



# INTERNET RESEARCH AND GOOD PROJECT & PRACTICES



# INTERNET RESEARCH

### 1.1. Environment Management, Coordination, Regulation, Inspection and Monitoring in Greece

There is an increasing trend to building on current capacity for environmental management, through the development of research and information bodies and the employment of highly qualified experts and scientists. Environmental issues now are discussed not only at Ministry level (Ministry of Public Works and Environment (YPEHODE) e along sectoral lines) but through committees at interministerial level, which basically is an indication of the efforts to reform. Through certain indicators, government may foresee its direction on an annual basis. Already some environmental issues go through crosssectoral practices. For example, there were long and interministerial preparations for the Greek “after Rio” report at the Johannesburg Summit (September 2002).

The average Greek citizen has never heard of “sustainable development” (Viosimi, Aiforiki, Ypostiriksimi), let alone the concepts they embody, their goals, or the implications of a sustainable development strategy. At a verbal level, sustainable development is like a slogan! At an action level, it is uncertain. It is shown further that non-governmental organisations (NGO’s) and companies that campaign for the same purpose, i.e. promotion of a particular scheme, on many occasions have no common language as tools like ISO14001 are not really known to the public. There are quite a few bodies (mainly stemming from academia) that have participated actively in the promotion of urban environmental management and ISO14001. The protection of the urban environment and measures for minimising environmental impacts (such as for example, a strategy based on sustainable development) are vague concepts to all actors. Consequently, there is a general lack in specific content as to how sustainable development and environmental management practices are to be attained or who is responsible for achieving them. Thus they remain on the margin. Second, besides the novelty of the concept, a lack of organised effort to inform the public on such issues points to extremely low levels of awareness. Far from the state initiatives and rhythms of achieving targets, it is claimed that there is a dearth in an organised, social interest for environmental matters. Actions are fragmentary and on certain occasions doubtful. Although stricter procedures in particular stages of environmental management have been enacted, practices are generally lagging behind and vague. There has been limited development on this subject from socio-economic, productive and educational dimensions, and little sign of a sustainable industrial strategy. The reason why these issues have not progressed is because of the Greek governments’ lack of industrial planning. Measures from Greek government are considered superficial and not really distinguished for professional and detailed knowledge of environmental management.

### 1.2. Municipalities and Environment

Five Greek cities – [Heraklion](#), [Ioannina](#), [Kalamata](#), [Trikala](#) and [Kozani](#) – have filed a nomination to be part of the European Commission’s “100 Climate Neutral Cities by 2030” venture. Reaching 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030 is the objective identified by the EU’s Mission Board for climate-neutral and smart cities. The Mission supports, promotes and showcases 100 European cities in their systemic transformation towards climate neutrality by 2030. As underlined in an announcement by the Greek Environment Ministry, the EU will select the 100 cities through a demanding process. “Therefore, the proper preparation of the five Greek cities is considered of significant importance,” the ministry said. The 100 European cities will participate in a comprehensive plan of holistic interventions with a defined budget and a timeline of 10 years. They will also have the opportunity to redefine their identity (city re-branding) as well as carry out large-scale investments and create new



jobs with the use of EU funding tools. The goal of the Mission Board is for these cities to cooperate and operate as innovation hubs for all European cities by developing a set of good practices and full-scale investment projects.

In addition, the Mission Board will cover the regeneration needs of urban areas in efforts to contribute to the improvement of energy efficiency and quality in buildings and the urban environment as well as to the reduction of pollution from daily transportation.

Furthermore, it will help save natural resources and facilitate the digital transformation of urban areas.

### **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEEN)**

The Ministry of Environment and Energy is mandated to preserve and improve the environment, spatial and urban planning and advance the energy and mineral resources sectors, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. The Ministry has executive and coordinating competences and thus fulfills its mandate through development and promotion of environmental policies, such as the national climate policy.

With regard to climate change adaptation, MEEN is mandated to develop, evaluate and revise the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) by Law 4414/2016, articles 42-45 (GG A'149/2016). In addition, the Minister of Environment and Energy is appointed to chair the National Climate Change Adaptation Committee (NCCAC).

The responsibility for adaptation falls under the Directorate of Climate Change and Air Quality (Climate Change Department). The Directorate of Climate Change and Air Quality is required to submit proposals for legislative and administrative acts to improve resilience and strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change, to examine and monitor the Regional Adaptation Action Plans, as well as to support the work and activities of the National Climate Change Adaptation Committee. The Directorate of Climate Change and Air Quality has coordinated and co-authored the National Adaptation Strategy, which was formally endorsed through Law 4014/2016 (article 45). It also coordinates mainstreaming adaptation across the sectoral policies of other central government departments.

