# **EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[LOCAL GREEN DEALS: OUR MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION - WE 4 GREEN]
	Ref N. 101138490 - CERV-2023-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT
Participant:	[COMUNE DI OTTIGLIO] (OTTIGLIO - ITALY)
PIC number:	883830342

EVENT DESCRIPTION				
Event number:	Deliverable D5.1 – WE4GREEN EVENT			
Event name:	WP5 - EVENT 5 – WE4GREEN online European Conference			
Type:	[Network of Towns Event 5: ONLINE FINAL EVENT]			
In situ/online:	/online			
Location:	[POLAND)], online			
Date(s):	[15 – 16 October 2025]			
Website(s) (if any):	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/We4Green-Project			
Participants				
Female:	133			
Male:	112			
Non-binary:	0			
From country: POLAND Suwalky City Municipality	110			
From country: LATVIA Jelgava Local Municipality	28			
From country: ITALY Ottiglio Municipality	20			
From country: ITALY Cella Monte Municipality	11			
From country: CYPRUS Platres Community Council	10			
From country: ITALY Rosignano Monferrato Municipality	11			
From country: ITALY Ozzano Monferrato Municipality	13			
From country: ITALY Camagna Monferrato Municipality	18			

From country: ITALY Sala Monferrato Municipality	9	
From country: SPAIN La Palma del Condado	15	
Total number of participants:	245	From total number of countries: 5

#### **Description**

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

### WP5 - EVENT 5 – WE4GREEN online European Conference

#### D5.1 – WE4GREEN EVENT 5

Place: Online

<u>Lead Beneficiary</u>: **SUWAŁKI CITY (PL)**Dates of the event: **15 – 16 October 2025** 

Number of countries involved: 5 [5 foreign countries (Poland, Cyprus, Poland, Latvia, Italy]

Effective total number of individual direct Participants: (more than 202) = 245.

Number of invited/international participants per country:

from LV = 30 From IT = 80 From CY = 10 from ES = 15 from PL = 110

## Brief description of the Event 5:

The project, approved by the European Commission under the call 2023 NETWORK OF TOWNS, has been carried out over 24 months: from December 1, 2023 until the end of November 2025.

Members of the partnership are from 5 different countries: Poland - Suwałki City Municipality, Latvia - Jelgava Local Municipality, Cyprus - Platres Community Council, Spain - La Palma del Condado Municipality; Italy - Ottiglio, Camagna Monferrato, Rosignano Monferrato, Sala Monferrato, Ozzano Monferrato and Cella Monte Municipalities.

The transnational project allows the 10 Municipalities and their citizens, to activate events, debates, meetings for the green topics, actions for local Green Deals, fighting the climate change and promoting the environmental sustainability. The Municipality of Ottiglio (Lead Partner) and the other partner municipalities are exploring topics such as the Green transition, the circular economy, applied renewable energies, sustainable waste management and the fight against climate change, from their local perspectives. The main project aim is to develop Local Green Deals - Local green pacts at any municipal level: a tailor-made local action plan to accelerate and expand the green transition of every single territory involved in the 5 European countries.

The workplan foresees **5 Work packages** with five WPs dedicated to Events, visits and training: 3 events in situ & 2 online. This was the final Event, held online in Conference format, that will be followed by Follow up phase.

The Project Event n. 5 was organised by Suwałki City (Poland).

The other 9 Partner Municipalities fully participated into its organisation and realisation, also under the coordination of the **Municipality of Ottiglio** (leader).

The event was an **online European Conference**, lasted 2 days combining **Part 1–day 1** and **Part 2–day 2**. The online workshop focused on the municipalities and cities as cornerstones to deliver the European Green Deal on the ground. The common path, started from the general need of improving the Green Deal overall knowledge, moved each partner to act and give a contribution to the Green Deal implementation from a local perspective, at territorial level.

As planned into the Application Part B and stated in the G.A.

The Event ensured the presence of the expected number of participants which never fell below 202 per day.

The **WE4GREEN European Conference (Event n 5)**, held online on **15–16 October 2025**, marked the fifth major event within the European project "Local Green Deals: Our Municipalities for the Green Transition". Organised by Suwałki City (PL) and coordinated by the Municipality of Ottiglio (IT), the project brought together partners from Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Spain and Latvia. The conference served as a milestone for sharing achievements, best practices, and future perspectives on sustainable governance, climate adaptation and community-based green transformation.

