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STEP2CleanPlan, BSB00004

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Welcome to the STEP2CleanPlan newsletter! This initiative, "Cooperation for Sustainable Energy and Climate Actions' Planning and Monitoring in BSB," aims to enhance the capacity of local decision-makers to strategically align with national climate adaptation plans. By providing practical tools and guidance, the project supports effective actions that build on existing local plans, helping communities address climate challenges more efficiently. Stay tuned for updates on how STEP2CleanPlan is driving progress in sustainable energy and climate action planning.

Empowering Local Authorities

Local authorities play a crucial role in driving climate action and promoting sustainable development. To effectively tackle climate change and facilitate the energy transition, they require targeted support and resources. By enhancing their capacity to develop and implement strategic plans, STEP2CleanPlan aims to empower municipalities to lead their communities towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Through knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and collaborative frameworks, we are committed to helping local authorities become effective agents of change in their regions.

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT Black Sea Basin

The Step2CleanPlan project began last July with the goal of tackling global challenges related to sustainability by proposing actionable solutions. These include waste reduction through enhanced reuse and the implementation of regeneration practices that focus on repairing and restoring valuable items. The project seeks to implement joint pilot actions aimed at enhancing the capacity and knowledge of local policymakers to sustainably integrate climate change adaptation into local policies, while also taking measures to mitigate its impact on the Black Sea Basin. This effort is based on cross-border cooperation among diverse stakeholders.

Establishing sustainable cooperation between policy-making and planning support organizations/ institutions in the Black Sea area for exchange of good practices in climate-adaptation by establishing joint team of experts and analysing of the existing tools and adaptation guides and organization study visits and workshops with the target groups;



PROJECT OBJECTIVE



increasing local awareness and information about the European and national strategies and policy in climate change adaptation and existing tools for their integration in the local plans through Guide for policymakers



increasing capacity in climate adaptation planning and reporting by implementation of mentoring training program for planning and management experts /30 persons



promoting good initiatives in policy design for climate change adaptation, through elaboration of four frameworks, plans and observations such as Urban mobility plans /Uzunkorpu municipality, Tyrkyie, municipality of Byala, Verna region, Bulgaria/, energy efficiency observation /Burgas, Bulgaria/ and carbon footprint decreasing plan /Kalamaria municipality, Thessaloniki, Greece/.

A memorandum of partnership will be signed between municipalities, including the target municipalities Byala Municipality in BG and Kalamaria Municipality in Greece, with determined cooperation roles in exchange of good practices, lessons learned, participating in joint networks stimulating and guiding the local policy -makers in the adaptation to the climate change and their promotion.



Kick-off Meeting and 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the “Step2CleanPlan” Project in Uzunkopru Municipality, Türkiye



The event marked the official start of the project activities and was hosted by the lead partner - Uzunkopru Municipality in Uzunkopru, Türkiye on September 19-20, 2024. Over two days representatives of all project partners from Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece gathered together, either in person or virtually, to start their joint work in the climate change adaptation.

On the first day, the Step2CleanPlan partners introduced their organizations and familiarized themselves with one another. They engaged in detailed discussions about the implementation stages, the project’s overall activities, and the anticipated results and outputs. The steering committee established the cooperation guidelines

following thorough discussions to ensure alignment with the project’s overarching objectives and to minimize risks. In a dedicated session with experts in sustainable energy and climate, the partners collectively formulated a shared working methodology for the specific actions planned over the next four months.

On the second day, partners discussed the communication plan, program management guidelines, with an emphasis on public procurement processes and specifications, as well as reference reports and their associated deadlines. The day concluded with the strategic planning of upcoming actions and clearly defined next steps.



Current Situation and Capacity Analyses in Climate Change Adaptation

The current activity's goal is to assess and outline the local context and capacity for implementing National/local adaptation plans, European policies and regulations, measures related to climate change adaptation.

