



## Press Release

### AstyBus: Astypalea continues to innovate with the help of Alpha Bank

*Green travel with the first electric minibus has now become a part of daily life*

For Alpha Bank, the **green transition** is a **major goal** that has recently become a reality for the island of **Astypalea**, where the Bank has been supporting sustainability in public transport for the past two years **as Primary Sponsor**, financing **AstyBus** – the island’s “green” urban transport-on-demand service.

Today, AstyBus has become a **daily habit of the island’s residents and visitors** for their travels, proving that targeted initiatives can have a major positive impact on both the environment and society.

At the launch of the service in 2022, the Bank also organized the **educational program “Circular Economy in Practice”** for the island’s primary and secondary schools, designed to help the young generation learn about the environment and familiarize themselves with green practices.

From 2022 to this day, AstyBus has made **61,273 trips** carrying nearly **5,000 passengers** and travelling **425,166 kilometers** within the island. More specifically, in the first half of 2024 the AstyBus program recorded an increase of 83% in trips compared to the first half of 2023, while the number of trips has increased from 4,244 to 7,759. This year, there are **six ID BUZZ and ID4 electric minibuses** operating on Astypalea.

The minibuses are available to passengers **at the touch of a button** via the corresponding app, in which the users can select the boarding and drop-off points of their choice. Moreover, the program’s app has recently undergone significant improvement, making the registration of new users both quicker and easier. This upgrade has noticeably improved the user experience for the island’s residents and visitors, as it has made the whole process more user-friendly and accessible.

AstyBus is part of the **“Astypalea: Smart and Sustainable Island” program**, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented in collaboration with the Volkswagen Group, Kosmocar S.A. and the K2 South Aegean Region Development Organization. According to K2, the objective for 2024 is the organic development of the program, by adding new vehicles, creating new jobs and installing new service points for the public.