



**Action 2.1: Organisation And Development Of Regional Meetings (RM) With Key Regional Stakeholders (KS)**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting for INTERREG EUROPE INVALIS: Environmental vulnerability: the impact of Invasive Alien Species)**

**Meeting Summary**

The 1st Regional Meeting was held in the context of INTERREG EUROPE INVALIS with code PGI05271 and title “Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species”. The purpose of the meeting was to implement the Action 2.1 with title “Organisation And Development Of Regional Meetings (RM) With Key Regional Stakeholders (KS). The Regional Meeting took place in Athens in the National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development, in the villa of Kazouli (241 Kifissias Street) on October 29, 2019 at 10:00 am.

The group of the stakeholders for the 1st Regional Meeting consisted of:

Last name - First Name	Name of Organization	KRs_cat	Description
Dimopoulos Panayotis	University of Patras Hellenic Botanical Society	KS_RE KS_CS	Department of Biology Hellenic Association
Zogaris Stamatis	Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	KS_RE	Governmental Research Organization
Karachle Paraskevi	Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	KS_RE	Governmental Research Organization
Koutsikos Nikolaos	Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	KS_RE	Governmental Research Organization
Bazos Ioannis	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	KS_RE	University
Dimopoulos Costas (General Director of Environment)	Ministry of Environment & Energy	KS_PA	Public Authority
Nikokavouras Charilaos	Ministry of Environment & Energy	KS_PA	Public Authority
Tsikliras Athanasios	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	KS_RE	University



Christopoulou Ioli	The Green Tank	KS_CS	NGOs
Giovos Ioannis	iSea	KS_CS	NGOs
Korizi Katerina	Free Lancer	KS_PC	-
Gkaniatsa Maria	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD - project team
Zikou Elena	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD - project team
Kalliontzis Aggelos	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD - project team
Kapsi Vasiliki	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD employee
Panagopoulou Georgia	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD employee
Pantelis Alexandros	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	-	Member of NCESD employee

The main speakers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting:

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
Gkaniatsa Maria	National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development	Presentation of the INTERREG EUROPE INVALIDIS
Dimopoulos Panayotis	University of Patras Hellenic Botanical Society	Plant diversity and patterns of distribution of alien species in Greece
Karachle Paraskevi	Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	Alien species in the Greek seas: recordings and first impact assessments on fisheries
Zogaris Stamatis/ Koutsikos Nikolaos	Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	The alien freshwater species and whether they pose a serious threat to the inland waters of Greece
Christopoulou Ioli	The Green Tank	Challenges of policy on alien species
Nikokavouras Charilaos	Ministry of Environment & Energy	Institutional framework for alien species



The meeting was opened by the Executive Director of NCESD, Mr. Petros Varelidis, with a greeting to the stakeholders and outlining the role of NCESD in the INTERREG EUROPE INVALIDIS. Then, program was extensively presented by the project team representative, Maria Gkaniatsa, member of NCESD (Biologist, MSc).

The stakeholder speeches were as follows:

- **Mr. Panayotis Dimopoulos**, Professor of Botany and Ecology, Dept. of Biology, University of Patras, who represented the University of Patras and the Hellenic Botanical Society as President, gave a lecture on the plant diversity and distribution patterns of the Alien species in Greece. More specifically, he presented from a literature review records of alien plant species in 49 European countries or major islands. Concerning Greece, he referred to the total flora and the alien species diversity, their distribution in the floristic regions of Greece, the richest families of the Greek flora with alien species, overlapping of regions with rich and endemic total flora and more specifically to the total diversity of the naturalized alien species. He spoke on the Invasive Alien species occurring in Greece, according to the relative EU Regulation (*Ludwigia grandiflora*, *Ludwigia peploides*, *Ailanthus altissima*) and presented briefly the effort made by the University of Patras in collaboration with the Hellenic Botanical Society to record the Greek flora in a database (<http://portal.cybertaxonomy.org/flora-greece/intro>). His speech ended with a list of possible alien species for the Greek area (*Erigeron bonariensis* L.V., *Nicotiana glauca* Graham, *Ixalis pes-caprae* L., *Xanthium spinosum* L.).
- **Ms Paraskevi K. Karachle**, researcher at Hellenic Center for Marine Research presented her talk on Invasive Alien species in the Greek seas: recordings and first impact assessments on fisheries. She started with a reference to the three regulations 2016/1141, 2017/1263 and 2019/1262, that helped in the drafting of the list of EU concern alien species. She pointed out that of the 66 species (2nd update on 15/8/2019) on the list, only one Lessepsian species (*Plotosus lineatus*) has been found in Greece and suggested filling in the list with two other species



