

INCIRCLE

PROJECT

TOURISM



Support INSular and low density areas
in the transition towards a more
CIRCULAR tourism Economy



HIMARA

What is a Circular Economy?

Until now, we knew that the life cycle of a product was divided into three phases: creation – use – disposal.

In a circular economy, products are not discarded at the end of their life but designed so their life cycle can follow a different route:

reduction – reuse – recycling – recovery.

In this way, their life cycle is extended and better use of natural resources is achieved while avoiding waste.

A circular economy significantly extends the life cycle of goods and reduces waste of natural resources.

What is Circular Tourism?

Since tourism activities place a particular burden on the environment, the application of circular economy principles to the tourism sector – so called “circular tourism” – is especially important in combating the impacts of climate change.

Benefits of the Circular Economy on Tourism

The circular economy does not add restrictions or complex procedures to tourism activity, as some fear, but it does support tourism enterprises in distinguishing themselves for their environmental awareness, helping them to conserve resources, innovate and become more sustainable overall.

Some benefits of shifting to Circular Tourism are:

- Greater environmental awareness of professionals, residents and visitors in a particular place
- Showcasing and protecting the natural environment and the landscape, while protecting the natural resources of a region
- Establishing innovative enterprises to help rejuvenate the local economy and reduce unemployment
- Boosting local production while highlighting the local cultural heritage, history and local products
- Attracting visitors who are already environmentally aware and desire to leave a small environmental footprint while staying at their destination

Circular Tourism can improve the quality of life of the local population, as well as the tourism experience of visitors.

Municipality of Himara

Municipality of Himara is one of the areas with the most diverse characteristics in the Republic of Albania.

This diversity appears both in its terrain and geographical characteristics as well as in the cultural and demographic diversity. Municipality of Himara with the administrative unit of Lukova is one of the most frequented areas during the summer tourist season and makes what is known as Albanian Riviera.

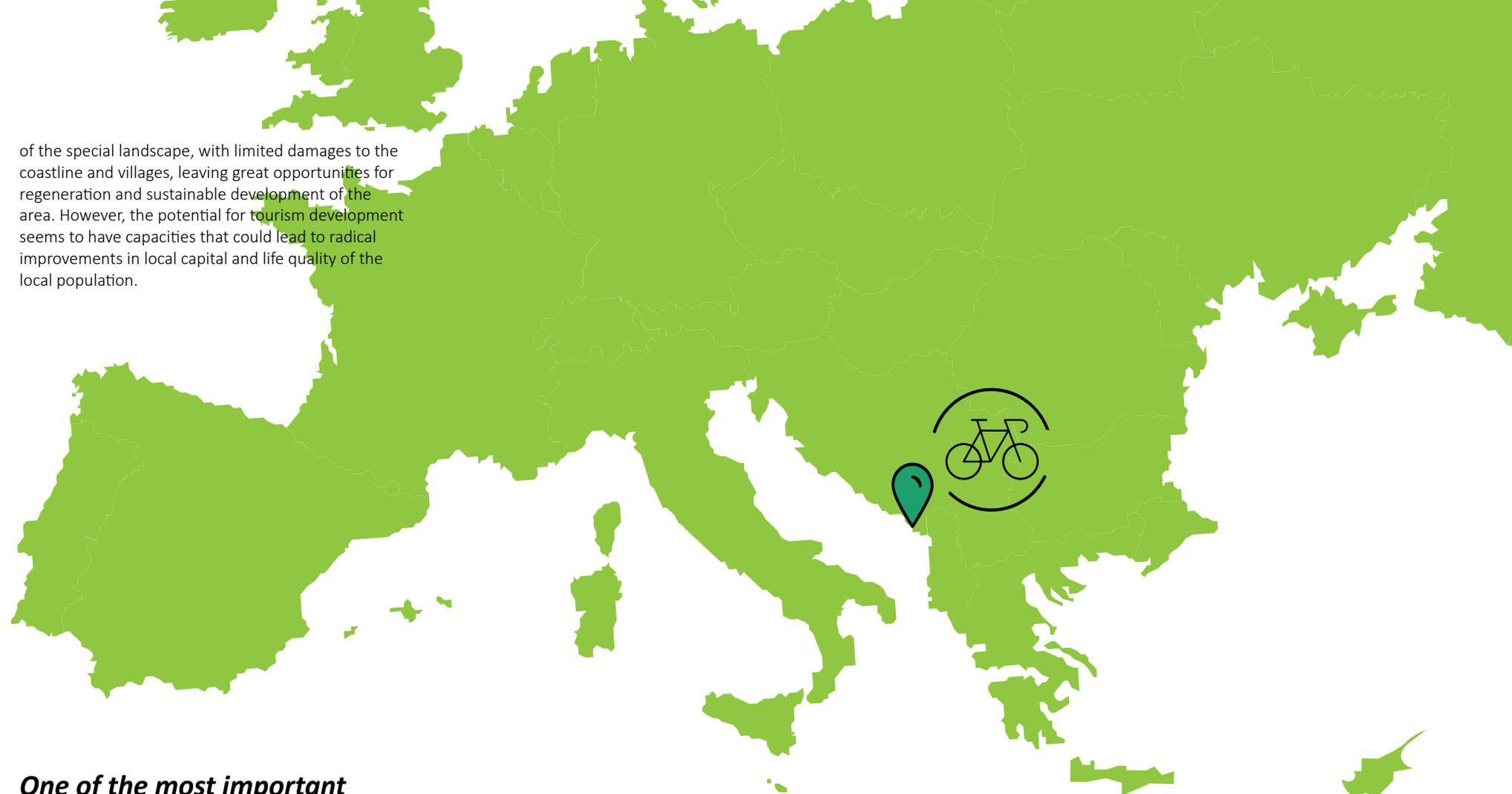
With a focus on tourism and agro-tourism, the Municipality of Himara hosts a considerable number of foreign and domestic tourists. According to INSTAT and various agencies records the area of Albanian Riviera hosts foreign tourists mainly from Poland, Germany and Scandinavian Countries. Therefore, the focus of investments is mainly on facilitating tourism and at the same time on protecting natural resources.

