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IO.1 - GUIDE OF ACTORS

NATIONAL REPORT

***IASIS NGO
and Mediterranean Centre of Environment
GREECE***

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I. Introduction

The present report is the result and the main product of the first intellectual output of the project Social & Nature. In most of its part, it is a synthesis of what was discussed in the Focus Group and some literature review, to support these statements.

To begin with, this report is composed by the presentation of some of the most significant impacts of climate change in Greece, impacts which affect multiple sectors of the country's economy, agriculture, cultural heritage, human health and way of living and natural resources.

Moreover, this report underlines some significant actors, that are mobilized, in order to act against climate change or to raise awareness on this essential topic. These actors are not only organisations or institutions demonstrating against climate change, but also movements constituted mostly by volunteers, which are aiming to raise the public's awareness.

Another main objective of this report is to provide information on the current situation of the initiatives and the best practices, which have already started or are in progress, in Greece. Therefore, a short overview of some innovative best practices is being presented in this document.

Furthermore, some of the most significant training programs about the environment in Greece are being underlined in the report. All of the training programs, which are being introduced here, are currently in action.

In addition, this report underlines the major issues that were discussed in the Focus Groups in Athens. The Focus Group consisted of citizens who are active in local actors and groups about the impact of climate change and the protection of the environment. In these Focus Groups, the major issue that was elaborated was the thoughts of the citizens about climate change and how it affects our country. Also, a lot of recommendations were mentioned, regarding the actions that can be made by the citizens, in order to improve the situation with the impacts of climate change. This feedback from the Focus Group was really valuable, since the discussion with citizens who experience this situation in an active way represents reality and it will be the starting point for working more on this topic.

II. Guide of actors' findings

1. Already known or future impacts of climate change on its own national territories (national, regional and local) in economic, environmental and social / human terms).

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a strong economic area in Greece, which unfortunately will be affected in the future by the climate change. In more detail, the climate of Greece will become drier due to the decrease in rainfall by 20-30% in the summer and by 10% in the winter. This does not mean that there will be no more agricultural production in the country, it just means that the quantities produced and the sort of crops that the ground can support will be affected. According to most scenarios, the most negative impact should be observed in Southern and Eastern Greece as well as in the islands. The areas of Thessaly and Central Macedonia (the main agricultural areas of Greece) will suffer a decline in agricultural production (Kartalis, Kokkosis, Economou, Santamouris, Agathagelidis & Polydoros, 2017)..

TOURISM

Another really heavy industry in the Greek economy is tourism. The news for tourism are not all negative. First of all, the decrease in the number of days that will need energy for heating, will reduce the costs for tourist facilities in winter destinations. So, the impact of climate change on tourism mainly concerns:

- the increase of the temperature and increase of the incidence of combustion.
- the increase of the energy requirements for cooling.
- the decline in water resources and consequently problems with water availability, especially in Greek islands.
- rising sea levels that will affect tourism infrastructure in coastal zones.
- the increasing number and intensity of forest fires.
- the increase of more extreme weather events.
- the changes in the landscape (coastal erosion, habitat degradation).

(Kartalis et.al., 2017)

BIODIVERSITY

Greece has a high biodiversity of plant and animal species and is one of the most important biodiversity centres in Europe. The climate change and the increasing temperature that it causes, affect the cycle of seasons, an effect that is expected to continue even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced due to their long-life span. The increase in temperature has a serious impact on ecosystems as:

- The natural processes, such as species reproduction and migration, are modified.
- The duration of the growing season is modified.

Changes in migratory bird communities occur.

Most species of amphibians and reptiles are in danger of not having suitable habitats by 2050.

Over 50% of the flora species are estimated to become more vulnerable by 2080.

Also, the marine aquaculture will be impacted by climate change. The climate change is estimated to affect aquaculture in Greece and, in particular, to change the temperature, precipitation, concentration of dioxide carbon in the marine environment and at the sea level. (Papoutsoglou, 1990).

