



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2026

Municipality: Seferihisar Municipality Country : Republic of Türkiye

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Name project

Karakılçık and Armola Route: A Journey Through Soil, Flavor, and Cultural Heritage in Ulamış Village

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- ☐ Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- ☐ Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- ☐ Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualità urbana);
- ☒ Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigiane);
- ☐ Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalità, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- ☐ Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

The Karakılçık and Armola Route is a sustainable rural tourism project that offers visitors an immersive experience of the natural, cultural, and gastronomic values of Ulamış Village. The approximately 2-kilometer easy walking route includes stops such as Karakılçık wheat fields, ancestral bread production areas, Armola cheese-making sites, olive oil producers, the local farmers' market, historic stone houses, Ulamış Mosque, the historic bathhouse, and Ulamış Dam. By bringing together agro-tourism and rural tourism in a single circular model, the project has become one of the finest examples of community-based sustainable development. Every year, the village hosts the Karakılçık Bread and Armola Festival, welcoming nearly 30,000 visitors and demonstrating the powerful economic and cultural impact of this circular rural economy.

Goal project

To preserve the local identity and cultural heritage of Ulamış Village. To support the production and promotion of Karakılçık wheat, an ancestral seed variety. To increase the visibility and recognition of Armola cheese and other local products. To strengthen the economic income of local producers through a circular rural economy model that links agriculture, gastronomy, and tourism. To promote sustainable agro-tourism and rural tourism as exemplary practices. To showcase a way of life in harmony with nature in line with the principles of Cittaslow.

Result project

The tourism visibility and recognition of Ulamış Village have increased significantly. Local producers have been able to reach wider audiences with their products. The production of Karakılçık wheat and ancestral bread has been supported and revitalized. Armola cheese has emerged as one of the gastronomic symbols of Seferihisar. The number of visitors to the producers' market held every Saturday has increased. The village's historical and natural sites have been preserved by being incorporated into the tourism route. The annual Karakılçık Bread and Armola Festival, held each July, has become a major regional attraction drawing nearly 20,000 visitors per year, generating substantial economic benefits for



local producers and cementing the project as one of the best examples of agro-tourism and circular rural economy in the region.

Finance (costs and benefits)

The project was implemented under the coordination of Seferihisar Municipality with low costs by utilizing existing infrastructure, promotional materials, and guidance systems. The increase in sales of local producers, the strengthening of the village economy, and the rise in visitor numbers — including nearly 20,000 annual festival attendees — have generated significant and measurable economic benefits, demonstrating the viability of a circular agro-tourism model.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Foreign Relations, Tourism and Project Unit — Directorate of Culture and Social Affairs — Agricultural Services Unit — Press and Public Relations Unit — Ulaşı Village producers and cooperative representatives. The project is carried out through year-round coordination, promotion, and organizational activities.

Additional information (if necessarily)

Visitors can reach the route either by private vehicle or via ESHOT bus line 985 departing from the center of İzmir. The producers' market held every Saturday and the annual Karakılçık Bread and Armola Festival organized every July are the most visited periods of the route. With nearly 20,000 visitors welcomed at the festival each year, this project stands as one of the best examples of agro-tourism and rural tourism in the region, creating a genuine circular economy that benefits local producers, preserves cultural heritage, and sustains a living agricultural tradition.

Link website : <https://www.instagram.com/seferihisar.tourisminfo/>

www.seferihisar.bel.tr

(if available)

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net

- Participation Deadline, 19 May 2026 -