

**MANAGEMENT BODY OF EVROS DELTA**

**AND SAMOTHRAKI PROTECTED AREAS**

**Traianoupolis 14/4/2020**

**Project about pollution problems in wetlands**

The Management Body of Evros Delta and Samothraki Protected Areas has started a new project about promoting public awareness against the pollution in wetlands. Its title is “Eco-Conscious Minds to Stop Pollution in the Valuable Wetlands of Black Sea Basin – BIOLEARN”. It is financed by the Black Sea Basin Program and will last for 26 months.

The project partnership is established by 6 partners from 5 countries. Those are: The District Government of Enez and the Division Directorate of National Parks of Edirne from Turkey, the organization “Agricola” from Ukraine, the Foundation Caucasus Environment from Georgia, the organization “Green Balkans” from Bulgaria and the Management Body of Evros Delta and Samothraki Protected Areas. Each partner participates with a wetland. Turkey with the National Park of Gala, Ukraine with the Danube Delta, Georgia with the Central Kolkheti region, Bulgaria with Pomorie Lake and Greece with Evros Delta.

The 6 partners joint their efforts, combine their resources and knowledge for the realization of common activities aiming at attracting the attention of the local communities and the visitors / tourists to the negative results that their unconscious daily activities have to the local eco-system relating to the pollution of the waters through the use of illegal dumping areas placed in watercourses, abandonment of old torn nets in watersheds, reckless use of plastic bags or unregulated disposing of agricultural, chemical and fishing equipment to the territory of these very important wetlands.

They aim at establishing sustainable links and improvement of co–operation between regional and international partners in order to jointly coordinate the environmental protection, increasing local awareness and reduction of the pollutions in important wetlands of the Black Sea Basin. Through implementation of the following activities the partners will ensure achievement of the above mentioned aim:

– Exchange of knowledge and experience and capacity building activities between project partners and interested institutions. Investment activities relating with establishment of a Network from “Stop Litter” and “Save Nature” activity centers working under the common environmental – educational approach and methodology.

– Realization of public awareness activities and educational programs for local target groups that will make them more sensitive about the pollution and the threats that they create for the local eco-system with their environmental careless activities.

– Realization of clean-up activities for decreasing the local pollution in the targeted areas.

The Management Body has undertaken to ensure better co-operation and capacity building among the partners and interested organizations, through the analysis of the current situation about the distribution of quantities and types of litter, international workshops, preparation of a manual of best educational and training practices, preparation of a Common Learning Approach and environmental protection and action programs.

At the same time, the Management Body will participate in other activities such as educational projects, contests, cleaning campaigns, publications, informative signs, digital activities and creation of info – kiosks.

For more information about the project and its implementation a page has been created: <http://bio-learn.org/>