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Forest ecosystems occupy about 65% of the land area of Greece (forests 25%, meadows 40%). The forest ecosystems will be primarily damaged by depletion precipitations and high temperatures will prevail during the dry season, while they are already at increased risk of catastrophic fires (Giannakopoulos, Le Sager, Bindi, Moriondo, Kostopoulou, Goodes, 2009). According to a WWF Hellas survey conducted on behalf of the National Observatory of Athens (WWF Greece, 2009), forest ecosystems will become more vulnerable, especially during the period 2021-2050.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Climate change, the expected changes in the intensity and frequency of natural phenomena are expected to affect the elements of their environment part of the cultural heritage as well as historical monuments that are directly exposed to the environment. Floods, fires, strong winds and the long-term impact of adverse climatic conditions can destroy, even completely, spaces and objects of cultural heritage. To date, there has not been an adequate strategy for the protection of cultural heritage on a national level from the natural hazards and the impacts of climate change (Kartalis et.al., 2017).

COSTAL ZONES AND ISLANDS AND CITIES

Greece has a coastline of more than 16,000 kilometers, the largest of any other Mediterranean or European country. The sea level changes affect the shoreline morphology, contributes to their erosion, leads to flooding and increases groundwater salinization. With rising sea levels, coastal settlements and aquaculture are under threat, and tourism infrastructures along the coast are under considerable pressure.

HUMAN HEALTH CARE AND CIVIC PROTECTION

Several researches have proven the impact of climate change on health vulnerability in Greece (see the Bank of Greece 2011 report). This vulnerability is mainly due to the increased number of recorded natural disasters and the related number of deaths and economic impact. Future climate model simulations point to a sharp increase in the frequency of heat-waves, forest fires, heavy rainfall and floods by 2100. Together with the impact of the socio-economical crisis started in 2008, these tendencies implies that the

number of impacted households will increase in the next decades, especially in large cities like Athens.

In addition, poor housing conditions may contribute to health problems. The percentage of homeowners in Greece is very high (more than 70%) but the economic crisis, the age of the housing stock (**55% of the buildings in Greece were built before 1980, before the first Regulation for Buildings Insulation**) and the lack of global Social housing policy lead to insufficient investment in the improvement or renewal of housing condition. Lack of good insulation, outdated technology windows/doors (frames/single glazing), lack of sun protection on southern and western sides, and inadequate maintenance of heating / air conditioning systems, result in poor performance.

The Greek Regulation on the Energy Performance of Buildings (endorsed in 2010 and recently revised) ensures minimum comfort conditions for all new and renovated buildings. However, and are vulnerable to future climate conditions.

MAIN IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE	CURRENT SITUATION	EXPECTED FUTURE IMPACT
Temperature increase	Temperature increase, especially at the Aegean and Eastern Ionian Sea.	Temperature increase by 1-2° C
Changes in rainfall	Decrease of rainfall.	Rainfall decrease by 14-22%.
Extreme Weather Phenomena	Increase of extremely high temperatures during the summer.	Increase of heatwave periods (temperature above 35° C) in certain islands by 10 days during 2020-2050.
Rising of the Sea Levels	Rise of the Mediterranean sea levels by 2,6mm.	Rise of the sea level 0.25-1m by 2100. The islands mostly in danger are Lemnos, Samos, Rhodes and Corfu.

Table: Current and expected future impact of climate change to the Greek Islands (Kartalis et.al., 2017).

Table: Effects of climate change on the Greek cities (Kartalis et.al., 2017)

CLIMATE CHANGE DANGERS	PRIMARY IMPACT	SECONDARY IMPACT
Raise of temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater depletion • Water shortage • Drought • Boosting fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased energy demand for cooling • Increase in energy prices • Impact on the health of the population
Extreme Weather Phenomena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floods • Fires • Landslides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material damages
Rising the Sea Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal floods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material damages

Athens is the biggest city of Greece, and the one that will be most affected by climate change, due to its suffocating structures.

2. Actors already mobilized or mobilized

at all levels (national, regional and local) to fight against the negative effects of climate change (with their precise references) and, if possible, quantified impacts.

