



## EVOLVE Project - Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Tirana, Albania - September 29-30, 2025

### 1. General Context

The kick-off meeting marked the official launch of the EVOLVE Project, co-financed by the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme.

The event was hosted by the Barleti Institute for Research and Development (Albania) and brought together all project partners from Italy (Arsarp and CETMA), Albania (BIRD and MoECI - MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, CULTURE AND INNOVATION), and Montenegro (IEC TEHNOPOLIS - INOVACIONO PREDUZETNIČKI CENTAR TEHNOPOLIS, D.O.O and ECO-FUND - FONDO ZA ZAŠTITU ŽIVOTNE SREDINE).

The main goal of EVOLVE is to promote innovation in circular economy models through the integration of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and sustainable material reuse, while fostering biodiversity and eco-innovation across the Adriatic area.

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### 2. Objectives of the Meeting

- formally launch the project's activities and establish a shared vision among partners.
- define the governance model, communication structure, and coordination procedures.
- plan the initial work packages, deliverables, and milestones for the first implementation phase.
- discuss the technical and methodological approach to integrating AI tools in circular material management.

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### 3. Key Topics Discussed

#### a. Project Overview



**Each partner introduced their organization and role within the consortium. The project coordinator presented the overall framework, the expected outputs, and timeline.**

### **b. Strategic Alignment**

**A common strategy was discussed to ensure coherence between local and transnational actions. Emphasis was placed on cross-border collaboration, knowledge sharing, and digital transition within sustainable industries.**

### **c. Work Packages**

**The consortium reviewed the project's main Work Packages (WPs):**

- **WP1: Project Management and Coordination**
  - **WP2: Communication and Dissemination**
  - **WP3: Research, Development, and Digital Tools for Circular Economy**
  - **WP4: Pilot Actions and Validation**
- Each WP leader presented initial plans and deliverables for the upcoming months.**

### **d. Technical and Methodological Aspects**

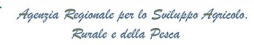
**Partners explored how AI and data-driven tools could support material selection, recycling efficiency, and environmental impact assessment. Methodological frameworks for data collection and analysis were also introduced.**

### **e. Next Steps**

- **Confirmation of immediate short-term tasks and reporting schedules.**
- **Agreement on communication tools and internal coordination mechanisms.**
- **Planning of the next consortium meeting and technical workshops.**

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## **4. Conclusions**



**The meeting successfully set the foundation for the EVOLVE project's implementation phase.**

**All partners reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening innovation, circularity, and cross-border cooperation in the South Adriatic area.**

**The event also provided a valuable networking opportunity, fostering collaboration between research institutions, industry representatives, and regional authorities.**