

FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS
Portugal



MUNICIPALITY OF KLANJEC
Croatia



MUNICIPALITY OF SAFI
Malta



MUNICIPALITY OF REZEKNE
Latvia



MUNICIPALITY OF SUHINDOL
Bulgaria



MUNICIPALITY OF CURTEA DE ARGES
Romania



MUNICIPALITY OF LWOWEK SLASKI
Poland



MUNICIPALITY OF HÉHALOM
Hungary



MUNICIPALITY OF BUSINCE
Slovakia



ASSOCIATION POUR LE SOUTIEN A LA CITOYENNETE EUROPEENNE
France



THE ORGANIZATION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION & DEVELOPMENT
Finland



CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI PROGETTAZIONE E HOSTING INTERNAZIONALE
Italy



ONE TERRENE INTERNATIONAL GROUP
Cyprus

ASOCIACIÓN XUVENIL
Vrenza

ASOCIACION XUVENIL VRENZA
Spain





























TRANSFORMING TRAVEL INTO SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

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ASOCIACIÓN XUVENIL Vrenza

ASOCIACION XUVENIL VRENZA
Spain

Starlight Tourism in the Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park: Protecting Dark Skies through Responsible Visitor Experiences

The Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park—comprising the Cíes, Ons, Sálvora and Cortegada archipelagos—has been recognised as a Starlight Tourist Destination since 2016. Its exceptionally dark skies, low levels of light pollution and outstanding coastal landscape make the park a unique setting for astronomy-based tourism. Visitors can take part in guided stargazing activities, night-sky interpretation and educational experiences that connect astronomy with the marine environment, biodiversity and the cultural value of the islands.turismodeestrellas+1

This good practice links visitor experience with environmental protection. Starlight certification requires not only high-quality night skies but also a commitment to conserving the surrounding natural and landscape environment and providing an environmentally sustainable tourism offer. By encouraging guided, educational and low-impact activities rather than mass entertainment, the initiative helps raise awareness about light pollution, biodiversity and responsible behaviour in a protected area. It also diversifies the tourism offer beyond daytime beach visits, creating opportunities for specialised local guides and sustainable tourism services while reinforcing the protection of one of Galicia's most valuable coastal ecosystems.spain+1

Web for more information: https://illasatlanticas.gal/

MUNICIPALITY OF LWOWEK SLASKI
Poland

Lwówek Śląski: Sustainable Mobility, Cycling Tourism and a Town of Short Distances

Lwówek Śląski is developing practical mobility measures that benefit both residents and visitors. Former railway tracks are being converted into safe asphalt cycling paths, including a section connected to the EuroVelo 6 Euroregional Cycle Route, enabling tourists to explore the countryside and the area near the Bóbr Valley Landscape Park without relying on cars. The municipality also provides free public transport for allotment gardeners, helping residents and senior citizens reach green areas while reducing traffic and air pollution.

The town promotes a "city of short distances" by calming traffic in its historic square, improving pedestrian crossings and making daily journeys on foot easier and safer. Its low transport-tax rates support local bus operators and encourage investment in modern, lower-emission vehicles. In addition, the planned restoration of the railway connection from Legnica and Złotoryja, with a future extension towards Jelenia Góra, aims to reduce car dependency and improve access to environmentally friendly regional transport. Together, these measures demonstrate how a smaller town can link sustainable tourism, local mobility and climate action.

Web for more information: https://www.lwowekslaski.pl

KUNSILL LOKALI
ĦAL SAFI
MUNICIPALITY OF SAFI
Malta

Beyond the Tourist Hotspots: Transforming a Trip into a Sustainable Local Experience

Ħal Safi demonstrates how smaller Maltese localities can contribute to more sustainable tourism by encouraging visitors to move beyond traditional hotspots and discover villages, heritage and green spaces. Visitors can explore the locality through existing walking and heritage routes, historic streets and the surrounding rural landscape. Sir Alexander Ball's Garden, restored by the Ħal Safi Local Council, combines cultural heritage with rainwater collection, efficient irrigation and indigenous planting.