2.1 Public bodies

In 2016, the Greek national strategy for Climate Change (ΕΣΠΚΑ-NAS), initiated by the Greek Ministry in charge of environment in 2014, was endorsed by the Law.

Key objectives of the NAS are to:

- establish and enhance the (short-term and long-term) decision-making procedure regarding adaptation issues;
- link adaptation with the promotion of a sustainable growth model through the implementation of regional/local action plans;
- promote adaptation actions and policies in all sectors of the Greek economy, with emphasis on the most vulnerable ones;
- create a monitoring, evaluation and updating mechanism for adaptation actions and policies; and
- build adaptation capacity and raise public awareness.

Some specific actions were decided for 15 sectors (Agriculture, Tourism, Health, etc.)

The Law also validated the creation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Committee (NCCAC) as coordinator of the Strategy and advisory mechanism body for adaptation policy monitoring, evaluation and planning. The NCCAC is chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and comprises representatives from all competent ministries (Environment and Energy, Economics, Internal Affairs, Economy & Development, Tourism, Infrastructure & Transport, Health, Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Rural Development & Food, Education, Research & Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, National Defence). The NCCAC also includes representatives from the Union of Greek Regions, the Central Union of Greek Municipalities, the Hellenic Meteorological Service, the Association of Industries, NGOs and academics specialising in climate adaptation issues.

- Concerning Health

The previous mentioned Law of 2016 on national adaptation to climate change strategy, states health as one of the main priorities. The Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention focuses on communicable diseases that are directly linked to climate change. Some important examples are analysed in the national adaptation strategy, including extreme weather conditions, air pollution, diseases transmitted via vectors and increased incidence of allergies due to climate change.

The Ministry of Health issues circular instructions on public health measures to be adopted in the event of extreme weather (e.g., floods, forest fires), as well as instructions to protect public health and reduce harm from severe heat and heat waves. It also issues regulations and circular instructions to face growing threats of disease outbreaks, as rising temperatures linked to climate change increase infectious disease occurrence and spread.

- Civil protection and extreme weather events:

Concerning for specifically civil protection: The National Civil Protection Plan "Xenokrates" (Ministerial Decision no. 1299/2003) sets the national framework for overall effective risk management planning and provides for the development of hazard-specific plans at the local, regional and national levels. In accordance with "Xenokrates," at the national central level, the General Secretariat for Civil Protection issues National Plans for all kinds of natural and manmade disasters. All ministries, decentralised governmental authorities, and local government authorities should design their plans based on the national plan. The General Secretariat of Civil Protection is the general coordinator of the planning. In case of emergency, the General Secretary for Civil Protection, the regional authorities and the local government authorities are in charge of coordinating all operational forces depending on whether the disaster is general, regional, or local.

- Regional level

At regional level, each of the 13 Greek Regions had to develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plans, based on the analysis of potential effects of climate change in the Region and the analysis of the “climate vulnerability” of the various sectors in the area.

(See: Climate Adapt - <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries/greece>)

2.2 Civil society

It is a fact that in Greece, there are a lot of organisations and movements, dealing with the important issue of climate change. Further below, follows a short –yet representative- list of significant actors, which are mobilized basically in Greece with the aim to act against climate change or to raise awareness on this essential topic.

1. Appliance Recycling Company <http://www.electrocycle.gr/>

The Appliance Recycling Company has developed in Greece, since 2004, an organized system for the management of old electrical appliances, including all appropriate technical infrastructure. Small appliances can be left at the collection points in stores that sell electrical and electronics, in super market chains etc. through the Collection Bins. Large appliances can be collected from the citizens’ houses, after they had communicated with the local council for recycling.

In 2018, the recycled electronic devices reached 54,000 tonnes. Significant is the evolution in the field of recycling lamps. Quantities for 2017 were up 10% and are projected to reach 190 tonnes, equivalent to 1,150,000 lamps in the next years. It is also important to mention that in 2016 Greece has succeeded in being at the 7th position in Europe (in the 28 Member States of the EU), regarding the proportion of waste electrical appliance collection for recycling, in order to be again available as new electronic devices in the market. Moreover, the collection points for old electrical appliances are constantly increasing and more bins are being placed in retail stores, municipalities, businesses and organizations. All types of collectibles today exceed the 14,000, the majority of which are in retail stores.