Partners has analysed and evaluated the existing planning capacity of the local and regional authorities in the targeted areas for implementation of the Climate Change adaptation strategies and Policy planning for the minimizing carbon emissions, ensuring energy efficiency and application of the climate adaptation measures as good practices in mobility in the BSB; existing measures and capacity for application of the Recovery and Resilience Plans in the context of REPowerEU.

The project brings together four partners from three countries, including a local authority, a regional authority, an NGO, and an organization for local development . Each partner contributes complementary strengths:



Uzunkopru Municipality (LP)
offers direct knowledge of the local context



ANATOLIKI S.A.
Organisation for Local Development adds expertise in planning and sustainability

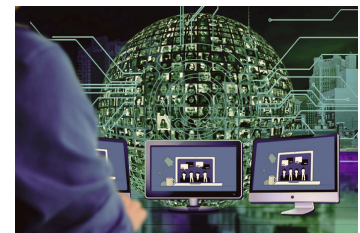


District Government Burgas
provides regional coordination and guidance



Association BIONetwork
ensures community engagement and advocacy

Management online meeting



The step2clean plan team held its 1st and 2nd Management Meetings to discuss project progress and next steps.

1st Management Meeting, 29/8/2024: Partners introduced their organizations, discussed initial project planning, and outlined first actions and next steps.

2nd Management Meeting, 29/10/2024: The team reviewed decisions from the kick-off meeting, clarified program reporting rules, and planned future reporting and joint activities. These meetings were essential for aligning all partners and setting the course for upcoming project phases.

Opening Press Conferences by Project Partners

Each partner of the STEP2CleanPlan project has to organize an opening press conference to introduce the project goals and expected outcomes within their respective regions. During these events, representatives from each partner organization presented planned actions, shared insights on innovative approaches, and discussed how these initiatives will support climate resilience and sustainable energy efforts in local municipalities and communities. These press conferences provide an opportunity for community stakeholders and media to engage with the project's vision under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Program 2021-2027.



Uzunköprü Municipality (Lead Partner) Holds Opening Press Conference for Step2CleanPlan Project



On September 18, 2024, the inaugural press conference for the Step2CleanPlan project was conducted by the lead partner. Local media professionals were invited to the event, which featured the attendance of Uzunköprü Mayor Ediz Martin, Deputy Mayor Celal İnal, and other municipality staff. During the press conference, general information about the project was presented, emphasizing its objectives and importance for the community.

Kick-Off Press Conference held by District Government Burgas!



On October 23, 2024, the opening press conference was held at the District Government Burgas building. Media representatives were invited to the event, where executives from the District Government presented the project's planned actions and anticipated outcomes. They showcased innovative solutions that can be implemented in municipalities and communities across the country, highlighting the project's potential impact on sustainable energy and climate resilience.



Launch Press Conference hosted by Bionet BG



On October 25, Bionet BG organized a launch press conference that event took place in the small hall of Radio Varna, where project representatives outlined the project's framework and discussed the anticipated impact of its initiatives.

1st online experts meeting

The STEP2CleanPlan project held its first experts online meeting on October 9. Experts from partner organizations in Türkiye, Greece, and Bulgaria gathered to strengthen collaboration and enhance understanding of regional climate adaptation capacities. The session included introductions, discussions on sustainability, and green transition strategies, as well as updates on ongoing research and stakeholder mapping in various municipalities. The team also set a deadline for completing desk research and stakeholder mapping, with plans for a follow-up meeting in the last week of October.



1st Experts online meeting on November, 5



The opening Press Conference to Be Held by ANATOLIKI S.A. on November 13



Review EU Climate Adaptation Strategies: Summarize relevant strategies, Provide an overview of the European vision for local government policy planning



Create a Joint Guide for Local Policymakers: Compile tools, instruments, lessons learned, and best practices Focus on planning and implementing climate change mitigation efforts



Organizing in the target areas an one-day seminar with the local authorities, regional/local institutions, district administrations, etc to present the findings from the analyses /Guide

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