



PRESERVE

Finish coatings to reduce microplastics release from recycled textiles

PRESERVE: High performance sustainable bio-based packaging with tailored end of life and upcycled secondary use



This project is funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union under Grant Agreement Number **952983**

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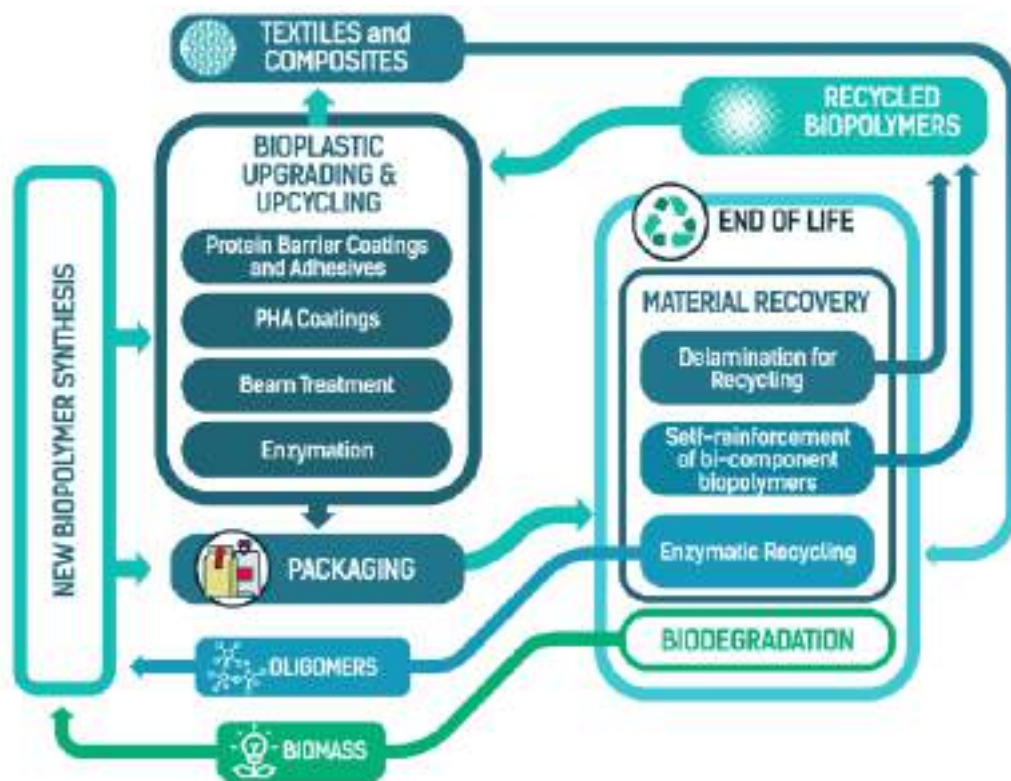
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- ITENE and its role in PRESERVE
- Finish coatings to reduce microplastics
- Scale up and validation



PRESERVE EU-Project



Enhance bio-based packaging properties that currently limit the application of bioplastics



Develop upcycling technologies of plastics for food, personal care and transport packaging applications ensuring that microplastics are avoided.



Develop novel standards and certification schemes applicable to packaging materials made from recyclable and biodegradable bioplastic.

PRESERVE EU-Project partners



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ITENE and its role in PRESERVE

Packaging, Transport and Logistics Research Center



+180 professionals



+120 researchers and technicians in R&D&i

+30 professionals promoting innovation projects with companies

+60% with a master's degree or doctorate in his or her field of specialisation



ITENE and its role in PRESERVE



We generate knowledge and technology to build together a safer and more sustainable future through four main areas of work



MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



PACKAGING SAFETY, DESIGN AND FUNCTIONALITY



SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES



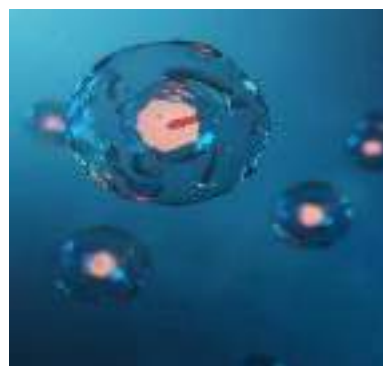
TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS AND MOBILITY



ITENE and its role in PRESERVE



FINISH COATING TO REDUCE MICROPLASTICS RELEASE



SAFE BY DESIGN (SbD)



