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## Press release

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### **“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 Buzău-Ialomîța Water Basin Administration is a partner in 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 legal successor to the Technologiko Ekpedeftiko Idryma Anatolikis Makedonias kai Thrakis. Four more institutions from the Black Sea Region are involved: Buzau-Ialomita 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.

The overall objective of “Protect-Streams-4-Sea” is the environmental protection and reduction of pollutants and litter in Black Sea.

A.B.A Buzău-Ialomîța investigates and monitors within the project, the PLASTIC pollution in the pilot area, represented by the course of the Buzău river upstream of the Siriu Accumulation to the Pătârlagele locality. The studies focus on investigating two plastic groups: macroplastic (fragments > 5mm) and microplastic (fragments < 5mm). Thus, activities were carried out to detect and investigate the macroplastic in the pilot area based on a methodology drafted within the project. The most important study, which is new in Romania, is the analysis of the fraction of MICROPLASTIC present in sediment and water suspensions. The fragments detected in the samples will be analyzed by FT-IR spectroscopy to determine the type of polymer and thus determine the source of that plastic fragment.

Another novelty of the project is the acquisition of a boat adapted for the collection of waste floating on the surface of the Siriu Accumulation.

An important activity of the project is the awareness and education of the inhabitants of the pilot area. Two greening actions were carried out with the participation of ATUs Siriu, Pătârlagele and Nehoiu, as well as environmental education activities carried out with students of Siriu Secondary School, Theoretical High School “Nicolae Iorga” Nehoiu and Theoretical High School “Radu Vladescu” - Pat.

Additional information can be obtained at the Buzău-Ialomîța Water Basin Administration, contact person Dr. chimist Maria Marinescu- Project Manager, 0751918429 and Dr. biol. Oana Ristea, 0757130519.

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