

First international PLASTiCE conference successfully concluded

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The first PLASTiCE international conference, which also counted as the project launch conference, was successfully concluded on October 25th with a round table discussion. The two-day conference (October 24-25) held in Bologna, Italy under the working title: Europe for sustainable plastics, was attended by more than 70 participants from twelve countries.

The conference was opened by the head of the Research Office at the University of Bologna Dr. Giuseppe Conti, the representative of the Emilia-Romagna region territorial cooperation office Ms. Antonella Liberatore, and the coordinator of the PLASTiCE project dr. Andrej Kržan. The speakers stressed the importance of research contributing to the development of new sustainable solutions for a better future of next generations, the importance of international cooperation programs, and the wider role of the PLASTiCE project. The introductory lecture gave a critical overview of past European activities in the area of biodegradable plastics.

Through the following presentations of European projects dealing with the wider area of sustainable plastics the conference gave an overview of on-going activities in the field of plastic sustainability particularly those funded from European sources. During more than 25 presentations of the current state of the art the conference provided a much needed snapshot of the current situation and a de-facto overview of the developing trends in bio plastics and other modern, sustainable plastic materials and solutions.

Beside the project overviews, the conference also hosted the Italian bioplastics association Assobioplastiche, and several important industry representatives (from companies Novamont, Telles, Ecocortec), who gave a view of sustainable plastics solutions from a different angle and presented their current situation and expectations.

The conference was closed with a round table where conclusions and recommendations were given.

»Instead of just explaining what we are doing and why our project is important, we wanted to do this conference in a slightly different way. We convened representatives of European and national projects and let them introduce their projects in the sustainable plastics area. Our goal was to get a first-hand insight of the real situation, to understand what is in the pipeline and what obstacles the projects are encountering in their efforts to promote and commercialize new sustainable plastics solutions. Judging by the responses of participants and by the conclusions and recommendations of

the round table, we believe that we succeeded to offer a conference format that is missing from the otherwise rich conference circuit», said Andrej Kržan the PLASTiCE project coordinator.

More information about the conference, the presented projects presentations, abstracts and other information can be found on www.plastice.org