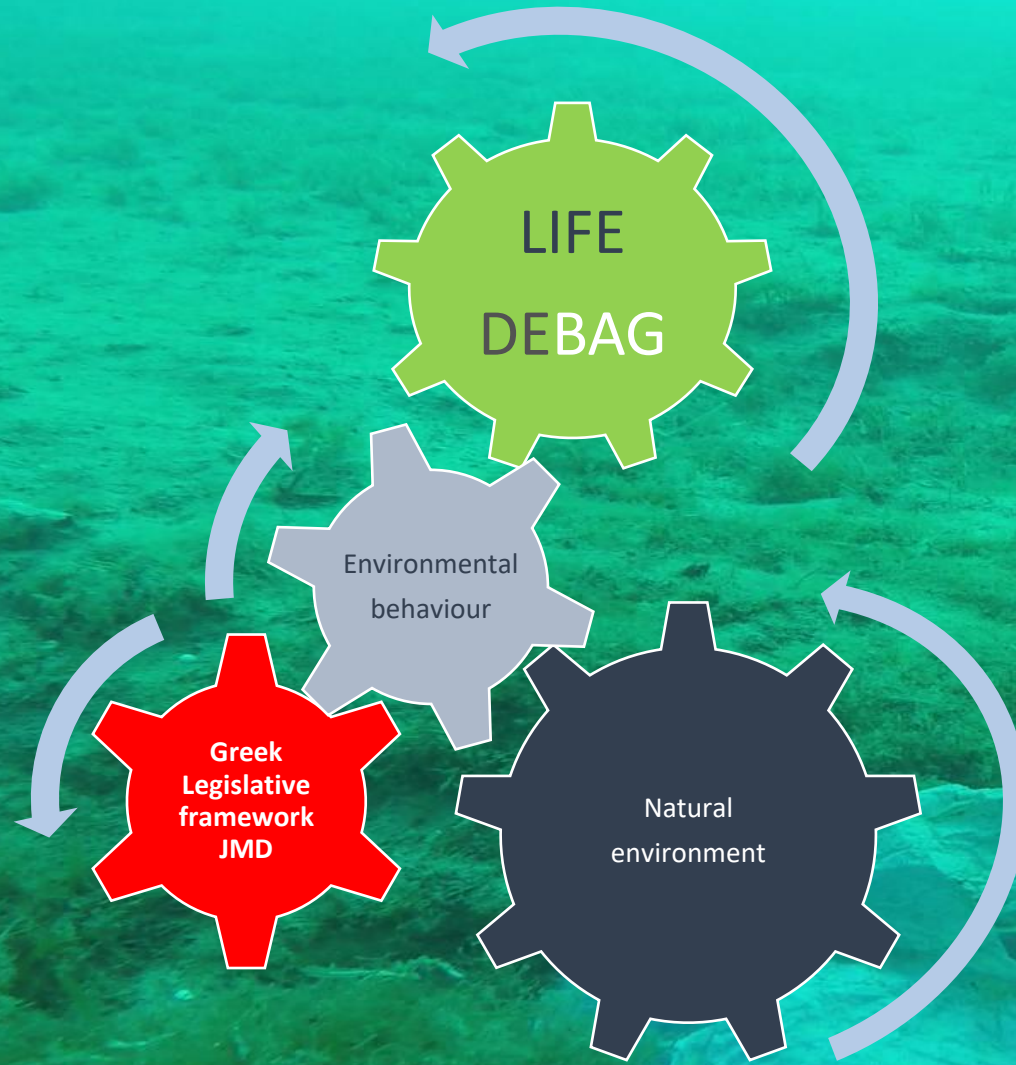
Prof. George Papatheodorou

Lab. Marine Geology & Physical Oceanography
Department of Geology
University of Patras, Greece

Den Helder 20-21_5_21



The impact of the project



LIFE DEBAG had developed and implemented an **integrated information and awareness campaign** to prevent - reduce plastic bag pollution in the marine environment.

