

# SPOT STOP WASTE CRIME

**LIFE PROWhiBIT**  
PREVENTION - DETECTION - DISRUPTION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE CRIME



## ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE CRIME IS A CRIME WITH “VICTIMS”

PROJECT	LIFE18 GIE/GR/000899
PROJECT TITLE	Prevent Of Waste crime by Intelligence Based Inspections
PROJECT ACRONYM	LIFE PROWhiBIT
ACTION	D 3.1
DELIVERABLE NUMBER	D 3.1
DELIVERABLE TITLE	SECOND REPORT ON INFO DAYS
REPORT STATUS	1 <sup>st</sup> Version
COMPLETION DATE	SEPTEMBER 2023
RESPONSIBLE	Green Fund



LIFE PROWhiBIT (LIFE 18 GIE/GR/000899) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union. EU financial contribution: 739.570 € (54,97% of total eligible budget).



European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law



## Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION .....	3
2	1 <sup>ST</sup> INFO DAY: INTRODUCTORY - ATTICA REGION.....	3
3	2 <sup>ND</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL - CRETE.....	28
4	3 <sup>RD</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – WESTERN GREECE.....	39
5	4 <sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – PELOPONNISOS.....	44
6	5 <sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – NORTH AEGEAN & SOUTH AEGEAN .....	48
7	6 <sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – THESSALY .....	54
8	7 <sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – STEREA ELLADA.....	58
9	8 <sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – IONIAN ISLANDS .....	60

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The present deliverable D 3.1 contains the details on the Info Days organized by the project and constitutes one of the outputs of Action D3 of the project. For each Info Day there is a table summarizing related information and the number of participants, while supporting evidence and supporting material files are provided in respective accompanying folders:

- “1 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “2 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “3 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “4 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “5 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “6 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “7 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”
- “8 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER”

## 2 1<sup>ST</sup> INFO DAY: INTRODUCTORY - ATTICA REGION

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Introductory Info Day- ATTICA</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STSi4ZhbeWo&amp;t=10952s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STSi4ZhbeWo&amp;t=10952s</a>	
Info Day Date	June 15, 2021
Duration	5hrs & 30min
Recipients of the Invitation	597
Subscribed & received the link to participate	188
Participants	214
Supporting Material	“1 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Post Event Press Release</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Minister of Environment and Energy (MEE), Mr. Konstantinos Skrekas.

Greetings followed by:

- the Secretary General of Natural Environment and Water of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Professor Konstantinos Aravosis
- the Director of Green Fund, Mr. Giorgos Protopapas, and
- Ms. Simonne Rufener, LIFE PROWhIBIT's Project Manager on behalf of the IMPEL Network.

The Info Day was moderated by Giorgos Velegrakis, the Local Project Manager and IS Coordinator of LIFE PROWhIBIT on behalf Green Fund. Mr Velegrakis outlined key technical and organizational aspects of the day, welcomed everyone attending and the presenting speakers.

The following sections include a summary of the greetings and welcome speeches.

#### **Minister of Environment and Energy (MEE), Mr. Konstantinos Skrekas**

*Let me say that I am more than happy to welcome today's online event concerning an issue of vital importance, which has to do with the phenomenon of environmental waste crime.*

*Environmental crime is recognized as among of the most profitable forms of international criminal activity. Its value was estimated in 2016 to be between 91 and 259 billion US dollars annually. It is considered to be, maybe among the four largest criminal areas in the world after drugs, counterfeits and human trafficking. And of course, the consequences of improper and illegal disposal of waste are significant for the environment and public health since they include increasing levels of pollution, also disturbance of ecological balance, degradation of wildlife and reduction in biodiversity, blighting of the landscape and local communities, and of course draining the economy through high, clean-up cost and lost tax. All of the above trigger a reduction of life expectancy, irreversible climate change and contamination of the food chain. Moreover, The GENVAL Evaluation Report for Greece identified environmental waste crime as a key challenge, since Greece is used as a transit area for illegal waste shipments. That is why tackling environmental waste crime is a priority in Greece and our government and in this context, I would like to stress that everyone has a responsibility to first manage their waste properly and second, to report any kind of illegal waste activity to competent authorities.*

*Now, this is of course, is a battle we must all fight together with both precautionary and repressive means, and this is why the LIFE PROWhIBIT project is of great importance when it comes to fighting this phenomenon. It involves of course the establishment, the adoption and implementation of the national strategy for combating environmental waste crime and at the same time it enhances the principles of circular economy and international cooperation in tackling environmental crime. It also promotes better environmental governance by promoting stakeholders' involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation. Furthermore, LIFE PROWhIBIT improves the flow of knowledge and intelligence on environmental waste crime through the involvement of the various outputs in the compliance chain and existing networks. It is needless of course to say that we fully support this webinar today, since it raises awareness about this very serious issue, the prevention of environmental crime with smart inspections, the relevant legislative framework, the actions taken on behalf of Greece. [This webinar] offers as well, a timely reminder of the necessity of an intensive fight against environmental crime both domestically and across the borders. We should always keep in mind that environmental crime is one of Europe's priority crime areas since it included in the EMPACT Priorities, and it also underlines the need for a pan-European response.*

Mr. Skrekas concluded that being at the leadership of environment and energy sector, they strongly believe that all the tools in our disposal have to be used in order to prevent environmental crime. After all, it is a crime against humanity and nature. Mr. Skrekas thanked and wished everyone well on the event.

**Konstantinos Aravosis, Secretary General of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)**

Mr. Aravosis thanked the moderator and welcomed everyone in the very first Info Day organized as part of the LIFE PROWhiBIT project.

*... Just as a brief introduction, let me give you some details about the financials of the project. It has a total budget of approximately 1.4 million euros from which nearly 55% is funded by the EU through the EU LIFE Program.*

*Please let me ask you a question first. What is environmental crime? It is any act that breaks environmental legislation and can cause significant harm or risk to the environment and human health. This is the reason why environmental crime is recognized as a substantial threat at international level, not only for the environment but also for society and economy. The European Union appreciating its severity, aims to protect the environment through criminal law and through the Directive 2008/99/EC. I would also like to mention that environmental crime is considered as one of Europol's top priorities for the fight against organized and serious crime.*

*It is worth to say that according to the UN, the monetary value of environmental crime is estimated at over 91 billion US dollars, with some studies estimating its value at over 259 billion US dollars annually. This means that most likely it is the fourth largest criminal area after drugs, counterfeits and human trafficking.*

*Now we may ask the question of how many forms of environmental crime exist? The answer is easy. Way too many. I will just name a few of the most well-known ones. Illegal emission and discharge of substances, illegal trade of wildlife, illegal trade of ozone depleting substances and illegal shipment and dumping of waste. To give you some more information about environmental waste crime, it is rapidly becoming a growing international problem which is related to waste mismanagement and dumping of waste and, last but not least possibly the most important case, illegal transboundary shipment of waste.*

*And here comes Greece to the question. Greece due to its geographical location is very often used as a transit area for illegal waste shipments to countries such as Africa and Asia and typically that involves fraud and forged declarations as part of the organized crime.*

*In this context, we can all agree that tackling environmental wastes crime must be one of the top priorities for all member states and this can only be achieved if we effectively combine the following actions. First, we need to strengthen and coordinate the actions of all key actors involved in the fight against environmental waste crime. This ranges from citizens to law enforcement. We will achieve this with the development of a new and pioneering national strategy. A second action is to improve the capacity building of the actors involved. This is very important to raise the awareness of our society. We should take advantage of technological improvements and introduce new and efficient tools,*

*methods and procedures to be followed at the environmental inspection. All these that I have just mentioned will be achieved through the implementation of the LIFE PROWhIBIT project, which is coordinated by our General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water. The project will be fully aligned with the key mission of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, as our Minister has just mentioned, which is preservation and improvement of the quality of the environment, spatial and urban planning of Greece, and the promotion and development of the energy, mineral and raw material sectors, according to the principles of sustainable development.*

*You can clearly understand that the Ministry of Environment and Energy has a leading and coordinating role for the protection of the environment and the departments of Environmental Inspectorates of the Ministry of Environment and Energy are fully committed to the protection of the environment and work towards this goal. It is the environmental inspectors who are the administrative and law enforcement authority in Greece and have the exclusive responsibility to carry out environmental inspections to all activities and transboundary shipments according to the applicable law.*

*To facilitate the work of the environmental inspector, the Ministry of Environment and Energy has embraced technology and therefore, we have established a number of electronic registries. There is the electronic Waste Registry, which has been developed with all licensed parties involved in the treatment and management of waste. Additionally, all producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment are included in the Producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Registry. On top of these registries, the Department of Environmental Inspectorate has developed a National Environmental Inspection Plan and the Annual Routine Inspection Program for a four-year period, while they maintain a detailed database with all inspections that have been carried out. Furthermore, the Environmental Inspectorate recognizes the fact that environmental crime is part of collective effort, and it actively participates in collaborations, operational actions and European forums and coordinates the actions of the various actors involved in our fight against environmental crime. In Greece, the Department of Environmental Inspectorate is also an active member of the Environmental Compliance and Governance which is a permanent body that assists the European Commission in the implementation of existing Union legislation programs and policies to from legislative proposals and initiatives as well as exchange of views and policy coordination between Member States.*

*Due to the complexity of environmental waste crime and its interrelation with other kinds of crime, it is not only our inspectors that get actively involved but also a number of law enforcement authorities, such as the Police, Customs, Coastguard, Prosecutors and Judiciary Authorities. In addition to the law enforcement authorities, there will also be other key actors involved such as the Financial and Economic Crime Unit, the Environmental Departments of the Decentralized Administrations and Regions, NGOs and private representatives. Therefore, we can certainly conclude that the development of a unified document to set a clear framework of the actions and responsibilities of each actor is something very important and, in this context, our General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water has already signed Memorandums of Understanding with all the key actors that I have just mentioned and that are involved in the fight against environmental waste crime and this is realized within the LIFE PROWhIBIT project. It is the first time we have the possibility to coordinate all the players that are involved.*

*It is very important to combat environmental waste crime and for this to be implemented with the principles and actions of circular economy, we have recently developed a new Circular Economy Action*



*Plan with a corresponding Roadmap with a set of concrete actions. Within this project Circular Economy and protection of the environment is crucial to have the ability to develop successful policies.*

*Based on everything I have mentioned so far, one can easily appreciate the great importance of the LIFE PROWhIBIT project in combating environmental waste crime and the environmental crime in general. We will work together with all key players, and we will all cooperate within this project in order to establish a cooperation framework in order to develop effective policies to combat environmental crime, and especially waste crime and as the PROWhIBIT title mentions to prevent waste crime with intelligence based inspections.*

Mr. Aravosis thanked everyone and wished for a successful meeting as the starting point of a very successful collaboration.

#### **Giorgos Protopapas, Director of Green Fund Greece**

Mr. Protopapas greeted the conference on behalf of the President of Green Fund, Mr. Stathopoulos and welcomed everyone to the first Info Day of LIFE PROWhIBIT.

Mr. Protopapas acknowledged the impacts of environmental waste crime to ecosystems, environment and human health and highlighted the Fund's commitment in addressing this key issue through implementing and financing LIFE PROWhIBIT project with the sum of 430,000 euros, which constitutes 75% of the total national financial contribution.

Mr. Protopapas briefly highlighted the governance of the Green Fund and its role in carrying out environmental projects. Established in 2010, the Green Fund is a public law entity reporting to the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy. Its purpose is to enhance development through environmental protection by managing and financing programs, measures, interventions, and actions aimed at protecting, upgrading, and enhancing the environment. Green Fund also supports national Environmental Policy, serving public and social interests through the administration, management and utilization of green and other resources. Mr. Protopapas further pointed out that Green Fund has a crucial involvement in LIFE, the European funding program for the environment and climate action, by financing and co-financing of projects. In this context, Green Fund is the coordinator in the capacity building project which has been implemented since January 2016 and will be completed in July 2021, with the creation of the Greek LIFE Taskforce. This is a team of five experts aiming to support the national contact points for the LIFE program for the effective participation of Greece in LIFE projects.

*... All these years, the Greek LIFE Taskforce provides relevant knowhow, assistance and consultation to potential LIFE project stakeholders and beneficiaries, organizes meetings and works at the national and regional level and provides technical assistance for integrated projects. Furthermore, Green Fund is the coordinator of a new project that will start in October 2021, the LIFE EL-BIOS project, which focuses on the creation of central governance and web-enabled information system that will integrate all existing biodiversity knowledge and data in national level through and integrated geospatial portal.*

*Moreover, Green Fund participates as a beneficiary in three Integrated LIFE projects coordinated by MEE, three very important projects for Greece.*

*LIFE-IP 4 NATURA constitutes the first centrally coordinated initiative to implement the Greek Priority Actions Framework on a national regional and local scale, aiming to substantially enhance Greece's*



*nature conservation framework in a way that simultaneously ensures the country's compliance with the European Union's nature legislation.*

*LIFE-IP AdaptInGR aims to boost the implementation of the Greek National Adaptation Strategy and the 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans at the current 1st adaptation policy cycle (2016-2025) and to prepare the passage to the 2nd one after 2026, with appropriate actions at a national, regional and local level.*

*Finally, LIFE-IP CEI-Greece aims to contribute to the implementation of the National Waste Management Plan, the National Strategic Waste Prevention Plan and the National Circular Economy Strategy.*

*Finally, Green Fund participates as a beneficiary in traditional LIFE projects, such as LIFE ReWEEE completed in November 2020 aimed to prevent the creation of Electric and Electronic Equipment waste and the installation of two sorting centers, LIFE TERRACESCAPE which aims to the restoration and recultivation of prominent elements of the Mediterranean landscape and LIFE conference in Andros, and LIFE GRECABAT which aims to improve the conservation status of 10 selected bat species while assisting the conservation of unique cave fauna, LIFE PROFILE which focuses on enhancing the development of financial instruments for environmental responsibility through the development of reliable and easy to use methodological tools for assessing environmental risk of activities, and last but not least, LIFE PROWhIBIT which aims to detect, prevent and stop environmental waste crime.*

Mr. Protopapas thanked everyone and returned the floor to Mr. Velegrakis.

#### **Simonne Rufener, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, IMPEL Network**

Ms. Rufener thanked everyone for the interesting greetings and presentations. She went on to provide a brief introduction of the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law Network (IMPEL). IMPEL is an International non-profit organization of environmental authorities (inspectors/regulators), founded in 1992. It has its legal seat in Brussels. IMPEL consists of 55 member authorities from 36 European countries including all EU Member States, with over 850 involved experts. The organization carries out projects (30 in 2021) and other networking activities for practitioners in environmental authorities. It has 5 Expert Teams that develop projects based on member needs that address key implementation gaps, into the five thematic areas. The organization is governed by its Board, with the General Assembly being the highest management level. It is supported by a Secretariat team and financed by membership fees and LIFE+ grants from the EU Commission.

