Collecting **discarded equipment** from **fishing** and **fish farming** around **Europe**
Discarded fishing equipment was always a big challenge for fishermen and fish farmers around the world. That’s why most of fishing nets were dumped to the sea. This was a big ecological problem and danger for marine life and divers. This was the main reason for Nofir to find a solution to collect discarded fishing equipment from various sites along European coastline.

It was a challenge for Nofir as there was no recipe for such an activity. Nofir started to work hard using trial and errors methods and finally it worked out. Thanks to Eco Innovation project Nofir collects material around Europe and give it for recycling. The most special in this kind of activity is that we are interested in material which for most of people is only a piece of waste. We look on this completely different way - from old, dirty, useless fish nets it’s possible to do for example beautiful and stylish swimwear.
About Eco Innovation

Call Identifier:
CIP-EIP-Eco-Innovation-2011.

Full title of the proposed action:
A European system for collecting and recycling discarded equipment from the fishing and fish farming industry.

Acronym of the proposed action:
EUfir.

Duration:
36 month. Started on the 9th of September 2012 and finish on the 8th of September 2015.

Project budget:
Requested funding from the EC - 684,562 Eur. The project was co-funded by 48.23% from the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) acting under powers delegated by the European Commission.

Goal:
With this project we will reduce plastic waste to sea, and as the material is recycled it will reduce oil consumption and CO2 emission.

Project Manager:
From 2013 Trud Berg, from November 2014 - Rima Samoškienė

Collected material:
Till the 28th of August 2015 - 909 t

The participants in the EUfir project:
Nofir AS, UAB Nofir established in Pramonsēs Sī, Tauragē, UAB Egersund Net, established in Pramonsēs Sī, Tauragē and Qualchem Zrt established in Hungary.

Co-ordinator (Organisation, Address):
Nofir AS, Postboks 6094, 8031 Bodo, Norway.

Research shows..

that 640,000 tons of fishing equipment is dumped or lost at sea worldwide each year. If only 10% come from Europe it means 64,000 tons.

The goal of Eco Innovation project

...is to establish a European system for collecting and recycling discarded equipment from the fishing and fish farming industry.

The environmental effect of the project:

1. Preventing plastic equipment from the fishing and fish farming industry from being dumped at sea
2. Preventing equipment from being put on landfills
3. Reduction in oil consumption
4. Reduction in CO2 emission
**History of Nofir**

Nofir was founded in **2008** with the purpose of establishing a nationwide system for collecting discarded equipment in Norway. **15 000 tons** of plastic equipment from the fishing and fish farming industry is discarded each year in Norway alone. In **2012** Nofir were granted support from European Union through the Eco Innovation scheme. Since then we have collected material all over Europe.

- **2008**: Nofir was founded with the purpose of establishing a nationwide system for collecting discarded equipment in Norway.
- **2011**: UAB Nofir in Lithuania was established.
- **2012**: Nofir was „The Environmental Organization of the year“ by Hold Norge Rent.
- **2013**: Nofir was granted support from European Union through the Eco Innovation Project.
- **2014**: Nofir started spreading activity to Europe
- **2015**: Nofir’s office in Poland
- **2016**: Nofir was awarded „The environmental prize“ by Norwegian Directorate of fisheries
- **2017**: Nofir was awarded the prize „Name of the year in the seafood industry“
- **2018**: Nofir’s office in Turkey
Competitive advantages of Nofir

The biggest difference from Nofir to the other companies working as collectors in the European market is that Nofir is building a sustainable system to recycle all types of plastics used in the fishing and fish farming equipment. Offering customers a holistic solution is making us able to search for new ways of life for the less valuable resources, whilst selling the easiest tradable for finance.

The cooperation with Egersund Net in Lithuania as dismantling site makes us able to collect discarded equipment and impose minimum work on the waste owners. Cooperating and working with the producers of the equipment, the fishermen, fish farmers, repair shops, waste facilities, transporters and recyclers gives us a unique knowledge of the fishing and fish farming sector.

Main clients for Nofir in Europe:

- Net lofts
- Washing and maintenance facilities
- Fishing vessels
- Fish farmers
- Ports

Awards during Eco Innovation project:

In 2014 Nofir was awarded the title “The name of the year in seafood industry” by the media house Intrafish and Fiskeriblader.Fiskaren. Nofir also awarded the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries “Environmental Prize 2014”.

Partners:

1. Healthy Seas - recovers abandoned fishing nets that pollute our seas and coasts
2. Egersund Group in Norway and Europe
3. Emel Balık AS from Turkey
The material we collected during **Eco Innovation** project

- **Purse seine nets**
- **Gill nets**
- **Fish farming nets and cages**
- **Trawls**
- **Ropes**

**Ghost nets:** big ecological problem

- **6.4 million** to waste dumped at sea yearly
- **10%** from fishery sector

- **18 000 pieces** of plastic per km²

Plastic needs hundreds of years to decompose. All plastics dumped at sea - is still out there.

**Nofir’s** goal is to collect as much material as we can and recycle it into new plastic.

* [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
** [www.oceancrusaders.org](http://www.oceancrusaders.org)
Promotional material

During the Eco Innovation project a range of materials, such as presentations, graphics, brochures and posters was created in order to inform about project and Nofir’s activity.
Publications

Nofir had around 100 publications and advertisements during Eco Innovation project.
The area of our activity

2014: 4886 TONS OF MATERIAL

2011: 2631 TONS OF MATERIAL

2012: 2736 TONS OF MATERIAL

2013: 4282 TONS OF MATERIAL

CO₂ equivalent to 9772 TONS of reduced CO₂ emissions compared to new production.

CO₂ equivalent to 5472 TONS of reduced oil consumption compared to new production.

CO₂ equivalent to 8564 TONS of reduced oil consumption compared to new production.
Lithuania

- Material is sent to UAB Nofir
- Dismantling equipment
BRINGING VALUE TO MARINE WASTE

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