Rather than developing new purpose-built tourist attractions, the practice makes better use of existing cultural and natural assets, including traditional architecture, parish heritage, agricultural surroundings and beekeeping. It encourages a slower and more authentic form of travel, supports visitor dispersal across the island and reduces pressure on heavily visited areas. Greener public spaces, walking routes and the Local Council's electric vehicle for residents contribute to a tourism model that protects biodiversity, adapts to hotter and drier conditions and benefits local communities.

Web for more information: https://safilc.gov.mt/en/

ОБЩИНА СУХИНДОЛ
MUNICIPALITY OF SUHINDOL
Bulgaria

Suhindol: A Sustainable Travel Experience through Local Wine, Nature and Cultural Heritage

Suhindol Municipality transforms its long-standing traditions in viticulture and winemaking into a sustainable travel experience that combines local culture, natural heritage and green-economy principles. Beyond wine tasting, visitors are invited to experience the authentic lifestyle of the region through meetings with local producers, wine festivals, traditional cuisine and visits to cultural and natural attractions.

The practice encourages visitors to stay in family-run accommodation, eat in local restaurants and buy locally produced goods. This keeps tourism income within the community, supports small businesses and reduces the need for long supply chains. By linking tourism with local production, cultural heritage and environmental protection, Suhindol offers a transferable model of responsible travel that strengthens community resilience and creates value for both residents and visitors.

Web for more information: https://suhindol.bg

ASSOCIATION POUR LE SOUTIEN
A LA CITOYENNETE EUROPEENNE
France

ATR: Promoting Responsible Tourism and Low-Carbon Travel

ATR – *Agir pour un Tourisme Responsable* – is a French association that promotes responsible and sustainable tourism. It brings together tourism professionals committed to reducing the environmental impact of travel while supporting local communities, cultures and economies. ATR also develops practical tools, training programmes and European projects that encourage tourism professionals and travellers to adopt lower-carbon travel practices.

The practice shows how the tourism sector can become more environmentally responsible without losing its social and cultural value. By raising awareness of the emissions associated with transport and tourism, promoting sustainable mobility and encouraging tourism that benefits local populations, ATR supports the transition towards a lower-carbon tourism model. Its work demonstrates that travel can remain enriching while protecting local cultures, reducing climate impacts and contributing to more balanced development.

Web for more information: https://www.tourisme-responsable.org/

MUNICIPALITY OF KLANJEC
Croatia

Biological Pool Pregrada: Sustainable Recreation through Nature-Based Water Treatment

The Biological Pool Pregrada is an innovative public bathing and recreation complex designed as a self-sustaining natural lake ecosystem. Located on the historic site of the town's former public bath beside the Kosteljina stream, the 5,000 m² complex includes a 1,627 m² water basin with separate swimming and biological treatment zones. Water is purified without chemicals through aquatic plants, gravel filter substrates and a dry-filtration system, while the sealed basin and external drainage protect groundwater and surrounding areas from contamination.

The project transforms a leisure destination into a sustainable tourism experience by combining ecological infrastructure, local heritage and community benefits. Its facilities include inclusive playgrounds, year-round wellness services and Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings supplied by an on-site rooftop solar power plant. Green roofs, planted trees and wetland vegetation support biodiversity and help reduce local heat-island effects, while the project encourages longer stays and cooperation with local farms and hospitality providers.

Web for more information: https://www.klanjec.hr

FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS
Portugal

Sustainable Tourism in Central Portugal: Nature, Local Communities and Green Experiences

Sustainable tourism in Central Portugal focuses on protecting natural areas and supporting local communities in line with the 2030 Agenda. The region promotes green visitor experiences, environmental certification and continuous monitoring of the tourism sector through Turismo Centro de Portugal. This approach responds to a growing demand for more balanced travel, in which visitors seek contact with nature, slower rhythms and accommodation providers that apply responsible environmental practices.

