

NEWSLETTER

Bringing Science Closer to Young Generations: IASON+ BSB00174 Educational Video on Invasive Alien Species and Ecosystem Services

Effective environmental protection begins with knowledge and awareness. Recognising the importance of engaging younger generations in biodiversity conservation, the IASON+ Project has developed a new 6–8-minute educational video entitled “*Invasive Alien Species and Their Impact on Ecosystem Services*”. The video has been produced by the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA), Project Partner 2, with the scientific support of experts from the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (DDNI), the Lead Partner of the IASON+ Project- BSB00174. Developed within the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021–2027, the video aims to translate scientific knowledge into an engaging and accessible educational resource, raising awareness of invasive alien species, ecosystem services and the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Making Science Easy to Understand

Designed primarily for children (aged 8–15 years), while also addressing teachers, families and the wider public, the video transforms complex scientific concepts into an engaging learning experience. By combining real footage, animation, narration and dynamic visual storytelling, it explains in an accessible way how Invasive Alien Species (IAS) threaten biodiversity and the ecosystem services on which both nature and people depend. Using examples from the Danube Delta and the Black Sea Basin, viewers discover how biological invasions affect clean water, food resources, flood protection, recreation and the overall health of natural ecosystems.

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, renowned for its remarkable biodiversity, faces a serious and growing threat. Invasive alien species disrupt local ecosystems by competing with native species, altering habitats, and disturbing the balance of food webs.

The Black Sea Basin is centred around an almost enclosed sea situated between Europe and Asia, with exceptional geographical, economic, ecological and cultural importance. As a semi-enclosed sea with relatively low biodiversity and slow water exchange with the global ocean, any disruption to its ecological balance caused by pollution, overfishing or invasive alien species can have rapid and far-reaching effects.

The Black Sea Basin is therefore an area of particular ecological sensitivity. The introduction and spread of invasive alien species, often facilitated by international maritime traffic, can disrupt natural ecosystems, reduce biodiversity and affect the marine resources on which the economies and communities of the riparian countries depend.

An Educational Tool for Lasting Impact

More than a communication product, the video has been designed as a practical educational resource that will support the project's Living Lab activities and continue to be used long after the

NEXT Black Sea Basin

project's completion. It provides teachers, educators and environmental organisations with an accessible tool for environmental education and awareness-raising initiatives. The production reflects the close cooperation between environmental authorities and the scientific community, combining DDBRA's experience in protected area management with the scientific expertise of DDNI researchers to deliver reliable, evidence-based and engaging educational content.

Why Watch the Video?

- Learn what Invasive Alien Species are and how they spread.
- Discover why ecosystem services are essential for human well-being.
- Explore real examples from the Danube Delta and the Black Sea Basin.
- Understand why protecting biodiversity requires everyone's involvement.



IASON+
Invasive Alien Species Observatory and
Network Development for the Assessment
of Climate Change Impacts and Contextual
Ecosystem Services Evaluation in Black Sea
Deltaic Protected Areas
Project Code: BSB00174

IASON+ NEWSLETTER

**Interreg
NEXT** Black Sea Basin

Co-funded by
the European Union

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

and Their Impact on
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

A new educational video developed within
the IASON+ Project to promote environmental awareness,
biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection.

CLEAN WATER **BIODIVERSITY** **FOOD RESOURCES** **FLOOD PROTECTION** **RECREATION**

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 <https://iasonplus-bsb.eu/>

AI MODIFIED

Watch the Educational Video

Invasive Alien Species and Their Impact on Ecosystem Services
https://youtu.be/_7yumsxdAvU?si=yTAWGamyzQFhaaGF

Working together for healthier ecosystems and a more environmentally aware future.