Moderated by **Emil Sieńko**, Chief Specialist for Mayor Service, Social Communication and Promotion at the City Hall of Suwałki and WE4GREEN Project Referent in Suwałki City, the event was hosted on the CISCO Webex online platform, connecting more than 2 hundreds of participants from across Europe - local government representatives, researchers, environmental experts and civil society actors.

# 15 October 2025 Online conference

9:30 - 12:30 CET

Online platform Link:

https://umsuwalki.webex.com/umsuwalkien/j.php?MTID=m8f38a14f5bb8d3adc7cecd6d53fd93a4



# DAY 1 – 15th October 2025.

Day 1 agenda was held from 9.30 to 12:30 CET:

# Access and Registration

Conference Moderator welcome: Emil Sieńko



#### Introduction

General overview of the Event by Conference Moderator: **Opening of the WE 4 GREEN 5**<sup>th</sup> **EVENT** 

# WE4GREEN Welcome Speeches

- Welcome speech by Marcin Bonisławski, the Vice-Mayor of Suwałki City
- **Welcome speech** by **Luminita Stanciulescu**, Project Officer European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), established by the European Commission

### **Local Polish Cases**

- Jerzy Gałązka, acting Head of Environmental Protection Department, City Hall of Suwałki, Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the City of Suwałki until 2030
- Jacek Szulc, Chief Specialist Development and External Funds Department City Hall of Suwałki, The experience of Suwałki City in recent years and plans for the current EU perspective 2021-2027 in the implementation of green projects and renewable energy sources

## Cases from the Partnership

- Italy Khalil Abid Department of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences University of Turin, Farming in the age of microplastics pollution: can livestock stay sustainable?
- Latvia Evija Ērkšķe, Project manager, environmental and energy specialist of Zemgale Planning Region, Increasing social acceptance for wind energy through environmental and community-based planning: BIOWIND project
- Italy Guido Gabotto, President Cosmo SpA Casale Monferrato, Waste disposal and treatment policies in Monferrato

Questions time. Debate

### Closing speech for Day 1:

- Massimo Pasciuta, WE4GREEN Coordinator and Mayor of Ottiglio, Sustainability, health and emerging diseases
- Closing comments for Day 1: Emil Sieńko, WE4GREEN Project Referent, City Hall of Suwałki City

The first day began with access and registration at 9:30 CET. Emil Sieńko welcomed participants, introducing the daily agenda and emphasizing the importance of inter-municipal cooperation within the WE4GREEN framework and guick Menti research was made.

The formal opening followed at 10:10 CET with two institutional greetings. **Marcin Bonisławski**, Vice-Mayor of Suwałki City, welcomed all partners, underlining Suwałki commitment to sustainability and its dual role as a local innovator and European partner. He recalled how Suwałki green transformation - from low-emission public transport to blue-green infrastructure - illustrates the power of municipal leadership in implementing EU climate policies.

Next, Luminita Stanciulescu, Project Officer at the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), offered the European Commission's perspective. She underlines the potential of the CERV program and congratulated the partnership for its tangible activities, and hopes that the partnership can continue to strengthen in the future

The first session of technical presentations showcased Suwałki environmental strategies. **Jerzy Gałązka**, Acting Head of the Environmental Protection Department, presented the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Suwałki until 2030, a strategic framework aimed at reducing the city's vulnerability to climate impacts. He illustrated how the plan integrates public health, infrastructure resilience, and ecosystem preservation. Actions such as expanding green roofs, restoring riverbanks, and creating retention ponds exemplify Suwałki proactive approach. The plan defines five main objectives: (1) protecting public health from climate threats, (2) expanding and preserving blue-green infrastructure, (3) maintaining effective infrastructure under extreme conditions, (4) improving public buildings' energy performance, and (5) integrating adaptation into city policy while raising awareness. Actions include new green roofs, water retention systems, energy-efficient retrofits, and crisis response mechanisms.

Following, **Jacek Szulc** discussed "The Experience of Suwałki City in Green Projects and Renewable Energy Sources." She described major EU-funded projects that have transformed the city - thermal modernization of schools, replacement of 7,700 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs, and the purchase of low-emission buses. Looking ahead, she unveiled new plans for 2025–2027, including a biomass boiler plant, a waste-to-energy facility, and solar installations for 46 public buildings. Together, these initiatives are steering Suwałki toward energy self-sufficiency and climate neutrality.