The practice recognises the direct relationship between tourism and climate change. Transport, accommodation, food and shopping all contribute to the sector's environmental footprint, making energy efficiency, circular-economy principles and low-carbon mobility essential. By encouraging more responsible travel choices and supporting destinations outside major urban centres, Central Portugal can reduce tourism pressures while safeguarding landscapes, community wellbeing and the long-term sustainability of the visitor economy.

Web for more information: https://turismodocentro.pt

C.E.P.H.I.
Centro Educativo di Progettazione e Hosting Internazionale

CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI PROGETTAZIONE E HOSTING INTERNAZIONALE
Italy

Sile Green Way: Discovering Treviso through Slow and Sustainable Mobility

The Sile Green Way is a sustainable tourism practice centred on discovering the Sile River territory by bicycle and on foot. It connects Treviso with its waterways, natural landscapes, riverside villages, cultural heritage and local communities. Through the wider GiraSile network, visitors can access approximately 125 kilometres of walking, cycling and water-based routes that link springs, wetlands, historic mills, Venetian villas, towpaths, archaeological sites and local productive areas.

The practice turns the journey itself into part of the visitor experience. It combines low-impact mobility with environmental education, biodiversity observation, cultural discovery, local food and contact with residents, producers, schools and small businesses. By encouraging cycling, walking, responsible behaviour in protected areas, low-waste travel and local consumption, the Sile Green Way reduces dependence on private cars and supports climate awareness, local economic value and more sustainable tourism in the Treviso area.

Web for more information: https://cephi.weebly.com/

MUNICIPALITY OF BUSINCE
Slovakia

CROSS-IP: Sustainable Tourism and Green Mobility along the Ipeľ River

The Municipality of Bušince is developing a sustainable tourism project along the Ipeľ River with cross-border partners from Slovakia and Hungary. The CROSS-IP project, currently scheduled to continue until 2027, connects walking, cycling and water tourism while creating new visitor infrastructure and services. These include a campsite for caravans, facilities for cyclists and canoeists, and opportunities to explore the natural and cultural heritage of the river area.

A central feature of the project is the introduction of an electric vehicle for transporting tourists and visitors, producing zero direct emissions during operation. A dedicated trailer for bicycles and canoes will allow visitors to combine electric mobility with cycling, walking and water-based activities. The project reduces dependence on conventional motor vehicles, supports cleaner tourism, protects the Ipeľ River landscape and creates economic opportunities for local services and cross-border cooperation between rural communities.

Web for more information: https://www.facebook.com/ObecBusinceBussa

MUNICIPALITY OF HÉHALOM
Hungary

Cserhát Nature Park Greenway: Connecting Ecotourism, Local Communities and Sustainable Mobility

The Cserhát Nature Park Greenway is a network of multifunctional routes that supports recreation, nature discovery and sustainable travel. Following natural corridors such as valleys, rivers, mountain ridges, canals and existing trails, the Greenway connects settlements with cultural monuments, parks and natural attractions. It can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, helping visitors experience the Cserhát Mountains and surrounding rural communities through low-impact mobility.

The practice was selected because ecotourism can protect natural resources while strengthening local economies. The Cserhát Nature Park brings together nature-tourism sites into a shared destination and helps attract visitors seeking sustainable experiences to nearby settlements such as Héhalom. By promoting travel in the spring and autumn seasons, as well as hiking, cycling, e-bike routes and rail-based options, the practice reduces dependence on car travel and supports both climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

Web for more information: https://cserhatnaturpark.hu

MALTAS APVIENĪBAS PĀRVALDE
MUNICIPALITY OF REZEKNE
Latvia

Creative House "Leiceiši": Rural Life, Meadow Restoration and Circular Learning

Creative House "Leiceiši" is a small family-run rural initiative in Rēzekne Municipality that combines environmentally friendly farming, creative recycling and non-formal education. Its work includes restoring natural meadows through extensive livestock farming, growing organic blackcurrants and sharing rural life with children, young people and adult visitors through camps, workshops and hands-on activities. The initiative also runs the family business *Puordare*, which means "recycling" in the Latgalian language.