Ms. Rufener outlined the four external projects that IMPEL is currently part of, with two more projects already completed (SPIDER WEB project: 2018-2019 | WasteForce project: 2019-2021). Current external projects are the flagship LIFE SWEAP (2018-2023) which is considered by IMPEL to be of particular interest for Greece, LIFE PROWhIBIT project (2019-2024), SRSS – Cyprus (2020-2021), and SRSS – Malta (2020-2021).

Going into more detail in LIFE SWEAP (Shipment of Waste Enforcement Actions Project), Ms. Rufener presented the five thematical pillars of the project. These are (1) to deliver training and capacity building, with 150 customs officers and inspection exchanges; (2) to coordinate inspections, with carrying out 45,000 inspections and joint actions; (3) to develop innovative tools, including a reporting



app, an inspection app, GPS tracking, shipment mapping and online training; (4) to promote international cooperation and communication through linking with other initiatives and producing industry information packages; and (5) to analyze data and intelligence, through producing intelligence products, nominal data exchange, and working with Europol.

Ms. Rufener in the interest of time highlighted some key data from the SWEAP project, such as the number of violations detected through inspections (presented below). It can be seen that a lot of countries contribute to the data, however Ms. Rufener highlighted that Greece has not yet reported such data, and went on to express her sincere wish that this will change in the future, offering IMPEL’s assistance in collection, analysis etc. IMPEL also carries out mapping of illegality (presented below), using an example of the type of illegal waste and its movement.



In regards to inspections, coverage was presented. Covered countries include Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Kosovo, Iceland, Italy, FYR Macedonia and Turkey.

Ms. Rufener presented the newest tool developed by SWEAP, the Reporting App. It is free to use and download and its purpose is to collect, report and store inspection data online. It acts as a flagging system, directly feeding into other systems via API-file (e.g. Spotfire and Europol SIENA).

Ms. Rufener proceeded to the second part of her presentation, the overview of the Work in the Expert Team in the Waste and TFS department. Current team members were presented, while she also pointed out that additionally to team members over 150 waste experts regularly contribute.

The Team’s 2020 work was briefly presented:

- Waste Management and Circular Economy project
  - o Aim: create a level playing field and common understanding in permitting and inspection processes
- EWEN
  - o Aim: development of a uniform Enforcement Strategy to address unregistered Producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- End of Life ships
  - o Aim: improving the implementation and enforcement of shipment of ships for recycling, (pointing out that this might be of particular interest to Greece due to its shipping industry)
- Plastic Waste Shipment
  - o Aim: getting a clearer Picture of the Changes in the Waste Plastic Market

- Network Collaboration
  - o Aim: building partner relationships with networks of environmental authorities and enforcement bodies outside Europe.
  - o

There is also the Expert Team Meeting Waste and TFS annual conference, the purpose of which is the exchange on new developments, working methods, case studies, expertise and networking. PROWhIBIT's team was welcomed to present and/or lead a workshop in the next meeting. Other meetings include the National Contact Point's strategic meeting, the purpose of which is to strengthen the network of NCP's involved in the enforcement of the WSR 1013/2006; and the Expert Team Steering Group, the aim of which is the strategic guidance on the ET Waste and TFS.

Finally, Ms. Rufener pointed out that IMPEL has a new project, the Big-Little TFS project the aim of which is to align the experience of physical inspections and the intent of the TFS legislation.

Ms. Rufener provided contact points for IMPEL and thanked everyone for their attention and wish for a fruitful conference.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

### **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**

**Presentation by:** Angeliki Rontogianni, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Rontogianni opened with an overview of LIFE PROWhIBIT project and its purpose which is the prevention of waste crime through intelligence based inspections. The project aims to Prevent, Detect and Disrupt environmental waste crime. It is an action implemented in Greece, to be completed by January 2024. Its total budget is over 1.4 million euros, with an EU contribution of approximately 740,000 euros.

The coordinating beneficiary of LIFE PROWhIBIT is the General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy. There are two additional beneficiaries, the Green Fund and the European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL). Memorandums of understanding have been signed with key stakeholders critical for the successful implementation of the project. These include Hellenic Police, Coast Guard, Judiciary Authorities, Customs, Greek Ministry of Finance, Decentralized Areas and Regions, Greek Ombudsman, NGOs, Private Representatives.

Ms. Rontogianni went on to outline the main objectives of LIFE PROWhIBIT project, which are (1) to develop and implement a National Strategy for preventing and combating Environmental Waste Crime to better protect the environment; (2) Promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation; and (3) to improve the flow of knowledge and intelligence on Environmental Waste Crime through the involvement of the various stakeholders in the compliance chain and existing networks (e.g. IMPEL), and to foster a better understanding of trends and patterns in order to develop preventative initiatives and disrupt Environmental Waste Crime; (4) to increase the capacity of the various stakeholders in the compliance chain and harmonize cooperation between them; (5) to intensify collaboration, inspections and enforcement actions; (6) to achieve IT-enabled and Intelligence-led Environmental Waste Crime law enforcement; and (7) to establish guidelines and provide policy makers with recommendations for preventing and combating Environmental Waste Crime at EU level.

Expected outcomes of the project are (1) the creation of a network of judicial, enforcement and inspecting officers by increasing and harmonizing cooperation; (2) a baseline report outlining the existing state of affairs at national and international level; (3) the creation of a digital platform with various functions ; (4) the creation of a National Strategy and its implementation; (5) raising awareness of Environmental Waste Crime and its consequences through info days; (6) training, ranging from the use of the platform to carrying out inspections, for stakeholders and all relevant parties; (7) intelligence-based and joint inspections; and (8) the development of Policy Recommendations and Best Practice Guide.

Ms. Rontogianni also presented the project team's progress to date. In terms of deliverables, LIFE PROWhIBIT has so far completed (1) a SWOT Analysis for various key actors in combatting environmental waste crime at national level; (2) development of a Communication Plan and Strategy; (3) the development of a Risk Management Plan; (4) the development of the motto and logo of the project; (5) the development of dedicated project website ([www.stopwastecrime.gr](http://www.stopwastecrime.gr)); and (6) the creation of promotional material, such as leaflets, posters, etc., and a short promo video of the project. In terms of actions, LIFE PROWhIBIT has so far (1) as mentioned earlier signed MoUs with all key stakeholders; (2) carried out networking meetings with similar projects for knowledge and experience exchange, (3) appointed a Quality Control Committee and Management Board; and (3) signed MoU for Green Procurement between the partners.

Ms. Rontogianni concluded her presentation with the next key steps of the project. In the next couple of months the project and its partners will carry out the first meeting of the Provisional National Committee for the development of the National Strategy, proceed with the assessment of the current state of affairs in combating waste related environmental crimes and identification of key players and any best practices in Europe and other countries, develop an archive of past Environmental Crime Cases, develop a common inspection checklist for Environmental Waste Crime and finally, proceed with the procurement process for the Information System and mobile application.

#### **EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece**

**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Eleftheriadou opened the presentation by providing an outline of the EMPACT Envicrime Framework. EMPACT is European multidisciplinary platform design against environmental criminal threats. Stakeholders include various EU states, EU institutions and bodies, countries outside the EU block, public and private parties, international public and private organizations. Specifically environmental waste crime is considered as one of the key priorities of the framework. Ms. Eleftheriadou reiterated that environmental waste crime covers a wide range of activities which break environmental law and cause serious harm to both the environment and human health and presented several examples of waste crime. She further pointed out that offenders operate across the waste management chain and it is often hard to distinguish between waste offenders and legal entities, due to the nature of this kind of criminal activity.

EMPACT's platform carries out various activities to promote communication and information sharing between the EU member states, while the transboundary nature of this criminal activity highlighting the need for a pan-European approach to fighting waste crime. Ms. Eleftheriadou further pointed out

that Europol has an open network, EnviCrimeNet, aimed at connecting policing authorities to other interested parties.

Ms. Eleftheriadou further presented completed program actions by 2020 to which Greece was involved as a member state. These included the development of a contact point network to enable efficient and effective communication and quick action between stakeholders, data gathering in questionnaire format on several actions. These actions include Action 1.1 – Evaluation of environmental crime within the EU; Action 3.3 – Forest fires; Action 2.5 – Prevention and detection of cross-border crime in the maritime domain; Action 2.7 – Illegal fishing in internal fresh waters; Action 2.11 – Counter criminal organisations involved in the Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment illegal shipments; Action 2.2 – Illegal trade of wildlife species; Action 2.3 – Waste batteries and plastic waste; Action 2.1 – Conduct an intelligence led operation to tackle OCGs involved in illegal fishery at sea.

Ms. Eleftheriadou went on to present completed program actions by 2021 to which Greece was involved as a member state. These include Action 1.1 ISF – Ambitus, which includes an impact assessment of environmental crime in EU in regards to waste and wildlife. As part of the Action an online workshop was carried out by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI). Ms. Eleftheriadou further elaborated on workshop participants and points discussed whilst the outcomes of the workshop are expected to be presented on a report to be published by IAI in the end of 2021.

Ms. Eleftheriadou closed the presentation with a reference to inspection of transboundary shipments which have been carried out within the activities of EMPACT Envicrime Framework. A case study of transboundary shipment to a country outside the EU was presented.

### **European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation**

**Presented by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhiBIT Project Coordinator, Head of the Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Glypti presented the legal framework of Environmental Waste Crime in Greece. The Project Coordinator opened the presentation with EU legislation. Directive 2008/99/EC outlining its threefold purpose. To harmonize the catalogue of environmental crimes, which should be punishable by law throughout the European Union, to harmonize the areas of legal responsibility and criminal penalties and the approach of such penalties with effective, proportionality to severity and with a preventative outlook.

Ms. Glypti outlined the illegal activities that constitute environmental crime according to Directive 2008/99/EC. These include but are not limited to discharge, emission or any other release to hazardous substances into the air, land and water; collection, transport, recovery or discharge of hazardous waste, the termination, possession or trafficking of non-substantial quantities of protected species of flora and fauna species, etc.

She went on to outline the criminal penalty framework under Directive 2008/99/EC. Ms. Glypti pointed out that according to the Directive criminal penalties can be charged to physical and legal entities and the fact that this Directive builds on and is based on pre-existing Directive 2004/35/EC. Finally, as per

definition, each EU country is responsible for translating directives into national law and is therefore responsible for enforcement and prosecution.

However, Ms. Glipti further pointed out the shortcomings of the Directive and potential areas of improvement. For example, the need to clarify certain legal definitions such as “non-substantial”, the need to further improve and harmonize the penalties across all EU countries, the need for better collaboration between EU states and the need for more efficient knowledge exchange, data collection and exchange and general communication in regards to environmental crime between EU countries.

Ms. Glipti then proceeded to discuss current relevant Greek law. Greece has legislated for the protection of the environment in Article 24 Paragraph 1 of Constitution published in 1975, according to which protection of the natural and cultural environment constitutes national responsibility and it is every citizen’s right. Ms Glipti specifically referred to L.1650/1986 Article 28 as amended and in force for the protection of the environment, which specifies the liability and illegal activity.

Finally, Ms. Glipti closed the presentation with reference to L.4042/2021 which translates Directive 2008/99/EC into national law, which further builds on L.1650/1986.

#### **Transboundary Shipment of Waste**

**Presented by:** Athina-Maria Verouchi, Directorate of Waste Management, General Secretariat of Waste Management Coordination of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Verouchi opened the presentation outlining that for the purposes of this case, transport of waste is considered at both national and international level, and concerns both non-hazardous and hazardous waste. She also briefly referred to the requirements for activities to be legal. She further presented in detail the legal framework that underpins illegal transport of waste. She specifically focused on the Basel Convention and its implementation and translation to Greek law and its provisions, and presented the resulting Regulation 1013/2006/EC.

Ms. Verouchi went on to provide a definition for transboundary shipment of waste and elaborated on legal requirements. She further focused specifically on the requirements for import and export of hazardous waste and the transboundary shipment of hazardous waste. Details on legal requirements for import and export and transboundary shipment of non-hazardous waste were presented. Ms. Verouchi went on to discuss the stakeholders and parties involved in the shipment chain, including Customs, Producer, Transporting company, Waste Management Facility etc.

Ms. Verouchi further elaborated on the case of Industrial Non-hazardous Waste, providing a brief definition, statistics on the specific produced volume of waste falling within the umbrella of industrial non-hazardous waste, as well as statistics on volumes treated and recovered in Greece and exported to third countries for the year 2018 as an example. Similar definitions and statistics were provided for Industrial Hazardous Wastes.

Ms. Verouchi further provided statistics for Greece on the import of waste for 2019. The presented categories were classified per EWC, and amounted to a total of approximately 150,000 tonnes. Statistics on export of waste from Greece for 2019 were similarly presented, categorized by EWC. It was noted that these amounted to a total of over 210,000 tonnes and main receiving counties were Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Netherlands and Norway.

The challenges faced in transboundary shipment of waste were outlined. These include the difficulty in differentiating between hazardous and non-hazardous, and waste vs product, differentiating between legal aspects and challenges in communication and international collaboration.

Ms. Verouchi further discussed the current Inspection Plan. She outlined that the Plan provides a clear definition of responsibilities across stakeholders, and aims to harmonise activities, it is based on risk assessment approach, covers several movements of waste and illegal transport, and uses information collected across several networks. Movements of interest include WEEE, metal waste, construction and demolition waste, plastic waste, plastic waste and ship-generated waste. According to the Plan, inspections can be carried out at the point of origin, point of destination, at EU borders, and during transportation within the EU. They can include inspection of documentation, confirmation of identification and physical inspection of waste. Ms. Verouchi outlined the competent authorities in regards to inspections for identification of illegal transboundary shipments, which are the Directorate of Inspectors of MEE and local customs.

Ms. Verouchi concluded the presentation with two case studies. The first was the case study of repatriation plastic waste from Liberia. In 2020, the competent authority in Liberia requested a take-back of 135 tonnes of plastic packaging received in Monrovia Port. It was found that relevant procedure was not followed leading to the shipment being declared illegal. The case has resulted to several authorities, the producer and transported working together in order to resolve. The second case study was the repatriation of mercury waste from Germany. In 2014, the competent authority in Germany found that a shipment of mercury has been transported as product when it should have been classified as waste. Inspections triggered by this found illegal deposits of mercury waste in Aspropirgos, Attiki and relevant illegal transboundary transportations. The repatriation concluded with successful transportation of the mercury waste to authorized treatment sites in Germany under the designation of waste.

### **The Criminal - Law Framework of Waste Crimes**

**Presented by:** Sapfo Katsanaki, Deputy Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor's Office to the Athens Court of First Instance

Ms. Katsanaki presented the Criminal Law Framework of Waste Crimes in Greece and opened the presentation by outlining the current legal framework as L.1650/1986 for the protection of the environment as amended by L.4042/2012 to incorporate Directive 2008/99/EC, including Article 2 – Definitions, Article 28 – Penal sanctions, and Article 30 – Administrative sanctions; and PD55/1998: Protection of Maritime Environment, including Article 1 – Definitions, Article 13, Par. 1a – Penal sanctions, and Article 13, Par. 1b – Administrative sanctions.