After a short break, the moderator invited the international partners to share their experiences.

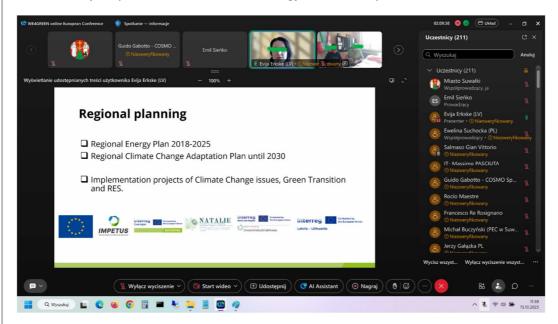
## Cases from the Partnership

The session brought together a diverse set of European voices and scientific contributions.

**Khalil Abid** (University of Turin, Italy) delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "Farming in the Age of Microplastics Pollution: Can Livestock Stay Sustainable?" He explained how microplastics infiltrate agricultural systems through water, soil, and feed, with 100% of ruminant feeds in recent studies found to contain plastic particles. These materials, he warned, affect animal metabolism, organ function, and ultimately food quality. Abid urged European policymakers to strengthen regulations on plastic use in agriculture, calling the issue "a silent threat to sustainable farming and public health."

Evija Ērkšķe, Project Manager and Environmental Specialist at the Zemgale Planning Region

(LV), introduced the BIOWIND Project, an Interreg Europe initiative promoting wind energy acceptance through community-based planning. It seeks to improve regional policies on renewable energy by fostering public acceptance and balancing environmental and social interests. Coordinated by the Zemgale Planning Region (ZPR) in Latvia, the initiative runs from March 2023 to February 2027 and unites 11 partners from eight EU countries (Greece, Finland, Latvia, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, Poland, and Spain). BIOWIND promotes integrated wind energy planning that respects climate goals, biodiversity, and community needs. Latvia, where about 75% of electricity already comes from renewables, aims to expand its capacity through new onshore and offshore wind parks, targeting 2,700 MW of renewable power by 2035 and aiming for energy independence in the future. The project supports this transition by developing regional action plans, organizing stakeholder consultations, and testing innovative participatory tools such as the Wind4Bio consultation approach. In Zemgale, BIOWIND also strengthens the Regional Development Programme 2021–2027, embedding public dialogue, biodiversity safeguards, and inclusive energy models like local energy cooperatives. Through workshops, policy learning, and pilot activities, Latvia contributes to shaping a socially accepted and environmentally responsible future for wind energy across Europe.



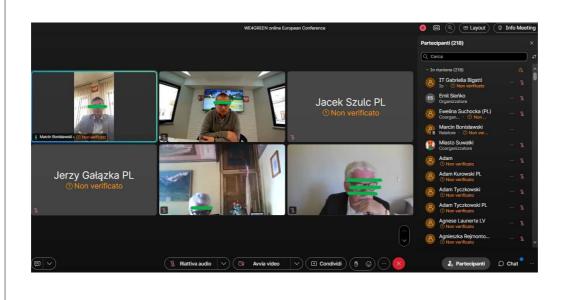
Finally, **Guido Gabotto**, President of **COSMO S.p.A.** (Casale Monferrato, Italy), spoke about "Waste Disposal and Treatment Policies in Monferrato." COSMO S.p.A., municipal company owned by 44 municipalities led by Casale Monferrato, manages the integrated waste cycle for about 67,500 residents in the Monferrato area. It oversees collection, sorting, recycling, and landfill operations, ensuring one of the lowest service costs in Piemonte. Waste is collected through tailored systems - door-to-door, roadside, and ecological islands - and treated at the Casale Monferrato plant, where recoverable materials are recycled and organic waste turned into biomethane and compost. Despite logistical challenges from a vast, low-density territory and the need to balance costs with circular economy goals, COSMO reached 68.8% separate collection in 2024. Upcoming projects include upgraded sorting and treatment plants, a new facility for absorbent hygiene products, and public awareness campaigns to improve waste quality, aiming to exceed 70% recycling and cut residual waste to below 126 kg per inhabitant by 2025.