1



**National-wide
awareness campaign**

2

**Very intensive and integrated campaign
in Syros island (pilot area)**





Free plastic bag weeks



Musical events, educational games, exhibitions by school students and students of the University of the Aegean, were combined with important lectures by scientists and distinguished guests, such as Dr Francois Galgani

Environmental Education

6909 students 56 schools participated in educational seminars



Door-to-door campaign in 4.410 households and 522 shops



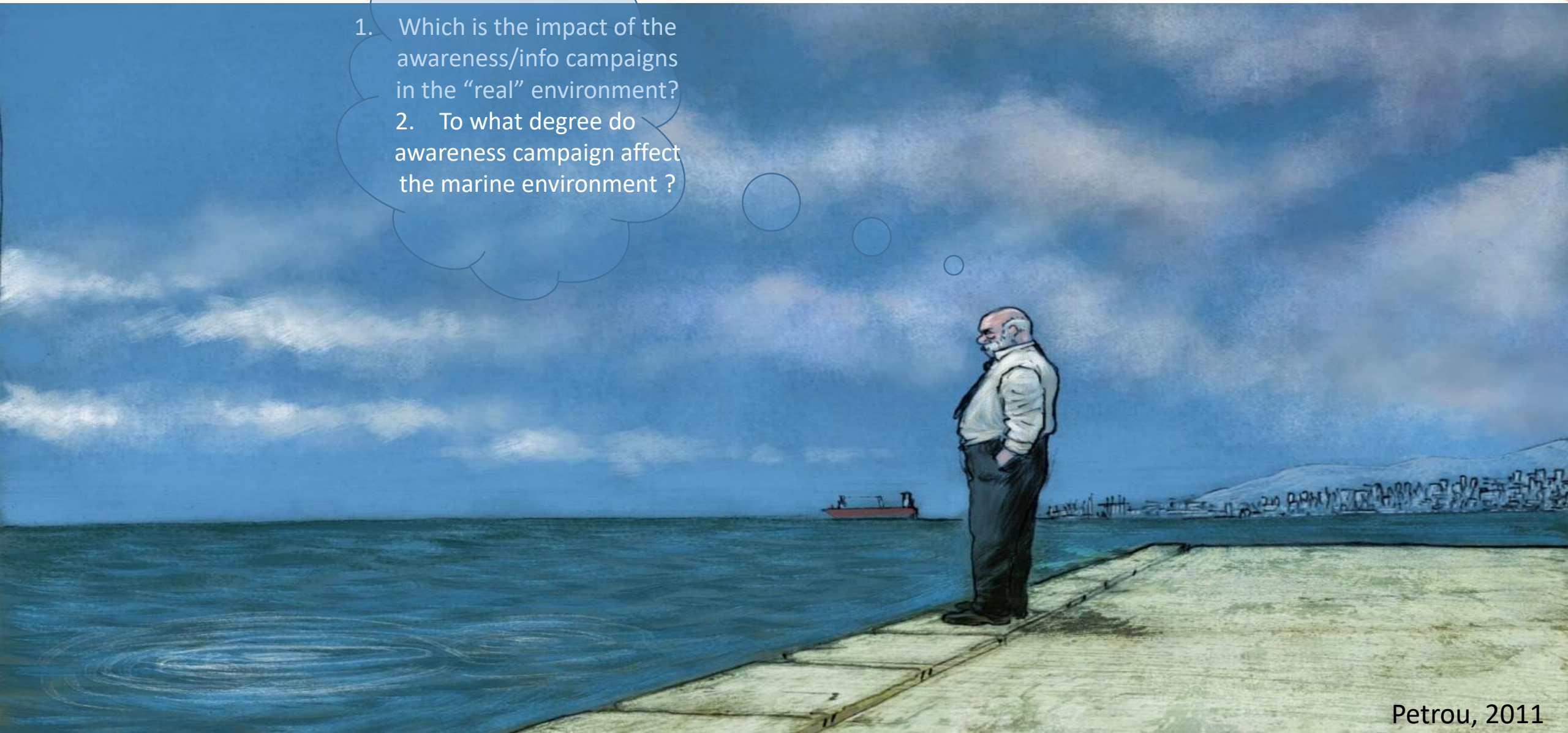
13,500 information leaflets and about 12,000 durable, cotton, reusable carrier bags were offered for free to residents and visitors and retail professionals of Syros Island