The benefits and impacts of tourism for the area

Although the coastal area of Himara is the largest and most attractive part of the Albanian Riviera, it currently faces a major dilemma regarding its future development. Despite the significant improvement in roads quality during the last years and the increase of the average driving speed, the arrival time to the administrative center is relatively long, Although the distances are not considerable it takes 4 hours from Tirana to Himara and 2 hours from Vlora to Himara. This has led to the isolation of the area for most of the year with the exception of the summer season. This isolation has so far retained the characteristics and the identity

of the special landscape, with limited damages to the coastline and villages, leaving great opportunities for regeneration and sustainable development of the area. However, the potential for tourism development seems to have capacities that could lead to radical improvements in local capital and life quality of the local population.

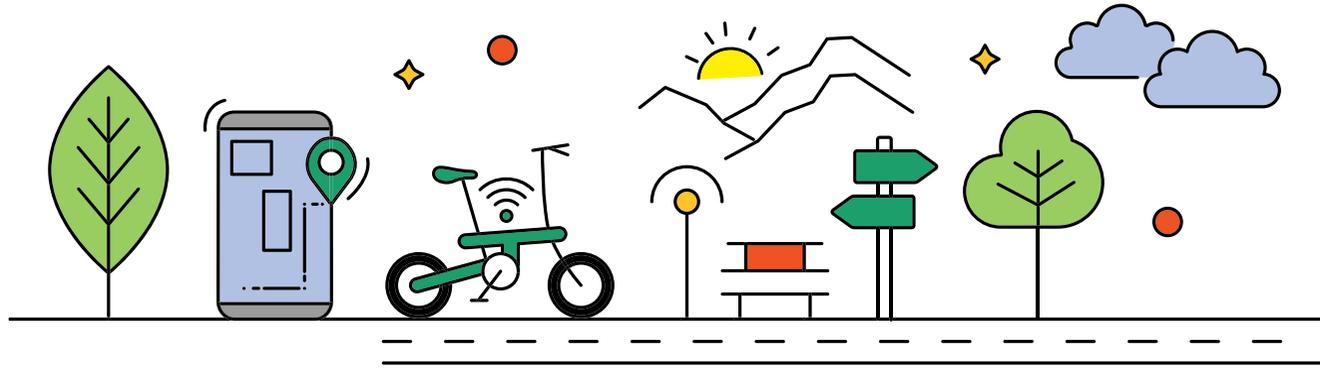
One of the most important priorities for the Municipality of Himara is to have a sustainable tourism economy.



27,049
residents

572.22
km² in area

INCIRCLE | Pilot Programme



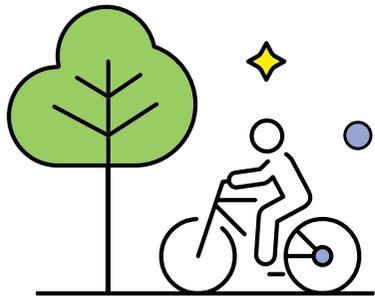
Himara is one of five cities in the INCIRCLE project where Circular Economy pilot actions are taking place.

Specifically, Municipality of Himara takes action and tests a CE solution focused on sustainable mobility.

PILOT ACTION

Objective: Supporting alternative mobility patterns such as cycling.

How: Creating a network of bicycle routes and bike stations connecting different beaches. The bike route, almost 3.5 kilometers in length, is now the new alternative way by which the tourists and locals can connect.



Harmonization with the regional and national strategy for the circular economy

With the aim of adopting and implementing the national strategy for the circular economy and taking into account local needs, Himara Municipality elaborates a Local Action Plan which guarantees a sustainable development. Specifically:

Protection

and increase of biodiversity, protected areas and species, as well as the protection of natural heritage and the environment in accordance with European and international commitments.

Improvement of waste management

to reduce risks to public health, the environment, and trade in accordance with EU requirements.

Provision of the drinking water

for the entire population and protection of all surface and groundwater resources.

Sustainable urban development

and land use planning.

Land protection and improvement

with the intention of making it more fertile, minimizing erosion and preventing pollution.

Ensuring sustainable economic development

with a focus on agro-tourism, agriculture and supporting the rural economy.

HOW I CAN BECOME PART OF THE CIRCLE:

Sustainable tourist habits



Sustainable Mobility

- Before my trip, I can find out and learn about the infrastructure and sustainable mobility services available at my destination to minimize travel by car and ensure a smaller carbon footprint.
- I choose to get to know a place on foot, by bicycle and using public transport, travelling at a time of day when it is more pleasant and possible.



Waste Management

- I make sure to recycle as much as possible at the source, properly separating waste.
- I respect the natural environment at all times. I keep the beaches and the places I visit clean.
- I avoid single-use plastics, preferring reusable or biodegradable utensils for everyday use (e.g. for storing and consuming water and food).



Water Efficiency

- I choose to wash regularly used items (e.g. towels, bathing suits) by soaking them in a basin, rather than rinsing them under running water.
- I avoid changing towels every day at my accommodation.



Energy Efficiency

- When I leave the hotel, I make sure to unplug all electrical devices and to turn off the air conditioning/heating.



General Advice

- When deciding where to stay, I choose businesses that follow sustainable practices.
- I support local businesses and local producers and help strengthen the local economy.
- I use electricity, water and other natural resources in the area frugally.





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