The first day concluded with reflections from **Massimo Pasciuta**, Mayor of Ottiglio and WE4GREEN Project Coordinator. In his speech titled "Sustainability, Health, and Emerging Diseases," he linked environmental degradation to global health risks, stressing the need for cross-sectoral approaches. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases represent a growing global public health challenge. Unlike diseases that remain localized, these diseases have the potential to spread rapidly across regions and even continents, fuelled by human activity, environmental change, and globalization. The rise in these diseases is not random but closely linked to processes such as environmental degradation, climate change, intensive agriculture, and unsustainable economic practices. Understanding these connections is essential for developing effective prevention and mitigation strategies.

Approximately 58% of infectious diseases are now considered sensitive to climate change, demonstrating the intimate link between environmental conditions and disease dynamics. "Protecting nature means protecting ourselves," he said, urging municipalities to act as "laboratories of resilience."

The moderator, **Emil Sieńko**, closed the session by summarizing the day's insights and thanking all participants for their contributions, emphasizing the crucial bridge between research, local administration, and community involvement.



# DAY 2 - 16th October 2025.

Day 2 agenda was held from 9.30 to 12:45 CET:

# Access and Registration

Conference Moderator welcome: Emil Sieńko

# 15 October 2025 Online conference 9:30 – 12:45 CET

Online platform Link:

https://umsuwalki.webex.com/umsuwalkien/j.php?MTID=m8f38a14f5bb8d3adc7cecd6d53fd93a4



### Introduction

Welcome and presentation of the agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Event by Conference Moderator, **Emil Sieńko** 

The WE4GREEN eBook, Gabriella Bigatti, WE4GREEN Project Manager

#### Local Cases from the Partnership

### Examples of green actions and activities

- Cyprus Panayiotis Papadopoullos, President of Troodos Network & Referent for Platres Community Council, Local Green Deal: What applied in the Platres area as a green strategy
- Poland Marek Ratasiewicz, Youth City Council of Suwałki, Examples of green actions and activities in Suwałki
- Italy **Daniela Demartini**, Architect, *Urban planning and land use: landscape protection in Monferrato*
- Spain Mario Garay, Garay Wine Company, Local Green Deal: what applied at La Palma del Condado Municipality level as a green strategy
- Italy Mario Redoglia, Winemaker, Facing climate change in Monferrato: challenges and opportunities

Questions time. Debate.

Closing comments and final considerations on WE4GREEN project realisation by

- Emil Sieńko, WE4GREEN Project Referent City Hall of Suwałki
- Gabriella Bigatti, WE4GREEN Project Manager
- Massimo Pasciuta, WE4GREEN Coordinator and Mayor of Ottiglio

# Final Greetings by All Municipalities

Future plans

The closing day of the WE4GREEN European Conference, held on 16 October 2025, represented the emotional and intellectual culmination of two years of collective work under the CERV-funded project "Local Green Deals: Our Municipalities for the Green Transition." After months of exchanges, training events, field visits, and digital cooperation, the network of ten municipalities from five European countries gathered online for one final moment of reflection and celebration.

The event, moderated by Emil Sieńko of Suwałki City Hall, offered many particularly meaningful speeches. Together, these speeches traced the full arc of the WE4GREEN journey: from vision to realization, from local practice to European meaning.

#### Opening Presentation – The WE4GREEN eBook

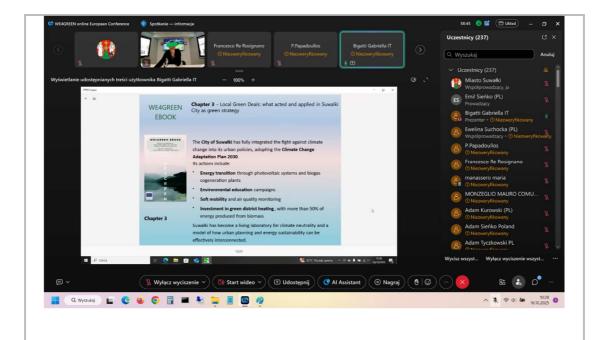
**Gabriella Bigatti**, Project Manager for WE4GREEN, presented the newly **WE4GREEN eBook**, a digital compendium summarizing all project activities. She described it as "a collective diary of cooperation," showcasing innovative green strategies from each partner municipality, meant to inspire further replication across Europe.