Shop owners produced their own cotton bags



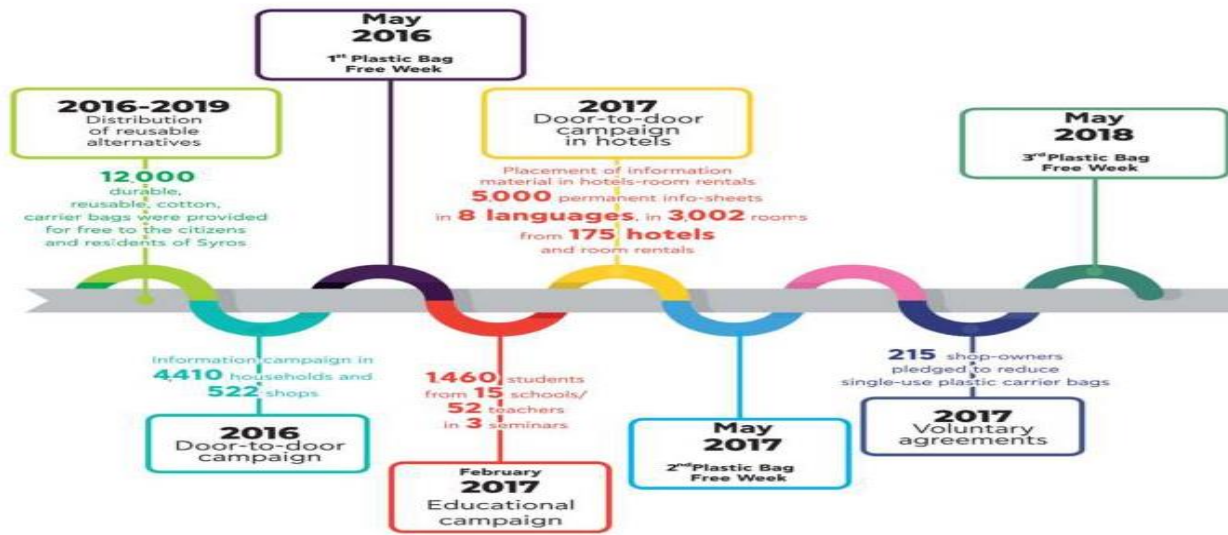
1. Which is the impact of the awareness/info campaigns in the “real” environment?
2. To what degree do awareness campaign affect the marine environment ?



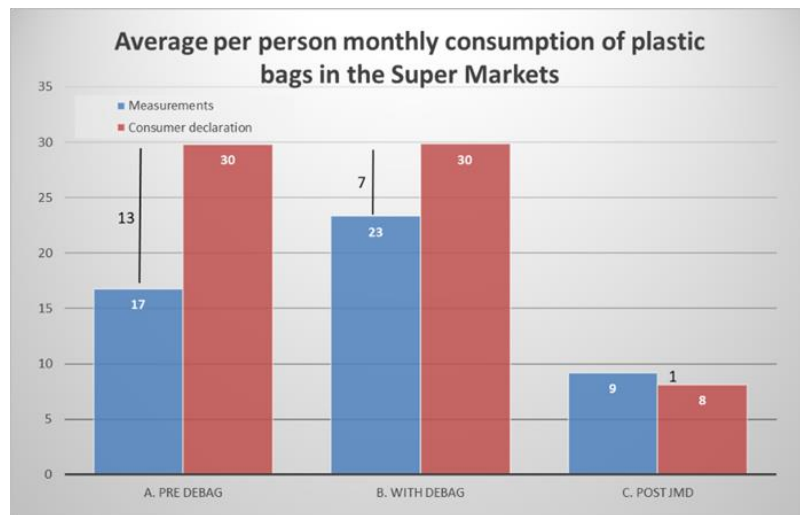
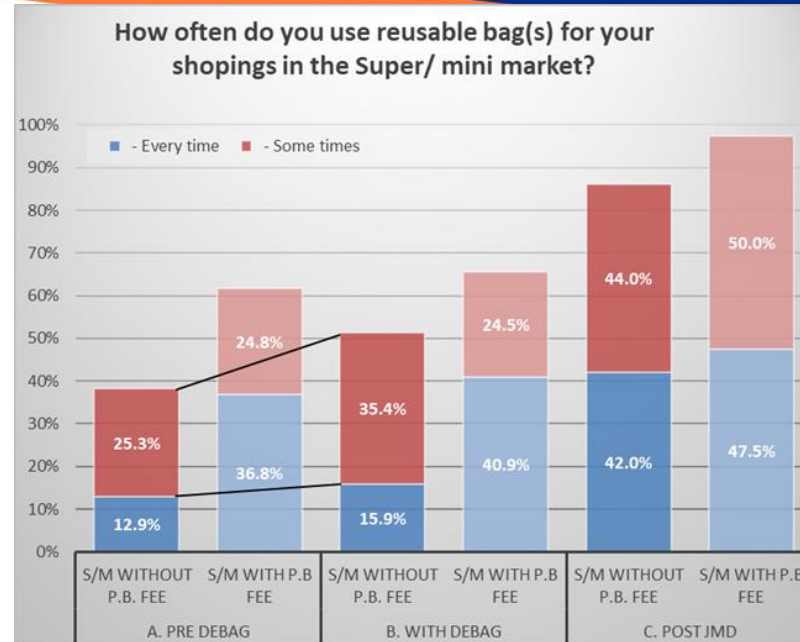
Which is the “footprint” of the campaigns on the marine environment ?



