



PRESS RELEASE_extended

The **Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise of Ioannina, (DEYAI)**, held on Wednesday the **10th of February** the event for the presentation of the project **"Improving water management and supply infrastructure via smart technologies, policies and tools" with the acronym "SAVE-WATER"**. SAVE-WATER project implemented and funded within the INTERREG IPA II CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAM, GREECE-ALBANIA 2014-2020 and aims to improve water management methods by upgrading drinking water monitoring and control infrastructures. In that way transnational cooperation between Greece and Albania in the management of cross-border waters will be strengthened.

Respecting the rules of social exclusion (#socialdistancing), the event took place via video conference with a simultaneous public broadcast on DEYAI's channel on the social platform of YouTube.

All partners were present at this 1st event of the project and took part in the discussion, while participations from institutions of Albania and Greece, such as the Region of Ionian Islands, the region of Epirus, the University of Western Macedonia and organizations such as the Water and sewerage enterprise of Kefalonia, the Environment Center of Western Macedonia and the Managing Authority of INTERREG), highlighted the importance of innovation in management of critical urban resources concerning drinkable water.

The President of DEYAI, Mr. Aris Bartzokas, started the event by referring to the importance of cross-border cooperation for the exchange of good and innovative practices and stressed that DEYAI by participating in this program demonstrates its interest in participating in innovative actions not only at national but also in transnational level. These actions will continue dynamically by DEYAI on behalf of the development of our city and the municipality of Ioannina in general.

During the event, technical presentations were held focusing on the actions and the deliverables of the project, while modern management and monitoring practices followed by Municipalities and other Water Enterprises in the country were presented.

For DEYAI, the preparation of a pilot action for the city of Ioannina, which focuses on the need for integrated management of the water supply networks was presented. The main aim of the pilot action is to decrease Non Revenue Water (NRW), through the reduction of real (physical) losses and commercial (apparent) losses concurrently with the reduction of the waste of water by the consumers (saving water at home).

In this context, DEYAI prepares a pioneering approach to the management of urban water and losses in the water supply network of Ioannina, aiming at the following actions, which will be implemented within the SAVE-WATER project:

1. Topographic mapping, and mapping on a GIS platform of 59,258 domestic and SME's hydrometers that are already installed in the city of Ioannina. The aim of the action is to create a comprehensive database of digital and cartographic data that will support the crew of DEYAI that records the readings of the hydrometers installed in the water supply system.
2. Installation of 725 smart "digital water meters in the "closed " water loop of Kastro area in the city of Ioannina focused on the automatically measurement of drinking water consumptions and the no-stop monitoring of the system that will aid on making critical conclusions about consumption and leak detection in the water supply network.



3. Upgrade of 5 Local Leakage Detection Stations so that they will be telemetrically interconnected to the main control station alongside with the replacement of old sensors that are used for the measurement of flow and pressure in the water network with new ones, (technologically advanced). In addition, sensors that monitor quality, (conductivity, temperature, turbidity and residual chlorine), will be installed in order to obtain data for drinking water quality in real time. This action is directly related to the installation of new smart water meters since it will control and measure the water quantity that enters into the closed water loop of the Castle's area, and will give us the ability to monitor and estimate water losses.
4. Development of a web-GIS mapping data base in which all the digital and cartographic information will be held in order to support directly the operation and decisions making processes, as well as to protect water resources, (amount of unbilled water), though the minimization of leakages.

Finally, as underlined by, Ms. Kalliopi Sifakaki, supervisor of the project on behalf of DEYAI, the SAVE-WATER project is part of the business plan of DEYAI, which has at its peak the reduction of **MAN** and complements the wider aims of the enterprise's aims and goals. She also made a detailed presentation of the other integrated with SAVEWATER projects of DEYAI, through which a comprehensive effort is made to upgrade and modernize energy infrastructure, to replace outdated infrastructure and to integrate modern tools for monitoring the critical infrastructure of water supply and sewerage systems.

Through the pilot action in the emblematic area of Kastro, which will be gradually expanded through other co-financed actions in other areas of our Municipality, we will acquire know-how on international standards implemented on water distribution management, elaborate on the methodology of estimating the water balance in a water supply network, obtain the necessary documentation of costing and pricing water supply services but mainly we will have access to the use of a modern technological tool for the fast management and repair of the damages on water supply network and the prevention of losses.

SAVE-WATER project

The whole project is entitled: "Improving water management and supply infrastructure via smart technologies, policies and tools" and has acronym SAVE - WATER (MIS reference number: 5033050) was included for funding in the call "1ST CALL FOR STRATEGIC PROJECT PROPOSALS INTERREG IPA II CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAM" "GREECE – ALBANIA 2014-2020".

The project started on March 1, 2018 and is expected to be completed in September 2021. The total budget of the Save-Water project is € 3,482,822, while for the budget for the Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Ioannina, (DEYAI), is € 500,000.

The collaborating partners on the project are:

- The Region of the Ionian Islands, which is also the lead partner
- The Region of Epirus
- The Environmental Center of the Region of Western Macedonia
- The Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Ioannina (DEYAI)
- The Ionian University
- The Technical institute of Western Macedonia
- The Regional Council of Avlona (Albania)
- The Regional Council of Korytsa (Albania)

The Working Packages of the Project / P.E. or Working Packages / W.P. of the project include:



P.E. 1: Project management and partner coordination

P.E. 2: Communication between partners and Project Information Dissemination Actions

P.E. 3: Networks and Creation of GIS cartographic databases

P.E. 4: Sensor Networks and Pilot Actions

P.E. 5: Strategies and policy texts

More generally, the goal of SAVE-WATER is to strengthen the transboundary infrastructure for drinking water management through the transfer of knowledge and technology between project partners.

Expected changes to the SAVE-WATER project include:

- Examination of viable transnational cross-border approaches in order to address uncommon pressures on drinking water distribution systems.

- Consideration of technologically viable solutions for monitoring drinking water networks
- Increase of the efficiency of management organizations and local governments in matters of protection, conservation and proper use of water resources.
- Improvement of the operational reliability and safety of water supply systems, especially in tourist areas.

The expected results from the completion of the SAVE-WATER project are:

1. The establishment of a transnational cooperation network and a common protocol for the joint monitoring of the demand and the quality of drinking water,
2. The creation of an "original smart sensor" and the design of "smart grids of sensors" for effective monitoring, decision making and implementation in various pilot actions.
3. A joint "Action Plan" and a policy text for joint strategies for the prevention and mitigation of risks and vulnerabilities of water resources.

The main target groups of the SAVE-WATER project are:

- Local population served by new, improved drinking water supply,
- Regional administrations and local organizations involved in drinking water management,
- Tourists-Visitors due to the pressure they exert on the management of water resources.