PRESERVE



FOOD SAFETY ANALYSIS



EVALUATION OF CIRCULARITY



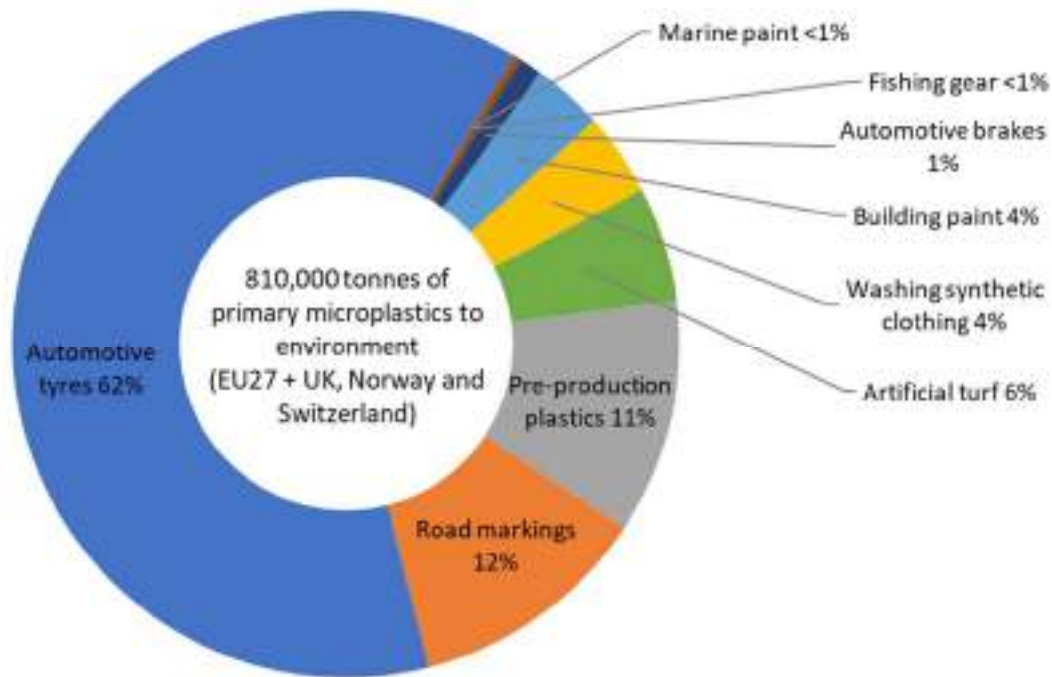
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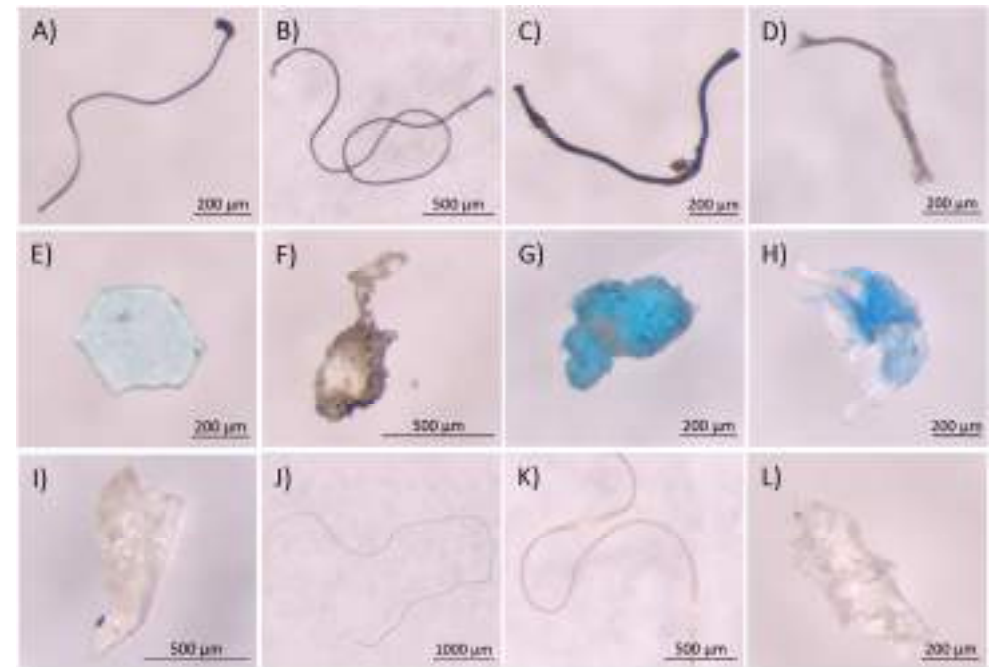
Finish coatings to reduce microplastics