Timeline of Questionnaire and Field surveys



<p>7 consultation Forums</p> <p>5 Interviews Surveys (I.S)</p>	<p>With stakeholders general public and SME's, hotel owners/room facility owners</p>	 <p>ampaign</p>
<p>17 bi-monthly questionnaire surveys</p>		
<p>17 bi-monthly beach litter surveys</p>		
<p>6 benthic litter surveys</p>		
<p>3 aerial surveys using drones</p>		

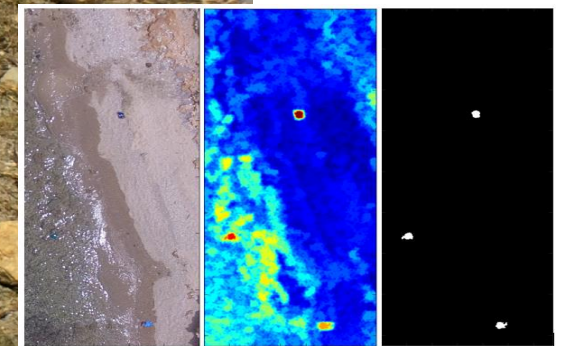
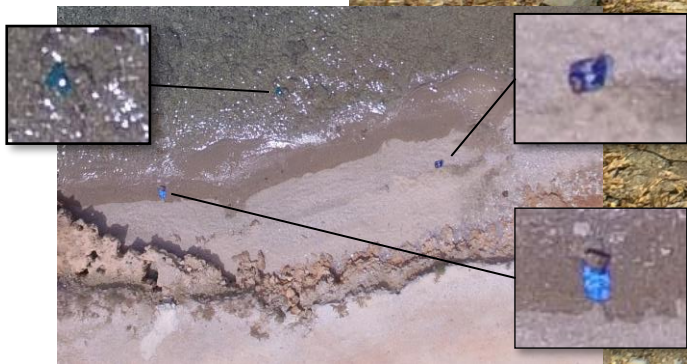




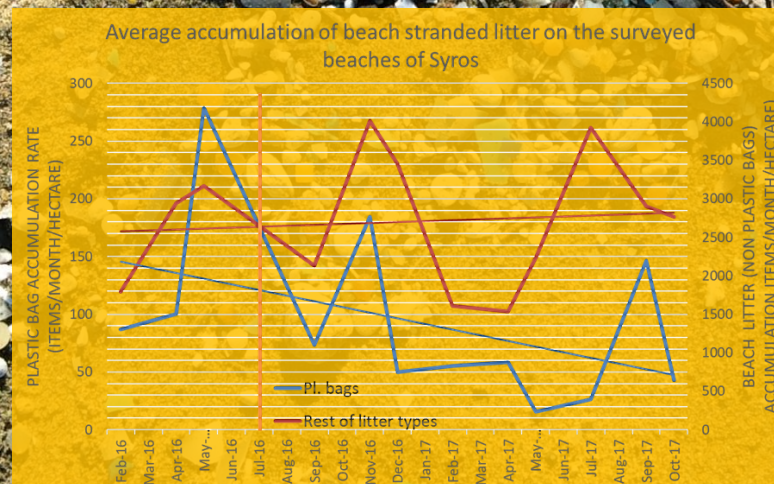
> **60.000 litter** beach stranded litter items 2,246 (~3.5%) plastic bags



