

NEWSLETTER

STEP2CLEANPLAN

Welcome to the concluding edition of the STEP2CleanPlan Update—celebrating key accomplishments, sharing final insights, and offering practical tools to support climate adaptation and sustainable cities across Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkey.



Four National Strategic Frameworks and Plans Completed Across Partner Countries

These key deliverables reflect the collaborative efforts of our partner municipalities and demonstrate our shared commitment to sustainable urban development across the region. We invite you to explore these outcomes and discover how the project is contributing to more sustainable, resilient, and forward-looking municipalities

Read More: pages 3-4

Final Conference of the Step2CleanPlan Project in Burgas, Bulgaria

The Step2CleanPlan Project successfully concluded with its Final Conference on 11 November 2025 in Burgas, Bulgaria at the District Government Building. Partners and experts from Bulgaria, Greece, and Türkiye shared results on climate adaptation, sustainable mobility, and energy efficiency.

Read More: pages 5 - 6

Project Conclusions Presented at Nationwide Press Conferences in All Partner Countries

The project's key outcomes, highlights, and achievements were presented at nationwide press conferences across all partner countries, along with future steps and opportunities for continued collaboration. Local media, partners, and stakeholders were warmly invited to attend.

Read More: pages 8 - 9

Mentorship Programme Successfully Completed!

The Step2CleanPlan Project (BSB00004) has successfully concluded its 3-month mentorship and capacity-building programme on climate adaptation, clean energy, and sustainable mobility across all partner countries.

Running from June to October, the Mentee Trainings significantly strengthened the capacity of local authorities and experts throughout all participating partners/countries.

The programme combined online training sessions, one-to-one mentoring in Bulgaria (Varna & Burgas), Greece (Thessaloniki), and Türkiye (Uzunköprü), gaining practical knowledge and exchanging best practices with local experts.

Designed as an intensive training and mentoring initiative, the programme focused on three core thematic areas:

- Climate Adaptation Planning – key steps, processes, and practical tools
- Urban Mobility & Energy Efficiency – strategies for creating sustainable cities
- Assessment & Reporting Tools – methods for measuring emissions and evaluating adaptation actions



All training materials and modules will soon be available for download on the official project website, ensuring long-term access to the knowledge developed through STEP2CLEANPLAN:

<https://step2cleanplan.com/resource/>

By offering expertise, tools, and hands-on experience, the programme has empowered all participating mentees to design effective climate strategies and support the transition toward resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable cities in the region.

As a key deliverable, project partners have also produced the “Local Policy Tools Guide for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”, providing practical strategies and best practices for local policymakers.



FOUR NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS AND PLANS COMPLETED ACROSS PARTNER COUNTRIES

URBAN MOBILITY PLANS

UZUNKÖPRÜ BECOMES A PIONEER IN CLIMATE-NEUTRAL URBAN MOBILITY!

Uzunköprü Municipality (Lead Partner) has completed the preparation of Climate-Neutral Urban Mobility Plans. This comprehensive plan redesigns the entire 291 km urban street network, including 39 km of new dedicated bicycle routes, aiming to:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions
- Improve safety and accessibility
- Promote walking and cycling
- Optimize parking and traffic flow

The plan follows the “Classification – Circulation – Integration” methodology, combining sustainability, livability, and efficiency in one framework.

By prioritizing human-centered and low-carbon mobility, Uzunköprü takes a major step toward a more resilient and climate-friendly future.



NET ZERO HERO – CARBON NEUTRAL DISTRICTS BYALA, BULGARIA



The Municipality of Byala (3,200 residents) experiences extreme seasonal mobility pressure, with summer traffic multiplying due to tourism and seasonal population influx. Mobility is dominated by private cars, with no internal public transport and limited regional connectivity. Villages lack links to the administrative center, while narrow streets and overloaded parking—especially in the center and along the coast—create critical bottlenecks. Active mobility is limited to eco-routes used mainly for tourism, and the small e-bike system is seasonally popular but economically unsustainable.

