



GREECE



## Pilot Area 4: Alexandroupolis-Samothraki



The PA4 is located at Greece's northern-east part. It focuses on 2 separate sub-areas with different characteristics.

The first one is the **area of Alexandroupolis** which covers a 35km **coastline**, combining touristic beaches, an urban frontline and a protected area (Natura 2000). Alexandroupolis city, with a current urban population estimated at 70,000 inhabitants, holds a key geographical position, with significant prospects in the fields of energy, transit trade and tourism. It has a commercial port as well as upgraded and multimodal logistics facilities that are at the heart of land and sea routes between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.

The sub-area is not considered a high-level touristic destination for Greece, but due to its concentration of endogenous tourist resources, its geostrategic position and its good accessibility could constitute an important touristic pole both in the national space and in the wider Balkan hinterland.

Most coastal pressures are detected at the western part of Alexandroupolis, due to touristic activities and development. The area of interest is an area with more than 30 hotels with a capacity of almost 2,500 beds, along with plenty of second house properties, which are used for touristic purposes due

to economic crisis. This creates a high tourism capacity that results in water quality and environmental degradation. This sub-area suffers, also, from severe problems of erosion due to the harbour's expansion. Finally, the unclear legal framework of the spatial arrangements with the overlaps and contradictions of the different levels of planning and the constant institutional changes create entanglements in the location of tourism investments and ultimately complicate the tourist development.

The second sub-area is the **island of Samothraki** which has an area of 178 km<sup>2</sup>. Samothraki is an island with a rich historical background and an unspoiled, wild virgin nature with steep mountains and a big variety of flora and fauna. It is worldwide known for the statue of the Victory of Samothraki, which is now housed in the Louvre Museum.

The main activities of its 2,900 residences are livestock farming (goats), fishing, agriculture and tourism. The only connection with the mainland comes from the port of Kamariotissa and there are often problems with the sea transport. Moreover, on the island, someone can find only 7 hotels with 600 beds, but camping is one of the main ways for tourist to stay overnight. It is not considered a high touristic destination like other Greek islands and it also has a restricted number of sandy beaches, so the authorities have developed activities for alternative tourism, in order to better exploit the natural and archeological deposit. Finally, the island is rich in fish and is considered one of the best destinations for fishing tourism, but this has created severe pressures of over-fishing.

For both sub-areas, a touristic growth based on the principals of ICZM would contribute to a balanced form of development. This will help the local communities to derive many tangible and intangible benefits from coastal zones in long term.

The action plan will enhance sustainable tourism in Samothraki area. Other actions will be implemented in the area according to the action plan developed during the Co-Evolve project.

### Partner Involved:



### Local actors and stakeholders to be involved:

- Local authority
- Local community
- Private sector (tourism companies)

## Main objectives of the pilot

This pilot area aims to develop an Action Plan, compliant with MSP-ICZM principles, for sustainable tourism development. The Action Plan will deal in particular with **anthropogenic issues**.



MORE INFORMATION:

[www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/co-evolve4bg](http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/co-evolve4bg)