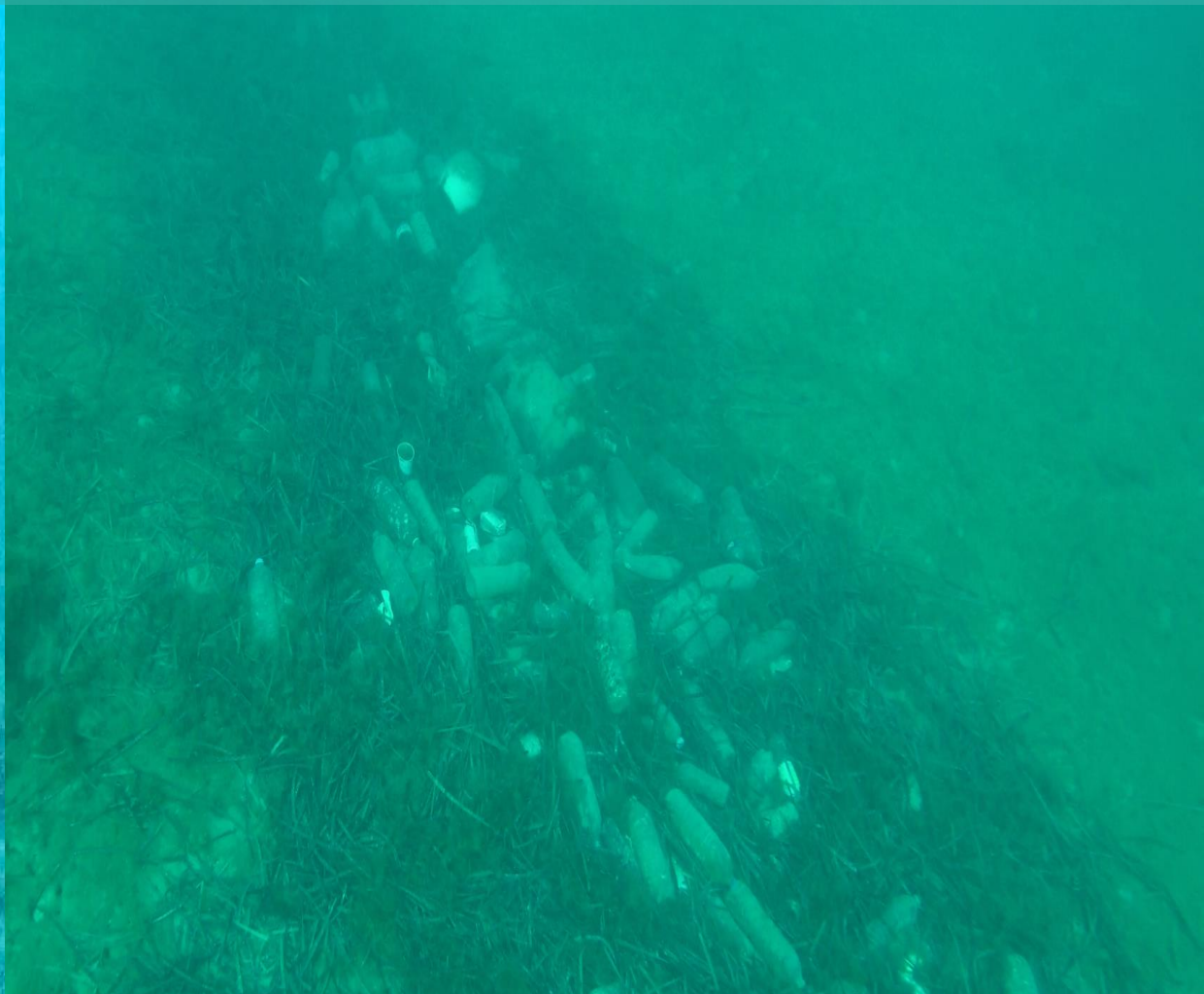