Ms. Katsanaki went on to discuss in detail L.1650/2016, specifically Article 28, Par. 1 and 2 which provide the definition of what constitutes environmental offence, as well as the relevant penal sanctions. The law differentiates between two distinct forms of the offence, which are two distinct misdemeanors and three distinct felonies. The definitions of each were provided as well as the penal and administrative sanctions according to the law. Ms. Katsanaki further presented the requirements for filling each offence. She went on to discuss the definition, liability and relevant penal sanctions of legal entities according to Article 28, Par. 5.1 and 5.2., and administrative sanctions according to Par. 5.3 and Article 30.

Ms. Katsanaki proceeded to outline the competent pre-investigation authorities. These are the Inspection Body of Environment, Construction, Energy and Mining, and the Department of Environmental Protection of the Office for the Protection of Property Rights, Cultural Heritage and Environment of Security Directorate of Attica. Further detail on the special investigative activities allowed under the law was provided.

Ms. Katsanaki went on to discuss the witness protection regime under Article 9, Par. 3 of L.4042/2012, which elaborates on protective measures that can be taken to support the whistleblowing process. The Deputy Prosecutor also elaborated on the Right of Representation under Article 28 of L.1650/1986 and the Ne bis in idem principle outlined in Article 30.

The presentation is closed with the examination of the law aimed at protecting the maritime environment. In regards to the protection of maritime environment, the Deputy Prosecutor explained that the articles of L.743/14/17.10.1977 as incorporated in PD.55/1998 are still in effect as part of Article 32, Par. 1 of L.1650/1986. The penal sanctions under the law were presented as well as the cases in which they are applied. Additionally, Article 13, Par. 1 of the relevant law clarifies the cases that constitute serious pollution and Ms. Katsanaki goes on to elaborate on these cases.

#### **GENVAL Evaluation - Competent Authorities in Greece**

**Presented by:** Pelagia Manara, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Team Member, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Manara presented the evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations called "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime", specifically focusing on the Report on Greece.

The report provides a set of recommendations for Greece presented in detail. Rec. (1) Development of a National Strategy which will define: (a) objectives in the field of combating environmental crime, (b) the roles of the relevant actors involved in the fight against environmental crime, (c) at national level, a single body responsible for coordinating the efforts of all authorities involved in the fight against environmental crime in order to achieve more effective cooperation between them. Rec. (2) Promotion of collection of extensive statistics in order to obtain an integrated and complete picture of the phenomenon of environmental crime and monitoring all the stages of processing each case, being criminal or administrative. Rec. (3) enhancement of capacity of all key actors involved in the fight against environmental waste crime (law enforcement authorities, inspectors, custom officers, prosecutors and coast guards). Rec. (4) Consider clarifying the distinction between administrative and criminal offences, with reference to the cost of legal waste management or other protocols, so as there is no doubt about the seriousness of the environment crime case. Rec (5) Consider using witness protection programmes, including the anonymization of personal data, to protect the source of information in serious environmental crime cases. Rec. (6) Consider using information from intelligence and financial investigation techniques more widely, in order to detect possible links with organized crime. Rec. (7) Consider intensifying the road controls, emphasizing on illegal transport of waste, improving at the same time the training and technical equipment available to public servants conducting physical controls.

Ms. Manara further presented the report's recommendations specifically for several relevant bodies; Judiciary Authorities, Greek Police, Environmental Inspectors, and EU Member States. For Judiciary Authorities the recommendations are Rec. (1) Enhance the training and awareness of judges and prosecutors in relation to environmental crime. Rec. (2) Enhance the capacity of the prosecution service in fighting environmental crime by designating specialized prosecutors at regional level, and a senior prosecutor at central level, responsible for coordinating powers to address cross-regional differences and disseminate knowledge regarding the procedures for handling environmental crime cases. For the Greek Police the recommendations are Rec. (1) To increase the capacity of the police to fight environmental crime, in particular by providing trained and specialized staff at regional level. For Environmental Inspectors the recommendations are Rec. (1) Increase the number of Environmental Inspectors of General Directorate of Inspection and Authorisation Body of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), and build-up the structure of inspectorates at regional level, by ensuring the staff have the necessary skills to carry out inspections in a more effective way. Rec (2) The Environmental Inspectors of General Directorate of Inspection and Authorisation Body of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) and the inspectors in some regional authorities have remarkably high educational level and the necessary specialization in different fields, and they are highly committed to their work. Laterally, the recommendation for EU Member States is Rec. (1) Consider seeking for specialized, highly educated and committed staff for checking cross-border shipments and conducting site inspections, such as the staff working for the General Directorate of Inspection and Authorisation Body of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) and the Regional Inspectorate of the Region of Attica.

Ms. Manara went on to outline and discuss in more detail the various existing National Authorities involved in combating environmental crime in Greece. Ms. Manara opened with Judiciary Authorities which are Judges and Prosecutors. She pointed out that there are currently no specialized courts for environmental crime cases. Additionally, in the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) of Athens there is only one public prosecutor charged with investigating and prosecuting all environmental crimes committed within the PPO's jurisdiction. Besides the files that they investigate ex officio or following a complaint submitted to the PPO, they receive the cases submitted by the Environmental Inspectors of the Police. She further referred to Law Enforcement Authorities which include Environmental Inspectors of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Customs, the Greek Police, and Cost Guard. Ms. Manara further highlighted other administrative authorities and units which are the Directorate of Waste Management, General Secretariat of Waste Management Coordination of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), The Hellenic Recycling Agency (E.O.AN.), "SYGAPEZ" which is the competent authority for the prevention and restoration of environmental damage, and the implementation of the directive on environmental responsibility (2004/35/EC), the National Transparency Authority, and the environmental departments of the Decentralised Administration of the 13 Regions of Greece.

Ms. Manara closed here presentation specifically focusing on the Ministry of Environment and Energy and its responsibilities. She pointed out that Environmental Inspectors are part of the Inspection and Authorisation Body of Southern and Northern Greece, General Directorate of Inspection and Authorisation Body of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE). The Inspection and Authorisation Body of Southern and Northern Greece is the Administrative and Law Enforcement Authority. She also highlighted that Environmental Inspectors can conduct inspections on any public or private project or activity in order to monitor compliance with environmental legislation. Finally, Ms. Manara highlighted the responsibilities of MEE which include access to all public service files, the





performance of duties of Special Investigation Officer, the right to carry out inspections to control compliance and to carry out inspections in cases of transboundary waste shipments and the right to investigate on any public and private project or activity.

**Pilot Project: Use of satellite images in the fight against Environmental Waste Crime**

**Presented by:**

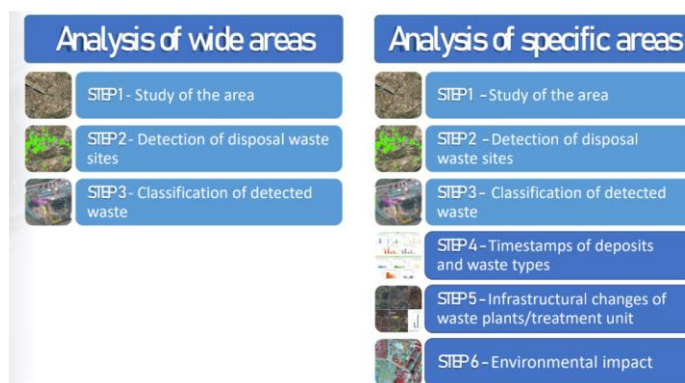
Marcello Moretti, Operations Manager, European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen)

Roberta Onori, SEA Image Analyst/Project Manager, European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen)

Mr. Moretti and Ms. Onori opened their presentation with an introduction to SatCen – European Union Satellite Centre. SatCen is an agency of the EU Council, a unique operational Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) instrument to support the EU External Action, Member States and international organizations. Its mission is the analysis for decision making and actions in the field of CFSP/CSDP, including EU missions and operations by providing products and services resulting from the exploitation of relevant space assets and collateral data. SatCen is currently involved in areas of operations, regional conflicts, piracy, migration, proliferation WMD and humanitarian aid. SatCen’s goal is to produce timely, relevant, reliable, accurate geospatial intelligence products and services (GEOINT) resulting from the exploitation of relevant space assets and collateral data, including satellite and aerial imagery.

Mr. Moretti and Ms. Onori further discussed Mr SatCen’s services outlining the five thematic areas and Security, the SEA portfolio with 12 thematic products and four authorized users and they referred to the application domains which include support to humanitarian aid, the rule of Law, stability and resilience for development, the security of EU citizens abroad, crisis and conflict and critical assets, and cultural heritage. They also pointed out that there is currently one new domain under evaluation which is environmental waste crime in which there are currently ongoing activities.

Mr. Moretti and Ms. Onori further discussed operative phases. They referred to the pre-operative phase, including volume of waste and emissions gases, the fully operative phase with possible involvement, including environmental impact and estimated risk, and the fully operative phase which includes detection of waste deposits, current extent evaluation, study of evolution in size and time, and detection of different types of waste. They further outlined the methodology, depicted below, split in Analysis of wide areas (3 Step Methodology) and the Analysis of specific areas (6 Step methodology) and they went on to discuss each step in more detail.



In terms of pre-operative phase products, they presented an example of emission of gases detection, the Sentinel-5P -CH4 product, and an example of volume of waste estimation, the Copernicus DEM – Global and European Digital Elevation Model (COP-DEM).

Mr. Moretti and Ms. Onori closed their presentation with key conclusions which are the key role of user’s feedback, the need for close collaboration with researchers and relevant stakeholders to

improve existing and develop new tools, methodologies and algorithms, to increase knowledge and update user needs and requirements, and the need to test and follow the development of new sensors.

**Pilot Project: Use of advanced techniques on the fight against Environmental Waste Crime**

**Presented by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhiBIT Project Coordinator, Head of the Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Glipti opened the presentation with an introduction to the Pilot Project which is a collaboration between the Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece and Copernicus SEA Satellite Centre (SatCen) of EU. The objectives of the project are the real-time information on an illegal activity, the provision of information on the compliance of activities in relation to the provisions of environmental legislation, the mapping of illegal Waste Management Sites (which cannot be detected otherwise), and the provision of information related to the illegal cross-border transport of waste. Ms. Glipti went on to discuss the allocation of tasks within the project's methodology between the Environmental Inspectorate and SatCen.

Ms. Glipti went on to discuss in more detail the methodology. Following the definition of a region with the use of geographical data, waste is grouped in terms of visual representation. Ms. Glipti presented the groups and provided key imagery. Following this process carried out by the Environmental Inspectorate, SatCen provides satellite imagery of the area. Examples were presented. SatCen further carries out "Waste" analysis of satellite images in order to detect "waste" sites. As a final step, the waste site is validated by the Environmental Inspectorate. Ms. Glipti presented several examples of Site Validation. Ms. Glipti further provided a comparative overview which finds that there is a high degree of success in locating waste areas outdoors, a significant degree of success in terms of type of waste, accurate depiction of the surface waste area, and efficiency in locating waste sites that could not be recorded by conventional means.

Ms. Glipti further presented a specific case study: the Inspection on a Waste Management Unit. In the project, the site was located with accumulated waste through satellite recording as a first step. Before carrying out an on-site inspection, several pieces of information were recorder from analyzing satellite imagery as well as conventional information such as legal registry's licenses etc. The next step followed was the preparation for a Joint Inspection. Finally, a Joint Inspection was carried out and Ms. Glipti provided details of actions taken during and post-inspection. She further provided photographic evidence collected from the Joint Inspection. The results from the Joint Inspection were presented with potential environmental crimes and violations including the absence of Environmental Licensing, pollution/degradation of the environment, illegal Waste Management, and illegal transboundary waste shipment. The intelligence-based inspection tools used in the case study were identified as advanced tools (processed ready-to-use satellite images), Joint Inspections (e.g. Police), as well as conventional methods (on-site inspections etc.).

Ms. Glipti concluded the presentation with lessons learned and prospects for future implementation of intelligence-based tools. Lessons learned include several points on the unique advantages from the use of satellite imagery and their utilization. Finally, prospects include raising awareness regarding

new tools and technologies and exchange of experience and best practices on the effectiveness and use of advanced investigation tools at a European level.

### **Environmental Waste Crime in Greece – Case study: Prevention of illegal transboundary waste shipment**

**Presented by:** Eleni Chliopanou, Environmental Inspector of Northern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Chliopanou presented a case study on the prevention of illegal transboundary shipment of solid wastes to third countries and provided the details of the case study. Ms. Chliopanou opened with the legal framework that underpins this case which is the Basel Convention, Regulation 1013/2006/EC and Regulation 1418/2007/EC. The definition of illegal waste shipment was provided pointing out that the above framework clarifies that the activity is illegal, it is a criminal offence and defines the relevant penal sanction.

Ms. Chliopanou discussed the first step in the process which was the communication and collaboration between the competent authorities, which were Thessaloniki Customs, the (former) Department of Recycling & Alternative Waste Management (Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy), and Environmental Inspectors (Environmental Inspectorate of Northern Greece | Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy), and provided the context of the collaboration.

Ms. Chliopanou presented the findings of the two Joint Investigations that were further carried out. These were that the content in the shipment did not resemble what was stated in the accompanying documents. A third Joint Investigation was carried out at the activity which was alleged to be the original owner/producer of the waste to be exported and it found out that activity did not have an operating license. Based on findings, the joint unit identified and confirmed the violations carried out. Ms. Chliopanou provided a detailed analysis on the violation and the relevant environmental crime. She further outlined the outcome on the inspection which was the shipment was prevented, sanctions were imposed. However, waste management liability is still under discussions and further frauds were revealed.

Ms. Chliopanou concluded the presentation with the lessons learned which were key in this case study: cooperation between competent authorities is essential, systemization of controls plays a key role, security funds for waste management of illegal cargo need to be addressed, the need for an established procedure for charging expenses to those responsible and sampling of macroscopic inspection by customs is necessary.

### **Environmental Waste Crime in Greece – Case Study: Illegal Transportation Of Waste**

**Presented by:** Vassilis Vangelinos, Environmental Inspector of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Mr. Vangelinos presented a case study of illegal transportation waste and its consequences and provided the details of the case study. Mr. Vangelinos opened with the legal framework that underpins

this case which is Regulation 1013/2006/EC, Regulation 1418/2007/EC, Law 4042/2012 and Circular No, 24040/2590/12-04-2013. He further highlighted the competent authorities involved in this case study which were the Directorate of Waste Management, Customs, Environmental Inspectors of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and the local regions.

Mr. Vangelinos provided the background of the case which included 135 tonnes of hazardous plastic packaging waste that has been transported to Liberia as informed by the competent authority in Liberia. Following communication and joint operations, the Directorate of Waste Management (MEE) requested the return of the shipment to Greece with the aim to proceed with further actions in accordance to law. The further steps followed the preparation of the audit report including detailed description of findings, communication of the audit report to the relevant company, call of the company to refute findings with the submission of a Memorandum of Defense. Following thorough checks, the Reasoned Act confirming the infringement was submitted to the competent prosecutor for investigation.