She introduced the digital publication as both a collective diary and a permanent legacy of the project, it and was created to document and share the entire WE4GREEN journey, from its official launch in December 2023 to its closing in November 2025.

It gathers results, experiences and lessons learned during two years of cooperation - demonstrating how small towns can turn the European Green Deal into everyday practices through citizen participation, cultural heritage, and environmental innovation.

The book opens with a comprehensive overview of the WE4GREEN project, explaining its origin, objectives, and core philosophy inspired by UNESCO's motto: "Reconcile humanity with nature: protect the environment through science, local knowledge, and respect for biodiversity." Bigatti highlighted how the project unfolded across five unique European ecosystems—each representing a different expression of the continent's natural and cultural diversity: the UNESCO vineyards of Monferrato (Italy); the Troodos Mountains (Cyprus); the Natura 2000 areas of Suwałki (Poland); the Andalusian landscapes near Doñana National Park (Spain); the Zemgale region (Latvia), rich in green innovation and renewable energy.

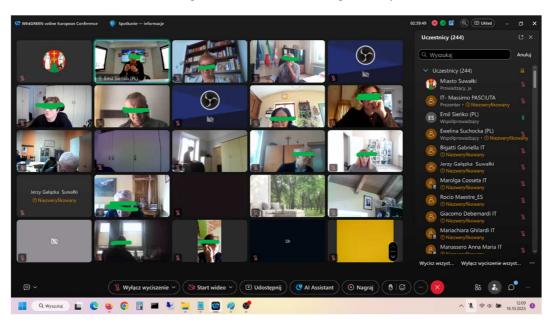
Moreover, the eBook's structure mirrors the evolution of the project with 7 specific chapters and an Appendix including the five *Event Description Sheets (EDS)*, prepared after each international event.



### Local Cases from the Partnership

The session began with **Panayiotis Papadopoullos**, President of the Troodos Network and representative of Platres Community Council (Cyprus). His talk, "Local Green Deal: What Applied in the Platres Area as a Green Strategy," illustrated how small mountain communities can lead by example. Platres has implemented sustainable tourism initiatives, renewable energy installations and waste reduction programs that align with Cyprus national Green Deal framework.

In the green heart of the Troodos Mountains, Platres has become a model for sustainable rural development through lavender cultivation. Once a traditional herb, lavender now drives women's entrepreneurship, eco-tourism, and local identity. The Lavender Thematic Center serves as the hub of this transformation, linking culture, education, and green innovation. Through the WE4GREEN project, Platres aligns with the EU Green Deal by turning heritage into sustainability and tradition into innovation. This "lavender renaissance" shows how small mountain communities can lead green transition from the ground up.



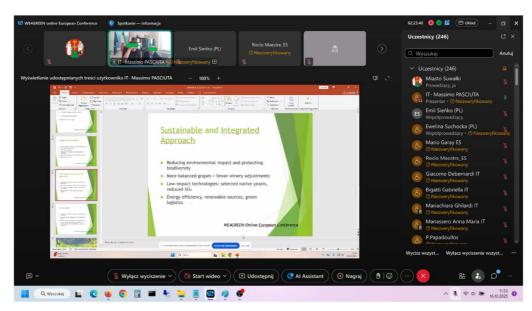
Next, **Marek Ratasiewicz**, member of the **Youth City Council of Suwałki**, presented "Examples of Green Actions and Activities in Suwałki." The speech demonstrated how young citizens are shaping the local sustainability agenda through educational campaigns, clean-up events and biodiversity monitoring. Under the WE4GREEN program, Suwałki has promoted ecological awareness among youth and the wider community through participatory

environmental education. The initiative includes several campaigns: "Cleaning Up for Poland", a large-scale civic action to collect litter and restore natural landscapes; "Outdoor Nature Lesson", which takes students into the field to learn about ecosystems directly; and "Forest Restoration", focusing on tree planting and biodiversity recovery. Students also participate in "Field and Laboratory Studies in Wigry National Park", combining hands-on science with environmental responsibility. Finally, "Eco-Friendly Ideas" workshops invite young citizens to design green solutions for everyday life - reducing plastic, conserving water, and promoting recycling. Together, these projects foster ecological sensitivity, local activism, and sustainable habits among residents. Suwałki demonstrates how community-based environmental education can cultivate a generation of citizens aware of their role in protecting the planet.

