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ECOBASE NEWSLETTER 1st period

NEWS: ECOBASE supports Mission Soil Manifesto

By George Robolas, AETOLOAKARNANIA CHAMBER (PP2)

Date: 11/2/2025



Life on Earth depends on healthy soils. We must protect and restore soils to ensure a healthy and green future for current and future generations. The Mission Soil Manifesto calls for action to respond to the urgent need to protect and improve soil health in Europe and beyond and to bring together regional and local policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens in a vibrant community that cares for soil health.

The EU Mission Soil launched the Mission Soil Manifesto on 18 April 2023. It is available in all EU languages. Who can sign?

Representatives of municipalities, regions, private or public companies and organizations, NGOs and philanthropic organizations, schools and education institutions, and research institutions can become 'Signatory' by signing the voluntary document.

Individuals can sign the Manifesto and become 'Friends of the Mission Soil'.

If you care about soil health, please sign and further promote the Mission Soil Manifesto.

Sign the Mission Soil Manifesto. What's in there for me?

By signing the Mission Soil Manifesto, you voice your support to the European Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and its objectives. You become part of a community of practice that stands up for the importance of soil health and cares for the future of European and global soils.

As a Signatory or Friend of the Mission Soil, you:

Get first-hand access to knowledge on soil health and Mission Soil activities.

Become easily connected to the soil community and able to receive and exchange information through various communication channels.

Learn about the latest research results and the opportunity to participate in various events to share best practices for our soils.

Automatically register to receive the Mission newsletter, providing information on Mission progress, the latest calls for proposals, events, and policy developments.

Receive visibility for your organization—the names of legal entities that sign will be published here: Signatories and Friends.

MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "newsletter.ecobase-adrion.eu" claiming to be <https://mission-soil-platform.ec.europa.eu/community/mission-soil-manifesto>

Mission Soil Platform

NEWS: HALOMORPHIC SOILS IN THE OVČE POLE REGION, NORTH MACEDONIA

By Dushko Mukaetov and Hristina Poposka, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Institute of Agriculture (PP7)

Date: 18/2/2025



Halomorphic soils in the country are found in several locations, formed under specific relief, geology, hydrology, and climate conditions. These soils appear as small patches in the flat valley bottoms of regions such as Ovče Pole, Pelagonija, and a limited area in the Skopje Valley. Estimates suggest halomorphic soils cover approximately 11,000 hectares, accounting for 0.42% of the country's total land area. Despite their ecological significance as habitats for unique plant and animal species, their low productivity often leads to neglect and continuous human-induced pressure.

The most recent official data on saline soils in the country dates back to the 1970s. Currently, a research team from the Department of Pedology and Plant Nutrition at the UKIM Institute of Agriculture, Skopje, led by Prof. Hristina Poposka, is conducting a series of studies in the Ovče Pole region from 2024–2025.

Project Objectives:

To test and implement new approaches in soil surveying and laboratory analysis, aligning with EU soil monitoring methodologies.

To collect updated and detailed data on the distribution and properties of halomorphic soils in the country.

To develop a comprehensive overview of halomorphic soils in Ovče Pole as a foundation for future protection and restoration efforts.

To assess the natural characteristics of these soils in relation to pedogenetic factors, biodiversity, and other environmental aspects.

To analyze the total salt content and composition, as well as evaluate the extent of secondary salinization affecting agricultural land in Ovče Pole.

This initiative to reassess saline soils and introduce advanced soil survey methodologies—including sampling, laboratory testing, and data analysis—represents a significant step forward in the research, protection, and restoration of halomorphic soils in the country.

[ECOBASE NETWORKING]

Soil health at the core of sustainability

Date: 27/2/2025



During Soil Week 2025, the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) led an insightful webinar on Soil Health. Dimitrios Tsessmelis (University of Patras) presented the ECOBASE project, unveiling key findings on land degradation and desertification vulnerability.

The discussion underscored the crucial role of healthy soils in sustainable agriculture and the potential of nature-based solutions to tackle environmental challenges.