Mr. Vangelinos went on to discuss the infringements in more detail. These were non-compliance with the legislation regarding the accompanying documents in transboundary waste transport and illegal change of the destination of the waste shipment. The certified administrative sanctions resulted to a total fine of over 44,000 euros. As a result of the investigation and proceedings, the waste shipment is detained since January 2020 in the port of Monrovia, the Greek Government is asked to organize the return of the shipment at a very high cost, and the Liberian Authorities sent formal letter to the ME, referring to specific judicial notice regarding the coverage of financial obligations amounting to 30,265,760 USD, which will be increasing until the waste shipment is removed from Liberia.

Mr. Vangelinos concluded with the concurrent actions from the case which include a request to Interpol to investigate the case in order to clarify responsible parties, a request to Customs to clarify the procedures followed, the communication of the case study to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several meetings between the Directorate of Waste Management, the producers of waste and the shipping company to discuss the process and cost of the repatriation of the waste shipment.

### **NGOs in the fight against Environmental Waste Crime**

**Presented by:** Nikos Charalambides, Greenpeace Greece

Mr. Charalambides opened the presentation with a reflection on what is legal according to legislation dating a few years back. He presented several cases of waste activities, such as radioactive waste dumping, decommissioning of end-of-life oil rigs, ship dismantling, and WEEE management that up to a few years ago were in fact legal. He highlighted NGO's activities and advocacy work that helped inform newer legislation resulting to several activities now being considered illegal under law, and pointed out that legal activity does not necessarily equate to ethical activity.

Mr. Charalambides went on to discuss several cases of complex waste activities in Greece and showcased their representation in media. He went on to reflect on the contribution of various players in the waste management chain in Greece in such cases.

Mr. Charalambides concluded with the learnings and outlook from Greenpeace's perspective. There is a lot happening nationally and internationally in regards to waste crime. He highlighted the need for a more proactive stance and need for a unified platform for information sharing. He also pointed out

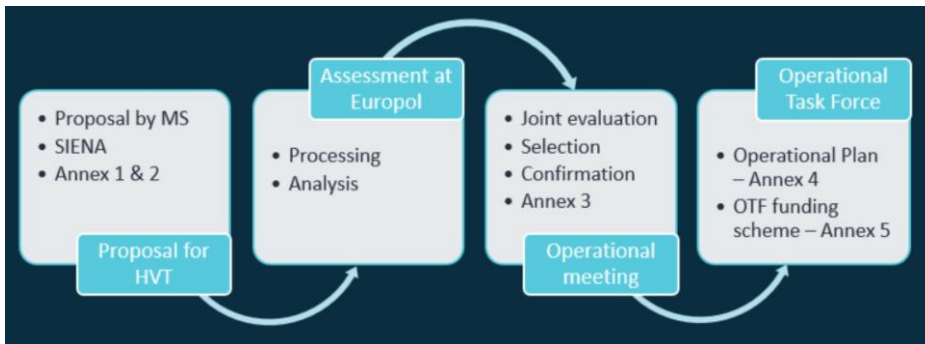
the key role of trust between networks and stakeholders, the need to also address what is morally acceptable and the need to align on a central government level.

**EUROPOL: Environmental Waste Crime at EU Level**

**Presented by:** José Antonio Alfaro Moreno, EUROPOL

Mr. Moreno presented on the state of play of waste and pollution crimes in the EU. He opened his presentation outlining the core activities of Europol. These are twofold; the collection and analysis of intelligence and the support of operations and investigations across EU Member States. In regards to intelligence, Europol operates data bases and specifically the SIENA database, which aims to gather information and facilitate intelligence exchange. It also carries out operation and strategic analysis with some examples being the SOCTA, Early Warning Notifications, Intelligence Notice etc. In regards to the second set of core activities, Europol carries out coordination, analysis and elaboration and spreading of intelligence, facilitation and funding of investigations, joint actions, such as identification of needs (RETROVIRUS, LAKE), coordination of operational activities. Europol is also the EMPACT Support Manager (taking part in RED JAGUAR, Cyber Crime Week), and it offers forensic digital support, virtual and on the hotspot with a 24/7 Operational Centre, UFED, Mobile Office, VCP, Italian and Greek hotspots, EUNAVFOR MED Op. SOPHIA, etc.

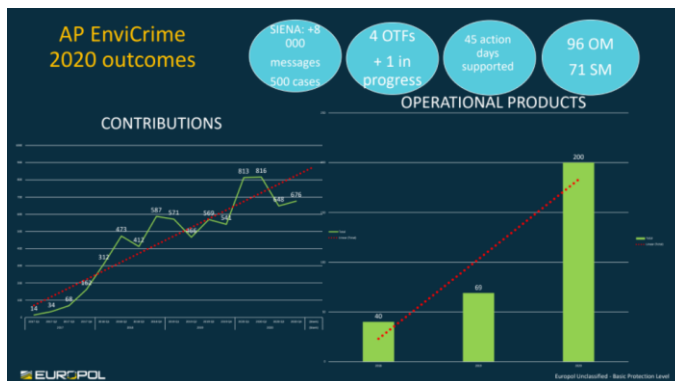
Mr. Moreno further presented the HVT proposal/selection and OTF establishment which is depicted below.



Mr. Moreno outlined Europol’s contribution to AP Envicrime highlighting Europol’s Analysis Project EnviCrime (opening order November 2017). He also referred to the collaborators of the project which include 22 associated Member States, Interpole Eurojust and Olaf as well as 8 third parties.

Mr. Moreno went on to discuss AP Envicrime’s and EMPACT’s priorities for 2018-2021. These are the ESOC strategic documents, which include SOCTA 2017, Threat assessment 2017, Environmental Crime in the EU document and Environmental Crime a priority for EU policy cycle 2018-2021. He also discussed the priorities for 2022-2025 which include SOCTA 2021, EU strategy against OC, and Environmental Crime a priority for EMPACT 2018-2021.

Mr. Moreno briefly discussed AP EnviCrime’s 2020 outcomes which are depicted below:



Mr. Moreno further discussed the key points for the involvement of OC in waste and pollution crimes. These include opportunities such as collection, transportation (trafficking), management and disposal, other priorities for national authorities (low prosecution risk), minor penal sanctions, facilitation smuggling from countries of origin, international cooperation on environmental crimes which is not fully implemented yet, issues such as different national legal frameworks and vague definitions increase difficulties in prosecution of transboundary crimes, and investigations mostly finishing with a seizure or administrative fine, the facilitation for document fraud of administrative documentation, financial crimes investigations, and most importantly the lack of specialized units.

Mr. Moreno outlined the challenges faced using a case study from Nerva Landfill and its discharges to Tinto River. He also referred to construction waste trafficking and issues faced there. Mr. Moreno further referred to the case of OP Retrovirus pointing out that once declared sanitary emergency, EUROPOL identified several criminal threats, mainly concerning fraud. The public report for that is available at [www.europol.europa.eu](http://www.europol.europa.eu), and AP EnviCrime identified a clear threat which is sanitary waste. OP Retrovirus was a collaboration between 30 participating countries and international agencies, it carried out over 278,000 inspections, led to the arrest of 102 suspects, filed 819 administrative files and resulted to 800,000 euros in seized funds.

Mr. Moreno closed his presentation by referring to several case studies that Europol has been involved in including maritime environmental crime, illegal trading of ozone depleting substances, illegal trading of out of date equipment etc.

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency: The link between Tackling Waste Crime and Sustainable Waste Management - Case Studies**

**Presented by:** Fraser Allan, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Mr. Allan opened the presentation with an introduction to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), explaining that the Agency is Scotland’s principal environmental Regulator, protecting and improving Scotland’s environment. SEPA has a statutory purpose and Mr. Allan pointed out that according to the Agency’s outlook, compliance is not negotiable.

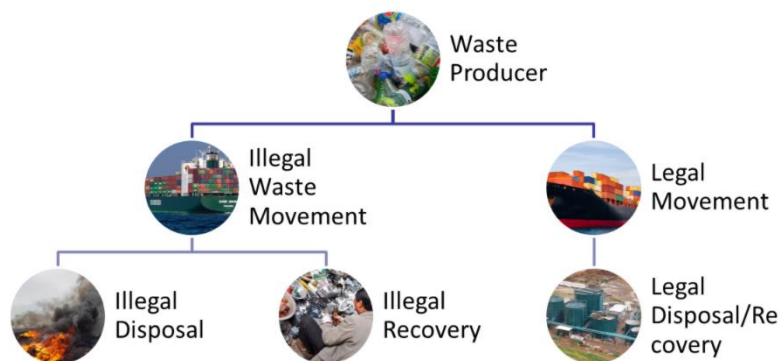
Mr. Allan went on to discuss SEPA’s sustainable waste management ambitions. The Agency’s ambition is to reduce waste across the economy whilst maximizing value from waste that can’t be eliminated, to develop new markets for waste streams, to promote and enable an innovative waste management

sector, to reduce pollution, to ensure compliance is achieved at every instance and to eradicate waste crime.

Mr. Allan proceeded to discuss the barriers for sustainable waste management and waste crime in the UK. Waste crime in the UK is estimated to £1 billion annually, it is considered serious and organized crime, it is found to span across national and international networks, and it is well organized. The main target of waste crime in the UK is hazardous waste and problematic waste streams in general, as it is considered highly profitable and low risk for offenders, and it can easily undercut legitimate waste companies. It results to pollution, and it has health impacts, and it threatens circular economy.

Waste crime in the UK is growing and the reasons behind that are the increasing waste levels, hence increasing demand for waste disposal, the increasing cost of waste disposal coupled with increasing costs for businesses handling waste. Factors that enable waste crime’s increase are low punishment and detection and generally poor information flow across interested and affected parties. Overall, Mr. Allan highlighted that demand equals opportunity.

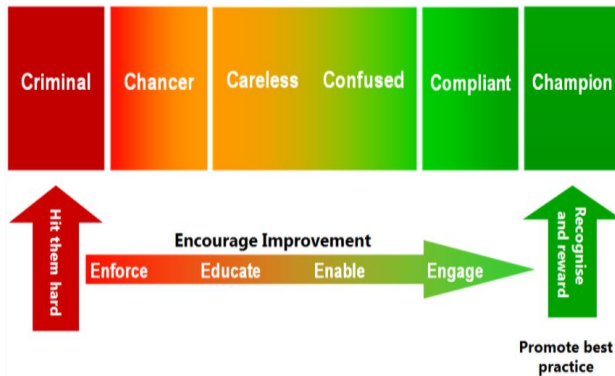
Mr. Allan went on to discuss the challenges in identifying illegal waste movements differentiating between legal and illegal movements as pictured below:



Mr. Allan then presented several case studies of detected waste crime including illegal disposal at warehouses and quarries, disposal of waste tyres, illegal burning of waste, illegal landfilling, illegal hazardous waste management.

SEPA’s approach to tackling waste crime followed and it is depicted below, with Mr. Allan indicating that encouraging improvement is a key part, while data and intelligence gathering between national and international partners, industry and the public is essential. Connecting information and communication at appropriate levels is also a powerful tool in combating waste crime.





Mr. Allan pointed out that prioritizing the fight against waste crime has never been as important as now, with national and international partnerships being essential to SEPA’s work. Stakeholders in national partnerships include the Scottish Crime Campus, the Joint Unit for Waste Crime, Police Scotland, the Prosecution Service, Revenue Scotland, local authorities, Zero Waste Scotland and the waste industry. Stakeholders in international partnerships for SEPA include IMPEL, the LIFE Program, Interpol, Europol and Environment Agencies across Europe. Mr. Allan further focused on SEPA’s partnership with IMPEL outlining the various points of collaboration.

Mr. Allan concluded his presentation with further highlighting the five key action that according to SEPA can break the link between tackling waste crime and sustainable waste management; (1) improve information exchange; (2) improve communication; (3) improve prioritization; (4) improve tools; and (5) improve punishment frameworks.

**Ambitus Project: Overview of the environmental crime at EU level and how it is connected with other offences**

**Presented by:** Lorenzo Colantoni, Ambitus Project Coordinator

Mr. Colantoni opened the presentation by outlining the purpose of Ambitus project, which is to assess on the impact of and action against environmental crime in EU level. The objective of the project is to provide an overall assessment of environmental crimes and environmental law enforcement both in the EU and in individual Member States. This is carried out through three tasks; (1) a general assessment of environmental crimes in the EU as a whole (definitions, issues, action, institutions involved); (2) an investigation of Member States’ policies and activities; and (3) providing a general assessment. Mr. Colantoni went on to provide further detail on the assessments that are carried out as part of the Ambitus project, which are an assessment of the main environmental crimes affecting the territory of the EU, an assessment of the main EU environmental policies and institutions aimed at fighting environmental crimes, and an assessment of the main environmental crimes and environmental policies and institutions in Member States.

Mr. Colantoni went on to discuss the issues faced in the fight against environmental crime which are fragmentation of information, lack of publications, lack of data, the heterogeneity of stakeholders involved in the process, the heterogeneity of topics covered under the environmental crime agenda, and the lack of definitions.

The approach that Ambitus project follows is based on four pillars; (1) strong cooperation with LEAs and local institutions; (2) multiple items to produce the final report, (3) cross-sectoral collaboration, which is working with NGOs, think tanks, with the EU and on the national level; and (4) working on definitions and narrowing down the focus of the project to key issues.

Mr. Colantoni further outlined the main activities of Ambitus project, which are the production of a preliminary report introducing the state of environmental crimes and action in the EU, the creation of an informative questionnaire and report template for national institutions, the production of a draft and final national report, the implementation of national environment crime assessment workshops and law enforcement data collection workshops, and the production of a final report on environmental crimes and action in the EU Member States.

Mr. Colantoni finally presented in detail the preliminary report introducing the state of environmental crimes and action in the EU focusing on three key sets of findings. The report finds that environmental crimes are on the rise on both global and European level, that we have now technological, political, economic and political tools to fight them, and that a rapid and significant change in the policy approach to environmental crimes is required. Specifically in terms of environmental crime increase, the report finds that there is greater recognition of crimes, however penalties are low, and rewards are high, there are still difficulties in addressing such crimes, and there is still lack of European/international coordination on the matter. In terms of the tools currently available, the report highlights new technologies such as drones, satellites, etc. that can now be used in the fight against environmental crime, a general awareness of the issue, economic tools for a green growth, and specifically the European Green Deal. The report, and Mr. Colantoni's presentation, concludes with the necessary improvements which are the need to agree on a general definition of environmental crime, to better understand its full impact, to increase information and data gathering and exchange. These will help boost the recognition of specific crimes and boost EU and international cooperation.

### **C. DISCUSSION**

Mr. Velegrakis thanked all presenters and proceeded to address questions received during the day for the panelists.

**Q.** Does the burning of agricultural trimmings in open land fall within illegal activities as defined by L.1650/1986? Is there a provision for banning the activity by law?

**A.** The need for proof of degradation of the environment with specific methods, tools, techniques supported by specific data in order for the offence to be filled was discussed.

