

Press Release

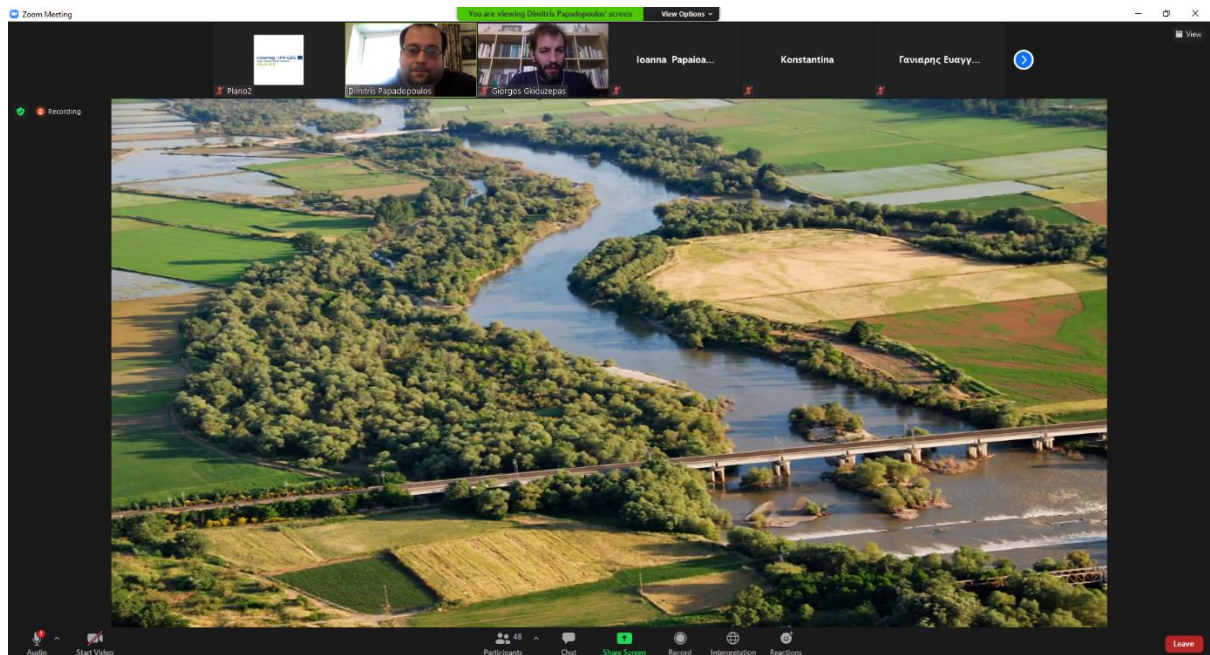
Addressing the challenges for cross-border water resources management

Cooperation, accessibility to research data, and the exchange of know-how are the main pillars for a modern water resources management on a national or a transnational level. In addition, there is a great need for the coordination of the multiple bodies, who through their activities affect Axios'/Vardar water basin, both those a national level but also across the borders.

These were the main conclusions of the two-day event, organized by the Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Chalkidona –that took place on line on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December 2020, under the Aqua-M II project. The project is funded by the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Republic of North Macedonia 2014-2020".

During the two-day event, a number of studies were presented focusing on the hydrogeology of Axios River, monitoring of pollutants in river systems, and the preliminary results of the pollution monitoring from emerging pollutants in Axios River, one of the project actions implemented by the Department of Chemistry of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. A workshop, to assess the possible actions for strengthening the managing the water resources on a cross-border setting also took place. Furthermore, the workshop also tackled the transnational exchange of know-how, for an integrated application of the respective legislation to the overall area of the Axios/Varbar River Water Basin

More than 100 participants – representatives of bodies, academics, students, and citizens participated in the two-day event. They had the opportunity to be informed, share insights, and exchange experiences through implementing actions for managing water resources. Mr. Kostas Yioutikas, Vice Governor of Environment and Development of the Region of Central Macedonia, Mr. Stavros Anagnostopoulos, Mayor of Chalkidona, Mr. Spyros Arseniou, Head of Joint Secretariat Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Republic of North Macedonia 2014-2020" and, Mr. Efstratios Pitikis, Chairman of the Administrative Board of Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Chalkidona, honored with their attendance and welcomed the participants.



AQUA-M II in brief

The project AQUA-M II was approved and is being implemented within the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Interreg IPA CBC «Greece-Republic of North Macedonia». Project partners are the Municipality of Gevgelija, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – Special Account for Research Funds - Department of Chemistry, Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Paionia, Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Chalikidona and Public Communal Enterprise of Gevgelija. The project aims to contribute to the effective and continuous monitoring of the water quality management of Axios River through the application of joint monitoring and management systems and the strengthening of cooperation among responsible stakeholders and authorities in both countries.