

#Project presentation

J'irai fouiller vos poubelles

Trash detectives



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What is the project "Trash detectives" ?

"J'irai fouiller vos poubelles" or "Trash detectives " is a project, formalised as an association in May 2018, whose objective is [to contribute to the improvement of waste management](#) in our industrialized societies, which have a world population growing exponentially.

We are two "garbologists" (cf: "garbology": discipline which consists of studying the waste, its degradation and its treatment), passionate and keen to protect the environment. **We want to put into practice our expertise to participate in the awakening of the consciences through attractive videos.**

We first want to establish a picture to show what are the limits of the conventional waste management system. We would like to prove that it's [a problem that concerns all social categories, without borders.](#)

Secondly, we want to show that there are complementary solutions in different countries of the world in order to [inspire the future actors of change and convince the most skeptical.](#)

We have chosen to focus our analysis on the island environments that are strongly affected by the terrestrial and marine environmental impacts of poor waste management. Geographical isolation and the tourism-dominated economy make island environment a [perfect area to observe the negative or positive externalities of waste management](#). Indeed, the small spaces of the island territories push for a strategic use of the territory concerning waste management. With the growth of the world population, the continents are also concerned by this problematic of spaces sharing.

What are the objectives of our project ?

Our objectives are:

- ◆ **To discover and understand** the waste path in different geographical areas. To understand this path, we chose to meet families and follow objects of everyday life.
- ◆ **To identify and select** the best existing and innovative methods related to waste management in the geographical areas we will visit.
- ◆ **To observe and documente** the resilience of biodiversity in environments polluted by waste, for example the ruderal plants (definition: "ruderal plants are plants that grow near or on the trash, in wastelands "), through a photo-reportage.

How do we realise this project ?

We decided to do a video report on the management of household waste around the world.

The team:

Mélanie Dupé :

I spent 5 years working in a multinational - VEOLIA - where I was guiding local authorities to deploy "pay as you throw" waste financial system. [I wish now to invest myself on the field](#), in order to help change the way we deal with waste, thanks to informations and concrete actions, in relation with people all around the world.

Delphine Dura :

I worked 2 years in a recycling centre for selective sorting at VEOLIA, and then 3 years at TRINOV, a company expert in waste reporting for large retailers and construction industries. I have been expose to the stakes of waste management and food waste and [I felt the need to act on the field](#), close to families in different countries in the world.

Video editors :

We contact severals video editors to accompany us, each one of them will join us on one part of the journey (one video editor by island).

Geographical scope

We chose to highlight existing positive initiatives in island environments across continents to share them with our community.

To highlight these good initiatives, we will choose:

- ◆ Islands with **poorly developed waste system** and **high environmental impacts**.
- ◆ Islands with **"zero waste" initiatives**.

Here is the list of islands we are going to explore:

In Europe : Oleron Island (France), the island of Orø (Denmark),

In Asia : Bali and Timor (Indonésia), Singapore

In Africa : Madagascar

And if we can, we will add : Sardinia (Italy), Ukulhas and Thilafushi (the Maldives), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (North America) and the Kamikatsu district (Japon).

The choice of objects:

We have chosen a panel of everyday objects that we will follow from the trash of households to their final destinations.

Examples of objects that we could follow:

- An electric battery
- A smartphone and its charger
- A running sport shoe (plastic material)
- Hygienic protections for women
- Food waste

In this last case (food) we are going to measure the distribution of average baskets into food consumption, food waste and packaging waste. We will weigh and estimate a cost of their garbage cans.

The criteria for choosing our objects are:

- ◆ The **lack of knowledge of the path of these wastes by the general public**. We held several meetings with our entourage to get a sample of objects whose traceability was obscure.
- ◆ Waste produced by households with a **high environmental impact** if they are not recycled (for example : battery on the ground, hygienic protections in the sewage system, etc.).
- ◆ Wastes belonging to **different types of household use** (food consumption / electronic products / hygienic products / leisure textile products).

Families as witnesses

We chose families as witnesses of this waste itineraries. **Our objectif is to remind to a maximum of person that even at a local level (individual, family or neighbourhood) we can act on the waste problematic** (and when we start doing it at home it's easier to start thinking of it at work).

We will follow for 2 weeks the consumption of households. To choose these families we will contact associations related to waste management who have contacts in the places in which we plan to go.

Specificity of the project :

- We are two experts in the sector of waste management. We can have **a critical look** at the discoveries we make.
- We will focus on **insular environments**, innovative in terms of waste management because of their isolation, these geographical areas are directly confronted with environmental impacts.
- We will build, in open access, **an interactive map** of the best initiatives we will find to inspire the different actors of change.
- We will try to track our objects with **geolocalization technologies** (PIT tags), and to map the flow of our waste using **mapping software**.
- We are going to request our community to **pick a garbage** in order for us to **remove it** from our current use **for each island** of our trip (plastic bottles for example).
- We will weigh household garbage for two weeks and **calculate the cost** of packaging and food waste.