The Problem



Primary microplastics emissions to water, soil and waste management (estimated yearly emissions)

Source: ETC Circular economy and resource use



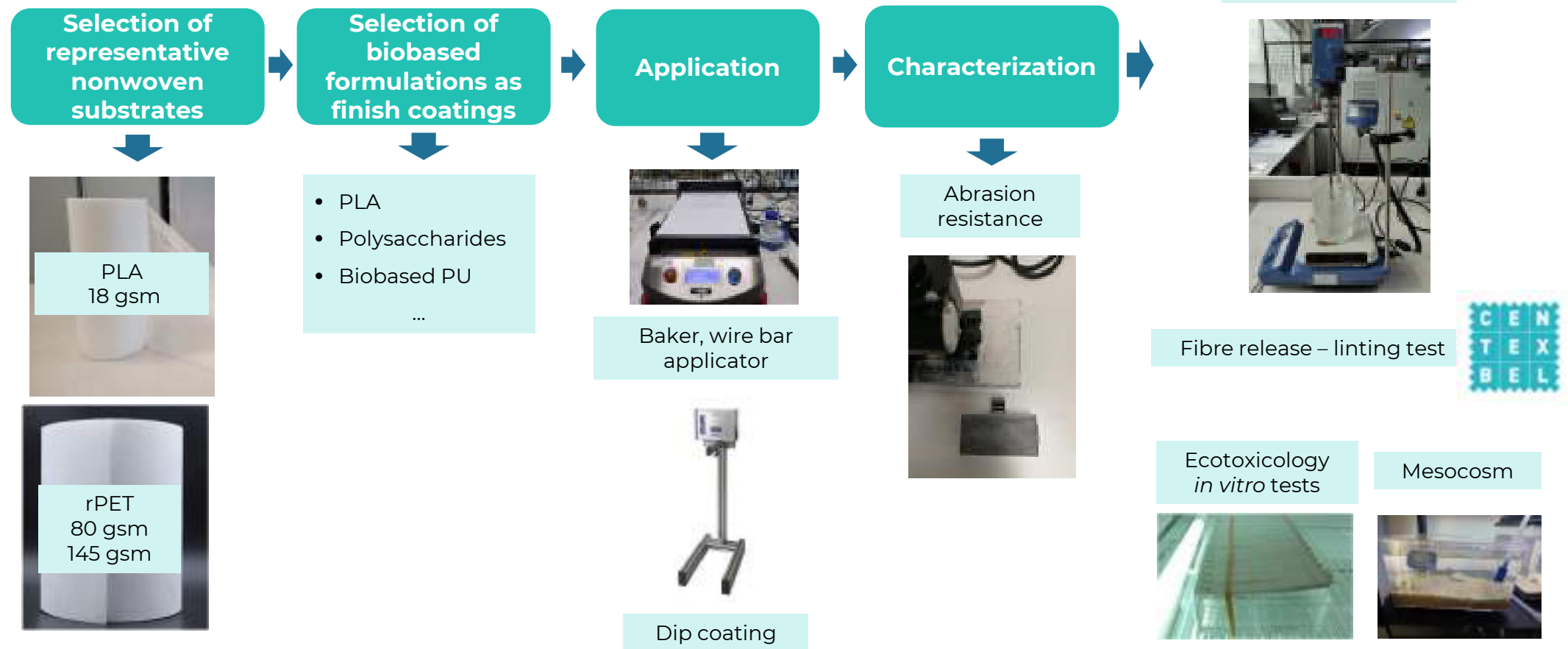
Typical appearance of different microplastics
 (A–E) Polyester, (F–I) polyethylene, (J–K) polyamide and (L) polypropylene.