The 2040 vision aims for a connected, lively, and sustainable seaside town, targeting a 40% reduction in emissions and a 50% share of sustainable mobility. By 2030, 30% of daily trips in Byala should be on foot or bicycle, and all villages should receive 3–6 daily transport services. Key measures include an integrated electric minibus network, a central bus hub, DRT for villages, expanded cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, 30 km/h zones, and improved accessibility. Parking reforms include expanded paid zones and peripheral “Park & Walk/Cycle” areas. Coastal mobility is prioritized through the Center–St. Atanas–Chaika corridor and controlled-access solutions for Karadere. Implementation spans 2025–2040 with EU and PPP funding, while data gaps and lack of cost estimates remain challenges.

FOUR NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS AND PLANS COMPLETED ACROSS PARTNER COUNTRIES

CARBON FOOTPRINT DEDUCTION PLAN

ASSESSING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KALAMARIA, THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Kalamaria is a dense coastal municipality in Thessaloniki with over 92,000 residents. Current waste management relies mainly on landfilling, producing high methane emissions.

In 2024, total municipal waste reached 25,304 tons, with organic waste estimated at 40%.

Current emissions amount to 6,786 t CO₂eq/year, with 94% coming from landfill methane.

A proposed scenario introduces separate organic waste collection and treatment at a biogas unit.

Biogas production supports renewable energy goals, while compost adds environmental value.

Improved transport logistics using larger trucks could reduce emissions by up to 95%.

Overall, waste valorization can cut over 6,400 t CO₂eq annually, boosting climate compliance. Implementation requires infrastructure, operational readiness, citizen engagement, and institutional cooperation.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY MONITORING FRAMEWORK

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM OF BURGAS REGION 2026–2035, BULGARIA



In March 2025, the District Government of Burgas signed a contract with the Center for Energy Efficiency – EnEffect to develop a 10-year Energy Efficiency Programme for the region. During the reporting period, an expert from EnEffect participated in a regional stakeholders' meeting on 30.09.2025 and submitted the final version of the programme.

EnEffect expanded the scope and prepared not only an Energy Efficiency Programme but a Sustainable Energy Programme for Burgas Region. It outlines the region's vision for effective use of local resources and supports the transition to energy transformation in cooperation with local municipalities, in line with the Energy Efficiency Act and the Renewable Energy Act. The document sets out the vision, goals, and measures for improved energy management across the region. Covering the period 2026–2035, the Programme aims for stronger communication between administrations, better coordination on new EE and RES requirements, and improved administrative capacity. These improvements are expected to result in significant energy and financial savings and strengthen citizens' confidence to participate in joint energy projects.

Vision and Key Priorities of the Burgas Region Sustainable Energy Programme 2026–2035:

"Burgas Region – a leading driver and coordinating hub for sustainable energy management, focused on delivering tangible energy savings by supporting municipalities and citizens across the region."

The final document was presented during the final project conference in Burgas on 11th of November 2025.

FINAL CONFERENCE

BURGAS, BULGARIA

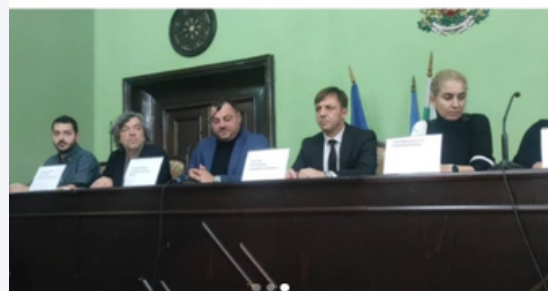
The final project conference for STEP2CleanPlan Project was held in the premises of District government Burgas and brought together all project partners – Uzunköprü Municipality (Türkiye), ANATOLIKI Organization for local development (Thessaloniki, Greece), Association Bionetwork (Varna, Bulgaria) and District government Burgas (Bulgaria). The final conference was dedicated to the results of the joint work on developing solutions for climate change adaptation in the Black Sea region.

