

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Câmara Municipal de Pinhel
PIC number:	905477444
Project name and acronym:	GREENgaged Citizens: European Network for Local Climate Action - GREENGAGED

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4th Event
Event name:	EcoTurism to protect biodiversity
Type:	Lectures
In situ/online:	<i>In-situ</i>
Location:	Dimos Alimou, Greece
Date(s):	February 20 th – 23 rd , 2025
Participants	
Female:	28
Male:	24
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	1
From country 2 [France]:	3
From country 3 [Greece]:	30
From country 4 [Hungary]:	2
From country 5 [Italy]:	2
From country 6 [Latvia]:	1
From country 7 [Lithuania]:	2
From country 8 [Malta]:	2
From country 9 [Netherlands]:	1
From country 10 [Portugal]:	3
From country 11 [Slovakia]:	2

From country 12 [Slovenia]:	1		
From country 13 [Spain]:	2		
Total number of participants:	52	From total number of countries:	13

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The IV event of the project, called *EcoTourism to Protect Biodiversity*, held in Alimos, Greece, from February 20–23, 2025, was a dynamic and impactful gathering that underscored the crucial role of ecotourism in biodiversity conservation, sustainability, and fostering local cooperation across Europe.

The event brought together 52 participants from 13 countries, including a mix of local and international representatives, policymakers, environmental experts, youth leaders, and civil society organizations, facilitating an enriching exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative sustainability initiatives.

The event kicked off on Thursday, February 20, with the arrival and transfer of participants to their accommodations in Alimos. A welcome dinner set the tone for informal networking and collaboration, while participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beginning of the Carnival festivities, a local celebration in Alimos.

On Friday, February 21, the program began with a visit to the Museum of Miniatures, where participants explored the history of ecotourism in Greece. This was followed by an opening session, during which the mayors of Alimos and Pinhel formally welcomed the attendees. The event's core discussions centered around the role of ecotourism in protecting local biodiversity, with presentations from various countries including Portugal, Lithuania, Italy, Hungary, and France. These presentations shared successful ecotourism practices from their respective municipalities, covering topics such as renewable energy in tourism, sustainable infrastructure, and effective waste management strategies. The afternoon included a visit to the cultural and natural reserves of Alimos, which provided firsthand insights into how tourism can support environmental preservation and contribute to local sustainable development.

On Saturday, February 22, participants delved deeper into the theme of sustainable tourism with a visit to the Municipal Art Gallery, where the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Ioannis Antonakis, presented innovative smart tools for managing nature reserves and municipal tourist infrastructure. This session highlighted the importance of integrating technology with sustainability to improve the management of natural resources. Additionally, participants had the chance to engage with local students from Alimos Secondary School, who presented on natural parks and climate change, using an interactive Kahoot quiz to test participants' knowledge. The afternoon included a visit to Alimos' Marina, showcasing the municipality's commitment to sustainable practices, followed by free time for participants to visit the Acropolis in Athens, enhancing their cultural experience. The day ended with a meeting evaluation session and a farewell dinner.

The final day, Sunday, February 23, included a farewell breakfast before participants were transferred to Athens International Airport for their departure.

The event produced several key outcomes, including the creation of a Handbook of Best Practices on ecotourism, which compiled successful initiatives and practical solutions shared by participating countries. This handbook is intended as a reference guide for municipalities seeking to implement sustainable tourism practices in their own regions.

The event also strengthened a transnational network of policymakers, NGOs, and youth organizations, creating lasting partnerships and collaborations aimed at advancing ecotourism and biodiversity protection across Europe. Additionally, the event's dissemination strategy, which included media outreach, social media campaigns, and local engagement, ensured that the discussions and outcomes reached a broader audience, amplifying the impact of the event. The success of this event highlighted the importance of continued cooperation and dialogue among European municipalities and organizations to drive forward sustainable tourism and environmental conservation.

Looking ahead, the next event in the *GREEngaged Citizens* initiative will take place in Budapest, Hungary, in February 2025. This event will build upon the outcomes of the Alimos gathering, continuing the dialogue on ecotourism, sustainable tourism practices, and biodiversity conservation. As part of the ongoing project, the Hungary event will feature further discussions on ecotourism, including country-specific presentations and networking opportunities, with a focus on the European Green Deal and how local initiatives can contribute to broader sustainability goals.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).