The Company, thanks to the constant communication with the Greek citizens, has managed to raise awareness about recycling electronic devices. In addition to its media campaign every year, it maintains a lively dialogue with the general public, both on social media and through recycling activities in central cities throughout Greece, aiming to protect the environment and to create a better tomorrow for future generations.

2. Arcturos <https://www.arcturos.gr/en/>

Arcturos is a Greek non-governmental and not-for-profit ecological organization founded in 1992 to protect wildlife with field research, scientific research, public awareness raising, environmental education and volunteering to protect wildlife. Among the species that they help are the wolves, bears, shepherd dogs, jackals, otters, roe deers and the chamois goats. Arcturos implements national and cross-border programs for the protection of mountain ecosystems with the aim of fully managing Protected Areas and providing specialized interventions in the natural environment. During the 28 years of Arcturos' service, the organizations contribution is significant. Most specifically, the team of Arcturos:

- helped the processes to ban circuses with animals in Greece.
- put an end to the phenomenon of the dancer bear.
- has opened and operated special wildlife sanctuaries for former captive bears and wolves in Nymphaeum and the Florina Agapidia respectively.
- is involved in the Mediterranean program to tackle the use of illegal poison baits.
- is upgrading deforested forest areas, which are 150,000 to date.
- has developed an Emergency Response Team for the protection of wild animals.

3.Fridays For the Future, Greece

<https://www.fridaysforfuturegreece.org/?fbclid=IwAR3JCfQavka6LK7OEVrqkeM9Q7ZxAvawiU73d9BF0qiuhrTRIURxsgZhmqc>

The school strike for the climate, also known as Fridays for Future (FFF), is an international movement of school students, which was established in Sweden by activist Greta Thunberg. In Greece, the movement started on March 2019. The students take time off from classes on Fridays, in order to participate in demonstrations to demand action from political leaders to prevent climate change and for the fossil fuel industry to transition to renewable energy. In Greece, some of the statements that the FFF movement has is:

- ❖ To keep temperature rise below 1.5 ° C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ to ensure climate justice.
- ❖ to comply with the best scientific studies available so far.

The movement is active in over 20 cities throughout the mainland of Greece and many islands of the Ionian and Aegean seas. For example, on the 20th of September 2019, students from all over Athens gave a dynamic presence to a huge march, prompted by the World Day Against Climate Change. The demonstration took place in downtown Athens and was completed with the participation of approximately 600 students. The process ended in front of the Greek Parliament. The students marched, in order to raise awareness among citizens and politicians to take action against climate change. Moreover, "Fridays For the Future Thessaloniki" protesters and students staged a sit-in to protest about climate change and its impacts in front of the City Hall in Thessaloniki.

4. “Together We All Can” Movement (Oli Mazi Boroume) <http://www.oloimaziboroume.gr/>

Since 2011 “Together We All Can” is a movement that, since 2011, plans and implements actions, which cover a wide range of areas, including the environment. The movement began in continuation to a big campaign about social issues and the environment, supported by the Greek Television Channel SKAI. Today, Channel SKAI is also the main supporter of the movement, and advertises its activities and demonstrations. The movement is also in a constant communication with the citizens, through its social media accounts, where it seems to be really active, as it has a YouTube Channel, Twitter and a Facebook page.

The movement, thanks to the thousands of the volunteer that participate in these actions, organizes environmental protection activities, such as tree planting, irrigation and cleaning. The goal of “Together We All Can” is to continue the effort for social and environmental development and to foster a spirit of teamwork, so that all the citizens can continue to work together. “Together We All Can” has also made significant steps towards the raising of the public’s awareness, since:

- In 2013 and 2014, 580 forest protection volunteers applied to help at the “We Can All, Together” activities.
- The volunteers of “Together We All Can” have planted 2,800,700 trees since 1989, when SKAI started organizing such kinds of operations.

