

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Bonding Cities for a Bio-Driven and Sustainable Urban Future - BioBOND
Participant:	INSTITOUTO PROOTHISIS KAI PISTOPOIISIS PROIONTON AGRODIATROFIS
PIC number:	899718069

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number :	1		
Event name:	BioBOND Event “Building Sustainable Communities for a Greener Future”		
Type:	Conference - Workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Alexandreia, Greece		
Date(s):	05.05.2026 - 07.05.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://iagrocet.gr/biobond/		
Participants			
Female:	163		
Male:	89		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Greece]:	45		
From country 2 [Italy]:	5		
From country 3 [Poland]:	5		
From country 4 [Bulgaria]:	167		
From country 5 [Serbia]:	30		
Total number of participants:	252	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The BioBOND project, titled “Bonding Cities for a Bio-Driven and Sustainable Urban Future”, was implemented under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme, within the framework			

of the Town Twinning action. The event took place in Greece from 5 to 7 May 2026, with the main conference activities hosted at the Cultural Center of Alexandria.

The initiative was organised by the Institute for Promotion and Certification of Agri-Food Products, in cooperation with the Municipality of Alexandria, bringing together representatives from five participating countries: Greece, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and Serbia. The partner consortium included the Institute for Promotion and Certification of Agri-Food Products from Greece, Comune di Calimera from Italy, Gmina Andrespol from Poland, Petrich Municipality from Bulgaria and Regionalna Razvojna Agencija Backa DOO Novi Sad from Serbia.

BioBOND was designed as a three-day Town Twinning initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation between European municipalities and communities around sustainable urban transformation. The event brought together local authorities, civil society organisations, youth representatives, citizens and community actors, creating an inclusive environment for dialogue, knowledge exchange and shared reflection on the future of European towns.

The project focused on key challenges faced by urban communities, including climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, sustainable public spaces, civic engagement and inclusive local governance. Closely aligned with the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus initiative, BioBOND promoted the idea that greener and more resilient cities can be built through cooperation between municipalities, citizens and local stakeholders.

Objectives of BioBOND

- Promote sustainable urban development through the exchange of ideas, practices and local experiences between European communities.
- Enhance knowledge exchange and capacity building among municipalities, local authorities, civil society organisations and citizens.
- Foster transnational cooperation and strengthen European identity through Town Twinning and cross-border collaboration.
- Encourage the development of greener, more inclusive and more resilient public spaces.
- Support civic engagement and inclusive participation in environmental and urban decision-making.
- Connect European policy priorities with local realities, helping communities understand how frameworks such as the European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Circular Economy Action Plan and the EU Climate Pact can inspire local action.

Agenda Overview

Day 1 - Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Theme: Arrival and Welcome

Venue: in situ, Alexandria, Imathia, Greece

The first day was dedicated to the arrival of participants and the creation of a welcoming environment for the partner delegations. Participants arrived according to their group schedules and were welcomed in an informal setting that encouraged first introductions and initial exchanges among the representatives of the participating countries. The day helped establish a friendly and collaborative atmosphere, allowing participants to get to know one another before the main conference activities.

In the evening, participants took part in a welcome dinner, which offered the opportunity for networking, dialogue and the first sharing of expectations regarding the BioBOND Town Twinning event. This opening moment contributed to building trust between the delegations and set the tone for the discussions, knowledge exchange and cooperation that would follow during the next days of the programme.

Day 2 - Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Theme: Sustainable Urban Transformation and Eco-friendly Public Spaces

Venue: in situ, Alexandria, Imathia, Greece

The second day formed the core of the BioBOND event. It opened with registrations, welcome coffee, institutional greetings and an introduction to the Town Twinning project. Representatives from the participating organisations presented their local contexts and highlighted the importance of cooperation between European towns in addressing shared environmental and social challenges.

The programme included expert-led sessions on public spaces, European environmental policies, eco-friendly practices and behavioural change. Participants explored how EU priorities can be connected with local strategies and how public spaces can become greener, more inclusive and more responsive to community needs. Particular attention was also given to best practices from partner communities, including projects undertaken by young people to support local environmental action and civic engagement.

Key Sessions:

- “Transforming Public Spaces for Sustainability”
- “Exploring EU Policies for Sustainable Urban Transformation”
- “Best Practices for Eco-friendly Public Spaces and Youth-led Projects”
- “Behavioral Change and Community Well-being in Sustainable Cities”
- Closing remarks and summary of key insights

Day 3 - Thursday, 7 May 2026

Theme: Reflection, Next Steps and Departure

Venue: in situ, Alexandria, Imathia, Greece

The final day focused on reflection and follow-up. Participants had the opportunity to exchange impressions, reflect on the main takeaways of the event and discuss how the ideas presented during BioBOND could inspire future local initiatives and cooperation between partner communities.

Key Activities:

- Reflection on the main outcomes of the event.
- Exchange of impressions among participants.
- Discussion on future cooperation.
- Departure of participants according to each group’s schedule.

Results & Outcomes

The BioBOND event contributed to strengthening cooperation between European municipalities and local communities around sustainable urban transformation. Participants developed a better understanding of how European policy priorities, such as the European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Circular Economy Action Plan and the EU Climate Pact, can be connected with local action.

The event supported the exchange of good practices on sustainable public spaces, climate adaptation, biodiversity protection and civic engagement. It also reinforced the importance of involving citizens, young people, women and underrepresented groups in local decision-making processes related to sustainability and urban development.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the BioBOND event demonstrated the added value of Town Twinning in connecting European communities and promoting cooperation around shared environmental challenges. Discussions highlighted that greener and more resilient cities require not only policy frameworks and technical solutions, but also active citizens, inclusive governance and collaboration between municipalities, civil society and local stakeholders.

Overall, BioBOND showed that sustainable urban transformation can be strengthened when European communities exchange experiences, share practical ideas and place citizens at the centre of local development.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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