
*PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT,
COAST CLEANING ACTION & NETWORKING ACTIVITIES*

On Sunday, 31st of May 2021, the Laboratory of Knowledge & Intelligent Computing (KIC) of the Department of Informatics & Telecommunications of the University of Ioannina, organized with great success and significant participation of the public, an Environmental Action that took place in Koronisia Arta. This action was carried out in the framework of the European Project RE.CO.RD "REcycling Strategies for the Coastal Sustainable Waste Management towards R&D Innovation" of the INTERREG European Territorial Cooperation Program "Greece-Italy 2014-2020".

Environmentally aware young and older citizens -pupils, students, locals, representatives of the Arta Runners Association and other volunteers- met and proceeded to clean the coastline from plastic and other materials. The event continued both live and online with speeches by representatives of Universities and stakeholders, and was concluded with a constructive discussion, which highlighted the importance and contribution of the project to the local community and the new opportunities and prospects that arise for future collaborations and interventions.

More specifically, the cycle of speeches was opened by Prof. Chrysostomos Stylios, Director of KIC Laboratory and Scientific Director of the Project, who presented the activities of the project regarding the innovative methodologies for Sustainable Waste Management, and invited everyone to participate in the "Network for the Protection of the Coastal Environment in the areas of Amvrakikos & Lefkada".

In continue, **Prof. Vagelis Papadakis, Dept. of Environmental Engineering of the University of Patras**, informed the attendants about the Circular Economy and its Necessity for Sustainable Development. Indeed, Circular Economy performs the core thematic of the project "**Circular Innovation and Resilient City Labs in the Adrion Region-CIRCLE**" under **INTERREG ADRION Program**, in which Prof. Papadakis is project manager. Within the frames of CIRCLE, will be developed the **Circular Innovation Resilient Cities Labs (CIRCLabs)**, through which will be designed and tested circular models based on collaborative and multidisciplinary approach involving targeted stakeholders. CIRCLabs will be jointly designed after analyzing the most effective models in this field at EU level. Main pilot activities of CIRCLabs' will focus on (industrial symbiosis, organic wastes, electronic and electrical equipment wastes (WEEE), construction and demolition wastes (CDW).

Mr. Dimitris Barelos, from the Amvrakikos Gulf- Lefkada Management Body, focused on the issue of protecting the Amvrakikos Gulf and the need for everyone to contribute and continue collaborating, in order to capitalize on the results of the project. The speeches ended with that of Mr. Zois Kolios, an entrepreneur in the fish farming sector, who, through his personal experience and involvement, highlighted the problems that need further attention and solution. An open discussion among the attendees followed, where the great interest and awareness of the citizens for the protection of Amvrakikos Gulf was noted.

