

# WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR GREECE ?

Greece has the following specificities which worsen the impacts of marine litter and render the issue of tackling it a great challenge:

- Implications of extensive coastline (the longest in Europe) and hundreds of scattered isolated isles.
- A very long coastline, the longest in Europe.
- Hundreds of isolated beaches and scattered rocky isles, difficult to reach.
- Strong sea currents that transfer and deposit marine litter in remote sites.
- Sensitive coastal environments throughout the country are subject to intensive tourism.
- Heavy marine transport of cruise ships, fishing fleets, cargo ships, etc.

- Many ports, not all equipped with integrated solid waste management facilities.
- Increasing scale of sailing and yachting recreation activities.
- Many uncontrolled landfills, some of which are situated very close to the coast.
- Particularly coastal areas may be subject to mal-serviced waste collection facilities.
- A poor enforcement of existing laws regarding waste management.
- Low level of sensitisation and responsibility in dealing with environmental issues.

In tackling the problem of litter, and of waste in general, prevention strategies rather than retention strategies should be a priority.