More than 60 participants took part in the final project conference in Burgas. Among them were all project partners, both target Municipalities from Byala, Bulgaria and Kalamaria, Greece, as well as many regional stakeholders such as:

- Representatives of regional institutions – Strandzha Nature Park, Regional Forestry Directorate Burgas, Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Water, Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Regional Directorate of Agriculture Burgas, Institute of Agriculture Karnobat, Agricultural Research Center Sredets, Port of Burgas, Regional Information Center Burgas, Burgas State University "Asen Zlatarov", Foundation Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect;
- Municipalities from Burgas region – Municipality of Sungurlare, Municipality Malko Tarnovo, Municipality Tsarevo, Municipality Pomorie Municipality Sredets, Municipality Ruen, Municipality Nessebar, Municipality Kameno, Municipality Primorsko;
- Representatives of NGOs – Eco cluster Bulgaria;
- Representatives of the media – Citizens of the neighborhood, Bourgas Zone, Polygraph, Flagman

The conference started with opening speeches from all official representatives:

- Vladimir Krumov – Governor of Burgas region, Bulgaria
- Celal INAL – Deputy Mayor of Uzunkopru Municipality, Türkiye
- Vasiliki Papadopoulou, General Director, ANATOLIKI S.A. (remote), Greece
- Nikolaos Misyrlis, Deputy Mayor of Environment, Public Lighting, Infrastructure Maintenance, Municipality Kalamaria, Greece
- Kristiana Kazandzhieva – Association Bionet, Bulgaria
- Hristina Kelisakieva – Municipality Byala, Bulgaria





FINAL CONFERENCE

BURGAS, BULGARIA

Conference Highlights

A key highlight of the event was the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between the project partners and two target municipalities – Municipality Kalamaria (Greece) and Municipality Byala (Bulgaria). The document outlines a long-term partnership framework, including participation in European initiatives, exchange of good practices and support for sustainable energy and climate policies.

The conference continued with presentations by the project partners:

- Presentation of the Climate Neutral Urban Mobility Plan (Uzunkopru, LP) – Ertan ER and Mesut Emre EROGLU – Planning and Mobility Experts (remote)
- Presentation of Act.1.4. Integration of climate change concerns into policy design, frameworks and technical assessment of the local and regional policy makers – Giannis Eleftheriadis, ANATOLIKI S.A
- Presentation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Framework (Byala) – Hristina Kelisakieva, Municipality Byala
- Presentation of the Energy Efficiency Programme (Burgas) – Maria Manolova, Foundation „Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect”
- Presentation of good practices in the field of energy efficiency in Burgas region – Carbon-neutral district – Alexander Stankov, Foundation „Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect”



A key milestone of the event was the signing of a **Memorandum of Cooperation** on climate change adaptation, strengthening long-term collaboration between the participating authorities.

The Memorandum was signed **by the Municipality of Uzunköprü (TR), ANATOLIKI S.A. (GR), the Municipality of Kalamaria (GR), the Burgas Regional Administration (BG), Association Bionet (BG), and the Municipality of Byala (BG).**

This landmark agreement is the result of dynamic joint activities and vibrant exchanges among all project partners, showcasing the strong partnership spirit that drives STEP2CLEANPLAN.

The partners shared their experience, achieved results and examples of successful initiatives that can serve as a model for other regions.

We are proud to note that these shared efforts have not only accelerated progress on our common goals, but have also unlocked exciting new opportunities for future initiatives in clean energy and climate change adaptation across all participating municipalities.

OTHER DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

»»» District government Burgas and Uzunköprü Municipality Collaborate with EU Countries on Climate Adaptation!

