

# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the 2nd STEP2CleanPlan newsletter!

In this newsletter, you can find updates

-on the progress of **Work Package 1: Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation**, specifically focusing on the steps of **Activity 1.1: Current Situation and Capacity Analyses**. The work is structured into four critical steps (see page 2)

- **On the management and coordination of Work Packages**, including the efforts to ensure smooth collaboration between partners, the timely delivery of outputs, and the integration of activities across regions. Key milestones, stakeholder engagements, and the sharing of best practices will be highlighted as part of ongoing efforts to ensure successful project implementation. (page 3)

Stay tuned for more updates on our progress as we continue to build climate resilience in the Black Sea Basin through innovative and collaborative approaches.

The project "**Cooperation for Sustainable Energy and Climate Actions' Planning and Monitoring in BSB**" is a significant initiative aimed at strengthening climate change adaptation strategies at the local and regional levels, focusing on improving climate resilience in regions across Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria. The project promotes collaboration between local authorities and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that enhance the sustainability of their regions and address the challenges posed by climate change.

Through a series of analyses and activities, Step2Clean aims to enhance the capacity of local authority's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in line with the European Green Deal and other EU strategies.

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## Current Situation and Capacity Analyses in Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

### Review of Existing Strategies and Context Analysis

The Desk Research report presents a comprehensive desk research analysis conducted across Türkiye, Greece, and Bulgaria, focusing on climate adaptation policies and strategies in key regions. This analysis involved an in-depth review of documents, policy papers, legislation, and strategic plans at national, regional, and local levels, encompassing sustainable urban development, energy efficiency, and zero-emission goals. For the Edirne Region in Türkiye, the research examined local and national frameworks to understand climate adaptation efforts specific to Uzunköprü. In Greece, the study centered on Kalamaria Municipality within Thessaloniki Regional Unit, exploring strategies aligned with the European Green Deal and sustainable urban mobility initiatives. In Bulgaria, efforts were focused on Burgas and Varna, analyzing climate adaptation strategies with a particular emphasis on waste management and urban sustainability. By synthesizing insights from various levels of governance and policy, this report offers a strategic overview to support Step2CleanPlan's objectives in advancing regional climate resilience and sustainability.

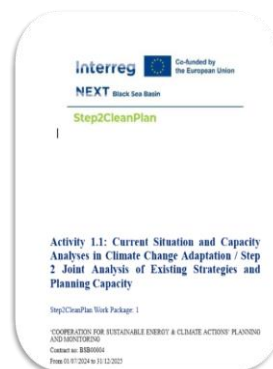
### Joint Analysis of Existing Strategies and Planning Capacity



"Joint Analysis of Existing Strategies and Planning Capacity" focuses on evaluating the preparedness and capacity of local and regional authorities to address climate change challenges. The document includes assessments in the following key areas:

1. **Assessment of Local and Regional Authorities' Capacity to Implement Climate Change Adaptation Strategies** – Examining how well local and regional authorities can implement strategies to adapt to climate change.
2. **Evaluation of Existing Planning Capacities** – Evaluating how effectively existing plans minimize carbon emissions, ensure energy efficiency, and incorporate adaptation measures.
3. **Analysis of Recovery and Resilience Plans in the Context of REPowerEU** – Analyzing the implementation and impact of recovery and resilience plans, particularly in alignment with the EU's REPowerEU strategy.

### Review and Summary of EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Tools



The review focuses on providing a detailed overview of the European Union's strategies and tools for climate change adaptation. The document includes the following areas:

1. **EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategies** – Analyzing the overarching strategies set by the EU to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts.
2. **EU Climate Change Adaptation Tools** – Evaluating the tools provided by the EU to assist in climate change adaptation efforts.
  - **2.1 Climate-Adapt Platform's Adaptation Support Tool** – Describing the platform and its features to support adaptation.
  - **2.2 Covenant of Mayors' Objectives and Adaptation Tools** – Discussing the Covenant of Mayors initiative and its specific tools for climate adaptation.
  - **2.3 Green Deal Transitional Instruments and Tools** – Reviewing tools linked to the EU Green Deal aimed at transitioning to sustainable practices.

### Joint Guide for Local Policymakers



Designed to provide actionable recommendations and guidelines for local authorities on implementing effective climate change strategies. It compiles:

1. **Tools, Instruments, and Lessons Learned from Local and European Experiences** – This section analyzes tools and instruments used at local and European levels, as well as key lessons learned from their application.
  2. **Best Practices for Planning and Implementing Climate Change Mitigation** – Focuses on the most effective practices for planning and implementing measures aimed at mitigating climate change.
  3. **Practical Examples and Recommendations for Local Adaptation Plans** – Provides practical examples of successful local adaptation plans, along with tailored recommendations for other municipalities.
- By following these steps, local policymakers can develop and implement effective climate change mitigation strategies that not only reduce carbon emissions but also enhance local climate resilience. Collaboration with stakeholders, continuous monitoring, and flexible planning will ensure the long-term success of the initiatives.