The practice uses tourism and education to encourage sustainable everyday choices. Visitors can take part in paper-making and screen-printing workshops, learn to make reusable beeswax cloths as alternatives to disposable plastic, and create natural household products that reduce dependence on conventional chemicals. By combining meadow restoration, organic production, waste reduction and environmental learning, Leiceiši protects biodiversity, supports healthier ecosystems and shows how a small rural enterprise can create an authentic, low-impact visitor experience.

Web for more information: http://www.radosaseta.lv/home/

MUNICIPIUL CURTEA DE ARGES
Romania

Vidraru Dam: Connecting Renewable Energy, Nature and Sustainable Tourism

Vidraru Dam, located near Curtea de Argeș on the Transfăgărășan road, is an important example of how renewable energy, mountain landscapes and tourism can coexist. Completed in 1966, the dam and hydroelectric plant use water to generate electricity, while the surrounding lake, forests and mountains attract visitors interested in landscape photography, walking, hiking, cycling and outdoor activities. The practice highlights the potential of tourism to support local accommodation, restaurants, guides, shops and other small businesses.

The area also illustrates why tourism must respect environmental limits. Climate-related droughts, heavy rainfall, changing water levels and extreme heat can affect rivers, lakes, forests and visitor experiences. The ongoing modernisation of the dam and hydroelectric plant, including the controlled emptying of Vidraru Lake initiated in 2025, is intended to maintain the safety and long-term operation of this renewable-energy asset. Future development should prioritise quality tourism, better walking and cycling infrastructure, responsible visitor behaviour, shared transport, waste reduction and the protection of local ecosystems.

Web for more information: https://www.hidroelectrica.ro

THE ORGANIZATION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION & DEVELOPMENT
Finland

Community-Led Coastal Resilience and Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative

OPAD Finland's initiative links marine protection, climate adaptation and poverty alleviation in coastal communities. It combines shoreline clean-up campaigns, climate education workshops, blue-economy innovation hubs and community-led planning with local capacity building. The initiative promotes sustainable fisheries, seaweed farming and eco-tourism as greener livelihood alternatives, while prioritising women and young people for technical training, leadership roles and participation in coastal-resource management.

The model recognises that environmental protection and secure livelihoods must progress together. Through partnerships with municipalities, research institutions and civil-society organisations, it aims to protect biodiversity, improve climate-resilient infrastructure and create green income opportunities. By diversifying local livelihoods and promoting responsible use of marine resources, the practice strengthens communities' capacity to respond to coastal erosion, flooding, ecosystem loss and other climate-related pressures.