#SoilWeek2025 #ECOBASE #SoilHealth #Desertification #LandDegradation
#NatureBasedSolutions #SustainableAgriculture

[Read more about the event](#)

[ECOBASE NEWS]

Workshop on Digital Technologies—Greenhouse Installations—Soil Water Management

Date: 17/3/2025



The Region of Western Greece and the Agri-Food Partnership of Western Greece (ECOBASE associate partner) organized a successful Digital Technologies—Greenhouse Installations—Soil Water Management workshop. The Associate Professor of the University of Patras, Pantelis E. Barouchas, in the framework of the Ecobase Interreg-Adrion project, presented digital technologies that contribute to the rational management of soil water, aiming to reduce soil degradation in our region.

After the workshop, a public consultation was held with local producers to discuss the challenges and solutions for protecting our soils.

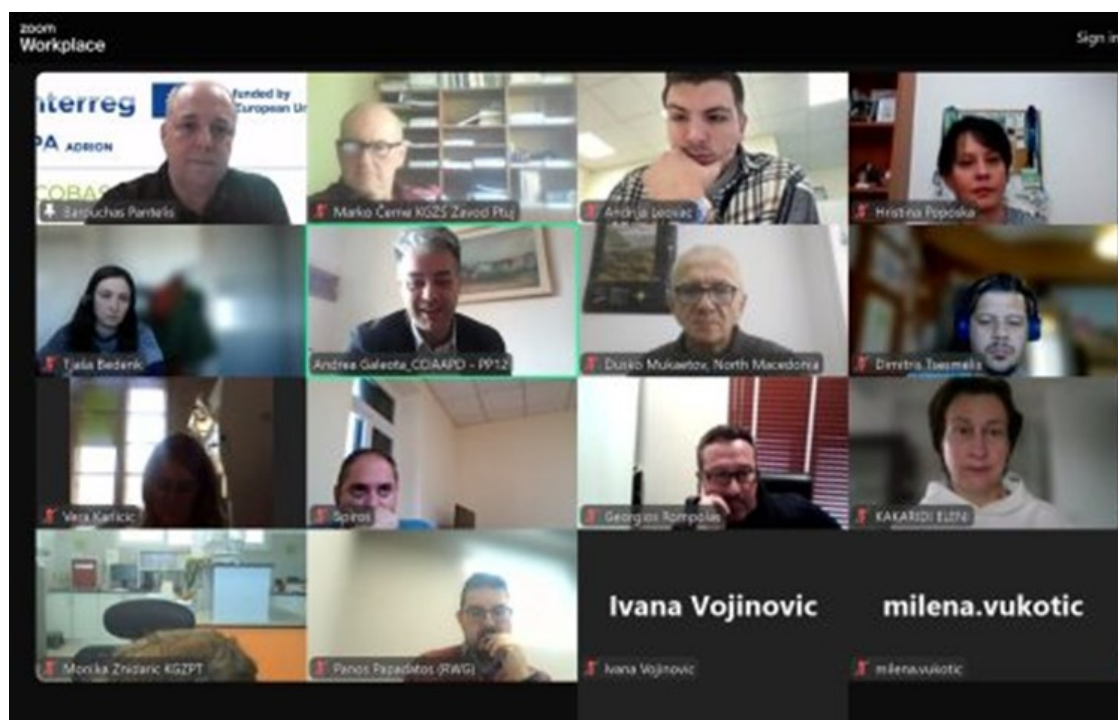
The ECOBASE project continues its effort to raise soil awareness and invites you to a new public presentation of irrigation water-saving techniques. The event will take place on Friday, 28 March 2025, at Pyrgos of the Region of Western Greece, with the participation of the Local Irrigation Organizations of the Prefecture of Ilia.

Date: Friday, 28 March 2025, 10.00 AM,

Location: Pyrgos, Region of Western Greece, Conference Hall

March project meeting for the Ecobase-Adrion project

Date: 1/4/2025



We are delighted to announce that the March project meeting for the Ecobase-Adrion project was a great success! Together, we are moving forward dynamically to implement the actions of the 2nd project period.

