



POLICY SYMPOSIUM

Deliverable 4.4

Project Name

Monitoring Coalition against Trafficking of
Hazardous Waste

Grant Agreement number

101035975 – MoniCoT – ISFP-2020-AG-ENV

Author

Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece





Monitoring Coalition against Trafficking of Hazardous Waste

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MoniCoT brings together four operational and four affiliated partners from Greece and Cyprus to a joint action that aims to address the loopholes identified in the monitoring of hazardous waste transportation from EU and third countries towards Greek and Cypriot ports and customs. The proposed action improves existing procedures of hazardous waste monitoring through the adoption of a common monitoring mechanism and further use of measures that remain unenforced or poorly enforced in Greek and Cypriot control operations.

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Monitoring Coalition against Trafficking of Hazardous Waste

Check Sheet:

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Introduction

Waste management is a key priority for the European Union, which has set out the main axes for managing waste effectively and ensuring that it is managed without endangering human health and the environment. Under Community legislation on the environmentally sound management of waste, Member States are responsible for its monitoring and control. The effective management of waste hazardous to the environment and human health requires the mobilisation and cooperation of the parties directly involved in order to prevent and deal with environmental damage.

In order to achieve the above, the MoniCoT (Monitoring Coalition against Trafficking of Hazardous Waste) project is being implemented by four operational and four associated partners from Greece and Cyprus in a joint action that aims to address the gaps identified in the monitoring of hazardous waste shipments from the EU and third countries to Greek and Cypriot ports and customs. Furthermore, MoniCoT aspires to improve the existing monitoring procedures of hazardous waste through the adoption of a joint monitoring mechanism between the two countries and the implementation of management and control measures in Greece and Cyprus.

The Policy Symposium convened with the specific objective of fostering improved communication, coordination, and collaboration among various government bodies, frontline enforcement agencies, and judicial authorities at the national level. The symposium aimed to cultivate mutual understanding, trust, and consensus to drive joint actions. Additionally, it served as a platform to present and deliberate upon the preliminary outcomes achieved within the MoniCoT project.



Daily analysis

The Policy Symposium was held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 at the Technical Chamber of Central Macedonia in Thessaloniki. The Policy Symposium was originally scheduled for Friday 8 September 2023 in the framework of the Thessaloniki International Fair, but the Symposium was regrettably canceled due to the deadly floods that hit Thessaly with great human losses and material damage.

Eighty (80) participants actively engaged in the Policy Symposium, which served as a convergence point for scientists and professionals from various sectors, including government organizations, industries, municipalities, and private institutions. This inclusive gathering involved a diverse spectrum of stakeholders, such as partners, police, customs officials, national environmental inspectorates, judicial authorities, and other vested entities in the environmental domain. Their collective participation created a dynamic forum fostering the exchange of cutting-edge ideas, techniques, and expertise specifically centered around hazardous waste monitoring. The symposium's hallmark was its emphasis on a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach, encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among all involved parties.

Mr. Manolis Grafakos, the Secretary General of Waste Management Coordination, highlighted the severe ramifications of improperly handled illegally transported waste on both the environment and human health. Stressing the crucial need for effective measures and strategies to curb the illegal transport of hazardous waste, he emphasized the necessity of eliminating this concerning phenomenon. Additionally, he provided a brief overview of the Ministry of Environment and Energy's efforts in this regard. He announced the completion of the hazardous waste management plan and disclosed that the environmental study approval process is currently underway.

The event featured addresses from Mr. Efthimios Bakoyannis, Secretary General of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment; Mr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary General of



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Natural Environment and Water; Mr. Dimitrios Skalkos, Secretary General of Public Investment and NSRF; and Mr. Georgios Tsakumis, President of the Steering Committee of the TEE/TKM.

Mr. Georgios Vourlakis, the Project Manager representing the Centre for European Constitutional Law - Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation, delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the ongoing actions and outcomes of the project. The focal point of the presentation was the MoniCoT asynchronous training platform, meticulously detailed to illustrate its role in offering remote training to port and customs officials specializing in transboundary waste shipments.

The symposium featured presentations by notable figures including Ms. Anna Mihou, President of the Environment Committee of TEET/TKM, Mr. Charalambos Charalambidis, Vice President of PACEPE, Mr. Yannis Karakolis, General Manager of Polyeco, Mr. Stylianos Papadopoulos, Managing Director of INTERGEO, and Professor Athanasia Alonistioti from the University of Athens, Greece. The speakers directed their focus towards discussing the project's outcomes and the potential for public-private collaboration in hazardous waste treatment and management. Additionally, they explored the role of artificial intelligence in enhancing the monitoring process for hazardous waste transportation.

Following that, the national action plans of Greece and Cyprus aimed at combating the illegal shipment of hazardous waste were presented. Mrs. Aikaterini Kapetanaki, the Project Implementation Officer from the Ministry of Environment and Energy, introduced Greece's plan, while Mr. Dimitris Demetriou, the Environmental Officer from the Department of Environment within the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment of Cyprus, presented Cyprus's plan.



The event concluded with presentations on two pertinent European programs, followed by a summary of the conference conclusions and the highlighting of several policy recommendations.

