

PROJECT PERIODIC REPORT

FULL PROJECT TITLE: ECOTOXICOLOGICAL EFFECT OF MICROPLASTICS IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Project acronym: EPHEMARE

Period covered: 1st January 2016 – 31st December 2016

Date of submission: 31st March 2017

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PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

During the first half of the first year of the Ephemare Project, the consortium focused in finding the reference plastic material to be used by all Partners. The material consisted in PVC and PE of different sizes so it could be used with all the biological models included in the project.

Örebro University was in charge of spiking microplastics with the selected contaminants which were then distributed among all the labs. The protocols developed will be published during 2017.

During the second half of the year, all partners started adapting standard toxicity test methods to exposure experiments of virgin microplastics and microplastics contaminated with toxic compounds to the different biological models included in the project, and determining different end points. Results are being processed but preliminary data show that microplastics alone do not greatly affect marine organisms.

Furthermore, Ephemare partners were involved in several international congresses and dissemination activities during 2016 which are published in Ephemare website (<http://jpi-oceans.eu/ephemare>).