After a brief break, the conference resumed with an Italian-Spanish session dedicated to landscape, viticulture, and adaptation to climate change.

Architect Daniela Demartini was substituted at the latest by Isabella Franzin (IT) that introduced "Urban Planning and Land Use: Landscape Protection in Monferrato." Her presentation traced the evolution of Italy's landscape legislation, from early 20th-century protection laws to the European Landscape Convention. Beginning with Italian early legal framework—Law 1497/1939 on natural beauty and the Italian Constitution (Art. 9) - the concept of landscape evolved through Law 431/1985 (Galasso Law) and the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), which recognized the landscape as a collective heritage and a social need. In Piedmont, landscape protection is governed by the Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape (Legislative Decree 42/2004) and Regional Law 32/2008, which assign municipalities the responsibility to establish LLCs composed of qualified experts to review projects affecting protected sites. She described the pivotal role of Local Landscape Commissions—such as the one established in Ottiglio and neighbouring municipalities—in preserving the UNESCO-recognized "Vineyard Landscapes of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato." Highlighting the cultural heritage of the Infernot, subterranean cellars carved in pietra da cantoni stone, she described Monferrato as "a living landscape where nature and human craft intertwine."

Following her, **Mario Garay**, representing Garay Wine Company **(Spain)**, discussed "Local Green Deal Strategies in La Palma del Condado." He explained how the Andalusian wine region is adopting sustainable viticulture - reducing pesticide use, restoring soil biodiversity and engaging local farmers in circular economy initiatives. Bodegas Garay embodies a deep ecological passion, producing natural wines through fully organic and sustainable methods. Their vineyards eliminate herbicides and chemicals, using natural fungicides and compost to preserve soil life and biodiversity. Dry farming practices protect water reserves and prevent erosion, supporting the Doñana National Park ecosystem. In the winery, only grape juice is fermented — no additives, sulphites, or corrections — ensuring pure, authentic flavours.



Concluding the session, **Mario Redoglia (IT)**, winemaker from Monferrato, presented "Facing Climate Change in Monferrato: Challenges and Opportunities." He described how rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns are affecting grape quality and production cycles. However, he stressed that innovation, from new irrigation systems to resistant grape varieties, can transform these challenges into opportunities for more sustainable and resilient

agriculture.

The concluding remarks were jointly delivered by **Emil Sieńko** (City of Suwałki), **Gabriella Bigatti** (Ottiglio) and **Massimo Pasciuta** (Ottiglio Mayor and Project Coordinator). They collectively underlined that WE4GREEN had succeeded in building not just a partnership but a *European community of practice*. The conference closed with a joint statement from all municipalities reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration and the development of future initiatives beyond 2025. Also, the Referents from Cella Monte and Rosignano Monferrato Municipalities expressed their pleasure with the qualified contents of the events and experts and underlined the will to continue to cooperate in the future.

In particular, Mayor **Massimo Pasciuta** delivered the official closing address of the WE4GREEN Conference. Speaking with warmth and conviction, he reflected on the project as a collective journey of discovery and solidarity. He described WE4GREEN as "an intense and stimulating adventure dedicated to the EU Green Deal and Agenda 2030, with sustainability at its core." Pasciuta emphasized that the project's strength lies in its human dimension: mayors, citizens, and technicians from five countries working together toward the same purpose—to build "a fairer, greener, and more resilient Europe." He praised the diversity of the experiences shared during the five international events, each bringing new inspiration and practical lessons. For him, the greatest message of WE4GREEN was that sustainability is a collective responsibility.

Gabriella Bigatti's words bridged institutional gratitude with a heartfelt reflection on what WE4GREEN had achieved beyond its formal boundaries. She began by thanking the European Commission and the CERV Programme, acknowledging their pivotal role in supporting networks of towns that embody European values of cooperation and sustainability. She also expressed deep appreciation to the Lead Municipality of Ottiglio and to all ten partner towns. Bigatti described WE4GREEN as "unique not only in structure but in spirit." The project, she said, connected ten municipalities from five ecosystems, transforming cultural heritage and natural landscapes into laboratories of innovation. From lavender fields to vineyards, from Baltic recycling hubs to Polish renewable energy projects, each place added "a different shade of green to a shared European landscape." And: "Let us carry forward the spirit of WE4GREEN - a spirit of cooperation beyond borders, of dialogue between people and nature, and of faith in a greener, fairer, and more united Europe."