Moreover, the movement frequently invites various Greek celebrities, in order to further raise the awareness of the public and persuade citizens to take part in environmental protection activities. For example, in March 2019, Sakis Rouvas, a famous Greek singer, participated at the student’s tree planting activities, where he planted 8,000 small trees with students. The area that was reforested had been destroyed by fires in the summer of 1995 and 1998 and no natural regeneration was possible.

5. WWF GREECE <https://www.wwf.gr/>

For over 50 years, WWF has been promoting responsible solutions to the most critical environmental problems, through an integrated approach, partnerships and total transparency. Since 1991, WFF Greece has been fighting against the greatest environmental challenges in Greece, such as wildlife loss, forest fires and overfishing, unraveling bad legislation and environmental crime. WFF Greece is also making legal interventions, by designing solutions far from polluting. conscience of citizens and governments. The organization’s vision is to build a future where man and nature coexist in harmony. Its goals are:

To protect of biodiversity

To fight daily to protect ecologically sensitive species and areas.

To improve the management of the natural environment.
To reduce the human “footprint”
To promote sustainable solutions

In Greece, WWF has more than 11.000 supporters and has completed more than 300 environmental actions.

3. List of initiatives & best practices already started or in progress (with their precise internet references).

Above, there were underlined some significant organisations or active citizens, who act against climate change. In this chapter, some of the most important initiatives or best practices, taking place in Greece, are being demonstrated.

1.EcoVillages (Ecological villages) in Greece <https://ecovillagegreece.wordpress.com/>

The EcoVillages in Greece were developed quite late, compared to other countries around the world. In 2006, the Greek areas of Evia, Larissa and Pelion became the first successful efforts to create ecological and sustainable settlements. An example of an EcoVillage is the one of Anavra in Magnesia (Central Greece). This village succeeded, after systematic effort, not only to stand up, but also to become a model of growth.. With percentage zero unemployment and with an average age of 40 years, the population doubled within the last 15 years. The infrastructure of the settlement is exemplary (newsbomb.gr, 2013):

Wind farm with 20 wind turbines,
Three winter parks, where 25,000 animals are being housed during the winter (when the village is excluded because of the snow) 25,000 animals.
A modern slaughterhouse.
Two-floor car park of 60 seats.
Fitness center with the latest technology.
Football and basketball courts.

Anavra has evolved into a model eco-rural settlement, being Greece's first settlement that fully covers its needs for energy through renewable energy sources. At the same time, the standard of living of the residents is one of the highest in Greece and is one of the few mountainous rural villages of Greece whose population is increasing (Manessi, 2015).

2.Wind Farms in Greece Source: Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power_in_Greece

https://el.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%91%CE%B9%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE_%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%AD%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1#%CE%97_%CE%BA%CE

[%B1%CF%84%CE%AC%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B1%CF%83%CE%B7_%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD_%CE%95%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1](#) (Greek Wikipedia)

Greece is a country with a large coastline and huge islands. As a result, strong winds mainly affecting island and coastal areas give particular importance to the development of wind energy in the country. The exploitable wind potential is estimated to represent 13.6% of the country's total electricity needs. Greece has extremely rich wind potential in several areas of Crete, of the Peloponnese and the Aegean islands. In these areas there are also more wind parks (wind turbine arrays). The wind farms are designed in such a way, in order to coexist harmoniously with the landscape of each region. The technology of wind turbines has made their operation virtually silent.

Wind parks also exist in a number of islands, such as the *Manolati-Xerolimba Wind Park* in the island of Kefallinia. Two more wind farms have already been created on the same island: the *Agia Dynati Wind Park* and the *Imerovigli Wind Park* at the administrative boundaries of the Municipalities of Argostoli and Pylareon. With the operation of the three wind farms, the Prefecture of Kefallinia supplies the country's electricity grid with a total of 75.6 MW of electricity. In addition, five more plants are in the licensing process. The island's electricity and peak demand (August) is 50MW. The correspondence between the power that Kefallinia gives to the grid and the power it consumes is extremely encouraging for the spread of wind power and many more islands in the territory.