The MEEN coordinates the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project and participates in almost all project actions. For MEEN, the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project is an important instrument to deliver the National Adaptation Strategy and the 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans and in general to adapt Greece to climate change.

Municipal authorities are responsible for:

- The development of local programmes to protect and enhance the natural, architectural and cultural environment, in the framework of national and European policies;
- The operation of the municipal forests;
- Assisting the relevant fire department by all appropriate means available to tackle fires, especially in forest areas;
- The protection and management of the regional (soil and inland) water resources from extensive fisheries and pollution;

- Local water supply, irrigation, and sewage systems;
- The establishment and operation of municipal laboratories;
- The cleanliness of all common areas of their territorial area,
- The removal and the management of waste;
- The sanitation of all common spaces;
- Waste management and the construction, maintenance and management of sewer systems;
- Managing solid waste
- Preventive and repressive measures to protect public spaces, especially the dumpsite, in the event of fire;
- The establishment and operation of slaughterhouses;
- The study, management and execution of housing and urban development programmes;
- Measures for the restoration and rebuilding of local areas where mineral resources exploitation has occurred or areas where facilities of waste management are installed;
- Issuing building permits;
- Participating in town planning, regional planning and land use as provided by law;
- Monitoring architecture, structural, electrical and thermal studies as well as maintaining tax records for industrial buildings;
- Definition of sites for cemeteries and provision of an opinion for setting cremation sites;
- The issuance of building permits, control studies and imposition of fines for making illegal constructions in the legislation;
- Monitoring the “Clean Beaches - Clean Seas Programme” which is launched by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change; and
- The preliminary proposal for the redevelopment of a certain area.
- Dealing with outdoor advertisement in order to ensure environment protection.
- The Municipalities also have consultative responsibilities:

Before government authorities issue any administrative regulation concerning environmental protection, regulatory or spatial plans, decision on plant location and other activities, they should consult the municipal councils of the municipalities or communities or the boards of Associations of Municipalities and Communities in the region in which the measure will apply;

The central government cannot decide on expropriation, disposition, or any kind of intervention or restriction in the administration and disposal of municipal or communal lands, works, services and water for irrigation or drinking without prior consent of the relevant municipal council (Art. 77).

### 1.3. Environmental Engineering Departments at Universities

Back in the 1990s, at the Greek universities, “environmental issues” were already being covered within civil engineering degree programs. The resulting courses were used as the main vehicle, with some coverage of related matters in other modules. Formally the method by which environmental issues were covered in the curriculum was reported to the university annually, as part of the annual course quality assurance reporting processes. In redesigning the university’s civil engineering programs in 2002–2003, sustainability started to be viewed in a broader sense, not labeled as “environmental issues,” but embedded into the learning outcomes of compulsory modules throughout all courses of the degree programs. The need arose from European Community programs and the related courses aim to equip engineering students with a wider horizon of concepts in terms

of environmental, economic, and social attributes, for decision making in issues sensitive to sustainability. Incentives and barriers for implementation of the curriculum are addressed. In this respect, “sustainability” had moved from being a discrete coverage of environmental issues to embedding social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability alongside other civil engineering courses of the program. Students would learn about and view sustainability as an integrated part of civil engineering education, not as an added extra; sustainability had become part of the mainstream curriculum.

Accordingly, this paper outlines some of the ways in which the University of Thessaly has responded to this growing public and professional interest in sustainable development education. More specifically, it describes the way of teaching sustainable development in the University of Thessaly to undergraduate engineering students. In doing so the program objectives are to impact the engineering skills to meet this aim; to understand social and economic processes and integrate them with the practice of engineering, to participate in multidisciplinary teams and engage in social processes; and to use these skills and knowledge to develop a holistic understanding of environmental problems and solutions for a more sustainable society. The latter was one of the most important features of the program design. Rather than asking students to explore one specific form of sustainability for example, environmental or financial sustainability, this assessment activity requires students to address the topic from a holistic perspective. Hence, the activity has been designed for students to recognize the potential for either synergy or conflict between socioeconomic and environmental sustainability and sustainability from a financial and market perspective.

