



RECIRCLE MED

**Interreg
Euro-MED**



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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

RECIRCLE MED

Supporting the implementation of blue and circular tourism in the Mediterranean

Project Duration: 27 Months
(01/04/2025-30/06/2027)

Total Budget: € 1,484,490

EU Interreg Funding: € 1,187,592

8 Project Partners

13 Associated Organizations

4 Receiving Destinations (Pilot Areas)

Our Mission

RECIRCLE MED **empowers Mediterranean coastal tourism destinations to lead the transition towards a blue and circular tourism model**, using **practical tools** and fostering **collaborative action**.

The **innovation** of the project lies in the integration of available tools from past successful projects – **INCIRCLE project (Interreg MED 14/20)** and **REBOOT MED (EMFAF)** – into **action plans** which will include solutions towards a blue and circular tourism model related, among others, to waste and water management issues, and **will be adapted to the receiving destinations participating in the project**.

Our Approach

RECIRCLE MED provides a structured, **step-by-step transfer process** to assist coastal destinations in **developing and implementing tailored local action plans**.

The project **activities** are grouped into **3 main phases**:

1. **DESIGN:** Integration of tools - development of the RECIRCLE MED Blueprint - design of the transfer methodology - identification and mobilisation of stakeholders.
2. **TRANSFER:** Adaptation and implementation of the Blueprint at the receiving destinations - creation of Blue Action Plans for Circular Tourism - awareness raising and training.
3. **OFFSET:** Enhancement of the transfer outcomes visibility - promotion of their incorporation across different levels - facilitation of long-term sustainability and replicability.

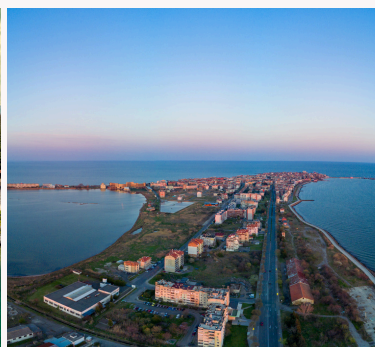
RECIRCLE MED Receiving Destinations



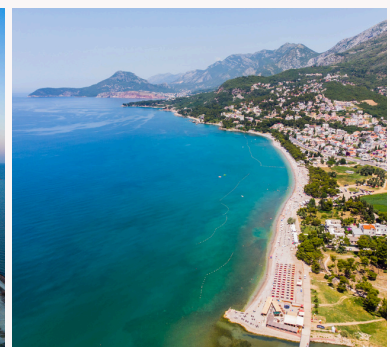
Cefalù, Italy



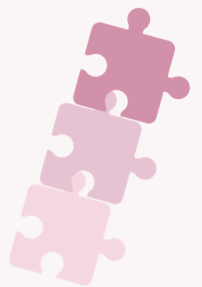
Ohrid, North Macedonia



Pomorie, Bulgaria



Bar, Montenegro





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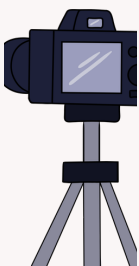
First Year Activities & Achievements

Partners'
Meetings



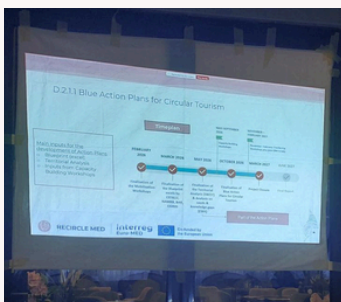
Kick-off & 1st Steering Committee Meeting Volos, Greece

After their very **first meeting online** in April, Project Partners had the pleasure to meet in person, in June, 2025, in Volos, Greece. The University of Thessaly, Lead Partner, hosted the entire partnership at their premises, paving the way for the project next steps.



2nd Steering Committee Meeting Ohrid, North Macedonia

Project Partners held their second meeting in person, in December 2025, in Ohrid, North Macedonia. Hosted by the Municipality of Ohrid, the partnership reviewed project progress and achievements to date, and prepared the next steps for implementation.





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Meetings among Partners & Associated Organizations

1st Meeting between project partners and associated organizations

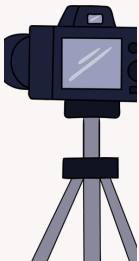
Project partners and associated organizations held their first meeting online on 17 October 2025, marking the start of their collaboration. The session introduced the project's objectives, structure, and activities, and clarified each partner's roles. The meeting laid the groundwork for continued cooperation and active engagement in the next project phases.