**Q.** Is buried waste detected through satellite-based technologies, similarly to on-land waste deposits?

**A.** During the relevant presentation and discussion it was pointed out that it is in principle possible to detect buried waste with satellite-based technologies and imagery as well as radar-based technologies. Further development of tools and sensors could possibly help in better investigating for buried waste.

**Q.** It is known that in Western Attica there is a developing practice of burning of mostly electrical and electronic waste in order to separate plastic from metal parts. Given that this results to environmental degradation, is there any provision for investigation through Copernicus SatCen?



A. It was pointed out that within the actions and services of SatCen, such activities are investigated and therefore moving forward this reference will be taken into consideration. One of key future objectives is the use of Copernicus for real-time investigation.

Ms. Rontogianni closed the Info Day thanking all participants.

### 3 2<sup>ND</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL - CRETE

2 <sup>nd</sup> Info Day (Regional) – CRETE <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk-W50sSqDU&amp;t=5080s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk-W50sSqDU&amp;t=5080s</a>	
Info Day Date	October 18, 2021
Duration	4hrs & 35min
Recipients of the Invitation	727
Subscribed & received the link to participate	111
Participants	102 (+10 that joined using a single link)
Supporting Material	“2 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Post Event Press Release</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

#### **A. OPENING & GREETINGS**

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athtanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the Director of Green Fund, Mr. Giorgos Protopapas,
- the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Crete, Ms. Maria Koziraki, and
- the Regional Councilor of Crete for International & European Issues, Region of Crete, Mr. Georgios Alexakis.

Greetings by MEE & Green Fund were similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

Mr. Alexakis greeted attendees by hailing the importance of LIFE PROWhiBIT project for the Region of Crete due to its relevance to the conservation of natural resources and its work on promoting compliance and help in the fight against environmental crime. He pointed out importance of the contribution of local authorities and decentralized administrations in this project as the key implementors of environmental inspections, environmental permitting and key stakeholders in this fight. As such, Mr. Alexakis hailed the project team’s decision to organize these info days on a regional level.

Mr. Alexakis pointed out the that the Region of Crete has highlighted sustainability as the key focus of its Action Plan for 2022 referencing several target activities and policies within that.

Mr. Alexakis stated that the Region of Crete works closely with its neighboring countries and other European Regions and implements European territorial cooperation programs for a variety of environmental issues. He mentioned 3 projects: the LIFE IP for the Natura protected areas, the Interreg ADRIAN IMPRECO for the connectivity and management of the ecosystems in the Adriatic Ionian region, as well as the Interreg EUROPE TANIA.

Mr. Alexakis concluded with the following suggestion: *"It is time to move forward with the establishment of an Independent Environmental Authority"*.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

The first 3 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

- 1. LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Angeliki Rontogianni, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)
- 2. EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece**  
**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)
- 3. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**  
**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### **Local Authorities in Crete: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Harikleia Kargiolaki, Head of General Directorate of Spatial Planning and Environmental Policy, Decentralized Administration of Crete

Ms. Kargiolaki opened the presentation by providing a general definition on environmental crime, outlining the offences that fall within that definition, specifically focusing on the illegal transportation and disposal of waste which is the point of interest in this info day. Environmental waste crime is defined as the illegal disposal, treatment and transportation of waste and it causes pollution of air, water and land, posing serious risk to human life, fauna, and flora.

The definition of what constitutes waste was provided as well as the categories of waste. These are hazardous and non-hazardous, municipal waste, construction and demolition – excavation waste, and

oils – biological – food waste. In terms of management methods waste can be prevented, and this includes quantitative reduction, prevention of adverse effects, and reduction in hazardous substances, it can be collected, including comingled and separate collections, and it can finally be sorted and treated. The main waste management methods were presented. These are (1) Reuse – Preparation for Reuse, (2) Treatment, (3) Material Recovery, (4) Landfilling, (5) Regeneration of Waste Oils, (6) Backfilling, (7) Recycling, and (8) Alternative Treatments.

Ms. Kargiolaki shortly referred to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy, which is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. She also outlined the key organizations within the framework, highlighting the Greek Recycling Organization, which the legal entity responsible for the supervision of all Alternative Management Systems, which are the responsible organizations for the implementation of waste management as per EPR.

Ms. Kargiolaki went on to outline the governance of the General Directorate of Spatial and Environmental Policy, which is broken down to three departments, the Directorate for Spatial and Environmental Design, the Water Directorate, and the Technical Control Directorate. The responsibilities that fall within the Directorate of Spatial and Environmental Design are the following: (1) environmental permitting, (2) collection and transportation of hazardous waste permitting, (3) restoration assessments granting, (4) inspections, (5) activities regarding environmental pollution incidents related to hazardous waste, and (6) activities regarding environmental pollution as per L.148/2009. The Directorate currently employees 10 members of staff and grants an average of 75 permits per year across 12 types of activities. Several examples of permitted works were presented.

Ms. Kargiolaki greeted the new legal environmental framework the implementation of which is expected to positively contribute to the prevention of environmental crime and illegal waste management. Activities within that include the EMAS and ISO 14001 accreditation and the National Program for the Prevention of Waste.

She went on to discuss environmental inspections which are categorized in preventative inspection, carried out within the permitting process, and inspections aimed at stopping illegal activities. The latter are grouped in Scheduled Inspections, which are collaborative across local authorities, and Non-scheduled inspections, which are usually conducted following a complaint.

Ms. Kargiolaki presented in more detail the activities regarding environmental pollution as per L.148/2009 and specifically the activities/responsibilities of the Regional Committees for Remediation of Environmental Damage, which are based on the principle that the “polluter is financially liable for damages”. The organization is responsible for several activities such as prevention, remediation, financing of relevant activities and any activities as passed down from the Coordinator of Decentralised Administration, as per relevant articles of L.148/2009. The process which is followed from the detection of environmental damage to remediation, including clarification of relevant financial liability, were outlined along with responsible organization and involved regional authorities.

Ms. Kargiolaki concluded the presentation outlining legal responsibilities in the case of hazardous waste pollution incidents. Detection and inspection are responsibilities that fall with the competent

environmental authority of the regional administration as per relevant legislation. The responsibilities of the legal owners of property on which hazardous waste are detected were presented as per the relevant legislation. These range from safe collection and transportation, to disposal and facilitation of all activities and inspections required to be carried out from local authorities. In the case of abandoned and derelict land and property, these responsibilities fall with the competent environmental authority of the regional administration.

### **Local Authorities in Crete: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Marinos Kritsotakis, Deputy Head of the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Crete

Mr. Kritsotakis opened the presentation by outlining key statistics for 2020 regarding the activities of the various sub-departments within the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning. He provided a further breakdown of activities based on content, pointing out that the third biggest activity area is complaints regarding environmental crime. A breakdown of the above activities per Prefecture were also provided.

Based on the presented data, 608 complaints of potential environmental pollution were reported, 77 of which were regarding criminal offences. As a result of the above, 396 inspections were carried out. 43 cases resulted to administrative fees, whereas the rest were settled through calls to offenders to resolve with remedial recommendations by the Department. The statistics demonstrate the extent of the issue of environmental waste crime in Crete.

Mr. Kritsotakis further pointed out that the number of complaints appears to be high. However, the number of cases in which evidence of infringement is found and administrative fees are delivered is low. The issue is further complicated by the fact that specialized skillset is required from relevant staff that needs to navigate a complicated yet poorly constructed legal framework.

Complaint statistics specific to the Herakleion Prefecture were presented. A breakdown of complaints per theme was presented, with Mr. Kritsotakis pointing out that 27% was regarding wastewater, 30% were regarding solid waste, 11% is regarding Natura Zone violations and 15% was regarding air pollution. Mr. Kritsotakis highlighted the issue of civil disputes that potentially hinder the Department's work regarding criminal offences, the issue of misinformation from the public as to Department's responsibilities, the vague legal framework, and the need for a local competent authority to deal with minor cases.

Based on the presented statistics, it can be concluded that most cases of environmental offences are due to negligence and poor public awareness regarding environmental practices, due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure to deal with several and problematic waste streams, and the reluctance of waste producers to bare the cost of waste transportation and management. Issues are further highlighted by slow legal proceedings and the fact that restoration is long and costly process. Mr. Kritsotakis further pointed out the issues of olive grove waste, which is particularly prominent in Crete as olives and olive oil is a key industry, and illegal obstruction of water bodies and flooding.

Mr. Kritsotakis concluded the presentation with key suggestions. These include: (1) clarifications regarding environmental legislation from competent legal authorities and modernisation of several

clauses, (2) creation of a competent authority that can carry out inspection at a municipal level with clear responsibilities and jurisdiction, (3) training of inspectors and resources allocated to the task, (4) development of a common inspection framework at national level, (5) development of a national interactive map and database regarding inspections and case outcome, (6) continuous public awareness campaigns, and (7) focus on the restoration of polluted areas.

### **Local Authorities in Crete: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Ioanna Giakoumaki on behalf of Nikolas Stilianidis, Head of Union for Solid Waste Management, Crete

Ms. Giakoumaki opened with an overview of the Union. It was established in March 2000, it is a public organization and a collaborative network of 17 municipalities within 3 Prefectures, which are the Prefectures of Herakleion, Rethimno and Lasithi. It is the largest Union in Crete. Its key objective was the shift from uncontrolled deposit and uncontrolled landfilling to the structure treatment and management of waste. It was noted that before its creation, over 100 such landfills were operated by local municipalities.

Since its creation, the organization has managed to restore 51 such highly hazardous landfills across all 3 Prefectures. Several case studies were presented, focusing on two uncontrolled deposit sites that have been restored and now operate as controlled, and fully modernized landfills. The organization has also developed and fully operates a landfill pre-treatment facility in the Municipality of Herakleion, which includes crushing, biological drying, and bailing. The facility currently serves the Pera Galinon Landfill, which has an installed capacity of 1MW that is fed back to the grid.

The case study of Amari Waste Treatment Facility was presented. It is an anaerobic digestion facility which serves the Municipality of Rethimno and it is the first in Crete. The Organisation has further commissioned the development of Solid Waste Management Facility in Crete which will be the first in Greece to produce SRF. Further facilities are under development in 3 more locations.

Ms. Giakoumaki further pointed out that another key activity for the Organisation is campaigning to raise public awareness regarding safeguarding the environment and the importance of waste management. Two key campaigns were highlighted for plastic single use bags and home recycling bins. The Organization also supports local activities of indirect responsibility such as green space assessments and local waste management planning and collaborates in research projects, such as LIFE projects and ANA.S.A.

### **Local Authorities in Crete: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Kostas Paterakis, General Manager of Inter-Municipal Organization for the Management of Solid Waste S.A. (DEDISA SA)

Mr. Paterakis opened the presentation with a view of the seven Municipalities of Chania Prefecture that are represented in the Organisation; M. of Chania, M. of Apokoronas, M. of Sfakia, M. of Kandanos-Selino, M. of Gavdos, M. of Kissamos, and M. of Platanias. The organization employees 150



permanent staff and 160 contracted staff and has a fleet of 50 vehicles. Mr. Paterakis gave a historical timeline of the Organization's activities from 1965 to date.

Mr. Paterakis went on to present the case made by the Court of Justice of the European Communities against Greece due to the failing to take measures necessary to ensure that waste is disposed of in the area of Chania without endangering human health and without harming the environment according to the relevant article of Directive 75/442/EEC. In this case, the Hellenic Republic was ordered to pay penalty fees. Based on this, the local administration was presented with an opportunity to implement a program and relevant infrastructure for the complete end-to-end treatment and management of waste in Chania.

This program was brought through collaboration between Prefecture Government of Chania, the Local Association of Municipalities and Communities of the Chania Prefecture, and the Chania Prefecture. The program was called "Development of a facility for the mechanical sorting, composting, and landfilling of waste in Akrotiri Municipality of Chania Prefecture", with a total budget of 30.8 million euros, of which 75% was financed by the EU and 25% by the Hellenic Republic.

Mr. Paterakis gave an overview of the building and general infrastructure of the project, including amongst others reception areas, areas of manual sorting, areas of mechanical sorting, composting areas, storage areas, integrated laboratory facilities etc. The facility covered an area of 300,000m<sup>2</sup>, has installed capacity of 3.5MW, with the landfill covering 140,000m<sup>2</sup> with a capacity of 2.1 m<sup>3</sup>, to serve a local population of 155,000. The facility treats five waste streams: (1) comingled recyclable waste, (2) separated recyclable waste, (3) glass, (4) garden waste, and (5) source sorted biological waste from local producers. Mr. Paterakis provided some examples and photographic evidence for each treatment, including use of compost as fertilizer in local areas and award winning products using compost produced in the facility. Amongst the referenced treatments is the sorting of 17,000 tonnes of separated recyclables, sorting with optical and ballistic separators, glass recycling, the treatment of 10,000 tonnes of bulk municipal waste, and he also provided technical and treatment rates regarding landfilling operations. The Organization also carries out an average of 10,000 transportations of waste per year with its fleet.

Inter-Municipal Organization for the Management of Solid Waste has also participated in several European programs, such as LIFE WASTE-C-CONTROL focusing on the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, with a total budget of over 2.3 million euros, LIFE project for the "Development and demonstration of the WASP tool to support the prevention of waste in the local Prefecture", with a total budget of 1.8 million euros, and the LIFE project for "Effective and sustainable waste management methods with the use of ICT technologies for the reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions", with a budget of 1.3 million euros. The organization has further collaborated on national projects such as ANA.S.A – Research-Create-Innovate, with a budget of over 950,000 euros. It has also carried out several technical assessments for the restoration landfills within the Prefecture and for waste transfer stations. It also collaborates on reuse projects and regularly runs local campaigns to raise awareness on the issue of waste management.

Mr. Paterakis provided an outline of the grants and funds the organization has received from 2000 to 2021, totaling over 51.6 million euros. He concluded the presentation with the Organization's future

plans and key challenges. Future plans include Green Points for sorting waste in its source, awareness campaigns, the development of an anaerobic digestion facility, the utilization of co-products, landfill restoration works, and the upgrade of the existing main waste management facility. In terms of key challenges, the organization faces the following issues: staffing, implementation and upgrading of existing resources, the need for continuous awareness campaigns, utilization of treatment co-products, costs of treatment passed down to the Prefecture, the need for a flexible collaborative framework between stakeholders, and the implementation of environmental legislation.

### **Local Authorities in Crete: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Giorgos Papadakis on behalf of Ioannis Segkos, Mayor of Hersonisos, Chair of the City Council, Organization for Solid Waste Management (FODSA) of North Pediada

Mr. Papadakis opened with a historical overview of waste treatment and management methods developed across Europe based on the requirements of legal frameworks. He pointed out the regulatory framework led to the development of modern landfills and compost facilities in Europe, whereas in Greece the most common practices up until recently were uncontrolled deposit and only recently, controlled landfilling. He shortly discussed the legal framework that underpinned the development of recycling infrastructure.

