

upPE-T

The most used plastic in the production of packaging for food and beverage is Polyethylene (PE), which is in 43%, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) in 19%.

It is estimated that plastic packaging accounts for 60% of the total waste in Europe. The management of this plastic waste has been recognized as one of the greatest environmental challenges of today.

The European Union has recognized this challenge and launched the Horizon 2020 project, which supports initiatives that contribute to solving this problem.

The new Horizon 2020 project called UpPE-T - Upcycling of PE and PET waste, with a duration of 4 years, began in November 2020.

The project is implemented in 10 European countries - Spain, Germany, Austria, Serbia, Finland, Italy, Estonia, Greece, Turkey, and Croatia, by 20 organizations, universities, and institutes.

The objective of the project is to find innovative solutions for recycling waste from PE (polyethylene) and PET (polyethylene terephthalate) packaging, i.e. their conversion into a series of biodegradable plastics for the production of food and beverage packaging.

The Institute for Development and Innovation, in this project, is in charge of integrating social-humanistic disciplines and gender aspects into this whole process

The activities carried out by the IDI are:

1. Conducting research on the attitudes of citizens and companies on recycling in three countries:
 - a) The country with the highest recycling rate in Europe;
 - b) The country with a medium recycling rate in Europe;
 - c) The country with the lowest recycling rate in Europe;
2. Analysis of the legislative framework in these three selected countries;
3. Raising citizens' awareness of the importance of recycling for the environment and human health;
4. Participate in the preparation of an online course on the importance of recycling.