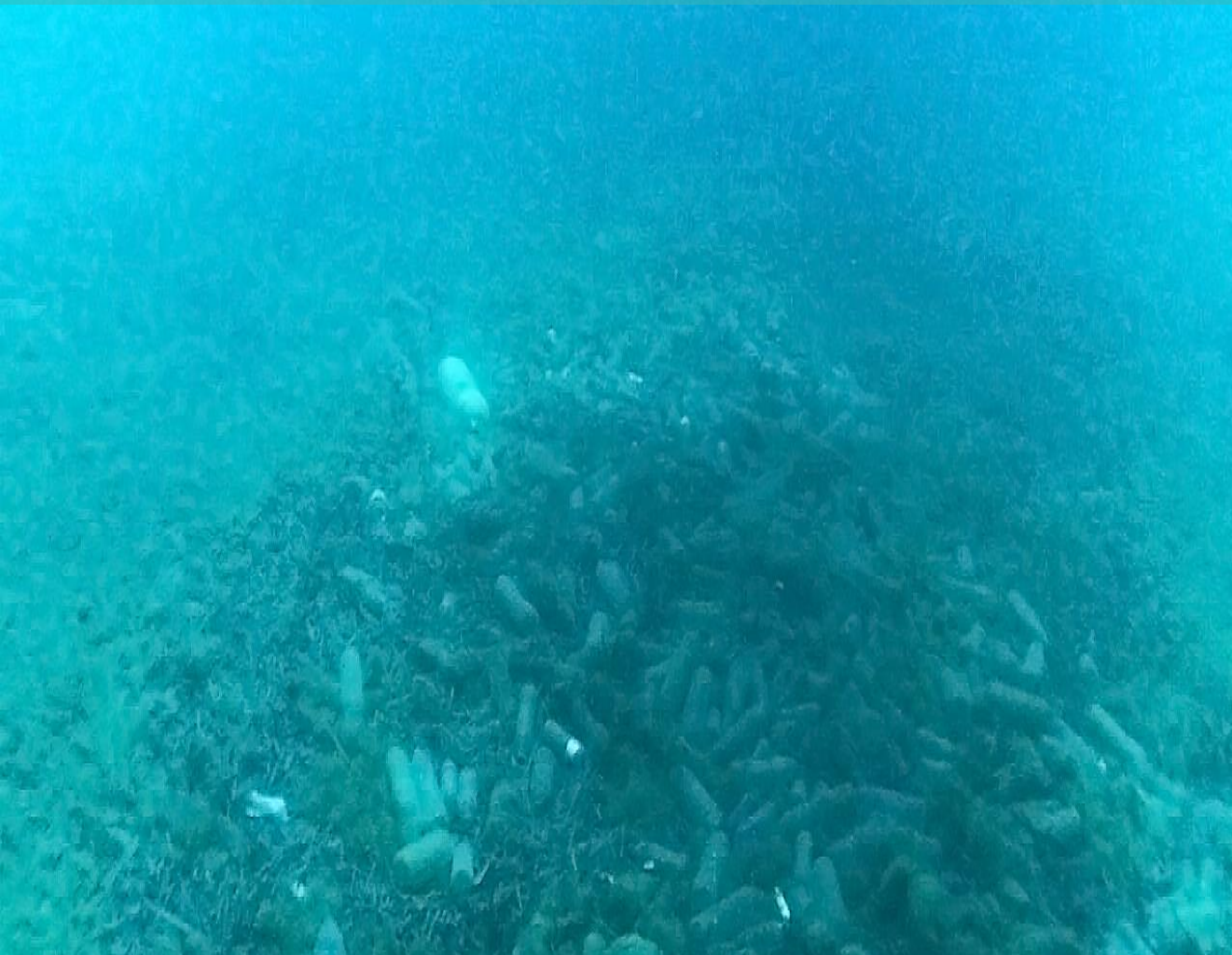
Airborne drone beach litter surveys