Web for more information: https://www.opad.eu

otigroup.org

ONE TERRENE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

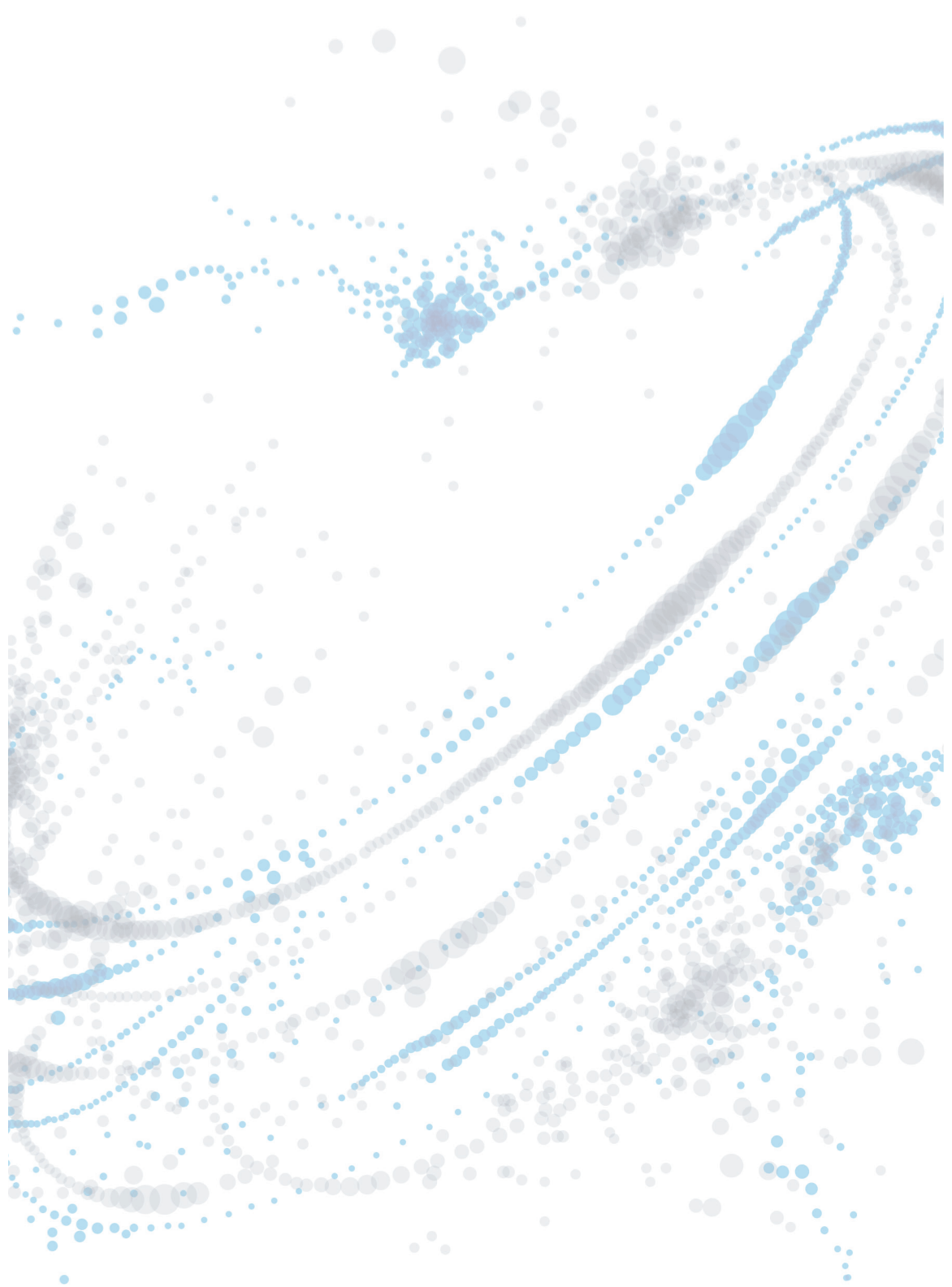
Cyprus

Sustainable Hotel Gardens in Cyprus

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative, in cooperation with the Travel Foundation and Cooperative Travel, developed the *Sustainable Hotel Gardens in Cyprus* initiative to improve water management and biodiversity in tourism accommodation. The project prepared plans to redesign five hotel gardens using endemic plant species and produced a Best Practice Guide with practical tools for maintenance managers, gardeners, quality teams and sustainability staff.

The initiative demonstrates how hotels and apartment complexes can lower water consumption and maintenance costs while maintaining attractive outdoor spaces for visitors. In a country affected by water scarcity and increasingly dry conditions, efficient irrigation and drought-resilient indigenous planting help tourism facilities adapt to climate change, protect local landscapes and strengthen biodiversity. The practice is practical, replicable and particularly relevant for Mediterranean destinations.

Web for more information: https://www.csti-cyprus.org



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