Based on the thorough examination of the universities with remarkable integration of sustainability principles, the efficient incorporation of SD (Sustainable Development) in universities should include the:

- ♣ Development of a strategy and/or an action plan in order to incorporate and promote SD. This should be expressed through the official policy of the university and a commitment that sustainability is a high priority.
- ♣ Participation and/or creation of synergies and networks with other universities in order to promote SD and exchange knowledge. Collaborations with industries could also benefit the university through work project groups on sustainability.
- ♣ Adoption of an in-campus Environmental Management System (EMS).
- ♣ Incorporation of an elementary course in their curriculum in order to introduce SD principles to students, although this may be a hard step concerning the already crowded engineering curriculum.
- ♣ Incorporation, where possible, of sustainability related aspects in every undergraduate-postgraduate course using appropriate case studies, in such a way that it fits with the nature of the course
- ♣ Development of actions such as workshops, excursions and lectures.
- ♣ Creation of a special Sustainability Group in order to develop, organize and implement sustainability related actions.



♣ Communication and promotion of the above mentioned actions outside of the university environment. Sustainability should not only be an internal matter.

#### 1.4. Some Associations and Foundations concerning Environment in Greece

##### ***Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN)***

This is the oldest national environmental NGO in Greece, founded in 1951, and strives continuously for the protection of Greek nature since. It is active along four axes: environmental intervention; nature conservation; environmental education; sustainable management and general public awareness raising.

The HSPN is constantly involved, alone or in cooperation with other national NGOs, in countering the serious threats to the natural environment of Greece, such as the infamous water-diversion project of the Acheloos River and the illegal use of poisoned baits, and has participated in important actions, resulting in formal complaints to the European Commission or legal action at the Greek Council of State. It has also implemented, alone or in partnership with other NGOs, a variety of conservation projects.

The HSPN represents in Greece the international Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and is the national operator of its famous international eco-labels “Blue Flag” for beaches and marinas and “Green Key” for tourism facilities. Since 1995 the HSPN coordinates five Environmental Education Networks, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, in some 1,600 schools all over Greece; three are international (Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests) and two are national (Garbage-free Nature, Green Neighbourhoods).

The HSPN has regularly published, since 1975, the quarterly periodical “I FYSI” (Nature) featuring articles on a variety of nature and wildlife subjects, as well as books and other information material. Over the years it has also organised many local and national conferences, seminars and workshops on environmental subjects and current issues.

It has established the “Byron Antipas” prize, which is awarded to an individual or organisation that has decisively contributed to the protection of Greek nature; among its recipients are the renowned environmentalist Luc Hoffmann (2005), and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (2011).

It is a member of major international conservation organisations, such as the IUCN, and has been honoured for its work, it by the Academy of Athens, the Council of Europe and the Ford Foundation.

##### ***Athens Environmental Foundation (AEF)***

This is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established to organize, support and promote global environmental awareness, education, responsibility and sustainability associated projects such as the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece and the Oakland lead remediation project.

##### ***Thalassa Foundation***

They support and promote policies for the restoration and preservation of marine natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea. Degradation of marine ecosystems due to intensive human activity calls for urgent action for their future survival. They are at the forefront against habitat destruction,



overfishing and human-induced climate change. They put particular emphasis on the conservation of marine resources for the benefit of nature and its habitants. Marine protected areas, rare species, sensitive ecosystems, they are all in the centre of our initiatives. Through participation and environmental engagement they aim at sustainability, where communities are able to attain economic development without draining their marine natural reserves. They also enhance development of community entrepreneurship in a way that is fully harmonised with nature. They enhance awareness especially in communities that are in greatest need of environmental protection, so that they adopt a more responsible attitude towards nature. Through education and informative campaigns they communicate their vision and values to sensitise the public on several environmental issues.

## References

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[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Georgios-Gaidajis/publication/255710174\\_Integration\\_of\\_Sustainable\\_Development\\_in\\_Engineering\\_Universities\\_in\\_Greece/links/61a88519092e735ae2d3ad75/Integration-of-Sustainable-Development-in-Engineering-Universities-in-Greece.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Georgios-Gaidajis/publication/255710174_Integration_of_Sustainable_Development_in_Engineering_Universities_in_Greece/links/61a88519092e735ae2d3ad75/Integration-of-Sustainable-Development-in-Engineering-Universities-in-Greece.pdf)

<http://www.thalassafoundation.com/en-GB>

<https://www.athensenvironmental.org/>

<http://www.lifethemis.eu/en/program/partners/Hellenic-Society-for-the-Protection-of-Nature>

<https://news.gtp.gr/2021/07/29/five-greek-municipalities-aim-to-join-eus-100-climate-neutral-cities-by-2030-venture/>

<https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/en-us/the-project/beneficiaries-co-financers/ministry-of-environment-and-energy-meen>

<https://ypen.gov.gr/>

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Greece-Environment.aspx>





# GOOD PROJECT & PRACTICES

## GREECE



**Project Title:** Blue Alonissos

**Social Media pages:** <https://twitter.com/thalassafound>;

<https://www.facebook.com/thalassafoundation/timeline/>

**Application Years:** 2015-2016

**Project Partners and Countries ( Web Links)** The Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, The Mediterranean SOS Network