85% reduction in plastic bag accumulation rates



56% reduction in marine litter accumulation rates



3100 benthic litter

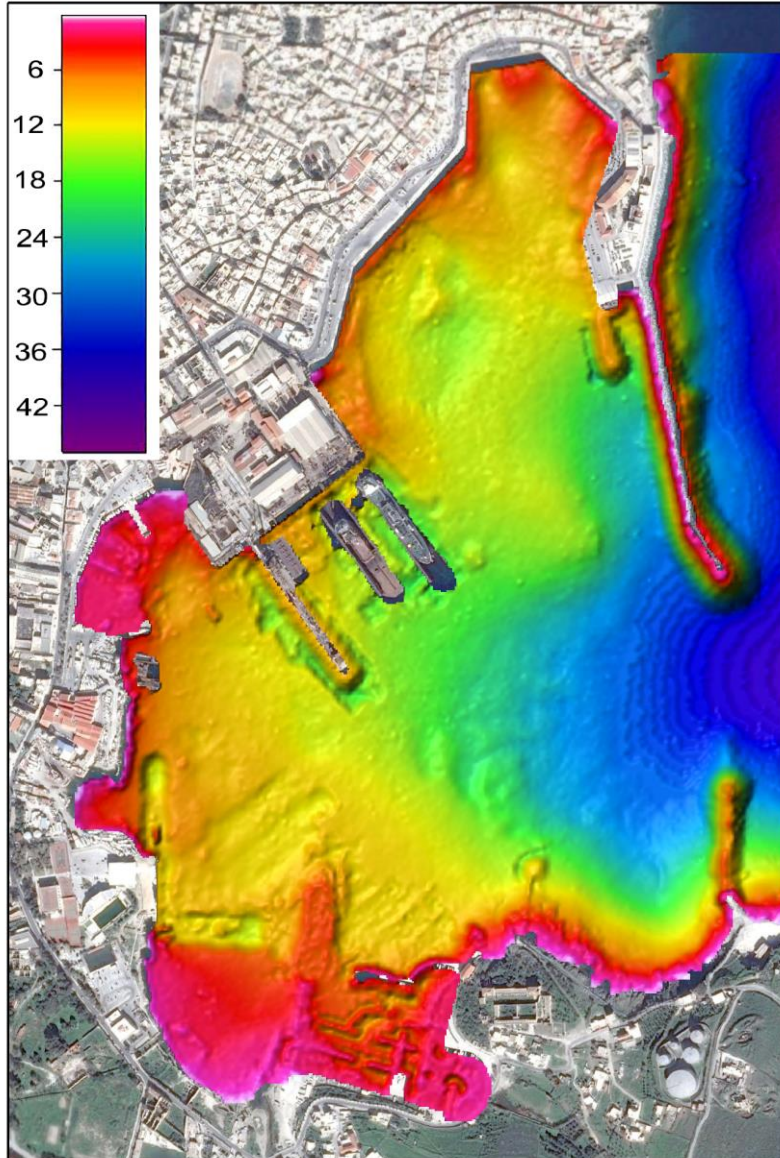
Seafloor survey



Ermoupolis and Kini bays

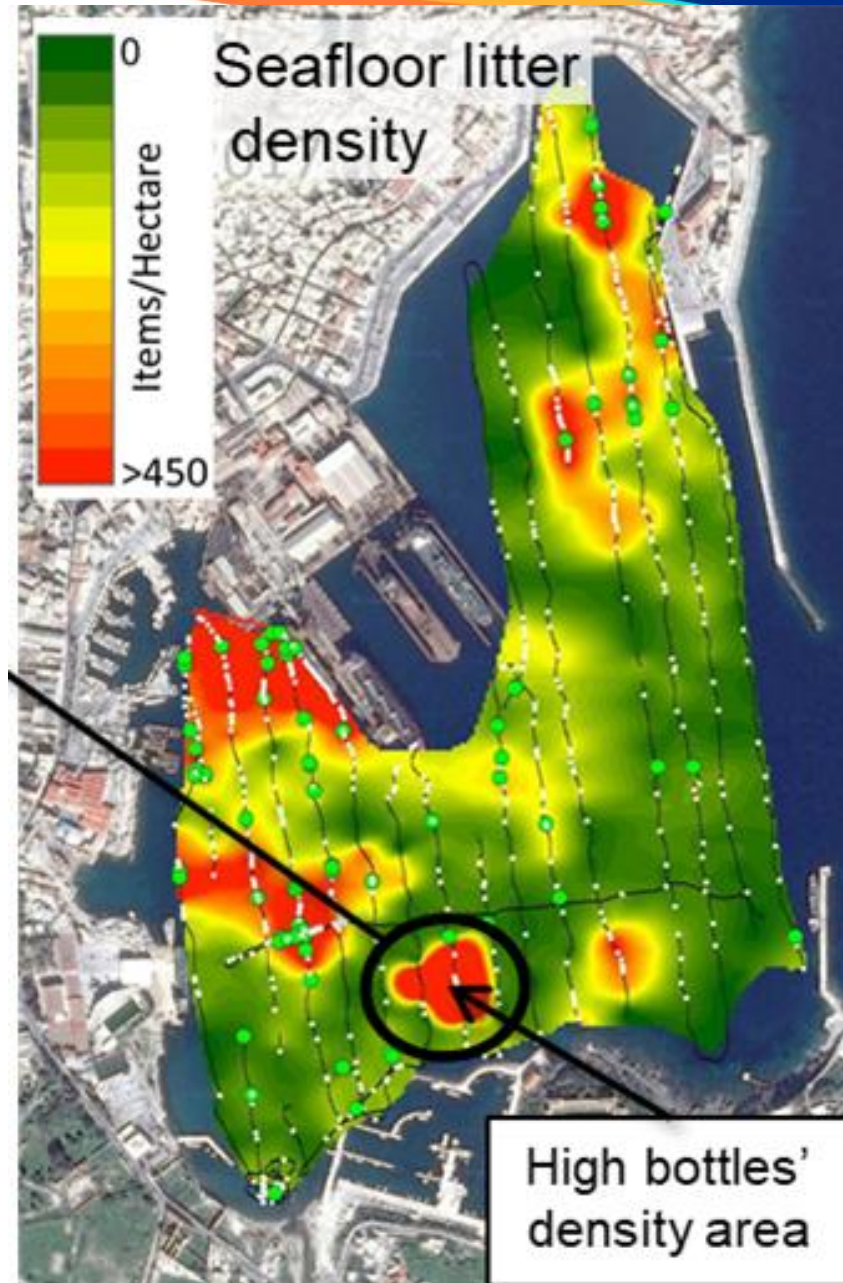
- Side scan sonar survey (EG&G 272TD SSS)
- Bathymetric survey
- ROVs and Towing underwater cameras-georeferenced images