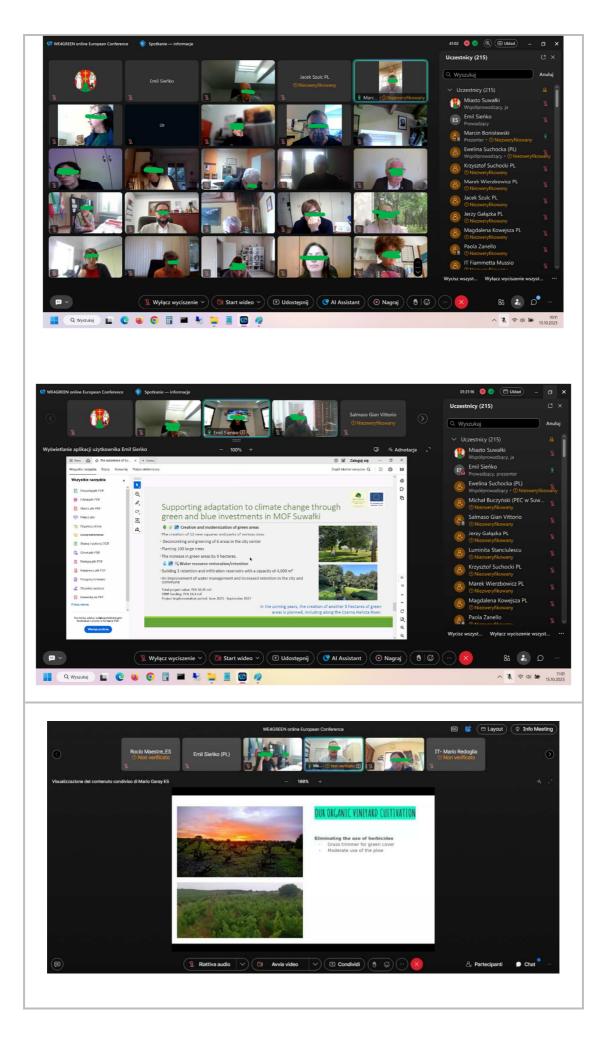
Through the exchange of case studies - from Latvian wind energy strategies to Italian waste management systems and Polish climate adaptation plans - the event showcased how municipalities are not just policy implementers but key innovators in Europe's green transition. The WE4GREEN conference thus stood as both a celebration of past achievements and a call to action for the sustainable cities of tomorrow.

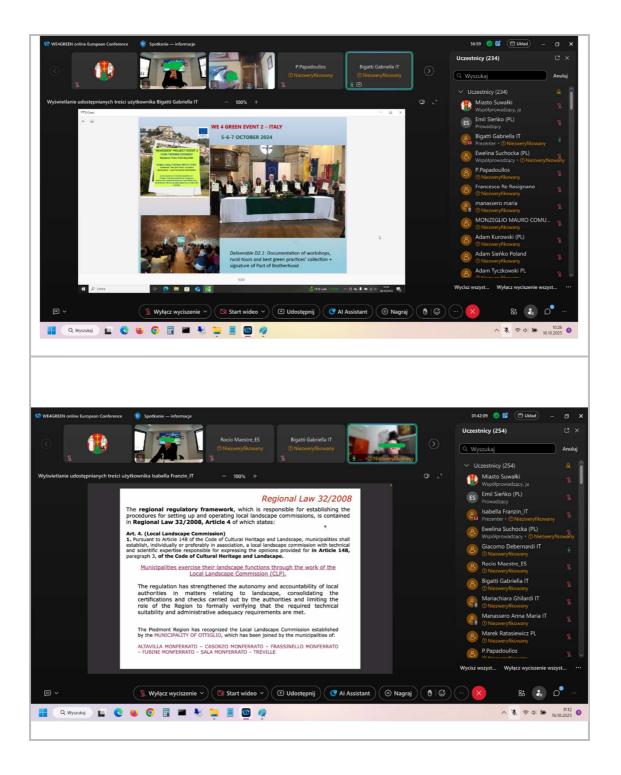
#### LINKS

https://www.comune.ottiglio.al.it/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/We4Green-Project

# **PICTURES**





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