Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin

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IASON+

NEWSLETTER

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 IASON + BSB00174

Kick-Off Meeting 25- 26.09.2024

The Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (DDNI) in Tulcea, coordinator of the IASON+ project *"Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Development of the Network for Climate Change Impact Assessment and Contextual Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Protected Deltaic Areas of the Black Sea Basin"* (Project Code: BSB00174), organised the **Kick-Off Meeting**, the first meeting of the project consortium, on **25–26 September 2024**.

The IASON+ project is funded by the European Union through the Interreg VI-B NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, with a total budget of €1,396,112.46, and is implemented over the period 28 June 2024 – 27 December 2026. The project contributes to the programme priority "Clean and Green Region", under the specific objective of promoting climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention, and resilience through ecosystem-based approaches.


Its overall objective is to continue the establishment and implementation of joint actions for monitoring Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and assessing their impact on Ecosystem Services (ES) in the deltaic ecosystems of the Black Sea Basin. Bringing together partners from Romania, Ukraine, Greece, Türkiye, and Georgia, the project evaluates ecosystem resilience under both current and projected climate conditions while creating the scientific foundation and cross-border cooperation necessary to support effective climate change adaptation strategies.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE IASON+ PROJECT:

Continuing, developing and implementing common procedures for monitoring and assessing risks to invasive alien species (IAS), assessing their influence in defining ecosystem services (ES) in deltaic ecosystems in the Black Sea Basin (BSB) and assessing resilience in current and forecasted climate conditions, in order to create and promote climate change adaptation premises in the protected areas of the project, in line with regional strategies and policies, targeting, motivating and assisting countries in the creation of IAS inventories, based on long-term cross-border collaboration, information and research capacity through access to and use of innovative technologies on IAS monitoring and their influence on SE, improving cooperation through the involvement of stakeholders at different levels of the project.

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PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Lead Partner - Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, (DDNI)- **Romania**
- Project Partner 2 – Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (ARBDD) – **Romania**
- Project Partner 3 – Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (IMB) – **Ukraine**
- Project Partner 4 – Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) – **Greece**
- Project Partner 5 – Karadeniz Technical University - Marine Sciences Faculty (KTU-MSF) – **Republic of Türkiye**
- Project Partner 6 – International Business and Economic Development Center (IBEDC) – **Georgia**

CHALLENGES THAT INSPIRED IASON+

One of the central challenges addressed by IASON+ is the need to evaluate the Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which are a major driver of biodiversity degradation across the Black Sea. Understanding their impacts requires analytical approaches capable of tracking changes in species distribution, ecosystem interactions, and long-term ecological responses. At the same time, IASON+ focuses on evaluating Ecosystem Services (ES), which provide a range of benefits to the Black Sea region: food and water, flood and disease regulation, nutrient cycling, and cultural heritage and recreation. Many of these benefits are currently at risk due to ongoing destruction and degradation. In addition, competing land-use demands and climate effects are also simultaneously pressuring the region. Strengthened science-policy interfaces, integrated land-use planning, and climate adaptation are essential to sustain ES and support effective management strategies.

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Focusing on five delta areas, the Danube Delta (Romania/Ukraine), Nestos Delta & Lake Vistonida (Greece), Kızılırmak Delta (Türkiye) and Chorokhi Delta & Kolkheti National Park (Georgia), IASON+ contributes to a clearer understanding of ecosystem trends and provides a scientific basis for coordinated regional policies on IAS and ES under changing climatic conditions.

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