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## Kick-Off Event

# PLENTY - Plastics in the Environment and Society: Research Platform of the University of Vienna

Monday, 26 November 2018, 18:00  
Sky Lounge, University of Vienna,  
Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1, 1090 Vienna



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An initiative of the **Faculty of Life Sciences**, the **Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy**, and the **Faculty of Social Sciences** in cooperation with the **Environmental Sciences Research Network** of the University of Vienna

The new research platform *PLENTY - Plastics in the Environment and Society* has been founded by the Rectorate of the University of Vienna to explore global plastic pollution using a holistic approach. The kick-off event focuses on how to approach one of today's most discussed environmental challenges.

Debate some of the most pressing questions with distinguished experts from various disciplines:

- How efficient are clean-up campaigns like the *Ocean Cleanup Initiative*? – Insights on the performance of the installation after about one month of deployment in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- How can industry, science and environmental organisations support the political agenda to reduce plastics in the environment? – Insights from the *2<sup>nd</sup> Plastic Stakeholder Conference* in Brussels
- What are major findings and innovations in the global scientific debate on microplastics? – Insights from the international *Microplastics Conference 2018* in Ascona

## Programme

17:30 Registration

### 18:00 Welcome Address & Introduction

**Jean-Robert Tyran**, Vice Rector University of Vienna

**Gerhard J. Herndl**, Head of the research platform PLENTY

### 18:15 Key Lecture & Contributions

#### Plastic and Society: Hubris, Humility, Hope

**Olwenn Martin**, Research Fellow - Institute for the Environment, Health and Societies, Brunel University London

#### Eliminating Plastic and Microplastic Pollution: An Urgent Need

**Georg Rebernig**, Managing Director Umweltbundesamt

### 19:00 Input & Panel Discussion with PLENTY Project Team

**Gerhard J. Herndl**, Professor of Bio-Oceanography of the University of Vienna, Head of PLENTY and Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the *Ocean Cleanup* Initiative

**Thilo Hofmann**, Professor Environmental Geosciences, Head of the Environmental Sciences Research Network of the University of Vienna and Deputy Head of PLENTY

**Ulrike Felt**, Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Head of the Research Platform Responsible Research and Innovation in Academic Practice and Co-Project Investigator of PLENTY

Moderator: **Marlene Nowotny**, Ö1

### 20:00 Get-together (until 21:00)

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**Please register online until 22 November 2018: [registration link](#)**

Further information: [microplastics@univie.ac.at](mailto:microplastics@univie.ac.at) • 01-4277-76431 • [microplastics.univie.ac.at](http://microplastics.univie.ac.at)

PLENTY is a project of the [Environmental Sciences Research Network \(ESRN\)](#) of the University of Vienna.

*With your participation, you grant us permission to publish images and video recordings taken during the event.*