Source: Lares, M. Occurrence, identification and removal of microplastic particles and fibers in conventional activated sludge process and advanced MBR technology *Water Research*, 2018



Finish coatings to reduce microplastics

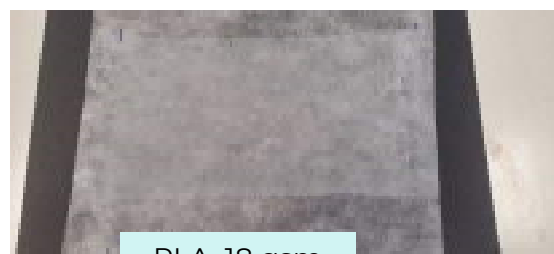
PRESERVE approach



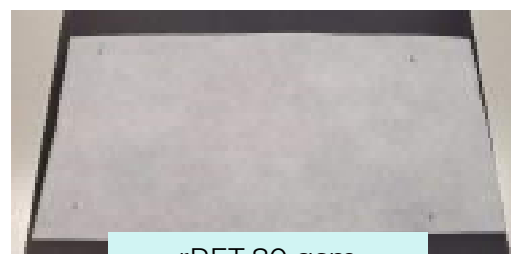
Finish coatings to reduce microplastics

Selection and application of finish coatings

SUBSTRATE	FINISH COATING	SOLID CONTENT(%)	VISCOSITY (s) Ford cup 4	DRY WEIGHT (g/m ²)
PLA 18 gsm	PLA-based	4-5%	13.42	3.50 ± 0.25
PLA 18 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	1-1.5%	49.72	2.83 ± 0.15
rPET 80 gsm	PLA-based	4-5%	13.42	11.58 ± 0.87
rPET 80 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	1-1.5%	49.72	5.67 ± 0.46
rPET 145 gsm	PLA-based	4-5%	13.42	7.53 ± 0.59
rPET 145 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	1-1.5%	49.72	5.33 ± 0.40



