

“The Island I Want” – Two-Day Event in Supetar Inspires Citizens Toward Climate Action

A two-day event titled “**The Island I Want**”, organized by the **Split-Dalmatia County**, was held in Supetar with the goal of encouraging citizens to adapt to climate change and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The atmosphere along the Supetar waterfront was exceptionally positive, marked by the **active participation of young people** and the **strong interest of local residents** eager to learn more about implementing smart and sustainable solutions in everyday life.

The **CO₂ PACMAN** project connects the islands of **Brač, Elba, and Crete**, promoting cooperation between **local communities, public institutions, and citizens**. Its goal is to develop **concrete models and measures for sustainable island development**, with a focus on **renewable energy sources, resource conservation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions**.

Participants concluded that the citizens of Brač are **well-informed about sustainable modes of transport**, such as cycling and the use of electric vehicles. However, they expressed **dissatisfaction with waste management, collection, and recycling**, highlighting the **need for more education and public information** in this area.

Citizens also pointed out issues related to **outdated infrastructure** and the **need for greater state investment in the modernization of ferry and boat lines**, noting that these forms of transport are **vital for the daily lives of island residents**.

The overall impression from the first day was that the project **successfully fosters community spirit, awareness, and readiness for change**, while the **strong enthusiasm and knowledge shown by young participants** was especially encouraging.

Expert and Partner Impressions

Professor Simone Bastianoni from the **University of Siena** was impressed by the engagement of local residents:

“There is plenty of evidence that even small changes can have a major impact on climate change. We already see this in our daily lives — through extreme heat, droughts, and floods. It’s clear that we must change the way we act, but we must do it together,” said Bastianoni, adding that **collaboration between local authorities and citizens is key**, and that **Brač is an excellent example of how to live sustainably**.

Martin Bučan, Head of the **County Department for Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, and EU Funds**, shared his reflections on the importance of the project for **youth education**:

“We are particularly pleased to see the participation of secondary schools from Supetar and Bol, whose students are gaining valuable knowledge and experience through this project.

They were especially excited about the **VR – Virtual Reality** segment, where they explored 3D models and proposed their own ideas for the island’s development.”

He added:

“Young people are key — they are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the **drivers of change today.**”

A Model of Good Practice

Brač, in cooperation with partners from **Italy and Greece**, continues to demonstrate how **island communities can lead the way in the fight against climate change.**

“Pollution is a global issue, but action must start locally — each of us can contribute by changing our own habits.”

This was the central message of the **CO₂ PACMAN** initiative and the ‘**The Island I Want**’ event in Supetar.