Table: Wind Energy Capacity (MW) in Greece

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
985	1,087	1,208	1,634	1,749	1,865	1,980	2,135	2,374	2,651	2,844

(Source: EWEA Staff, 2017)

3.Fabric Republic <http://www.fabricrepublic.gr/en/>

Fabric Republic is an innovative clothing management system, which is focused mainly on today's social needs, sustainability and sustainable development. Most specifically, Fabric



Republic is an integrated clothing management system. However, many people wonder; What does an integrated clothing management system mean? Further down, an illustrated diagram of the process of recycling and re-using clothes is available.

The organization's aim is the optimization and modernization of cyclical management of excess clothing. Moreover, their vision is the collective development of social and ecological consciousness for a Zero Waste reality. Fabric Republic offers significant and multiple benefits to the environment and, of course, to the society. First of all, there is an active contribution to the social economy of clothing. There has also been noticed, through the organisation's actions, a significant decongesting of the waste system and, also, an important reduce the overuse of natural resources. Let's also not forget the assistance Fabric Republic offers to the society. Some major examples are the donation of clean clothing to other solidarity organizations, the employment of socially vulnerable people through the Housing and Reintegration Program of Fabric Republic and, of course, the raising awareness activities and campaigns of the public.

The first year's results of Fabric Republic's actions were amazing. Firstly, 12,937 kg were offered to recycling companies. Furthermore, 21,252kg were offered to solidarity organizations all around Athens. Finally, the beneficiaries of this initiative are estimated to be more than 25,000 and the lower emissions of CO₂ are calculated to be approximately 150,000kg.

4.Solar water heaters https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_water_heating#Mediterranean

One important contribution to the environment and energy saving efforts is the use of solar water heaters by the 30%-40% of the Greek households. Greece is the third country in Europe and the ninth in the world, regarding the regular use of solar thermal power. Statistics show that if Greece did not have a large number of solar water heaters, it would be needed to cover the solar energy that offers a 500MegaWatt power station. More specifically, the installed solar water heaters have already saved 1.1 billion kWh, as much as a conventional 200MegaWatt power plant. Without the solar water heaters, there would be a significant power shortage, especially in isolated Greek islands, where the electricity faces frequent power outages, especially during the summer touristic season.

In addition, a solar water heater emits one ton of carbon dioxide per year. It may - as has been said - be a rather unsightly installation on roofs and rooftops, but at the same time it is a true proof of ecological consciousness as thousands of Greeks have preferred it.

So, in Greece, a country where it is sunny most of the year, the solar water heaters are quite valuable, as they produce renewable energy in large quantities without damaging the environment.

4. Existing training materials

Unfortunately, in Greece there are not so many training programs or materials addressed to adults, and especially to social workers. So, the need of developing a training course about this issue is at the utmost importance. Further down, there will be mentioned some of the existing training programs in Greece, which are either addressed to professionals or to students.

1. Climalt: Let's build Plan B!

ClimAlt is a free online course for young people between 18 and 30 years who are interested in environmental and climate issues (proven by educational, professional or environmental activism experiences). It consists of a 32-hour e-learning course - available from 25 November 2019 until 25 February 2020 - and a thematic supplement to the course in March 2020. The e-learning course consists of 3 main chapters (Causes-Impacts-Alternatives) divided into 7 sections and 14 lectures. Each section includes video lectures (10 hours), quizzes, readings and a task for each chapter.

2. Training programs for students and teachers in “Stavros Niarhos Foundation”

The “Stavros Niarhos Foundation” in Athens offers a variety of experiential training programs, regarding the environment, at its Cultural Centre in the South Area of the city. One of them is the program called “The climate is changing”, which is addressed to high school students.

Students visiting the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's Meteorological Station are involved in meteorological experiments and observations, through special VR glasses, in order to find out how humans have influenced the climate globally and locally, and how the use of renewable sources of energy has evolved. The purpose of the training program is to familiarize students with the principles of bioclimatic planning and to raise their awareness, regarding the protection of the environment around us.

