

# NETmicroplastic



NETmicroplastic was established as a sustainable multi-stakeholder RTI partnership with a focus on Lower Austria. The network aims to fill knowledge gaps on microplastic pollution and advance relevant technological solutions to combat plastic pollution in soil. It promotes a better understanding of microplastics in soil, supports policy and society, and stimulates innovation in new biodegradable polymer materials. Coordinated by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, NETmicroplastic is a growing network with nine core partners from four European countries (Austria, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands) and ten associated partners.

## AIMS

Building a sustainable RTI partnership to fill knowledge gaps on microplastic pollution and related technological solutions, and bridging the gap between less connected sectors in the field of microplastics has been the key objective of the consortium from the beginning of the NETmicroplastic project.

## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The network has created new links between stakeholder groups through a variety of activities such as networking workshops, webinars and science communication events, and a plastics experience room for primary school children. NETmicroplastic has participated in several (inter)national conferences and results have been published in scientific and non-scientific publications. A draft action plan was developed based on the analysis and mapping results of a farmer survey, a student survey, meetings with plastic tool producers and distributors at agricultural fairs and interviews with recycling institutions and university teachers. A public database of Austrian and European projects, strategies, policies and initiatives on microplastics in soil <https://www.net-microplastic.eu/database/> was set up as a „living“ resource that can be continuously expanded. Training modules for agricultural schools and a scientific conference are planned for 2025.

The development of a strategic agenda on microplastics in Lower Austria in cooperation with farmers', industry and consumer associations, primary, secondary and agricultural schools, researchers and industry/SME to strengthen Lower Austria as a location for research and innovation is expected to promote dialogue and co-development to advance environmentally friendly management practices, especially in fruit and wine growing.

## CORE NETWORK PARTNERS



FUNDED AS PART OF THE RTI-STRATEGY LOWER AUSTRIA 2027



[www.net-microplastic.eu](http://www.net-microplastic.eu)