PLA 18 gsm



rPET 80 gsm



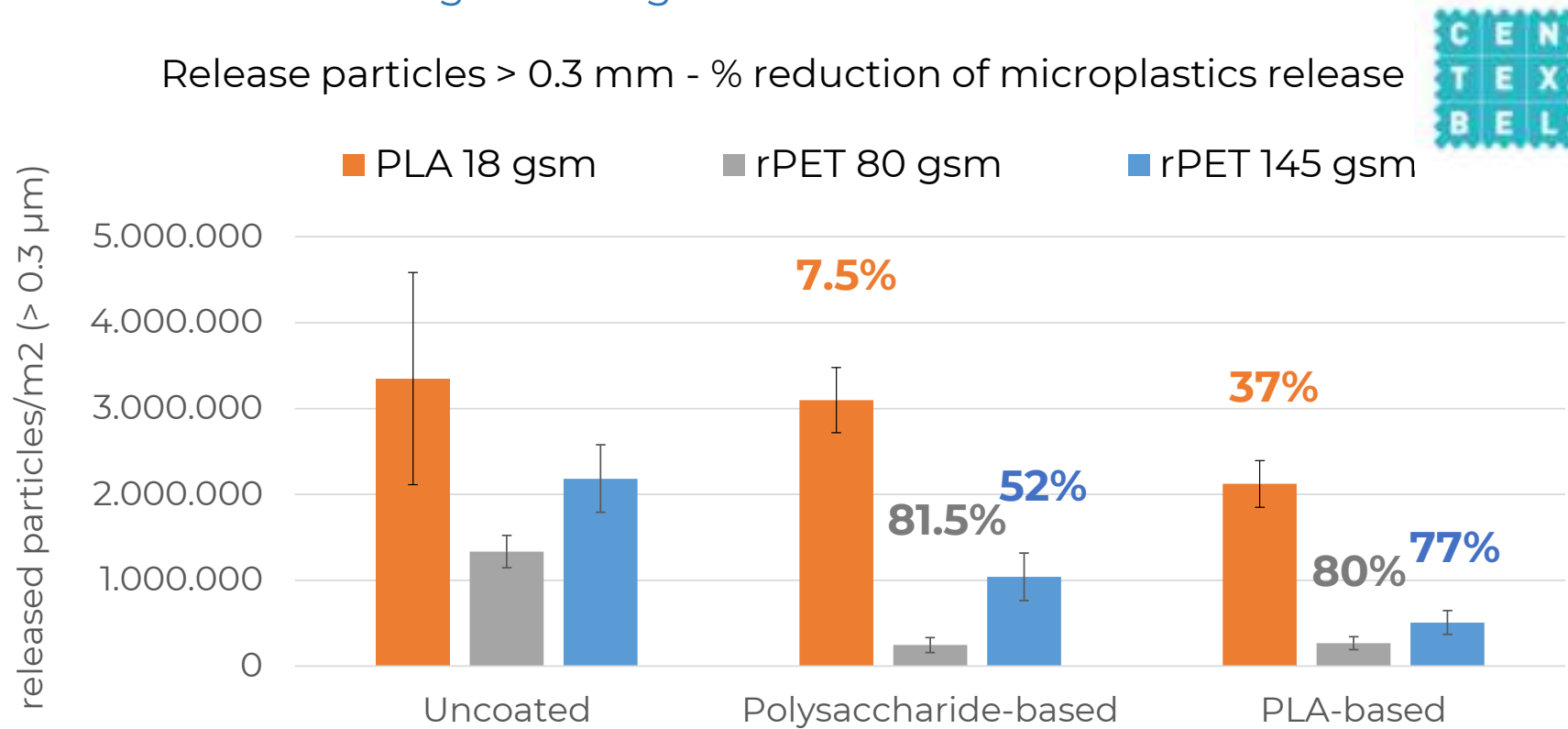
rPET 145 gsm

PLA-based finish coating



Finish coatings to reduce microplastics

Characterization of finish coatings – Linting test



✓ All coatings passed abrasion resistance and colour fastness tests



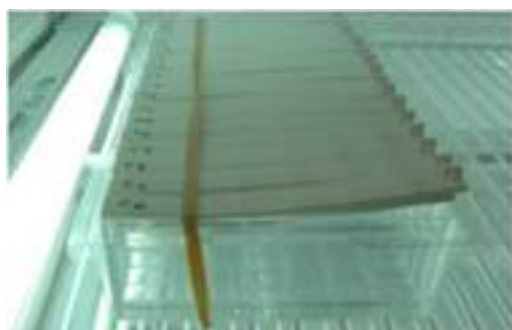
Finish coatings to reduce microplastics

Characterization of finish coatings – Ecotoxicology

SUBSTRATE	FINISH COATING	DAPHNIA IN VITRO TEST	ALGAE IN VITRO TEST	MESOCOSM
PLA 18 gsm	PLA-based	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
PLA 18 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 80 gsm	PLA-based	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 80 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 145 gsm	PLA-based	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 145 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-prioritized



In vitro test with Daphnia



In vitro test with Algae



Mesocosm test

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Scale up and validation

Selection of coatings after lab scale development

SUBSTRATE	FINISH COATING	DRY WEIGHT (g/m ²)	% REDUCTION OF MICROPLASTICS RELEASE	DAPHNIA IN VITRO TEST	ALGAE IN VITRO TEST	MESOCOSM
PLA 18 gsm	PLA-based	3.50 ± 0.25	37%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
PLA 18 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	2.83 ± 0.15	7.5%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 80 gsm	PLA-based	11.58 ± 0.87	80%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 80 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	5.67 ± 0.46	81.5%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 145 gsm	PLA-based	7.53 ± 0.59	77%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
rPET 145 gsm	Polysaccharide-based	5.33 ± 0.40	52%	Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-prioritized



Scale up and validation

rPET 145 gsm - PLA-based finish coating

All coatings passed abrasion resistance and colour fastness tests
 (*) %Microplastics release reduction - Particles >0,3 µm (#/m2)

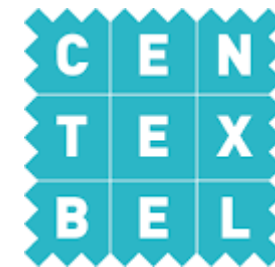
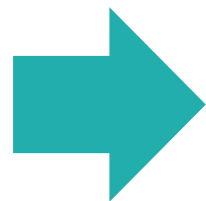
SCALE	SUBSTRATE	FINISH COATING	DRY WEIGHT (G/M2)	% REDUCTION OF MICROPLASTICS RELEASE (*)	DAPHNIA IN VITRO TEST	ALGAE IN VITRO TEST	MESOCOSM
LAB	rPET 145 gsm	PLA-based	7.53	77%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic
PILOT	rPET 145 gsm	PLA-based	5.60	88%	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic	Non-Toxic

- Viscosity Ford cup n°4: 14
- Gravure application:
 - ✓ Anilox: 59 LCM (19 cm³/m²).
 - ✓ Drying temperature: 1st oven 60°C - 2nd oven 30°C.
 - ✓ Speed: ≈ 8 m/min.



Scale up and validation

Upcoming tasks: PLA-based finish coating – rPLA shopping bag validation



*Nonwoven based on r-PLA
from PRESERVE activities*

*Non-woven shopping bag
target demonstrator*

*Application and
characterization of coated
shopping bag*



Thank you