The Directive 2008/98/EC was presented which introduced the Waste Hierarchy, with its key targets being the end of landfilling for biological waste, the EPR policy, recycling targets for up to 50% by 2020 and separate collection of biological waste. More detail on the Waste Hierarchy was presented. This Directive resulted to the development of several waste management treatment methods in Europe whereas in Greece landfilling remains the key treatment method. General issues in the waste management industry were presented. The Circular Economy Action Plan of 2018 was briefly presented.

Mr. Papadakis went on to provide a definition for waste crime and its most common types, focusing on the types that are more relevant to local authorities, which are illegal transportation and disposal. He particularly highlighted the case of marine plastic waste, a key environmental issue in Greece, providing several statistics on the issue. The role of local authorities and municipalities in the fight against crime was discussed, particularly focusing on the responsibility to provide effective infrastructure and activities that can help address key waste management issues.

Mr. Papadakis concluded by specifically discussing the activities carried out by the Municipality of North Pediada, including construction waste collections, bulk waste collections, collection of recyclables and waste commissioning of waste management facilities referred to as Green Spots, composting facilities and several others. The Municipality also runs several awareness campaigns and pilot projects.

### **Wastewater treatment of olive groves within a Circular Economy framework**

**Presentation by:** Alexandros Stefanakis, Assistant Professor, Technical University of Crete, Head of Laboratory of Environmental Engineering & Management, School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

Mr. Stefanakis opened the presentation by providing an overview of Greece's olive oil industry. Greece is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer, with olive oil production accounting for 9% of the overall value of agricultural production. The industry employees over 600,000 households in Greece, covers approximately 10 million stremmas, and the average annual production is between 280 and 300 thousand tonnes. Over 2,500 olive press plants operate in Greece. Specifically in Crete, average annual production is 50 to 100 thousand tonnes, 90% of this production is extra virgin olive oil and is valued at up to 260 million euros.

As expected, there are several waste streams throughout the production process. Specifically, the wastewater produced from olive groves does not have any nutritional value, it is highly toxic, categorized as hazardous, it cannot be reused as is, and should not be disposed of untreated. Factories are expected to carry an environmental permit with specific conditions as per relevant regulation.

Within an environmental permit the requirement for olive grove wastewater treatment is outlined. This is typically evaporation, pre-treatment with hydrated lime, and separation. However, in reality these methods are rarely implemented. Mr. Stefanakis presented several showcases where olive grove wastewater is disposed of uncontrollably in local water bodies and on land, treatment facilities are not up to the required specification. This is due to the fact that most groves are small family businesses with limited financial resources and infrastructure, if present, is antiquated. These practices are further enabled by the lack of a specific regulatory framework for the treatment of specialized wastewater, and the lack of regulatory personnel and resources to carry out inspections.

Mr. Stefanakis presented the physiochemical characteristics of olive grove wastewater pointing out that approximately 0.5 to 0.8m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater are produced per tonne of olive. He further pointed out that current treatment methods are not cost effective for small businesses, with aerobic and anaerobic treatment, incineration, membrane treatments, oxidation and flocculation being too expensive with process by-products being hard to manage. As a result, in most cases the most cost-effective, yet environmentally damaging method being uncontrolled, untreated disposal.

Mr. Stefanakis went on to point out that Circular Economy and its principles pose an opportunity for the treatment and utilization of olive grove waste. With a relevant outlook, the utilization of nutritional and energy content is possible. Trimmings and the solid fraction can be used to produce biochar. The liquid fraction can be treated to be reused for irrigation. The solid residue and biomass can be anaerobically treated to produce electricity and biogas. There are also natural-based solutions such as wastewater treatment wetlands, which follow green technology principles, are low maintenance and inexpensive. Mr. Stefanakis provided further technical detail on the operation of wetlands and a comparison between other established treatment methods and pointed out the potential of such treatment particularly for small businesses and its benefits.

Mr. Stefanakis summarized that olive grove wastewater is a particularly complex stream and established industrial wastewater treatment methods have proven inefficient and financially non-viable. Unlike established wastewater treatment methods, methods based in the principles of circular economy that view every by-product as a resource could offer a solution to this issue, combining financial viability and environmental principles.

Mr. Stefanakis closed the presentation with an overview of the Technology and Environmental Management Laboratory within the Chemical Engineering Department. The Laboratory can offer technological knowhow and consultation services to private and public stakeholders, technical and construction assessment services, assessment of wastewater quality, and wastewater treatment feasibility studies.

#### **LIFE NATURA Themis: Actions and Outcomes**

**Presentation by:** Mixalis Promponas, Coordinator of LIFE NATURA Themis, Head of Ecology and Environmental Management Laboratory, Natural History Museum of Crete, Laboratory Teaching Staff, University of Crete.

Mr. Promponas opened the presentation by providing an overview of the LIFE NATURA Themis project. The Environmental Governance & Information (GIE) project was launched in 2014 with an expected duration of 69 months, total budget of over 1.5 million euros, with EU contribution at just over 59%. Crete is the area of implementation, with the University of Crete and Natural History Museum of Crete being the Coordinating Beneficiary.

Key objectives of the project were: (1) raising awareness for the fact that environmental crime should constitute a separate area of Criminal Law on each own right, (2) demonstration of the link between local development and social cohesion and Environmental Law adherence, (3) skills development for stakeholders in order to effectively contribute to waste crime prevention, restoration and natural conservation, (4) environmental and waste crime awareness campaigns in the local community.

Key activities and methodologies included: (1) creation of two Environmental Law Observatories in West and East Crete, (2) organization of workshops, seminars, info days, and Smart Devices App for raising awareness, (3) educational seminars for stakeholders for skills development, (4) development of four Technical Guidance documents, (5) website development and promotion to local media for raising public awareness.

Mr. Promponas provided further detail on the two Observatories and their operations, including regular monitoring of legal developments, statistical analyses for case studies and networking, and the development of a geoinformatics database for case studies made available on the project website. The map is considered of particular interest as it is a key tool in the prevention and suppression of environmental waste crime, as it helps to better organize inspections, assess the quantity and quality of environmental crime, predict potential new crimes, and as it allows for interdepartmental collaboration and raising public awareness. If considered in tandem with the anonymous complaints map, it can help exponentially increase the effectiveness of prevention and suppression. Mr.



Promponas further presented the Mobile App tool providing statistics on downloads, complaints, inspections etc.

He went on to present the Mobile THEMIS App. The App is user friendly and can be used to log photographic evidence of environmental waste crime. Based on the logged cases, 133 (77%) out of the 187 confirmed complaints were regarding illegal disposal of waste. Several examples and further statistics were presented. Out of the 187 cases, 59 cases were within the LIFE NATURA project area. All 187 cases were addressed by the competent authorities, with only 31 cases resulting to legal resolution. Several successful cases studies in which the illegally disposed waste were removed and site was restored, were presented.

Mr. Propmponas outlined the benefits and utilization of the App for and from local authorities. It was piloted in Crete and with necessary modifications it can be scaled up for use on a national level. Complaints can be available to local authorities in real time which can help them act immediately to prevent waste crime and/or find responsible parties. This can help avert potential future crimes as it can act as a deterrent, and it can also help authorities better manage inspections.

Mr. Promponas concluded the presentation outlining the key campaign and awareness tools. These included the project website and social media accounts, regular e-newsletters, local media, printed informational material, Technical Guidance documents for stakeholders, 16 info days across Crete, 6 educational info days for investigation officers, 9 educational seminars for law practitioners and environmental NGOs, 2 national conferences and 1 international conference, participation in several local events, and 3 project assessment studies.

### **C. DISCUSSION**

A question was raised concerning anonymous complaints from the public and whether anonymity can offer value and help resolute offences or hinder competent authorities' work given that a complex regulatory response is often triggered for minor cases, based on examples of complaints submitted through the Themis App and other experience.

Advantages and disadvantages of anonymous vs eponymous complaints were discussed. Within the context of this discussion, it was pointed out from attendees that it is difficult to manage the workload compiled by public complaints that in reality are regarding minor issues. Complex legislation with vague and blurry responsibility lines and limited resources was further highlighted. Within this point in the discussion, it was also pointed out that it is within the scope of the LIFE NATURA Themis project to disseminate and catalogue complaints and cases that subsequently arise.

A question was raised regarding the issue of the new and updated EU legislation for environmental inspections and relevant responsibilities and how that affects the LIFE PROWhIBIT project, its framework, aims etc. which were based on a pre-new legislation basis. Several examples of offences were also mentioned, and clarifications were requested as to how the LIFE PROWhIBIT project helps build awareness and share knowledge regarding waste management practices, outcomes of inspections etc. Concerns regarding the new impeding legislation regarding environmental inspections



were raised from attendees. These focused around potential complexity that is added to the regulatory framework with the impeding legislation, as opposed to the need for uniformity and clarity over responsibilities between competent authorities, the consultation process, the approach to administrative fees, personal data privacy, and dissemination of inspection outcomes.

In response to the above point Ms. Glypti referred to the annual reports, including relevant activities and outcomes of inspections that are published on the relevant government website (MEE). However, she pointed out that ongoing investigations regarding open cases and inspections cannot be publicly shared until cases are closed, due to the legal nature of inspections. It is within the scope of LIFE PROWhIBIT to disseminate outcomes and most importantly facilitate the implementation of the National Strategy on Environmental Waste Crime which is a key project outcome.

Human resource, training and regulatory framework support concerns were raised from attendees specifically in the local authorities and Prefectures of Crete and how these adversely affect all activities and mostly the key activity of inspections.

The organizational approach of the LIFE PROWhIBIT Info Days was praised by the local authorities attending. It was pointed out that Info Days revolving around local regions and the opportunity to discuss issues that each area faces, provides valuable insight, and offers a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange.

Also, an upcoming online platform that will be publicly accessible with a database of existing and future Green Points for bulk waste, was briefly discussed to raise awareness on activities that aim to inform and educate the public on waste collections and management.

Finally, the importance of collaboration and the creation of close networks between stakeholders in creating the first National Strategy was hailed as the conclusive remark.

#### 4 3<sup>RD</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – WESTERN GREECE

3 <sup>rd</sup> Info Day (Regional) – WESTERN GREECE <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHZGW39pcRM&amp;t=1718s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHZGW39pcRM&amp;t=1718s</a>	
Info Day Date	December 13, 2021
Duration	2hrs & 52min
Recipients of the Invitation	846
Subscribed & received the link to participate	81
Participants	94
Supporting Material	“3 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

##### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the President of Green Fund, Mr. Efstathios Stathopoulos,
- the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian, Mr. Nikolaos Papatheodorou, and
- the Deputy Governor of Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Region of Western Greece, Mr. Lambros Dimitrogiannis.

Greetings by MEE & Green Fund were similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

##### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 3 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based InspecTions**  
**Presentation by:** Angeliki Rontogianni, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)
2. **EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece**  
**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate

of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

**3. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

**Local Authorities in Western Greece: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Ourania Zisi, Head of Department of Environmental and Spatial Planning, Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning of Western Greece, Decentralized Administration Peloponnese-Western Greece-Ionian

Ms. Zisi opened the presentation providing the definition of environmental waste crime, pointing out that offences as such are often complex and multifaceted. She also pointed out that it is a common belief that environmental crimes should be dealt with proactively but often go unnoticed due to their intrinsic nature, the fact they are not often easily spotted and are typically confirmed only after on-site inspections. Suggested proactive measures in the fight against environmental crime are permits, inspections, prevention, education and awareness campaigns, integrated waste treatment and management networks and relevant infrastructures, based on the principles of proximity and self-sufficiency.

Ms. Zisi proceeded to outlining the new relevant legal framework, specifically referring to L.4819/2021 which adopts a single framework for waste management. Its main principles are the waste hierarchy, and the protection of human health and the environment.

Ms. Zisi further presented the Department's authority and responsibilities in regards to waste management, including permitting, inspections, imposition of relevant fines etc. She further focused on the legal framework underpinning environmental permitting. Environmental permitting statistics for the Department were presented for period of 2012 to 2021 (total 695 permits per thematic area). Ms. Zisi went on to provide the scope of environmental permitting and provided several examples of approved environmental permits.

The process for acquiring an environmental permit was outlined focusing on the initial step of carrying out and Environmental Impact Assessment and the provision of a conditional license. Further focus was given to the process of licensing for the transportation, collection and treatment of waste.

Ms. Zisi concluded the presentation outlining the Department's work on permitting for the restoration of areas of uncontrolled disposal of waste, outlining the permitting process, and administrative fines, and its work on inspections and the relevant legal framework.



### **Local Authorities in Western Greece: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Euaggelia Sideri, Department of Environmental and Spatial Planning, Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning of Western Greece, Decentralized Administration Peloponnese-Western Greece-Ionian

Ms. Sideri presented the case study on the permit grant for the collection and removal of hazardous waste and restoration of the ex-industrial facilities of "Amiantit". The case study refers to the treatment and management of hazardous waste from a facility that previously produced asbestos products in Drepano, Achaia. The issue was first brought to light in 2008, following a complaint filed by the Association of Drepani and relevant mention in the Greek Parliament, which led to an inspection that identified the site as a public hazard due to the presence of hazardous waste.

Ms. Sideri outlined the key events in the case between 2008 and 2011, including several requests to the holding company to address the issue, conflicting activities, imposed administrative fees, and the involvement of several NGOs and local authorities and directorates. In 2011, the Nation Bank of Greece, co-owner of the site, submitted an assessment for the restoration of the site which led to the grant of permit of relevant activities as per current legislation. The conditions of the permit were outlined. The permit was granted considering BATs (Best Available Technologies), the intrinsic nature of the site's ownership, current legislation, and the general lack of national infrastructure to support hazardous waste treatment activities.

In the following years between 2011 and 2017, several status updates were requested from several stakeholders, competent authorities and involved parties. Despite any actions taken and further administrative fees imposed, the condition of the site remained poor and had further deteriorated. Further actions were required for the completion of the restoration works.

In the years following up to 2020, Ms. Sideri presented the actions taken from the co-ownership and competent authorities to encourage the completion of the restoration works, including highlighting the benefits from such works. In 2018, the decision was taken between involved parties to proceed with a phased plan of restoration. All relevant preparatory works were undertaken until the summer of 2020. A public contract bid was brought forward in 2020 for the collection, removal and management of asbestos waste from licensed facilities based on the relevant permit. The successful bidder was SUK AE. and the contract included the management of approximately 1,650 tonnes of construction waste containing asbestos and 1,000 tonnes of asbestos fragments, and the complete restoration of the site within 120 days from project starting date.

Restoration works started in 2022. Ms. Sideri presented the specific collection, removal and waste management activities carried out during works, the legal framework underpinning the project, the spatial phasing plan, pointing out that the competent authority carried out frequent and multifaceted inspections to ensure compliance.

Ms. Sideri concluded the presentation pointing out that the works carried out between project kick-off in February 2021 and October 2021 were regarding the first phase of the restoration plan, and resulted to the transboundary transportation of a total of 2,795 tonnes of asbestos waste. The second phase of restoration plans is still outstanding and requires the land restoration and relevant assessments.