Policy Recommendations

The policy recommendations were produced through a collaborative effort during the Policy Symposium, addressing crucial strategies to combat environmental waste crime effectively. These proposals arose from a comprehensive dialogue involving diverse stakeholders, aiming to fortify regulatory frameworks and operational tactics to safeguard against hazardous waste mismanagement and illicit activities.

Policy Recommendations:

Augment Inspectorate Capacity: Enhance the number of environmental inspectors and fortify the organizational structure of regional inspection bodies. Ensure these personnel possess requisite skills for more efficient and effective inspections.

Empower Key Stakeholders: Strengthen the capabilities of essential actors engaged in combating environmental waste crime. This includes law enforcement authorities, inspectors, customs officials, prosecutors, and port officials.

Enhance Judicial Awareness: Bolster training and raise awareness among judges and prosecutors regarding environmental crime to ensure better handling of related cases.

Boost Police Resources: Improve police proficiency in combating environmental crime by deploying trained and specialized personnel at the regional level.

Clarify Offence Distinctions: Consider strategies to clearly delineate between administrative and criminal offences in the context of environmental crimes.



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Implement Witness Protection: Evaluate the feasibility of implementing witness protection programs to encourage reporting and deterrence of waste crime.

Facilitate Coordination: Enhance coordination and collaboration among relevant authorities to streamline efforts against environmental waste crime.

Leverage Technology: Explore the utilization of new technologies and artificial intelligence systems to aid decision-making, optimize tool selection for individual cases, and maximize the value of satellite imagery data collection in the future.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Conduct targeted public awareness campaigns aimed at both regulated groups to increase compliance and the general public to encourage reporting of potential offences. These initiatives can also engage the private sector in reporting and preventing waste crime.



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Agenda



Συνασπισμός παρακολούθησης κατά της διακίνησης επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων

101035975-MoniCoT-ISFP-2020-AG-ENV

ΤΕΛΙΚΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ

24 Οκτωβρίου 2023

Τεχνικό Επιμελητήριο Ελλάδας,
Τμήμα Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας, Θεσσαλονίκη



Το συνέδριο χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το Ταμείο Εσωτερικής Ασφάλειας - Τομέα Αστυνομικής Συνεργασίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



AGENDA

MODERATOR: κα. **Αγγελική Χαροκόπου**, Δικηγόρος

16:00 – 16:30	Εγγραφές
16:30 – 16:45	Παρουσίαση του έργου και των αποτελεσμάτων του <ul style="list-style-type: none">κ. Γεώργιος Βουρλάκης, Υπεύθυνος Διαχείρισης Έργων, Κέντρο Ευρωπαϊκού Συνταγματικού Δικαίου – Ίδρυμα Θεμιστοκλή και Δημήτρη Τσάτσου
16:45 -17:00	Εναρκτήριος Χαιρετισμός <ul style="list-style-type: none">κ. Μανώλης Γραφάκος, Γενικός Γραμματέας Συντονισμού Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων, Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας Ελλάδας
17:00 – 17:30	Χαιρετισμοί <ul style="list-style-type: none">κ. Θύμιος Μπακογιάννης, Γενικός Γραμματέας Χωρικού Σχεδιασμού και Αστικού Περιβάλλοντοςκ. Πέτρος Βαρελίδης, Γενικός Γραμματέας Φυσικού Περιβάλλοντος και Υδάτωνκ. Αθανάσιος Κυριαζής, Γενικός Γραμματέας Έρευνας και Καινοτομίαςκ. Μιχάλης Παπαστεργίου, Αντιπρόεδρος Διοικούσας Επιτροπής ΤΕΕ/ΤΚΜ
17:30 – 18:30	Πάνελ συζήτησης: Οι προοπτικές συνεργασίας δημόσιου και ιδιωτικού τομέα στην αντιμετώπιση και διαχείριση επικινδύνων αποβλήτων. <p>Συμμετέχοντες :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">κ. Δημήτριος Σκάλκος, Γενικός Γραμματέας Δημοσίων Επενδύσεων και ΕΣΠΑκα. Εύη Δραμαλιώτη, Γενική Γραμματέας Συντονισμού στην Προεδρία της Κυβέρνησηςκ. Μιχάλης Γεράνης, Πρόεδρος Περιφερειακού ΦοΔΣΑ Κεντρικής Μακεδονίαςκα. Άννα Μίχου, Πρόεδρος Μόνιμης Επιτροπής Περιβάλλοντος ΤΕΕ/ΤΚΜκ. Χαράλαμπος Χαραλαμπίδης, Α΄ Αντιπρόεδρος ΠΑΣΕΠΕκ. Γιάννης Καρακόλης, Γενικός Διευθυντής Polyecoκ. Στυλιανός Παπαδόπουλος, Διευθύνων Σύμβουλος INTERGEO



18:30 – 18:45 Διάλειμμα - Καφές

18:45 – 19:15 Παρουσίαση των εθνικών σχεδίων δράσης Ελλάδας και Κύπρου για την αντιμετώπιση της παράνομης μεταφοράς επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων

