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# AWARENESS EVENT

18 & 19-May-2022

EVENT #3 GREECE

## Awareness event Understanding the importance of protecting unique natural water ecosystems

The awareness event took place on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 with Middle and High School students of Nikiforos Drama in Greece participating. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the students and teachers were informed by Iordanis Kasapidis, a PhD student in Forestry and Environmental and Natural Resources Management and researcher of the project with a video-PowerPoint presentation. This was followed by a discussion on the importance of water, the hydrological cycle, the problem of plastics and microplastics and finally for the soil erosion. Next the students participated in a theatrical play organized by Katerina Manousi so that through cooperation and empathy they realize the responsibility we all have to protect the environment.



*Figure 1. Iordanis Kasapidis presentation on the sustainable water management*



*Figure 2. Theatrical play by Katerina Manousi*

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On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Director of GERi Lab, International Hellenic University (IHU) and Project Coordinator George N. Zaimes talked to the students, teachers and guests (Deputy Regional Governor of Drama, Deputy Mayor of Paranesti, Head of the Secondary School) about the objectives of the EU funded project Protect-Streams-4-Sea (BSB963).



Figure 3. George Zaimes presentation on the Protect-Streams-4-Sea (BSB963) Project

Afterwards the students planted aromatic plants (Achilles, rosemary, thyme, etc.) in the school yard in an area that was severely degraded. The purpose was to understand how planting plants can really alter the landscape, improve its aesthetics and help the restore of the area.



Figure 4. Students in action! Planting!



Figure 5. All the students that participated in the planting

In a different area of the school an experiment was set up. Specifically, three plots were set with different land covers (e.g., bare ground, vegetated cover) in order to study and understand how vegetation cover impacts soil erosion rates and process. The students will monitor the plots for the next three years.

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Figure 6. Students setting up the experimental plots



Figure 7. The three experimental plots

The event received national coverage since the Greek National TV station (ERT3) had a live feed of the event in the show "Perimetros" (please check <https://www.ertflix.gr/vod/vod.196110-perimetros-185>).



Figure 8. George Zaimis live interview to the Greek National ERT3

The research team of Protect-Streas-4-Sea and GERi Lab specifically Paschalis Koutalakis, Iordanis Kasapidis, Giorgos Gkiatas, Giorgos Pagonis, Krikopoulos Kostas and Theodoros Klepountsiotis participated in the event

The overall activity was organized and implemented by Roots NGO.

Figure 7. The tree different land covers

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*Figure 9. The Protect-Streams-4-Sea research team*

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