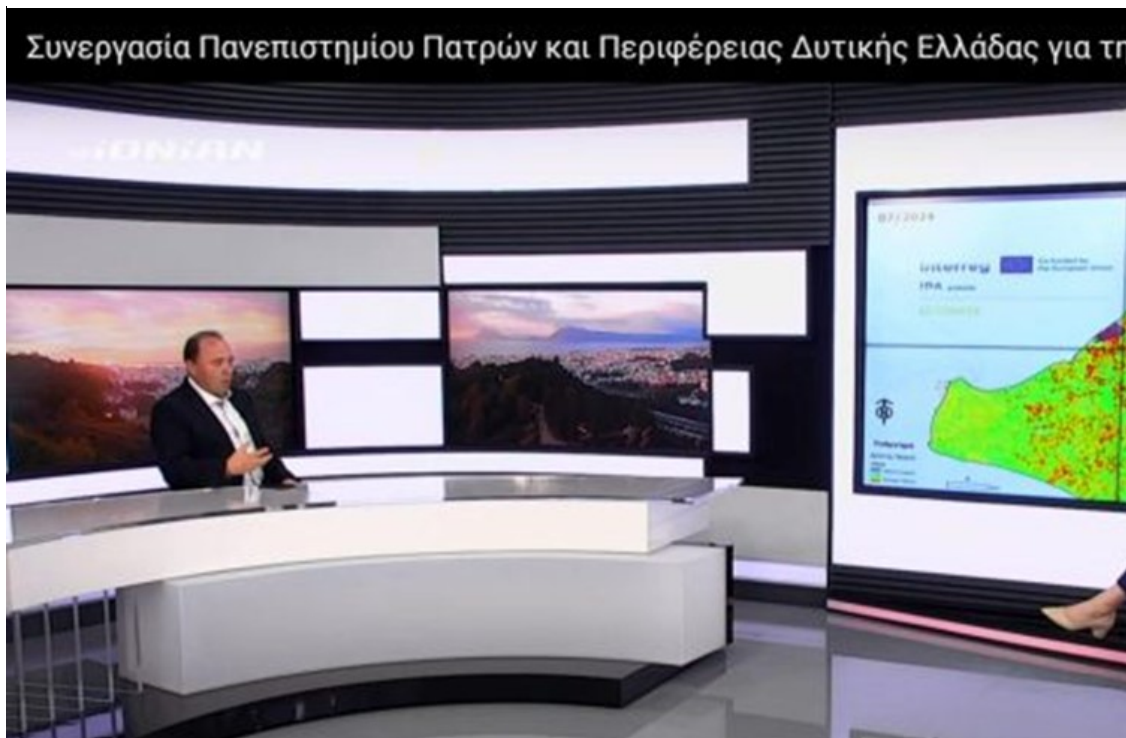
These meetings are vital for the successful implementation of our project. They allow us to exchange ideas, coordinate our efforts, and ensure that every step we take leads us to achieving our goals.

We thank all participants for their dedication and collaboration. Together, we can make a difference!

#ipaadrion #upatras #SustainableFuture #edafologiko #EUprojects

Collaboration between the University of Patras and the Region of Western Greece to Address Water Scarcity

Date: 1/4/25



We are delighted to announce the collaboration between the Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών / University of Patras and the Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδας / Region of Western Greece to tackle water scarcity! The Deputy Regional Governor for Rural Development, Mr. Andreas Filias, presented the initial results of the ECOBASE - ADRION project, highlighting the overconsumption of irrigation water from the Pineios Dam and its allocation to soil resources.

The associate partners, Αγροδιατροφική Σύμπραξη Περιφέρειας Δυτικής Ελλάδας / Agrifoodwest and the Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδας / Region of Western Greece, are actively adopting the actions of the Ecobase-Adrion project to address water scarcity issues.

Through this collaboration, we are raising farmers' awareness about water conservation and reducing the impacts of soil degradation.

