



Newsletter

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ADRIATIC-IONIAN
European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund

SEAVIEWS



"It was Sunday early morning, and the city was still silent after Saturday night out. I went for breakfast in the seafront to enjoy a little more the Ionian blue before I leave this nice place and come back to Athens and to research activities. Suddenly, I saw smoke from the other side of the canal; a sailing boat was on fire. I was wondering who I should call to report the incident and how could we prevent potential marine pollution from the wreck. Thankfully, a well-trained and experienced sailor was there: the instructor of the offshore sailing school reacted immediately, he called the Coast Guard and after a while the fire was under control and the designated persons took precautionary measures for marine pollution. But what if he was not there, or if someone else less experienced in marine pollution was the eyewitness? Wouldn't be great if I could somehow be actively involved in the prevention of the marine pollution instead of just watching? "

Editorial

*by Nikolaos P. Ventikos,
Associate Professor of NTUA, coordinator of the SEAVIEWS project*

SEAVIEWS "SEctor Adaptive Virtual Early Warning System for marine pollution" is targeting to safeguard the ecosystem in the Adriatic-Ionian Sea, to tackle the environmental vulnerability and fragmentation by creating a transnational repository network. The network will receive, store and analyse data about the sea water quality from a network of smart sensors; also by gathering real time observations regarding marine pollution sent by individuals, *like myself*, via a mobile application. Then, big data analytics will be employed formulating an innovative virtual early warning system for preventing and managing the marine pollution from various sources.

Within this network, digital labs will be established, the marine pollution hubs; these will be used (i) as information channels to the broader society and (ii) as stakeholders within discussions for marine pollution topics.

One nodal goal of the hubs is to promote through the network people's understanding and sensitivity and therefore, engage them in the prevention of marine pollution.

Another important output of SEAVIEWS is targeting to the amendment of the macroregional action plan. Through the engagement of the national and regional Authorities in the marine pollution hubs, the project will strengthen the marine environmental protection by promoting the usage of tools such as big data. In this context, an Industrial Committee will be established to evaluate and propose improvement actions by incorporating a dynamic decision policy process. Reaching its targets, SEAVIEWS could transform the Adriatic-Ionian Sea to the so called meta-national pioneer.

"From now and on, somebody will always be in the watch"

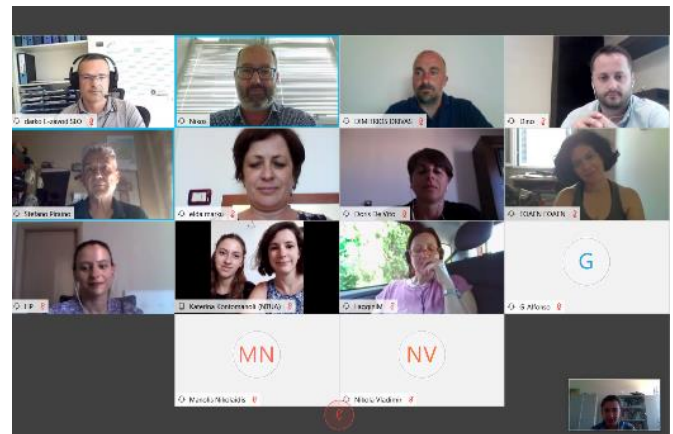


Kick off meeting

First meeting was held on 8th and 9th July 2020 and was organised by the Lead Partner of the Project (NTUA) as an online teleconference meeting.

On the first day of the meeting all partners were familiarized with the aims of the SEAVIEWS project, the implementation of the technical part, as well as the roadmap for the deliverables within the first six months of the project. On the second day the representatives from the Adrion Interreg MA participated in the meeting. After a short presentation of each partner introducing their research team, a presentation regarding the administrative and the financial requirements has been given by the Managing Authority, followed by

presentations on management of the SEAVIEWS project and the communication strategy by work package leaders.



Stakeholders virtual workshops

To bring together stakeholders who are actively involved in the marine environmental protection, we organized several online workshops.

Two consecutive SEAVIEWS virtual workshops were organized on 23rd November 2020 by **Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Montenegro**, the first one involved public authorities from various administrative levels (Ministries, Special Agencies etc.) together with private organizations closely linked with public authorities and the second one involved higher education and research institutions as well as general public representatives (civil society organizations).

22 participants attended both workshops.



The **third SEAVIEWS virtual workshop** was organized on 14th December 2020 by **National Technical University of Athens**. The aim of this workshop was to begin a dialogue with key stakeholders with vast experience and expertise on marine pollution in the ADRION area and based on this interaction to dynamically design the SEAVIEWS web-based platform technical specifications.

44 participants attended the workshop.

The workshops participants expressed a strong need to monitor marine environment. They highlighted their need for data of intermediate or even high complexity, thus demanding a frequent data collection and sharing, encompassing many physical and chemical parameters. Furthermore, they expressed the desire to have a real-time or nearly real-time monitoring system installed with their areas of responsibility. The interest for detailed datasets was low as users prefer more user-friendly types of data representation (reports, summary, figures, etc.). Finally, the need for early warning in case of marine incidents was common for all the categories of stakeholders.



Project partners

National Technical University of Athens is the oldest and most prestigious educational institution of Greece in the field of technology, and has contributed unceasingly to the country's scientific, technical and economic development since its foundation in 1836. Apart from education, the other main activity of the NTUA is scientific research.



National Interuniversity Consortium for Marine Sciences represents the excellence of the Italian marine science. CoNISMa has experience in data collection and spatial analyses to enhance policies of effective environmental management and to suggest how to design further protection schemes and management actions based on effective exchanges between protected areas.



University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture is the leading scientific institution in Croatia in the fields of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture. Currently there are 12 projects in implementation at UNIZAG FSB financed from Horizon 2020 program and dozens of projects financed from other international sources.



Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Montenegro carries out safety maritime accidents investigation, to find out the cause of incidents and to prevent similar incidents in the future. The accidents investigation process comprises: information gathering, information notification, information exchange, initial analysis, investigation strategy and planning, agreement with other interested parties, overview and secure of incident site, interview with witnesses.



E-zavod from Slovenia has 12 years of experiences in the field of sustainable development and business support: Circular economy, bioeconomy, environmental protection, rural development, innovation support. The mission of institute is to support integration of European policies and improve quality of citizens' life through practical implementation of the projects. As a member of European Commission Circular Economy Stakeholder Group, E-zavod has a direct influence and networking possibilities with other EU28 stakeholders and decision makers in the field of bioeconomy.



The University of Tirana was founded in 1957 and it is the first university established in Albania. It is comprised by 6 Faculties, one of which is the Faculty of Natural Sciences (FNS). Departments of Chemistry and Biology have a long-term experience regarding the environmental pollution assessment, monitoring and analysis, providing a wide range of environmental data published in different scientific journals.





Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Isles EOAEN has major experience in the implementation of National and European programmes. EOAEN is staffed by one permanent employee in the secretariat, who is a graduate of a technological educational institute, and works with a host of experts and members of the academic community in implementing projects and activities to achieve its aims. Also, EOAEN is collaborating with partners and experts where necessary in implementing a variety of actions and projects in Greece and Europe, in the framework of jointly financed national and European programmes.



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SEAVIEWS



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