*Due to adverse weather conditions and floods in Western Greece the day before the Info Day took place, three scheduled speakers (Mr. Arvanitis, Mr. Zorbas and Mr. Krapanos) weren't able to join the Info Day and deliver their speech.*

### **Violations against environmental legislation for the management of waste – Challenges from an educational perspective**

**Presented by:** Efthimios Zervas, Professor in School of Applied Arts and Sustainable Design, Open University of Greece, Director of MSc "Environmental Design", Director of "Technology, Energy Policy and Environment" Laboratory

Prof. Zervas opened the presentation by providing a short definition of environmental crime, offering the example of commercial activities without relevant licensing from competent authorities, and went on to point out the general, public perception of environmental crime. Environmental "micro-crime" is often, unfairly, considered to be of small scale, unorganized and circumstantial crime, carried out by professionals or members of the public often lacking knowledge understanding of the committed offence, and profit is not always the driving force. It nevertheless has severe consequences.

Environmental "micro-crime" can be prevented through education. Environmental education has been established globally since 1970 becoming part of the regular curriculum. Specifically, Greece has included environmental education on general topics in its curriculum since 1990 in primary and secondary education, with a more targeted focus in tertiary education being established in 1980. Specifically, topics of solid waste management are included in primary education, with more complex topics being introduced in secondary education. Specialized education is provided at tertiary level with several undergraduate and postgraduate programmes available. The topic is also referenced in undergraduate level in Law, Philosophy, Foreign Language and Athletics programmes. However, concepts and classes on sustainability are often elective courses.

In regards to the general public, awareness campaigns are limited, often not of national scale, and they don't focus adequately neither on the topic of waste management, especially hazardous waste, nor on the impact of waste crime to the environment and public health. Specifically, the toxicity and general hazards posed from hazardous waste is not generally acknowledged or discussed at any level.

Prof. Zervas continued with the presentation of proposals to address the issue of poor public awareness. These include the creation of case studies, their inclusion on primary and secondary level curriculum so that these can be passed down, as well as the special targeted campaigns that clearly communicate the impact of environmental crime, its resolution and associated costs. He went on to provide some useful case studies: (1) asbestos waste, (2) construction waste, (3) discharge of untreated waste to the environment, including cases of hazardous packaging waste, (4) uncontrolled open landfilling, (5) wastes from agricultural activities, (6) marine waste, (7) incorrect recycling and contaminated recycling streams, and (8) uncontrolled burning of waste. Prof. Zervas pointed out that restoration activities need to be proactive. He also pointed out the need to include sustainability principles in all European projects and at all educational levels.

Prof. Zervas concluded the presentation by pointing out that Greece in particular, has to face the serious issue of uncontrolled waste disposal and specifically the uncontrolled disposal of hazardous waste which further impact the environment and human health. This requires the structured

implementation of environmental education at all levels, continuous and long-term awareness campaigns, and the inclusion of sustainability courses at all educational levels.

### **C. DISCUSSION**

Mr. Velegrakis thanked all presenters and proceeded to address questions received during the day for the panelists.

Ms. Glypti addressed a point made during a presentation regarding the need for a common sanctions and fees framework. She pointed out that the new regulation on Environmental Inspections addresses this issue by outlining the requirement for the implementation of a common framework.

Ms. Glypti provided a correction regarding an earlier data point on the number of inspections carried out in Western Greece. The inspections were inaccurately referenced as 90, instead of 70 inspections that were carried out across all competent authorities.

**Q.** Are there any particular issues faced on a local level or particular local intricacies that the panelists would advise the LIFE PROWhIBIT project to take into consideration in regards to waste management and the fight against environmental crime?

**A.** The importance of environmental permitting as a preventative measure in the fight against environmental crime was pointed out. It was also pointed out that the legal framework is robust and provides adequate guideline. However, local authorities often face common understaffing and resource issues. Despite such issues though, the District of Western Greece is the only District that has repeatedly completed all Scheduled Inspections successfully, in the last years.

Ms. Eleftheriadou pointed out the important role of collaboration and knowledge exchange of all stakeholders, especially local authorities, in the successful fight against environmental crime.

Ms. Glypti closed the Info Day with particular reference to and acknowledgement of continuous efforts from local authorities in implementing new legislation regarding Environmental Inspections, which will further clarify and homogenize administrative fees and various further administrative sanctions, as well as guidance on remediation activities. She also pointed out the important role of smart tools in inspections and in the general fight against environmental crime.

The role of the Info Days for the creation of open communication channels between stakeholders was hailed by all panelists.

## 5 4<sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – PELOPONNISOS

4 <sup>th</sup> Info Day (Regional) – PELOPONNISOS <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YGTTruJ2cLE&amp;t=188s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YGTTruJ2cLE&amp;t=188s</a>	
Info Day Date	February 21, 2022
Duration	4hrs
Recipients of the Invitation	612
Subscribed & received the link to participate	72
Participants	88
Supporting Material	“4 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the Director of Green Fund, Mr. Giorgos Protopapas,
- the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian, Mr. Nikolaos Papatheodorou, and
- the Deputy Governor of Environment, Region of Peloponnese, Mr. Andreas Tsoukalas.

Greetings by MEE & Green Fund were similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 3 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Angeliki Rontogianni, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)
2. **EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece**  
**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate

of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

**3. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

**Local Authorities in Peloponnisos: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Mantzouranis, Head of the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Peloponnese

Mr. Mantzouranis opened the presentation with an overview of the Department layout, hierarchy and human resources. He proceeded to present a statistical analysis of the Department's activities, consisting of but not limited to environmental audits and permits, water usage permits, administrative documents, operating licenses and notifications, etc. Looking into environmental audits in more detail, Mr. Mantzouranis highlighted that most audits revolve around wastewater, solid waste, and air pollution. Based on a spatial analysis, most administrative sanctions were imposed in Lakonia, more than double compared to the rest of the areas within the Authority. Arkadia, Messinia, and Argolida followed respectively, with Korinthia having the lowest number of imposed administrative sanctions.

The area faces similar challenges as most local authorities do. Those issues pertain to solid waste management (privately and publicly owned landfills), wastewater treatment and management, kernel oil refineries and associated operations, hazardous waste, noise pollution and central heating and associated emissions. Specifically, in the area of Lakonia, uncontrolled discharge of process wastewater from kernel oil refineries poses significant risks also considering local conservation areas. In the area of Messinia, turtle conservation areas face significant risks and in the area of Argolida fruit processing plants and associated operations pose risks to the local environment. Mr. Mantzouranis highlighted some additional observations and challenges, such as lack of clear regulation and enforcement, delays due to bureaucracy, limited specialist human resources etc. In regard to the root causes of illegal activities, he pointed to the high cost of waste management and lack of appropriate infrastructure, lack of funding for enforcement activities etc. Mr. Mantzouranis concluded his presentation with several recommendations, such as improved legal support for enforcement activities, increase in human resources, and implementation of digital tools for environmental quality monitoring.

#### **Local Authorities in Peloponnisos: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Lina Dikeakou, Organization for Solid Waste Management (FODSA) of Peloponnese  
Ms. Dikeakou opened the presentation with an overview of the Peloponnese Public Private Partnerships (PPP) project, the main stakeholder of which is FOSDA Peloponnese and operates in the Arkadia, Lakonia, Messinia, Argolida and Korinthia areas. A brief historical review of the project was provided, based on chronological order, legal disputes, administrative procedures and competition and legislative activities.

Ms. Dikeakou briefly presented judicial decisions of the Court of European Union regarding condemnations of Greece on issues regarding environmental and waste management. She also referred to the problem and issues associated with landfills and their operation and management and the current situation in Greece.

The presentation concluded with a reference to legislative provisions of the recent Law 4819/21 on the environment. The following were specifically mentioned: "pay as you throw" scheme, end of landfilling as a management method (Article 38), consequences of non-compliance with European legislation (Article 70), and interregional transfer of municipal waste for reasons of urgency with decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **Local Authorities in Peloponnisos: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Kokonia Giannopoulou, Head of the Directorate of Waste Management and Vehicles, Municipality of Kalamata

Ms. Giannopoulou opened the presentation by pointing out that the Municipality of Kalamata faces similar issues to neighboring municipalities around safe and effective waste treatment and management particularly due to lack of appropriate infrastructure. The Municipality of Kalamata is the largest waste producer in the region of Peloponnese, and it has been operating municipal solid waste management programs since 2013. The key issue that the municipality faces is the lack of residual waste management infrastructure.

Ms. Giannopoulou further focused on the challenges posed by uncontrolled waste disposal, which are mostly industrial waste, bulk waste, and hazardous waste. In order to address such concerns, the Municipality of Kalamata has adopted recycling programs, waste segregation practices and has taken part in several waste management programs aimed at waste reduction.

#### **Management of Olive By-Products: Case Study of "PATE" of Two-Phase Olive Mills and Wastewater**

**Presentation by:** Georgios Zakyntinos, Professor, Department of Science and Technology of Food, University of Peloponnese

Mr. Zakyntinos opened the presentation pointing out the importance of the olive oil processing and refining industry in Greece, rooted in tradition. The industry faces significant risks due to process waste, which if managed properly can be a source of secondary raw materials and substances. Several research studies have been carried out in the last decade. None of these has amounted to a silver bullet to the issue of waste treatment and management, its costs and environmental impacts.

Several considerations need to be made when investigating best available technologies for waste management. The valorization of olive oil processing waste as secondary raw materials is a significant opportunity for sustainable development. However, there are several limitations that need to be addressed first. Focusing on best available technologies, Mr. Zakyntinos outlines some key parameters which are waste volumes, investment costs, the land and area size which is available for development, the local environment and legislation. He further highlights that there is no “one size fits all” solution to the issue, but development should take into consideration local social and environmental circumstances.

Mr. Zakyntinos presented the case study of olive pite as growth substrate for mushroom crops. Key by-product characteristics are: high organic load, seasonal supply, production locations spread across large and disconnected areas and the substrate composition. The project methodology was presented. Key outcomes were summarized to limited bibliography in relevant subject area, the substrate was better suited as organic fertilizer due to composition, zeolite and bentonite production demonstrates promising results, and use of compost materials as growth substrates can indeed improve the quality of depleted soils. Salt recovery from olive processing derived wastewater was also presented as a case study. The project looked at wastewater derived from olives processing with a high salt content and potential treatment for extraction. Following a drying and extraction process, salt can be recovered and reused similarly to its virgin counterpart.

Mr. Zakyntinos concluded the presentation highlighting the two key outcomes of research activities. The use of olive processing by-products as secondary raw materials is an opportunity for sustainable development particularly in the area of Peloponnese that has suffered from fires and significant soil erosion. Lastly, nutritional substances can be recovered from olive processing by-products with significant financial and environmental benefits. Both cases are circular economy opportunities for the area and there are already similar practices being established for peach, tomato, grape and rice by-products.

## 6 5<sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – NORTH AEGEAN & SOUTH AEGEAN

5 <sup>th</sup> Info Day (Regional) – NORTH AEGEAN & SOUTH AEGEAN <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xKJ2XVCIFc&amp;t=12751s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xKJ2XVCIFc&amp;t=12751s</a>	
Info Day Date	February 25, 2022
Duration	4hrs & 35min
Recipients of the Invitation	622
Subscribed & received the link to participate	84
Participants	89
Supporting Material	“5 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athtanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the President of Green Fund, Mr. Efstathios Stathopoulos,
- the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of the Aegean, Mr. Polykarpos Polychronakis,
- the Governor, Region of South Aegean, Mr. Giorgos Chatzimarkos, and
- the Deputy Governor of Development Programming – Industry - Energy, Region of North Aegean, Mr. Panagiotis Christofas.

Greetings by MEE & Green Fund were similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 3 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Angeliki Rontogianni, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)



## 2. EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece

**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

## 3. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhiBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### Management of Liquid Waste of Oil Mills

**Presentation by:** Konstantina Mitsiou, Head of the Environmental Inspectorate of Northern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

Ms. Mitsiou opened the presentation with a detailed review of the institutional framework for the management of industrial liquid waste in Greece. She then focused specifically on the institutional framework for the treatment and management of liquid waste from oil mills in Greece. She presented the average composition of oil mill liquid waste based on environmental audits.

She discussed producer obligations based on the existing framework and liquid waste disposal limits in natural receiving bodies. Ms. Mitsiou further focused on the long-term and historical issues around the management and treatment of liquid waste specifically from oil mills in the area of North and South Aegean, presenting several case studies of mismanagement.

Current practice in other Mediterranean countries was briefly discussed and Ms. Mitsiou concluded the presentation with new opportunities for the treatment and management of oil mill liquid waste.

### Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues

**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Papiopoulos, Decentralized Administration of the Aegean, Syros Island

Mr. Papiopoulos opened by presenting the Cyclades island complex. The group consists of 33 individual islands, as well as a number of small, uninhabited islands. The islands are grouped in 19 Municipalities which are further grouped in 9 Regional Units.

The main responsibilities of the Department of Environmental and Spatial Planning of Cyclades were presented. These include but are not limited to issuing administrative acts relevant to environmental permitting, environmental impact assessments for projects and programs, issuing

decisions/amendments/renewal of decisions regarding the collection and transportation of solid non-hazardous waste, sanitary landfill restoration permits, environmental audits etc.

The Department is responsible for the permit and licensing of 12 environmental project categories as per relevant legislation (M.D. 1958/13.01.12 as amended) which were presented by Mr. Papiopoulos in detail. He also presented key statistics on the number of decisions per project category and the type of decisions. Since 2010 to date, the Department has issued 742 permits for the collection and transportation of solid non-hazardous waste, 3 permits for the collection and transportation of hazardous waste, and 35 permits for the restoration of uncontrolled landfills. The Department has also carried out 4 environmental audits since 2017 with various outcomes.

Mr. Papiopoulos concluded with a reference to the key issues and problems that the Department faces. These are:

- long-term understaffing
- the fact that the area consists of a plethora of islands, posing several logistical issues, and
- complex, ineffective and lacking legislation around environmental and waste management.

#### **Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Crysoula Koza, Decentralized Administration of the Aegean, Rhodes Island

Ms. Koza opened by presenting the Dodecanese island complex. The group consists of 15 individual islands, as well as 93 small, uninhabited islands. The islands are grouped in 15 Municipalities which are further grouped in 4 Regional Units.

The Department of Environmental and Spatial Planning consists of two Offices: (1) the Office for Spatial Planning, Urban Planning and Applications, and (2) the Office of Environmental Planning. Ms. Koza presented current staff members and key department responsibilities. For the Office of Environmental Planning, these include but are not limited to issuing administrative acts relevant to environmental permitting, environmental impact assessments for projects and programs, mineral waste management plans and permits, sanitary landfill restoration permits, environmental audits etc. For the Office of Spatial Planning, Urban Planning and Applications these include but are not limited to assessment of various types of urban planning studies, monitoring, coordinating and guidance provision on urban planning studies, demolition decisions and exceptions, etc.