that have an established presence, the *Pterois miles* (Lionfish) and *Lagocephalus sceleratus*. She presented the work of The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research on the registration of Invasive Alien species and the creation of a database named “ELNAIS”. The database was recently updated to 214 foreign species, 62 of which are cryptogenic. She then analyzed the main entry routes for Invasive species and described a mechanism for predicting possible future invasions (Horizon Scanning). Finally, she described in detail the research carried out with the help of questionnaires to professional and amateur fishermen.

- **Mr. Stamatis Zogaris**, Dr. Geographer-Biologist and researcher of The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, in collaboration with Mr. Nikolaos Koutsikos, Ichthyologist at The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, presented the Invasive Alien freshwater species and whether they pose a serious threat to the inland waters of Greece. He described in total the ecosystems of the inland waters of Greece and the factors that influence them. He defined the concepts of Invasive Alien species and allotropies, identified the main ways of introducing IAS into ecosystems and the ways in which they pose a threat to alien populations. Presented 953 sampling data, in which a total of 10 different IAS were recorded, four of which represent a 'deadly' threat to ecosystems (*C. gibelio*, *G. holbrooki*, *L. gibbosus*, *P. parva*), findings accompanied by ecosystem allocation maps. It subsequently attached particular importance to the presence of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* in Greece, and concluded that the threat of *O. mykiss* as a particularly Invasive Alien species in Greece is less than has been assessed in several recent risk assessments.
- **Ms. Ioli Christopoulou**, Partner and Policy Director of The Green Tank talked about the challenges of policy on IAS. She introduced legislation 1143/2014 and set out the institutional and legal framework for the protection of biodiversity. She proposed measures for the control, protection and management of Invasive Alien species and closed her speech by analyzing the challenges that policy has to face in this area. She also referred to possible conflicts between different stakeholders.



- Mr. **Charilaos Nikokavouras**, the civil servant of the Department of Natural Environment and Biodiversity Management of the MEEN in charge of Invasive Alien Species, focused on the institutional framework for alien species. In more detail, he referenced international conventions, the European Union's Framework, and Law 3937/2011 of Greece. He explained that despite the existence of appropriate legislation, the implementation of the relevant legislation is lagging behind schedule. Furthermore, he referred to the missing piece of legislation, i.e. the Joint Ministerial Decision that refers to the appropriate penalties and all necessary administrative procedures. The JMD has been drafted since March 2019 (3 years later that the relevant deadline stipulated in the Regulation 1143/2014) but the JMD has not been signed yet.

All participants emphasized the need to establish a network of stakeholders from the administration, the scientific community and the NGOs that will exchange information and ideas systematically on Invasive Alien Species to assist the administration in implementing the Regulation 1143/2014. This informal network has a lot of relevant information that is currently fragmented and not analyzed through the perspective of the IAS Regulation. Bringing together these stakeholders could help identify the species of the EU list that are currently present in Greece, create a national list, raise awareness, identify main pathways, help monitoring especially in protected areas, propose management measures for those IAS species that measures can be effective etc. The participants will propose additional experts to expand the network in order to fully cover all the spectrum of species.