- κα. **Αικατερίνη Καπετανάκη**, Συντονίστρια του έργου, Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας Ελλάδας
- κ. **Δημήτρης Δημητρίου**, Υπεύθυνος Περιβάλλοντος, Υπουργείο Γεωργίας, Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Περιβάλλοντος Κύπρου

19:15 – 19:45 Ομιλίες «Ο ρόλος της τεχνητής νοημοσύνης και των νέων τεχνολογιών στην βελτίωση της διαχείρισης της παρακολούθησης των διασυνοριακών μεταφορών επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων»

- κα. **Αθανασία Αλωνιστιώτη**, Καθηγήτρια ΕΚΠΑ
- κ. **Χρυσόστομος Στύλιος**, Καθηγητής Πανεπιστήμιο Ιωαννίνων

19:45 - 20:00 Παρουσίαση δύο Ευρωπαϊκών Προγραμμάτων:

- Συνοπτική Παρουσίαση του έργου «LIFE-IP CEI-Greece «Εφαρμογή της Κυκλικής Οικονομίας στην Ελλάδα» (συντονιστής εταίρος Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας, Γενική Γραμματεία Συντονισμού Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων, Διεύθυνση Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων)
- Συνοπτική Παρουσίαση του έργου «Προστατεύοντας τον ευρωπαϊκό χώρο από το οργανωμένο περιβαλλοντικό έγκλημα με έξυπνα εργαλεία εντοπισμού των απειλών – Protecting the European territory from organised environmental crime through intelligent threat detection tools-PERIVALLON» (συντονιστής εταίρος Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας, Γενική Γραμματεία Συντονισμού Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων, Διεύθυνση Διαχείρισης Αποβλήτων)

20:00 – 20:30 Ελαφρύ γεύμα

20:30 – 21:00 Σύνοψη αποτελεσμάτων συνεδρίου

- Κα. **Αικατερίνη Καπετανάκη**, Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας
- κ. **Γεώργιος Βουρλάκης**, Υπεύθυνος Διαχείρισης Έργων, Κέντρο Ευρωπαϊκού Συνταγματικού Δικαίου – Ίδρυμα Θεμιστοκλή και Δημήτρη Τσάτσου



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Το περιεχόμενο της ατζέντας αντιπροσωπεύει μόνο τις απόψεις των δημιουργών της και αποτελεί αποκλειστική ευθύνη τους.
Η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή δεν αποδέχεται καμία ευθύνη για τη χρήση των πληροφοριών που περιέχει.



Translated Agenda in English



<p style="text-align: center;">A G E N D A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monitoring Coalition against Trafficking of Hazardous Waste 101035975-MoniCoT-ISFP-2020-AG-ENV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Policy Symposium October 24, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Technical Chamber of Greece, Department of Central Macedonia, Thessaloniki</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COORDINATOR: Aggeliki Harokopou</p>	
16:00 – 16:30	Registrations
16:30 – 16:45	<p>Presentation of the project and its results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr George Vourlakis, Senior Project Manager, Centre for European Constitutional Law – Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation
16:45 -17:00	<p>Opening Greeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Manolis Grafakos, Secretary General for Waste Management, Ministry of Environment and Energy
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Greetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Thymios Bakogiannis, Secretary General of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment Mr Petros Varelidis, Secretary General of Natural Environment and Water Mr Athanasios Kyriazis, Secretary General for Research and Innovation Mr Michael Papastergiou, vice-president for the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG/SCM)
17:30 – 18:30	<p>Discussion panel: Cooperation between the public and private sector for handling and managing hazardous waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Dimitrios Skalkos, Secretary General of Public Investment and ESPA Mrs Evi Dramalioti, Secretary General for the Coordination of Governmental Work Mr Michael Geranis, President of the Regional FODSA of Central Macedonia Mrs Anna Mihou, President of the Permanent Committee for the Environment (TCG/SCM) Mr Haralambos Haralambidis, first vice-president of PASEPPE Mr John Karakolis, Director General for Polyeco Mr Stylios Papadopoulos, CEO for INTERGEO
18:30 – 18:45	Coffee break
18:45 – 19:15	<p>Presentation of the national action plans of Greece and Cyprus to combat illegal hazardous waste transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Aikaterini Kapetanaki, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Energy



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Dimitris Dimitriou, Environmental Officer, Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment in Cyprus
19:15 – 19:45	<p>The role of artificial intelligence and new technologies in the improvement of monitoring for cross-border hazardous waste transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Athanasia Alonistioti, professor at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Mr Chrysostomos Stylios, professor at the University of Ioannina
19:45 - 20:00	<p>Presentation of two European Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentation of the project LIFE-IP CEI-Greece “Implementation of Circular Economy in Greece” (coordinating partner Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretariat for Coordinating Waste Management) Brief presentation of the project “Protecting the European territory from organized environmental crime through intelligent threat detection tools – PERIVALLON”
20:00 – 20:30	Light meal
20:30 – 21:00	<p>Summary of conference results and suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Aikaterini Kapetanaki, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Energy Mr George Vourlakis, Senior Project Manager, Centre for European Constitutional Law – Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation

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Photos





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