Continuing these actions and raising public awareness is crucial, as they affect more than 12,000 hectares of agricultural land in Western Greece.

Upcoming Events:

- 16-17 June 2025: The next project meeting will be in Padua, Italy.
- Ongoing Workshops: Various workshops and seminars will be held to further educate and engage the community on sustainable water management practices.

Together, we can make a difference and mitigate soil degradation!

ECOBASE activity for the management of water sufficiency and the degradation of soils due to over-irrigation in Pineios plain

Date: 1/4/25



The management of water sufficiency in Lake Pinios, the degradation of soils due to over-irrigation, and the taking of measures to ensure that the new irrigation season runs smoothly was the subject of the meeting held on Friday morning, 28 March 2025, at the Conference Centre of the sub-region Ilia in Pyrgos, on the initiative of Andreas Filias Vice-Regional Governor of Rural Development of Region of Western Greece (RWG), the Vice-Regional

Governor of. Ilia, Nikos Korovesis, and the participation of presidents and representatives of TOEB (Local Soil Reclamation Organizations) and the region's farmers.

The General Director of Technical Services of the RWG, Christos Karagiannis, the professors of the Geology Department of the University of Patras, Pavlos Avramidis and Nikos Depountis, also participated, the Associate Professor of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Patras and President of the Soil Laboratory, Pantelis Barouchas and the President of the Pinios - Alpheios (General Soil Reclamation Organization) Panagiotis Paraskevopoulos, Agronomist, MSc.

The irrigation season's start date may differ for Pinios and Alpheus, depending on the weather conditions, but it will be after 10 April.

Two new systems (one by the University of Patras through the transnational project ECOBASE INTERREG IPA ADRION for combating soil degradation and one by the Region of Western Greece) through which the exact water reserves in the dam will be determined, 20 flow meters that will ensure a complete picture of how much water there is in the system and where it is channeled and where it is being pumped, satellite images and data from 40 soil monitoring stations will guide us in making decisions based on irrigation needs at the pump station level our weapons for this summer.



PRESENTATION OF THE ECOBASE PROJECT AT THE IRRIGATION CONFERENCE IN SLOVENIA

Date: April 9th, 2025, 9.30 AM

Place: Agriculture and Forestry Institute Ptuj (KGZ Ptuj)



Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Agriculture and Forestry Institute Ptuj (KGZ Ptuj) together with the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Maribor and Slovenian Institute of Hop Research and Brewing organized a professional conference on irrigation. Farmers, growers, ministries, municipalities, students, journalists, decision-makers, researchers and advisers were invited and participated the conference. At the irrigation conference the project manager KGZPTUJ Marko Černe presented the content and activities of the ECOBASE project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation” and invited participants to join the network of future stakeholders.

EVALUATING SOIL HEALTH GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Date: 15/4/2025



Soil degradation is a pressing global issue that severely affects ecosystems vital to food production, energy generation, carbon sequestration, water purification, and nutrient regulation. Its consequences include diminished soil health, reduced biodiversity, and decreased productivity, leading to significant ecological and socio-economic challenges such as increased flooding, forced migration, and long-term environmental damage.

To help combat soil degradation, the IPA ADRION – ECOBASE Project aims to develop innovative and sustainable soil management strategies to address the issue and its associated impacts.

As part of the project activities, the team from the Institute of Agriculture at UKIM in Skopje, led by Prof. Mukaetov, conducted a series of surveys among agricultural producers across the country. The surveys targeted producers of various agricultural crops—including cereals, fruit trees, vineyards, and vegetables—with the goal of gaining a clearer understanding of current land management practices and identifying soil health needs and challenges.

During the survey process, stakeholders were introduced to the objectives and activities of the ECOBASE project. Each participant was invited to respond to questions concerning their involvement in land management, particularly their knowledge of and engagement with soil conservation measures.

Based on the collected data, the project team will perform a SWOT analysis to identify key gaps, needs, and challenges that must be addressed for the effective implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices.



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