The Department is responsible for the permit and licensing of 12 environmental project categories as per relevant legislation (M.D.37674/2016) which were presented by Ms. Koza in detail. She also presented key statistics on the number of decisions per project category and the type of decisions. Since 2012 the Department has issued a total of 370 permits/decisions.

Ms. Koza. concluded with a reference to the key issues and problems that the Department faces.

### **Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Evgenia Koutsidou, Decentralized Administration of the Aegean, Mytilene Island

Ms. Koutsidou opened by presenting the North Aegean island complex. The group consists of 10 individual islands, as well as a number of small, uninhabited islands. The islands are grouped in 11 Municipalities which are further grouped in 5 Regional Units.

The Department's main responsibilities include but are not limited to environmental licensing of projects and activities, environmental audits, environmental crime, collection, transportation, recovery and disposal of wastes, etc. Ms. Koutsidou presented key statistics on the number of licensing/decisions per project category. Most licenses were in the following categories: environmental infrastructure and systems, special projects and activities, and industrial facilities and relevant activities. Ms. Koutsidou presented several case studies of the Department's activities and audit outcomes.

Ms. Koutsidou concluded with a reference to the key issues and problems that the Department faces. These are:

- long-term understaffing
- the fact that the area consists of a plethora of islands, posing several logistical issues, and
- complex, ineffective and lacking legislation around environmental and waste management.

Recommendations were made to address these long-term issues.

### **Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Georgios Lemonos, Head of the Directorate for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of North Aegean

Mr. Lemonos presented current issues and environmental degradation that the islands of the North Aegean region face, as well as recommendations. The Department faces long-term understaffing. In 2020, considering the lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Department received 156 complaints, several of which are minor issues. An additional issue is the complexity of legal proceedings, delays and cancellations in the process, which further burdens the Department's workload.

Solid waste management is currently improving and progressing well, with no uncontrolled disposal, excluding the case of Ikaria. The only current issue is construction waste due to historical mismanagement and lack of permitted treatment facilities, which the Department is now on track to resolve. The key issue is embankments, particularly in Natura areas. It is recommended that the relevant environmental impact assessments are carried out. In regards to wastewater treatment, a key issue the region currently faces is the uncontrolled disposal of wastewater from dairy production and oil kernel processing. An additional issue is excessive fishing and environmentally hazardous fishing techniques which are still permitted. Mr. Lemonos concluded by highlighting the issues that the islands in this region face due to increased migrant flows and insufficient planning of the infrastructure designed for hosting purposes.

### **Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Veneris, Head of General Directorate of Development, Region of South Aegean

Mr. Veneris opened the presentation with a reference to the first environmental directive aimed at environmental protection 30 years ago, highlighting that Greece is still taking its first steps in its implementation. The history of landfills and uncontrolled disposal at national level was discussed. Specifically in the case of South Aegean, the approved PESDA plan highlights the steps to ensure environmental protection, including but not limited to prevention policies, waste sorting at the point of origin, composting infrastructure, and restoration of historical landfills and landfill gas collection. Mr. Veneris highlighted that for every island in the region a dedicated action and management plan has been created and is in effect.

Mr. Veneris focused on sanitary landfills and uncontrolled waste disposal sites currently under restoration or recently restored, presenting case studies for several islands. A special reference was made regarding construction waste in Rhodes. Case studies on wastewater management and relevant environmental crimes were presented, as well as a case study on asbestos waste in Kos. Mr. Veneris concluded by highlighting that the waste management in this island complex requires financial and time investment, and further actions in order to meet set targets.

### **Local Authorities in South Aegean & North Aegean: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Mr. Christos Gramvoudis, Scientific Advisor, Organization for Solid Waste Management (FOSDA S.A.) of South Aegean

Dr. Gramvoudis opened his presentation by outlining the legal framework that requires the establishment of an Organization for Solid Waste Management for each regional unit of South Aegean and the Ionian islands. He presented the Organization's governance and highlighted that to date there are no permanent members of staff.

Key responsibility for FOSDA S.A. is the implementation of projects and activities that promote the prioritization of actions and management activities for the prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste. Specifically, responsibilities include but are not limited to the implementation of waste prevention programs, construction and operation of solid waste management facilities, sanitary landfilling, mechanical biological treatment, scientific consulting to the individual organizations, promotion of circular economy activities, and the preparation of action plans.

Dr. Gramvoudis pointed out that, based on current legislation, FOSDA of South Aegean has been designated as the responsible party of all FOSDA operations, sanitary landfills, and waste management treatment facilities. This includes 24 sanitary landfills and 1 mixed recyclables sorting facility, whilst several islands within the region do not have any infrastructure in place. Dr. Gramvoudis provided an overview of the current issues that FOSDA S.A. faces such as aging infrastructure, understaffing, lack of maintenance operations, lack of funding etc.

Historical issues and practices that contributed and exacerbated the matter were discussed. Dr. Gramvoudis concluded his presentation with FOSDA S.A.'s interventions and activities to remediate



current and historical issues. These include collaboration with competent authorities to address long-term issues, fair service provision and costing, adoption of recycling targets, construction of new state-of-the-art facilities, implementation of the “polluter pays” principles, and promotion of educational activities.

## 7 6<sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – THESSALY

6 <sup>th</sup> Info Day (Regional) – THESSALY <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8PJBjLZKxw&amp;t=23s&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8PJBjLZKxw&amp;t=23s&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime</a>	
Info Day Date	December 12, 2022
Duration	4hrs & 4 min
Recipients of the Invitation	469
Subscribed & received the link to participate	86
Participants	57
Supporting Material	“6 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration of Thessaly and Central Greece, Mr. Konstantinos Pappas,
- the Appointed Consultant on Environmental Issues, Region of Thessaly, Mr. Konstantinos Mpardas.

Greeting by MEE was similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 3 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Tsolakidis, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)
2. **EMPACT Envicrime Framework in Greece**  
**Presentation by:** Sofia Eleftheriadou, National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate

of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

**3. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

**Local Authorities in Thessaly: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Mr. Dimitris Giannopoulos, Director of Municipal Solid Waste Management, Environmental Development of Western Thessaly S.A.

Mr. Giannopoulos opened by presenting an overview of the Organization for Solid Waste Management (FODSA) of West Thessaly, which serves 10 Municipalities, was founded in 1996 and has 39 members of staff, and the area of jurisdiction.

Key responsibilities and activities for FODSA include collection of mixed and pre-sorted recyclables, temporary storage and transfer of waste, treatment, recovery and disposal of waste, development and implementation of waste action programs, and technical support for municipalities. Mr. Giannopoulos presented existing sorting bins available in the area and focused on treatment facilities in the area. He presented the Sorting Facility for Mixed Recyclates located in Karditsa, Transfer Stations in several locations, and the sanitary landfill of West Thessaly. Focusing on the sanitary landfill of West Thessaly, he presented the leachate treatment facility, consisting of aerobic treatment and reverse osmosis.

Mr. Giannopoulos also presented the Material Recycling Facility of West Thessaly, currently under construction. He also presented several historical pilot programs and their outcomes, including home composting, recycling of pesticide packaging, education outreach and campaigns. FODSA's future programs include bulk waste collection and treatment, biowastes, home composting, and technical support services. Mr. Giannopoulos concluded by highlighting the need for a whole-system approach, education and public engagement, and the need for collaboration between stakeholders.

**Local Authorities in Thessaly: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Speech by:** Mr. Dimitrios Kouloulas, Deputy Chief, Commander of the 3rd Fire Station of Larissa

Mr. Kouloulas opened by pointing out that the fire department is not always involved in prevention of waste crime but it is often a witness to its devastating consequences. He highlighted that the Department is willing to participate in prevention and awareness activities that can promote better collaboration between stakeholders.

### **Local Authorities in Thessaly: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Ms. Maria Nikolaou, Head of Development and Licensing Department, ETVA VI.PE. S.A. (Industrial & Business Parks)

Ms. Nikolaou presented the contemporary models of organized entrepreneurship and industrial symbiosis. She opened the presentation by providing an overview of existing industrial and business parks across Greece pointing out key characteristics such as their large size, internal infrastructure and land use.

She went on to present the case study for ETVA VI.PE. which was the first developer and operator of several business parks across Greece and the relevant legislation underpinning its operation and activities. Ms. Nikolaou gave a historic overview of business parks from 1960 to date. Specifically, in regard to environmental compliance, Ms. Nikolaou presented general facts, management and treatment activities that enable compliance, associated costs and relevant legislation. Smart monitoring systems were highlighted.

Ms. Nikolaou made a short reference to informal industrial parks and the issues they pose compared to organized parks, especially in regard to environmental compliance. She concluded by highlighting the Department's key objectives which are environmental compliance, activities to promote sustainable development across business parks and recognition as benchmark for environmental compliance.

### **Local Authorities in Thessaly: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Mr. Ioannis Vergos, Head of the Management Unit of Protected Areas of Thessaly, Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A.)

Mr. Vergos presented the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, the aim of which is to provide concise, science-based planning for the management of protected areas and promote collaboration between stakeholders and agencies. NECCA priorities were presented.

NECCA focuses its activities in three pillars: (a) sustainable development, (b) climate change and (c) management of protected areas. A historic overview of the regulatory framework that has underpinned the creation of NECCA was presented. The organization's responsibilities in regard to the prevention of environmental crime were outlined. Mr. Vergos further focused on the responsibilities of the 24 NECCA regional units and specifically the unit of Thessaly.

Mr. Vergos discussed the impacts of environmental crime and degradation of ecosystems, and presented several case studies of pollution incidents within protected areas due to illegal, improper and uncontrolled waste disposal, livestock management, and agricultural practices. NECCA has spearheaded several activities aimed at combating these incidents including awareness and educational campaigns for local farmers on waste management best practice.





### **Local Authorities in Thessaly: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Mr. Vassilios Moraitis, Board Member, Federation of Enterprises of Thessaly & Central Greece, Sterilization S.A.

Mr. Moraitis presented on the Federation of Enterprises of Thessaly & Central Greece, pointing out that it is one of the five regional associations in Greece. Key activities include monitoring and promotion of issues concerning business initiatives, promoting the spirit of collaboration and cooperation between public authorities and organizations, promotion of public discourse, participation in national and international conferences, events and any other activities that promote the national economy.

In regard to environmental compliance, he pointed out the Federation works with local organizations to promote understanding legal responsibilities, which are often key to business operations such as in the case of waste management companies. Mr. Moraitis made reference to several tools that can help in environmental compliance, such as financial mechanisms and funding for facilities, awareness campaigns, promotion of circular economy and energy reduction actions.

Mr. Moraitis discussed the role of protection against environmental crime and the benefits it can have particularly in regard to business competition, highlighting the need for a common direction at national level, digitalisation of monitoring and consistency in how complaints are managed. He concluded with a reference to current activities of the Federation of Enterprises of Thessaly & Central Greece which focus on sustainable development, and ESG and energy working groups.

## 8 7<sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – STEREA ELLADA

7 <sup>th</sup> Info Day (Regional) – STEREA ELLADA <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKtwD-17h44&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKtwD-17h44&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime</a>	
Info Day Date	June 20, 2023
Duration	4hrs & 4 min
Recipients of the Invitation	443
Subscribed & received the link to participate	97
Participants	68
Supporting Material	“7 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by the Head of the General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Athtanasia Lazarou-Dima.

Greetings followed by:

- the Director of Green Fund, Mr. Giorgos Protopapas,
- the National Representative of the EMPACT Action Envicrime Initiative, Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), Ms. Sofia Eleftheriadou and
- the Head of the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Sterea Ellada, Mr. Antonios Terzis.

Greeting by MEE was similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 2 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Tsolakidis, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

**2. European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

**\*Minutes of the speech & presentations that took place at the 7<sup>th</sup> Info Day, will be included in the Final Report on Info Days**

**Local Authorities in Sterea Ellada: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Speech by:** Mr. Antonios Terzis, Head of the Department of Environment and Spatial Planning, Region of Sterea Ellada

**Local Authorities in Sterea Ellada: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Mr. Charalampos Tsokanis, General Director, Solid Waste Management Agency (FODSA) of Sterea Ellada

**Local Authorities in Sterea Ellada: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Ms. Nikolitsa Tantalou, Head of the Office for Rest of Solid Waste Management, Solid Waste Management Agency (FODSA) of Sterea Ellada

**Local Authorities in Sterea Ellada: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Presentation by:** Ms. Maria Nikolaou, Head of Development and Licensing Department, ETVA VI.PE. S.A. (Industrial & Business Parks)

## 9 8<sup>TH</sup> INFO DAY: REGIONAL – IONIAN ISLANDS

8 <sup>th</sup> Info Day (Regional) – IONIAN ISLANDS	
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YrcXINHx6M&amp;t=137s&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YrcXINHx6M&amp;t=137s&amp;ab_channel=Spot%26StopWasteCrime</a>	
Info Day Date	July 05, 2023
Duration	2hrs & 35min
Recipients of the Invitation	472
Participants	54
Supporting Material	“8 INFO DAY ACCOMP FOLDER” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme</li> <li>• Screenshots</li> <li>• Reporting</li> </ul>

### A. OPENING & GREETINGS

The Info Day was opened by Ms. Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE).

Greetings followed by:

- the President of Green Fund, Mr. Efstathios Stathopoulos,
- the Deputy Head, Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Ionian Islands, Decentralized Administration Peloponnese - Western Greece - Ionian, Mr. Konstantinos Christoforidis
- the Head of the Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning of Western Greece, Decentralized Administration Peloponnese - Western Greece - Ionian, Mr. Tsakarestos Ioannis,
- the Deputy Governor of Environment, Energy and Spatial Planning, Region of Ionian Islands, Mr. Spyridon Ioannou,

Greeting by MEE was similar to the ones delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

### B. PRESENTATIONS

The first 2 presentations delivered by MEE representatives participating in LIFE PROWhIBIT:

1. **LIFE PROWhIBIT: Prevent of Waste Crime by Intelligence Based Inspections**  
**Presentation by:** Panagiotis Tsolakidis, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Manager, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

2. **European Environmental Crime Directive & Greek Legislation | Evaluation report on the eighth round of mutual evaluations "The practical implementation and operation of European policies on preventing and combating environmental crime" - Report on Greece (GENVAL)**

**Presentation by:** Eleni Glypti, LIFE PROWhIBIT Project Coordinator | Environmental Inspectorate of Southern Greece, General Directorate of the Body of Inspectors and Auditors, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE)

had the same content with respective presentations delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day (please see sections above).

**\*Minutes of the speeches that took place at the 8<sup>th</sup> Info Day, will be included in the Final Report on Info Days**

**Local Authorities in Ionian Islands: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Speech by:** Mr. Konstantinos Christoforidis, Deputy Head, Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Ionian Islands, Decentralized Administration Peloponnese-Western Greece-Ionian

**Local Authorities in Ionian Islands: Waste Management Activities and Key Issues**

**Speech by:** Mr. Spyridon Ioannou, Deputy Governor of Environment, Energy and Spatial Planning, Region of Ionian Islands