**Obejectives and Targets** Enhancing conservation and environmental awareness in Alonissos

**Target Groups** Approximately 3.000 individuals, small producers' associations, ecotourism agencies

**Learning Model : Non-Formal ? Informal ? or Formal ? ( If there is learning material)**

**Outputs / Products:** Plastic bags need hundreds of years in order to break down and constitute a serious threat to the marine environment. Like most kinds of litter they follow waterways and end up into the sea where marine mammals, seabirds and other species often mistake them for food and die from suffocation, malnutrition or even toxicity... This project puts particular emphasis on the sensitization of the local community in order to reduce the use of plastic bags. Fabric bags will be distributed to all households of the island so that the use of plastic ones can be avoided. The project includes educational and numerous participatory activities i.e. beach cleanup trips combined with litter monitoring and recording based on scientific protocols. As a result, the local community, tourists and visitors will have the opportunity to actively participate in the mitigation of their impact on the marine ecosystem and the island will be highlighted as an environmentally friendly destination.

Our ambition is to make Alonissos the FIRST plastic bag free island in Greece, where the locals turn to a more balanced lifestyle in order to preserve nature.

The Blue Alonissos project includes several conservation actions that refer to the monitoring and study of local marine mammals. Volunteers are going to play a key role in the success of this initiative and their contribution is crucial for maintaining the various projects' outcomes after their implementation period.



### Developed Green Environment Courses and Materials ( If There is):

[https://surfrider.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/guide\\_good-practices\\_web\\_en.pdf](https://surfrider.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/guide_good-practices_web_en.pdf)

### Success of the Projects (Any Prize and Sustainability etc):

[Dec. 2015: Alonissos: the first island without plastic bags in Greece! \(Press Release\)](#)

[Apr. 2016: Formation of a Coordinating Committee by the Municipality of Alonissos](#)

[Apr. 2016: Three-day participatory actions in Alonissos](#)

[July 2016: Alonissos says "Yes" to actions but "No" to Plastic Bags](#)

[Sept. 2016: Info-Day "The Plastic Bag Problem in Greece: Present Situation, Challenges and Best Practices"](#)

[Nov. 2016: Alonissos featured in the "Good Practices Guide" by Surfrider Foundation Europe](#)

### Video Links

<http://www.thalassafoundation.com/en-GB/initiatives/blue-islands-of-greece/blue-alonissos>



## **Project Title: Bottles2Boats – B2B**

### **Social Media pages:**

<https://www.facebook.com/DREAMkanekalamata/>

<https://twitter.com/KANEKalamata>

<https://www.instagram.com/kanekalamata/>

<https://b2b.ngokane.org/>

### **Project Partners and Countries ( Web Links):**

K.A.NE. Social Youth Development - <https://ngokane.org/en/home-page/> ;

R.A.D.I.Kal.A., Recycling Awareness Design Innovation Kalamata Association - <http://radikala.org/news/home/> ;

Bougas Private Schools - <https://bougas-school.gr/%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B9%CF%89%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AC-%CF%83%CF%87%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1/?lang=en> ;

Nautical Club of Kalamata (NOK) - <http://nok.gr/index.php/en/>

Neotherm – <http://e-kalamata.gr/>

Messinian Boats – <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100031221672890>

MUNDUS Association – Spain – <https://asociacionmundus.com/what-is-mundus/>

VIA e.V. – Germany - <https://www.via-ev.org/>

YouNet – Italy - <https://www.you-net.eu/younet/>

Mais Cidadania Association – Portugal - <http://www.maiscidadania.pt/>

Brocēnu novada jauniešu centrs KOPĀ – Latvia - <https://www.facebook.com/jickopa/>

Administration for allocation of Social Welfare – Sweden -

### **Obejectives and Targets:**

The bottles2boats project was born as an Erasmus + short term group EVS project that aims to involve European youth and the participating organisations in order to act as multipliers in local societies but also in their wider pan-European or international network of the importance and impact that mobility programs and participation in nonformal learning processes can have as well as the need for protection and respect for our natural environment, the search for creative and innovative ways to protect it, and the need for a more active and healthy lifestyle.

### Success of the Project:

The bottles2boats project was awarded by the Energy Globe Foundation in 2021. The project was selected by a pool of more than 2500 projects aiming at protecting our environment, that were submitted by more than 180 countries to the ENERGY GLOBE AWARD, which is the most significant environmental award worldwide.



### Pics









## Video Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lO9bPcQUM14>