As partners of the Step2CleanPlan project, Uzunköprü Municipality and District government Burgas participated in the TiCCA4Danu Synergy Workshop held in Caserta, Italy. During the workshop, participants explored EU best practices on climate change adaptation, participatory planning, innovative digital tools, climate justice, and sustainable mobility and energy solutions. Both institutions took an important step toward learning from EU experiences, adapting successful methods to their local context, and strengthening regional cooperation.



»»» Building Cleaner and Smarter Mobility

BIONET team successfully held the latest event, on November 14th, within the Step2CleanPlan project, bringing together local stakeholders in Byala to discuss practical steps toward smarter, healthier, and more sustainable mobility.



During the meeting, BIONET presented the framework for sustainable urban mobility developed under the project, as well as the pilot introduction of e-bikes into the city's mobility system. These tools are not just theoretical – they provide Byala with a concrete pathway to reduce emissions, improve accessibility, and promote active transportation.

A key focus of the event was the integration of climate change considerations into local and regional policy design. Participants had the chance to explore how climate concerns can be embedded into planning frameworks, decision-making processes, and technical assessments. This remains an area where many municipalities lag.

BIONET hosted an engaging in-situ session with citizens, municipal staff and environmental stakeholders, promoting sustainable mobility habits and encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Their hands-on approach helped bridge the typical gap between planning and community adoption – something often missing in similar initiatives.

The event brought together media representatives, environmental companies and clubs, as well as urban planners, strengthening the dialogue across sectors and ensuring broader awareness of ongoing mobility transformations.

Step by step, Byala is positioning itself as a municipality willing to take meaningful action for cleaner urban mobility and climate-responsible local development.

Closing Press Conferences in Partner Countries



РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ
Областна администрация Бургас

FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE BURGAS DISTRICT

The District Government of Burgas hosted the concluding press conference alongside the project's final conference on November 11, at the District Government Building.

During the joint event, the team presented the project's main results, key milestones, and overall achievements, and also outlined upcoming initiatives and opportunities for continued cooperation. Representatives of local media, partners, local and regional stakeholders, as well as the target municipalities, took part in the event.



FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN BYALA BY BIONET



A final press conference for the Step2CleanPlan project, funded under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, was held on December 2, 2025.

During the event, the project results were presented, with particular focus on the Sustainable Urban Mobility Framework developed for the Municipality of Byala. The pilot introduction of electric bikes into the city's mobility system sparked the greatest interest and generated the most questions from attendees.

Closing Press Conferences in Partner Countries



PRESS CONFERENCE BY UZUNKÖPRÜ MUNICIPALITY



Uzunköprü Municipality is presenting the main conclusions, highlights, and achievements at the final press conference on December 11, 2025. This event offers an important opportunity to showcase the project's results to media, stakeholders, and the wider public, ensuring that the knowledge and tools developed throughout the implementation period are shared broadly and effectively.

During the press conference, municipality of Uzunköprü will present key outcomes, lessons learned, and the strategic plans and frameworks developed within the project, demonstrating how the initiative contributes to more sustainable, resilient, and future-oriented local governance.

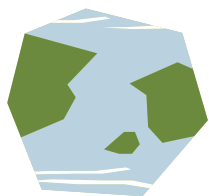


FINAL EVENT OF THE PROJECT – PRESS CONFERENCE



The final event of the project – a press conference – will be held at the offices of ANATOLIKI S.A. on December 17, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m..

During this brief event, the project results will be presented in summary. The study on the management of organic waste in the Municipality of Kalamaria, prepared by ANATOLIKI S.A. in cooperation with the Municipality within the framework of the project, will also be showcased. Finally, a short presentation of the Municipal Waste Management Plan of the Municipality of Kalamaria, also developed by ANATOLIKI S.A., will be provided, followed by a Q&A session, during which the mentors of the mentoring program will be available to answer any question.



STEP2CleanPlan

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Project Partnership



Uzunkopru Municipality Administration, Türkiye



ANATOLIKI S.A. Organisation for Local Development, Greece



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Областна администрация Бургас

District Government Burgas, Bulgaria



Association BIONETWORK, Bulgaria

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