3. Climate Action by Mediterranean S.O.S. organisation

The environmental organisation “Mediterranean S.O.S.” offers on its website online a complete training package for “Climate Action”. The educational package includes Worksheets and Information Sheets for the students and young people and Information Materials for the educators and teachers.

4. Training Program on Energy and Climate Change

The material "Environmental Education in Primary School" was published in 1995 by the WWF Greece and the Bodosaki Foundation. It is one of the first materials released in Greece and has substantially influenced the course of Environmental Education in our country. Twelve years after the material was updated and this edition includes since today some more up-to-date environmental information. The issues addressed are: Soil, Climate Change, Water, Sea, Forest, Agro-ecosystems, Air, Biodiversity. The material includes informative texts about the teacher and 150 pedagogical activities.

5. "TAKE IT" (2019-1-BE01-KA204-050400)

This European environmental project aims to empower individuals, enhance voluntary action, and help people understand climate change and take the necessary steps to adopt tactics related to the environment and its protection. In addition, the Take It program, which involves 9 countries (Greece, Ireland, Cyprus, United Kingdom, Romania, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Italy) aims to create an educational guide to raise society awareness on environmental issues, which will be distributed also in organisations all over Greece.

Therefore, the main objectives of the program are:

- Create an educational guide to raise awareness and mobilize the individuals.
- Create good practices that can be applied within social services to promote awareness on climate change and the overall adverse effects of the human factor on the environment.

6. LIFE-IP AdaptInGR – Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece

The integrated project «LIFE-IP AdaptInGR - Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece» is a project supported by the EU programme LIFE on how to adapt Greece to climate change.

The project aims to catalyse the implementation of the Greek National Adaptation Strategy and of the 13 Regional Adaptation Action Plans at the current 1st adaptation policy cycle (2016-2025) and to prepare the passage to the 2nd adaptation policy cycle (2026+), through appropriate action at national, regional and local levels.

It seeks among other objective to:

- build the capacity of public authorities mandated to plan and deliver adaptation actions and policies,
- develop pilot adaptation projects in 3 Regions and 5 Municipalities in priority adaptation sectors (flood risk management, coastal zone management, forest fire

protection in drought-prone areas, sustainable water management, land-use planning and regeneration),

- raise public and stakeholders awareness of climate change adaptation,
- disseminate good practice examples across Greece, Eastern Mediterranean and European Union,

This project can then provide Social&Nature with some interesting development in Greece.

<https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/>

7. **CLICK FOR SCHOOLS**

The project Cli.c.k for schools offers an educational kit dedicated to climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region for children aged 11-15 and their teachers. The approach is multidisciplinary and multicultural, it is based on a partnership that mobilizes schools and organizations specialized in environmental education to facilitate direct and free access to educational resources.

Through a series of resource sheets, activity sheets and an interactive game, this educational kit available also in Greek aims to:

- provide teachers with adequate resources for understanding climate phenomena and issues in the Mediterranean region
- encourage the local involvement of students and their international openness
- bring interactive resources.

The Mediterranean Centre of Environment was part of this project, carried out by 4 educational partners and 4 Italian, Greek, Croatian and French associative partners. It was supported by the European Union's ERASMUS + program.

<https://www.clickforschools.eu/>

5. Local group helping to collect information.

- The focus group that was conducted by IASIS, consisted of 7 people. The majority of these people were students, mostly on the social or environmental field. Two people were employers in NGOs, and one participant was working for a University in Athens. The common component of all these individuals was their active involvement in environmental issues. They mentioned being active volunteers in organisations which fight against climate change, being active citizens by recycling and participating in actions about the environment in their local areas or, even, organising themselves action like that.

However, the different educational or professional background of the individuals makes this specific group quite dynamic, since by exposing to them the "Social&Nature" idea and training program, the latter will become known more quickly. In other words, since

these people are going, from now on, to raise awareness for the project, a lot of synergies with various actors will be created more easily.

