

# **Supporting Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Greece**

## **Summary**

A large infrastructure project in Greece assisted with EAFRD co-financing to help implement EU legislation regarding the protection and sustainable management of vulnerable water resources, including those used for irrigation purposes.

## **Background**

In accordance with the obligations of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, the Greek government is obliged to adopt various measures to ensure the protection and sustainable use of Greece's valuable ground and surface water resources. One priority for action is preparing the procedures and systems necessary for monitoring and managing water quality in the river basins of Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly and Continental Greece - notably regarding the quality of water used for irrigation.

## **Objective**

The project aims to support implementation of the actions that Greece must adopt for controlling and protecting the chemical quality of surface and ground waters of the river and lake basins of Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly and Continental Greece. The results of the project will form the basis for the development of water quality monitoring programmes according to the timeframe set out by the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

## **Main activities**

Key activities have included: 1) chemical analysis of water resources in 13 rivers and 12 lakes; 2) sediment analysis by permanent sampling systems; 3) sampling and analysis of geological, hydrological and hydrogeological data; 4) development of a Geographical Information System (GIS); 5) creation of a website; 6) proposals for agri-environmental water quality monitoring indicators, and; 7) the processing of data concerning residues of crop protection (pesticide) products.

## **Results & Benefits**

The main benefits expected include: a) assessment of the chemical quality of all water resources; b) location of the point and non-point sources of pollution per water basin; c) creation of a register for protected areas; d) control of the chemical quality of the sources of pollution; e) development of a methodology for the chemical control of the quality of the water resources; f) presentation of all relevant information through a GIS system, and; g) an operational website for the project.

## **Lessons learnt**

EAFRD funding can be effectively targeted at supporting the implementation of important environmental legislation, such as the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

## **Project location**

The river basins of Macedonia, Thrace, Thessaly and Continental Greece

## **Region**

Thraki

## **RDP Territory**

Greece

## **Total project cost (€)**

4.400.000, 00

## **Contact name**

Athanasia KENTROU

## **E-mail**

[li210u021@minagric.gr](mailto:li210u021@minagric.gr)

## **Telephone**

+30 210 8399787

## **Languages for contact**

English, Greek

## **At a glance**



**Country**

Greece

**Final beneficiary type**

Individual farmers, Producer groups

**Budget range**

> €500 000

**Start date:**

01/12/2009

**End Date:**

31/12/2013

**Theme / Measure:**

- Competitiveness of Agriculture & Forestry
- Restructuring, developing physical potential, and promoting innovation
- 125. Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry

**Keywords:**

Infrastructure, Irrigation, Environmental management, Water , EU standards

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