Ermoupolis harbour basin bathymetry



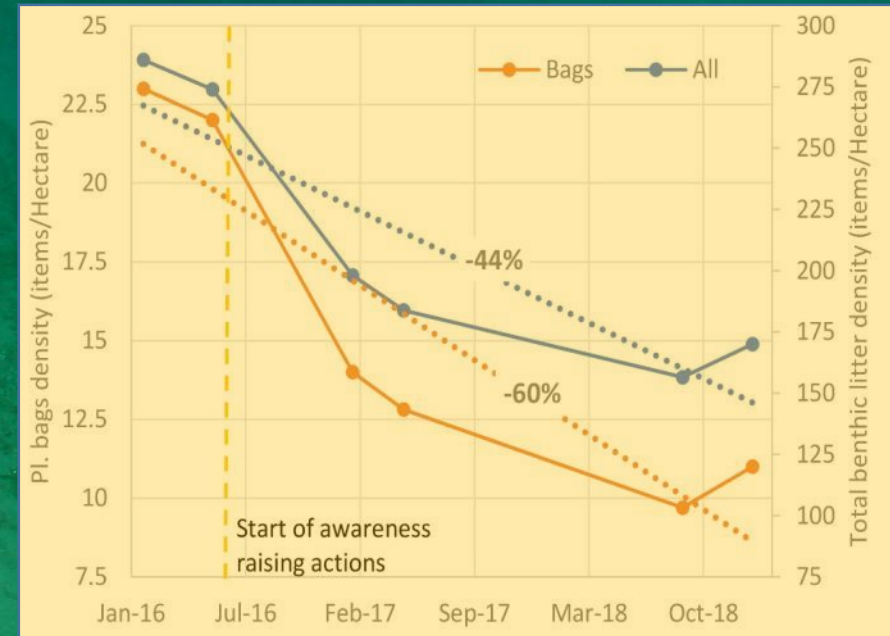
Ermoupolis harbour basin seafloor morphology





Plastic bags' sea floor density maps of Ermoupolis bay for all sampling periods during the 3 years duration of LIFE DEBAG. Hot-spots correspond to bathymetric depressions, shipyards, marinas and high traffic harbour docks

- ✓ 1000 hectares
- ✓ 72 km tracklines
- ✓ 3100 benthic litter (10% plastic bags)



60% reduction in plastic bags' and 44% in all benthic litter densities on the seafloor

**Impact of LIFE DEBAG on the
Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 180036/952 / 08.10.2017
(Government Gazette B 2812 / 08.10.2017) to constitute
compliance with European Directive 2015/720**



Recommendations to the ministry on measures to be taken in order to reduce plastic bag consumption were submitted to a special hearing dedicated to single use plastic carrier bags of the Hellenic Parliament's special Committee for the Environment



Let the plastic bags in the past and not in our seas