## Dissemination Meetings: Sharing Insights and Advancing Progress

### Launch Press Conference hosted by ANATOLIKI S.A.

On November 13, 2024, ANATOLIKI S.A., in collaboration with the Municipality of Kalamaria, organized a press conference to officially launch the project, which was attended by media representatives, municipal employees, and residents. The event took place in the Council Meeting Room of the Municipality. It was opened by Mrs. Eleftheria Zevgara from the Department of Planning and Development of the Municipality of Kalamaria, who spoke about the main objectives of the meeting. Greetings were then delivered by the Mayor of Kalamaria, Chrysa Arapoglou, as well as the Deputy Mayors Nikos Misirlis (Environment), Mary Tsirampidou (Cleaning), and Kostas Zacharias (Finance).



Ms. Vaso Papadopoulou, Director of Planning and Management of European Programs at ANATOLIKI S.A. and project manager, presented the actions and expected results of the Step2CleanPlan project, focusing on sustainability and adaptation to climate change. The project, with the final study, will attempt to capture the carbon footprint of the bio-waste of the Municipality of Kalamaria.

A discussion followed, during which the Mayor and Deputy Mayors highlighted the needs of the Municipality, identifying areas that require further strengthening. Through this discussion, areas of overlap and cooperation were identified, which can be utilized within the framework of the project's actions. This collaboration is expected to significantly contribute to addressing local challenges and enhancing initiatives for sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

It is worth noting that the timing of the event coincided with the 29th Global Leaders' Summit (COP29) on climate action, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 12-13, 2024.

### Presentation of Next Steps for the STEP2CleanPlan Project at CREA Centre, Byala



On 16.01.2025 in the CREA CENTRE of the town of Byala, Varna Region, the BIONET presented the next steps of the project STEP2CleanPlan.

With a useful conversation we identified ideas that will develop further dialogue and actions concerning the Urban Mobility Plan of the small but very active Byala Municipality. Nine representatives of the different stakeholders – local authority, local action groups, environmental NGOs.

Together with representatives of the local government and the NGO sector BIONET discussed the work on the analysis, the capacity gaps assessment and possible instruments to be used on raising awareness and ensuring the collaboration of the local community for developing and embracing the urban mobility plan. Partners discussed possible public events where the plan could be presented and tested, using the available resources – human, infrastructural and financial – e.g. through e-bikes community events and competitions, promotion on local festivals, cultural, and sport events, etc. The intention for creating the future Step2CleanPlan mentorship program was also presented, and the interest towards it was severe.

### The District Government of Burgas showcased the initiatives of the STEP2Cleanplan project

The District Government of Burgas presented the activities of the STEP2Cleanplan project under the action type 'Public Mobilization and Engagement; Citizen Engagement, Citizen Science, Youth-led Initiatives, Communities of Practice, Ocean and Water Literacy, Outreach, Awareness Raising, and Participatory Approaches and Water Literacy, Outreach, Awareness Raising, and Participatory Approaches.'"

More information on [https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/node/6979\\_en](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/node/6979_en)

Additionally, the District Government of Burgas successfully proposed and received approval for an initiative called 'Increasing the Capacity of Local Policymakers,' which is part of the larger 'Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters' Charter. This achievement highlights the region's commitment to enhancing the ability of local officials to address environmental challenges, particularly those related to ocean and water conservation.





# Key Milestones and Activities

## Stakeholder, Coordination and Expert Meetings: Fostering Collaboration and Progress

### Stakeholders meeting in Uzunköprü



A meeting with key stakeholders was held to review and discuss the findings of a survey on the current status of strategic planning and actions for climate adaptation and mitigation. The event took place in Uzunköprü on December 25, 2025, and gathered representatives from the University, local NGOs, the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Union, and the City Council.

### Online Management Meeting

In the 3rd online management meeting of the Step2Clean Plan team, held on January 22, 2025, the team discussed the following key topics:

1. **Progress Update:** The team reviewed the status of the project.
2. **Upcoming Deliverables:** The team outlined the upcoming deadlines, with the finalization of the expert reports and the elaboration of the Joint Guide for Local Policymakers expected in March 2025.
3. **Communication Strategy:** They discussed the importance of maintaining effective communication, including press releases and publications to ensure broad awareness and engagement with the project's objectives and activities.
4. **Next Steps:** The team planned the next joint steps, and ensuring all tasks are completed as scheduled.



### Experts' Meeting



In the 3rd online **experts' meeting** the discussion focused on the progress of the tasks. This phase of the project involves the experts' efforts to analyze existing local strategies and planning capacities, as well as summarizing European climate change adaptation strategies.

The main points discussed:

1. Expert Contributions and Task Updates
2. Summary of European Climate Change Adaptation Strategies
3. Deliverables for March 2025 (Report- Joint Guide)
4. Next Steps for Expert, and ensuring all tasks are completed as scheduled.

## A glimpse into the future" / Timeline and next steps

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### Step2CleanPlan

March 2025

- Joint Guide for Local Policy-Makers uploaded and disseminated

April – May  
2025

- Each partner Organize and Conduct One-Day Seminar in its area, presenting of the guide

April – May  
2025

- Design the Capacity Building Mentoring Program
- Starting call for mentees

May- June  
2025

- Study visits in Bulgaria and Greece

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### Project Partnership



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