2nd Meeting between project partners and associated organizations

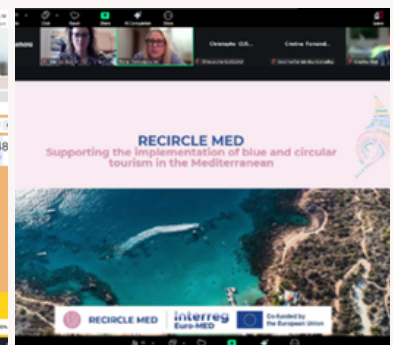
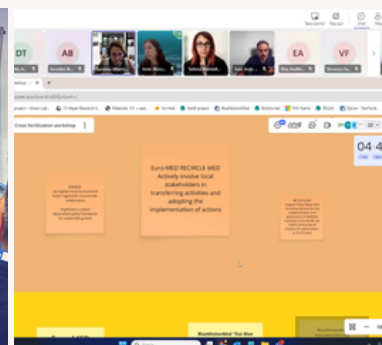
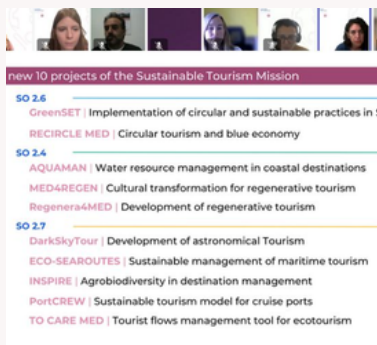
RECIRCLE MED partners and associated organizations met online again on 25 February 2026. The session featured the presentation of the Blueprint for Circular Tourism and key outcomes from local mobilisation workshops in Cefalù, Ohrid, and Pomorie. The meeting also outlined upcoming activities and next steps, reinforcing continued collaboration.



Participation to other Events



- May, 2025, **Welcoming meeting of the new Thematic Projects of the Sustainable Tourism Mission**, organized by the Community4Tourism Partnership online.
- June 2025, **Paths That Last** event, organized by the Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism in Split, Croatia.
- July 2025, **1st Cross-Fertilization Webinar between the BlueMissionMed and the Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission**: "Boosting Synergies for Innovative Solutions in Water Management, Depollution, and Restoration in the Mediterranean Basin."
- October 2025, Euro-MED **Sustainable Tourism Mission Meeting**, Tirana, Albania.
- December 2025, **Sustainable Blue Tourism online Capacity-Building Workshop**, organized by the BlueDots project.





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Mobilisation
Workshops

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Mobilisation Workshops



An integral part of the Project Activities, to facilitate the transferring of RECIRCLE MED developments, are the **Mobilisation, Capacity Building and Transferring Workshops**.

The process started with the **Mobilisation Workshops**, framed within the project activities from **November 2025, and concluded in March 2026**.



Local Mobilisation Workshops at each receiving destination: **Cefalù, Ohrid, Pomorie** and **Bar**, to engage local stakeholders, gather input for the development of their Action Plans and ensure alignment with local, regional and national frameworks.

A Mobilisation Forum in **Ohrid**, organised by the Municipality of Ohrid, back to back with the local mobilisation workshop, in the format of a **forum** addressed to the **Western Balkans**.

Purpose and Main Objectives of Mobilisation Workshops

- Adapt the blueprint to local needs.
- Identify institutional, technical, and data challenges.
- Raise awareness of blue and circular tourism initiatives.
- Highlight the benefits for destinations.
- Engage stakeholders in co-creating Action Plans.
- Align local strategies with regional, national, and EU/IPA policies.
- Gather feedback from local and regional stakeholders.
- Facilitate exchange of sustainable tourism solutions.
- Foster synergies among public and private actors.
- Strengthen transnational cooperation for knowledge exchange.





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The **mobilisation workshops** aimed to facilitate the proper adaptation and adoption of the **Blueprint** to advance blue and circular tourism in the receiving destinations, and wider, duly tailored to the specific needs and characteristics. At the same time, they offered participants an excellent opportunity to **learn, share experiences, and shape solutions collectively in a dynamic and participatory environment**.



