



**RECIRCLE MED**

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## **SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLUE AND CIRCULAR TOURISM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - RECIRCLE MED**

Mobilisation Workshop & Western Balkans Forum  
December 3-4, 2025  
Ohrid, North Macedonia

Project Partners:





The **Mobilisation Workshop & Western Balkans Forum** in Ohrid marks an important milestone in the RECIRCLE MED project's efforts to support the transition of Mediterranean coastal destinations toward a blue and circular tourism model. As one of the project's receiving destinations, Ohrid plays a central role in demonstrating how tailored local action plans, developed through collaborative processes, can strengthen sustainability, resilience and competitiveness across the tourism sector. The workshop brings together key stakeholders from local authorities, academia, industry and Western Balkan regional structures to reflect on shared challenges, exchange best practices and contribute collectively to the advancement of blue and circular tourism approaches.

Over the two-day programme, participants will explore circular tourism concepts, take part in co-creation activities and engage in panel discussions addressing barriers, opportunities and potential funding pathways. These exchanges aim to inform the development of local **Blue Action Plans for Circular Tourism** and foster stronger cooperation among Western Balkan stakeholders.

The sessions will explore both local and Western Balkan perspectives, with dedicated discussions on institutional, technical and financial aspects influencing the adoption of blue and circular practices.

### **Day 1 – Mobilisation Workshop**

This first day focuses on *local engagement*, laying the foundation for adapting the RECIRCLE MED Blueprint and using presentations and co-creation activities to gather insights that will directly guide the development of Ohrid's Blue Action Plan for circular tourism.

### **Day 2 – Western Balkans Forum**

The second day broadens the conversation to a *regional level*, examining shared priorities and cooperation opportunities across the Western Balkans. It features two focused panel discussions:

*Panel 1: Western Balkan challenges and barriers toward blue and circular tourism*

- Addresses key obstacles at the Western Balkan level
- Highlights gaps or misalignments with EU/IPA frameworks
- Explores how coordination and targeted policy improvements can help overcome these barriers

*Panel 2: Opportunities for joint initiatives and potential funding*

- Showcases promising cross-border or multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Explores relevant funding instruments and requirements
- Identifies priorities that can support concrete implementation pathways





# Agenda

## Venue: Hotel Millenium Palace

Day 1: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

9.00-9.30	<i>Welcome coffee and Registrations</i>
9.30-10.00	<b>Institutional Opening</b>  Mayor of Ohrid, M-r. Kiril Pecakov  Dean of FTU Ohrid - Ms. Snezana Dicevska
10.00-10.20	<b>Introduction to RECIRCLE MED project</b>  Dora Papatheochari- University of Thessaly
10.20-11.00	<b>Blueprint for Blue Action Plans for Circular Tourism</b>  Julia Bonello- The Energy and Water Agency
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.30	<b>Interactive session (moderated by UTH and EWA)</b>
13.30-15.00	<i>Networking Lunch break</i>
15.00-16.15	<b>Blue and circular economy practices (moderated by OHRID)</b>  Spiros Pengas, Blue and Circular Tourism in Western Balkans: Opportunities, Challenges & The Path Forward.  Prof. Alexander Trajkov - Faculty for Tourism Ohrid, Blue and Circular Economy Practices in Tourism: Opportunities for Ohrid and the Western Balkans
16.15-16.30	<b>Wrap up and next steps (UTH)</b>





## Day 2: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

9.00-9.30	<i>Welcome coffee and Registrations</i>
9.30-11.30	<p><b>Panel discussions</b></p> <p><b><i>1st panel: Western Balkan challenges and barriers towards blue and circular tourism (moderated by UTH):</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzana Kasovska Georgieva, Western Balkans Circular Economy Hub</li> <li>• Stavros Kalognomos - Balkan &amp; Black Sea Commission of the CPMR (online)</li> <li>• Nebojsa Vraneš- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia</li> <li>• Kris Blazeski - HOTAM (Hotel Association of N. Macedonia)</li> </ul> <p><b><i>2nd panel: Opportunities for joint initiatives and potential funding (moderated by Andrea Vignoli-tbc)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zuica Zmejkovska, MK NIPAC Office/Ministry for European Affairs</li> <li>• Aleksandar Kuzmanoski - Chamber of Commerce of North Macedonia (online)</li> <li>• Spiros Pengas - Wise Ram, Thessaloniki, Greece</li> <li>• Prof. Kliment Naumov FTU / President of Association of tourist guides "KEJ"</li> </ul>
11.30-12.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12.00-13.00	<p><b>Implementation Pathways and Policy Uptake (moderated by LivingProspects)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orhideja Taseva, Hidrobological Institute Ohrid</li> <li>• Sofija Miladinaska - Ministry of Culture and Tourism</li> <li>• Saso Korunovski FTU Ohrid</li> </ul>
13.00	<i>Light lunch</i>

