

# Nature-Based Solutions in Urban Water Management in Greece

Water Academy at the Marathon Dam, Greece  
22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

## DESCRIPTION

The **Water Academy with the title: “Nature-Based Solutions in Urban Water Management in Greece”** will take place on the **22<sup>nd</sup> of July at Marathon Dam in Greece** as part of the [Cross-KIC project Finding innovative solutions for water scarcity in Southern Europe](#) in partnership with EYDAP. The Academy will be split into two sections, during the first one, the speeches will take place and in the second part, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss the major enablers and barriers of the NBS with experts in the field.

Water is essential for human health, socioeconomic development, and the provision of long-term environmental services. Natural processes (e.g. precipitation, infiltration, evapotranspiration, condensation, etc.) sustain a large cycle in nature, which is disrupted by urbanization and man-made water systems. As a result, water has been forced into the linear model of "take-make-consume-dispose," which is economically unsustainable and results in a gradual degradation of water quality as it passes through the system. The move to circular water systems necessitates a rethinking of water infrastructure, the application of cutting-edge technology, and the integration of nature-based ecosystems into grey infrastructure (i.e. hybrid infrastructure). Nature-based solutions (NBS) can be thought of as a catch-all term for addressing the above-mentioned challenges in a more sustainable way, compared to conventional hard engineering. NBS are systemic initiatives that bring more and more diversified natural characteristics and processes into the environment. They solve a single problem (i.e. societal challenge) or a set of problems (i.e. multiple challenges) while also providing environmental, social, and economic advantages, such as biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience, human well-being, and so on.

The workshop held in Marathon Dam on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 is intended to increase the competencies and skills of the audience to advance the understanding and integration of NBS in urban water management. It will be a multi-disciplinary event with high-profile speakers who will provide practical insights on the most relevant topics for NBS such as the role of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, socio-economic aspects, best practices, protection and restoration of environment services in a water catchment, adequate technologies for water reclamation, risk management and practical recommendations for water resources managers. The workshop will include a field visit to the Marathon Dam, which is the primary water supply of Athens. The dam is famous for being the first recorded occurrence of seismic activity related to reservoir inundation, as well as its importance in Greece's industrialization.

## AGENDA

**8.30 – 9.30** *Transfer from the centre of Athens to Marathon Dam*  
*Meeting point: EYDAP ([Ilision 9, 15771, Ilisia, Athens](#), corner on Papadiamantopoulou & Michalakopoulou street)*

**9.30 – 10.00** *Arrivals and Registrations*

### **Welcome remarks**

Mrs Lydia Papadaki, Co-Manager EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece  
Mrs Eva Enyedi, Project Manager - Water Scarcity in Southern Europe, EIT  
**10.00 – 10.30** Climate-KIC  
Mr Anastasios Tosios, Deputy CEO & Executive Member of the Board of Directors at EYDAP SA (Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company)  
Mr Costas Ripis, Deputy Director of Training and Research at EYDAP SA

**10.30 – 11.00** **Keynote speech** “Hybrid grey-green infrastructures in Water Management”  
Prof. Chrysi Lapidou, Civil Engineering Department, University of Thessaly; Vice-President of Research and Technology-Water Europe, Brussels

### **Keynote speech + Q&A**

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business, Sustainable Development Unit and EIT Climate-KIC, ATHENA Information Technologies RC; Department of Technology, Management and Economics, Denmark Technical University  
**11.00 – 11.30**

**11.30 – 11.50** *Coffee break*

### **Speech + Q&A**

Prof. Stella Apostolaki, Executive Director of the Centre of Excellence in Sustainability at the American College of Greece (ACG), Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program, Department of Science and Mathematics, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.  
**11.50 – 12.20**

### **Success story + Q&A**

Prof. Mr Panagiotis Demestichas, University of Piraeus, Technology Development Specialist Wings ICT Solutions  
**12.20 – 12.40**

**12.40 – 14.00** **Field visit**

**14.00 – 15.00** *Lunch*

**15.00 – 16.00** **Discussion on the NBS: Barriers and Enablers**

**16.00 – 17.00** *Transfer from the centre of Athens to Marathon Dam*