But...what is the RECIRCLE MED Blueprint

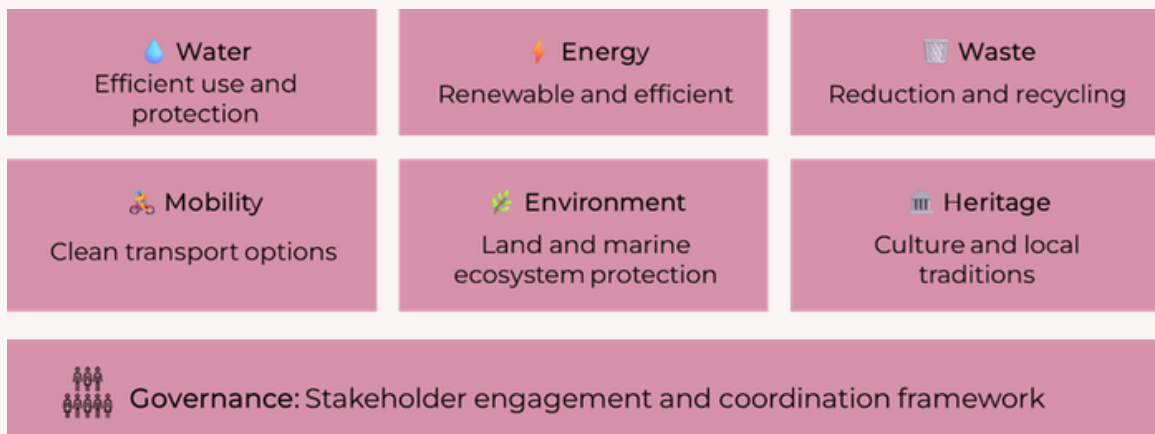
The Blueprint is a **practical tool** designed to support destinations in transitioning towards circular and blue tourism. The Blueprint foresees data collection and initial assessment, enabling stakeholders to assess existing tourism practices and policies, identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, measure performance using a structured scoring system and ensure a structured and evidence-based foundation for designing targeted and realistic Action Plans.



[RECIRCLE MED BLUEPRINT](#)



The 7 pillars of the Blueprint





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RECIRCLe MED launched its very own podcast series, **RECIRCLe MED Talks**.

- **Dora** Papatheohari (UTH, Lead Partner)
- **Andrea** Mullerat and **Estela** Delgado (ASCAME)
- **Konstantinos** Karampourniotis (Living Prospects)



The first episode of RECIRCLe MED Talks opens the conversation on how tourism in the Mediterranean can become more sustainable, circular, and resilient.



Over 700 visitors were informed about the Project during the **Għajn Open Weekend** at the National Water Conservation Awareness Centre in Malta, organized by the **Energy & Water Agency** in September 2025.

Visitors explored how:

- The circular economy (reusing resources) connects with the blue economy (protecting our coasts).
- Nature-based solutions, collaboration, and digital tools can help smaller tourist destinations become more resilient.
- We can shape together a more sustainable tourism model for the Mediterranean.





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What's next?



Dissemination of
Project Video

Organization of
the Project
Capacity
Building
Workshops

Participation to
the III MED
Sustainable
Tourism
Convention in
Barcelona

Dissemination of
Project Transfer
Guide

Collection of
Data & Blueprint
finalization for
the Project
Receiving
Destinations

Elaboration of
Territorial
Analysis for the
Project Receiving
Destinations

Organization of
next Project
Meeting

Production of
Training Material
for the
Programme
Euro-MED
Academy

... and much
more...





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RECIRCLE MED:
*Where blue meets green.
Join the tourism circle!*



Project Partners:

- University of Thessaly (Lead Partner, Greece)
- Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Spain)
- Energy and Water Agency (Malta)
- Municipality of Cefalù (Italy)
- National Association of the Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
- Municipality of Ohrid (North Macedonia)
- Municipality of Bar (Montenegro)
- Living Prospects Development & Environmental Services Ltd (Greece)

Associated Organizations:

- Pomorie Municipality (Bulgaria)
- Municipality of Zakynthos (Greece)
- Association of Sicilian Municipalities – ANCI Sicilia (Italy)
- Tourism organisation of Municipality of Bar (Montenegro)
- Hydrobiological Institute (North Macedonia)
- Regional Association of Italian Towns in Lazio – ANCI Lazio (Italy)
- Municipality of Central Corfu and Diapontian Islands (Greece)
- Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (Lebanon)
- Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre (Tunisia)
- The University of Jordan (Jordan)
- Regional Fund for Science and Technology (Portugal)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (Serbia)
- Chamber of Commerce Industry and Services of Region Tanger Tetuan Al Hoceima (Morocco)



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