

## NEWSLETTER

**Summer School 2025- Strengthening Cooperation  
for Sustainable Delta Ecosystems in the Black Sea Basin  
22–28 September 2025 | Samsun & Kızılırmak Delta, Türkiye**

The **IASON+ Project Summer School 2025**, organised by **Karadeniz Technical University (KTU)** in Samsun, Türkiye, brought together project partners, researchers, environmental experts, local stakeholders, university students, and young participants from Romania, Greece, Ukraine, Georgia, and Türkiye for a week of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and environmental innovation.

**IASON+** **SUMMER SCHOOL 2025**  
*Stronger together for healthy deltas*

22 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2025 | SAMSUN, TÜRKİYE

A week of collaboration, learning and exchange of experiences to protect the ecosystem services of delta areas in the Black Sea Basin.

**22 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**PARTNER MEETING**  
The IASON+ Project partner meetings held in Samsun marked the beginning of the project's Summer School. Partners reviewed progress and discussed upcoming activities.

**23 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
The Steering Committee meeting evaluated achievements, monitored implementation and strengthened coordination among all project partners.

**24 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP I**  
The first Stakeholder Workshop brought together local decision makers and stakeholders to discuss ecosystem services and share experiences from delta regions.

**25 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**FIELD STUDY IN KIZILIRMAK DELTA AREA**  
Field visit to the Kızılırmak Delta Area with partners, stakeholders and young participants from local universities. A hands-on learning experience in nature.

**26 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP II**  
Meeting with local stakeholders, fishermen's cooperative and NGOs from the Kızılırmak Delta Area to discuss invasive alien species and their impact on ecosystem services.

**27 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**YOUTH WORKSHOP**  
Youth participants learned about Kızılırmak Delta ecosystem services, their importance and conservation strategies through interactive sessions and group activities.

**28 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**SUMMER SCHOOL FORUM**  
The closing forum summarized key outcomes, strengthened cooperation networks and built the foundation for future collaborations within the IASON+ partnership.

**TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY DELTAS**

- Promoting cooperation across the Black Sea Basin
- Enhancing knowledge on invasive alien species
- Protecting ecosystem services
- Empowering communities and youth
- Building a sustainable and resilient future

The project is funded by the European Union through the Interreg V-B NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme. The value of the contract is €1,396,112.46.

Contract period: 28.06.2024 – 27.12.2026

**PARTNER COUNTRIES**

ROMANIA GREECE UKRAINE GEORGIA TÜRKİYE

Building knowledge, fostering collaboration, protecting our shared natural heritage.

Organised within the **IASON+ Project – Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Network Development for Climate Change Impact Assessment and Contextual Ecosystem Services Evaluation in Protected Delta Areas of the Black Sea Basin**, the Summer School combined scientific sessions, governance meetings, stakeholder engagement, and field activities. Participants explored innovative approaches to addressing the impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and climate change, while highlighting the importance of ecosystem-based management, climate resilience, and cross-border cooperation for protecting the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Black Sea Basin.

### Project Coordination and Strategic Planning

The Summer School officially began on **22 September 2025** with the **Partner Meeting**, where representatives from all six partner organisations reviewed project progress, discussed upcoming activities, and coordinated the implementation of future work packages.

The following day, **23 September**, members of the **IASON+ Steering Committee** met to evaluate achievements, monitor project implementation, and strengthen coordination among consortium members.

Representatives participating included:

- Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (Romania)
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (Romania)
- Institute of Marine Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)
- Karadeniz Technical University (Türkiye)
- International Business and Economic Development Center (Georgia)

### Stakeholder Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

On 24 September, the first Stakeholder Workshop gathered local authorities, environmental experts, NGOs, and community representatives to discuss ecosystem services in delta regions and the challenges generated by invasive alien species. Project partners presented case studies and good practices from the Danube Delta and other protected wetlands across the Black Sea Basin, encouraging dialogue between scientists and decision-makers.

The second stakeholder workshop, held on 26 September, focused on the Kızılırmak Delta, bringing together representatives of local fishermen's cooperatives, environmental NGOs, and regional stakeholders.

Participants exchanged experiences on:

- the ecological impacts of invasive alien species;
- sustainable ecosystem management;
- biodiversity conservation;
- strengthening cooperation between scientific institutions and local communities.



### Exploring the Kızılırmak Delta

A highlight of the Summer School was the field study conducted on 25 September in the internationally important Kızılırmak Delta. Researchers, project partners, stakeholders and university students explored one of Türkiye's most valuable wetland ecosystems, observing its biodiversity, ecosystem services and conservation challenges firsthand. The field visit enabled participants to connect scientific knowledge with practical environmental management while discussing monitoring techniques and innovative approaches for ecosystem protection.

### Empowering the Next Generation

Recognising the importance of youth engagement, the Youth Workshop, organised on 27 September, provided an opportunity for university students to deepen their understanding of delta ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

Through interactive sessions, discussions and practical activities, participants explored the ecological importance of the Kızılırmak Delta and reflected on their role in protecting natural heritage. The workshop inspired young participants to become future ambassadors for environmental sustainability and cross-border cooperation.

## NEXT Black Sea Basin

### Summer School Forum: Looking Towards the Future

The Summer School concluded on 28 September 2025 with a joint Summer School Forum, attended by project partners, stakeholders and youth representatives. The forum summarized the key outcomes of the week's activities, highlighted lessons learned, and identified opportunities for future collaboration within the IASON+ partnership. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, advancing scientific research, and promoting innovative solutions for monitoring invasive alien species and protecting ecosystem services across protected delta areas of the Black Sea Basin.

The event concluded with the presentation of Certificates of Recognition, acknowledging the valuable contributions of all participants throughout the Summer School.

### Building a Resilient Future Together

The IASON+ Summer School demonstrated the value of bringing together researchers, public authorities, environmental organisations, local communities and young people to address shared environmental challenges. By combining science, education, stakeholder participation and international cooperation, the event strengthened the foundations for a more resilient and sustainable future for the delta ecosystems of the Black Sea Basin.

**Together, we are building knowledge, fostering collaboration, and protecting our shared natural heritage.**

