



CRISP

Creating and Monitoring of Climate Neutral Zones in Ioannina City District as Pilot Activities

IOANNINA, GREECE

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



All vehicles & transport
(mobile energy)

Key Terms

Climate Neutral Zones | Low-emission mobility | Nature-Based Solutions | Legal and urban planning frameworks | Monitoring tool | Neighbourhood Engineers Office | Historic centre

Levers of Change

Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Technology/infrastructure

Description of the Pilot Activity

Ioannina is establishing Greece's first Climate Neutral Zone (CNZ) — a defined urban area where low- and zero-emission mobility measures, nature-based solutions, and participatory governance converge to demonstrate replicable climate neutrality. Starting from approximately four city blocks in the historic centre, CRISP builds the spatial, legal, technical, and social foundations needed to scale CNZ principles citywide and offer a model for other Greek and European cities. The project combines rigorous urban and legal analysis with deep community co-design, treating citizen ownership as essential — not optional — to lasting change.

Year One Highlights

CRISP's Year 1 was focused on creating the legal, technical, and civic foundations for a Climate Neutral Zone in Ioannina's historic centre, work that is essential in high-regulation contexts where implementation without groundwork tends to stall.

A comprehensive urban analysis identified approximately four city blocks in the historic centre as the most suitable CNZ location, assessed against traffic impact, pedestrian accessibility, proximity to public services, and nature-based solution potential. A full legal and planning analysis was completed to establish how the CNZ can operate within Greek planning law — understanding the regulatory framework before attempting to innovate within it. A digital monitoring tool is under development to track emissions, mobility, and biodiversity within the zone, providing the evidence base for future scaling.

A launch event brought together elected officials, civil society, students, and Twinning partners from Tønder, Denmark. In response to NZC feedback, the city developed a detailed place-based engagement framework for Year 2, including a planned Neighbourhood Engineers Office — a permanent physical space for ongoing citizen dialogue, designed as standing civic infrastructure rather than a temporary project presence.

Innovation Highlights

Ioannina is testing the CNZ model in a historic centre with narrow streets, heritage constraints, and established commercial activity — creating a more transferable template than pilots conducted in generic or newly developed urban environments. The parallel-track planning approach and the Neighbourhood Engineers Office together reflect a broader design principle: that participation and regulatory navigation are not obstacles to get past, but conditions to be built into the project architecture from the start.

Twining with Tønder (Denmark)

Tønder visited Ioannina on 1–2 April 2025, meeting with Mayor Thomas Begas, the Vice Mayor for Strategic Planning, the Ioannina Chamber of Commerce, municipal staff, and CRISP consortium partners. Exchange focused on stakeholder engagement methodologies and approaches to business acceptance.

