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## Press Release

# **“Protecting streams for a clean Black Sea by reducing sediment and litter pollution with joint innovative monitoring and control tools and nature-based practices”**

The project “Protecting streams for a clean Black Sea by reducing sediment and litter pollution with joint innovative monitoring and control tools and nature-based practices (BSB963)” with the acronym “Protect-Streams-4-Sea” started on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. The total duration of the project will be 24 months.

The project is funded under the EU INTERREG IV “Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020” framework. The total budget of the project is 907,135.00 € where the EU contribution is 834,543.41 €.

The lead partner is the International Hellenic University (IHU) legal successor to the Technologiko Ekpedeftiko Idryma Anatolikis Makedonias kai Thrakis. Specifically, the Department of Forest and Natural Environment Sciences, The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect and GERi Lab are primarily involved from IHU. Four more institutions from the Black Sea Region are involved; The Buzau-lalomita Water Administration from Romania, Young Foresters Union NGO from Armenia, Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers from Republic of Moldova, and Artvin Coruh University from Turkey. Living along a common Sea, requires for the sustainable water management, the surrounding countries to adopt common methods and practices. This is one of the main strengths of the project since it has partners from five different countries and the activities take place in all participating countries.

The overall objective of “Protect-Streams-4-Sea” is the environmental protection and reduction of pollutants and litter in Black Sea. This will be done by focusing on the inland pollutants and litter, specifically from the rivers and their watersheds that end in the Black Sea. To achieve this, a joint monitoring program on these pollutants and litter will be established to promote the coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of pollutants and litter through the adoption of best management practices. This will help lead to the sustainable growth and improve the welfare of the people of the region.

Common borders. Common solutions.