- The focus group that was conducted by the MCE consisted of 4 persons, two persons working in educational sector (professional high schools) and two experts, one in sustainable development, the other in climate change.

The MCE then gathered information about the general interest of all public on climate change impacts but also on the difficulty for trainers/educators to explain to learners the complexity of the phenomenon (and to the management of this issue) and to engage learners in a real change of behavior.

6. Summary of feedback from local groups.

In the focus groups, the participants, along with the trainer, discussed for a wide variety of issues, concerning always the training program and the environment. I would say that the main conclusions of the focus group were quite positive. All of the participants found the “Social&Nature” program really appealing, as it is in accordance with their passion about the protection of the environment.

Furthermore, the participants of the IASIS Focus Group demonstrated their need to be further trained on environmental issues and on ways of helping the vulnerable populations, that are more exposed to the negative effects of climate change. In consequence, they all found this project really useful, as it fully satisfies this need mentioned above.

They all agreed on the lack of training programs on Climate change for adults in Greece, and especially for social workers and people active on the environmental field. All these individuals, also, showed their desire to participate in other training sessions of the program “Social&Nature”, as well, and the desire to be able to have access to the “Social&Nature” Educational package and E-course, so that they can be better informed and use the tools in it. All these show the importance that this program has for these participants and how valuable it is to them and their work with the vulnerable populations.

One of the two experts of the MCE group mentioned the present study on the state of the art regarding the implementation of the Greek National Adaptation Strategy. There is a real awareness at the national and institutional level of the importance of the issue (and the COVID19 pandemic highlights the emergency of the situation). However, there is a lack of collective and individual engagement in action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The IASIS group discussed about the importance of knowing and fully understanding the networks and actors, who are active in the country, region or local area, which is also one of the aims of the “Social&Nature” program. They all agreed that this is at the utmost importance, as it assists the social workers to be prepared in any extendable situation. More specifically, it helps them to know who to ask and in what way, when it comes to a natural risk.

II. Recommendations & guidelines to go further (areas or actions not yet explored) for IO.2 to IO.5.

In 2019, the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy stated that the ground for adaptation has been prepared (risks and vulnerabilities assessed, strategy developed, some projects are implemented, etc.) but that some lack are still obvious in terms of capacity building & education and training; implementation (i.e. adaptation at relevant scales, stakeholders involvement, etc.) and funding.

(see:

<https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/DesktopModules/EasyDNNNews/DocumentDownload.ashx?portalid=0&moduleid=767&articleid=11&documentid=4&localeCode=en-US>)

S&N project should contribute to fulfil this gap, more specifically in the sector of social work.

One recommendation mentioned at the Focus Group was that they would like the training material to be translated in Greek, something that is already in accordance with the process.

One other recommendation would be to create an educational package in a way that it will appeal to the professionals.

A way to do that is:

- to keep a simple approach of a complex phenomenon and, for that, to help social worker develop transversal competences such as critical thinking, problem-solving skills, etc. We should promote a way of thinking (how to rethink our way of living, our behavior, how to make choices, etc) more than giving specific advices.
- to promote learning about the causes and effects of climate change as well as possible responses, providing a multidisciplinary perspective.
- to make fun educational materials, such as quizzes or games, which have a double role; to promote active learning and also adventure learning.

The same recommendation would be effective for the Learning Centre, as well. A nicely illustrated e-learning environment and with the ability to participate in learning games will provide a better way of involving in the experiencing learning and also more opportunities in reflecting on this experience afterwards.

III. Conclusion on national context and report

As it was mentioned in this report, climate change is also affecting Greece in many ways. However, there are multiple organisations and movements of active and sensitive citizens, who fight for a better future and also a variety of good practices, regarding the protection of the environment. Furthermore, through the feedback of the Focus Groups, the need of developing a training program regarding the climate change for social workers who work with socially vulnerable people is defined as something really important. Consequently, the “Social&Nature” program is undeniably going to provide a valuable training material, something that is also supported by the feedback that was given by the participants.

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