

# The third newsletter of the TIMMOD project

Common borders. Common solutions.

## TIMMOD NEWS

Despite the epidemiological situation caused by COVID-19, the project “Promoting technological innovation in Monitoring and modeling the environment for the Assessment of fish and non-fish resources” (TIMMOD) continues its implementation without any delays. The following activities and events were implemented during February - May 2021:



- The second Transboundary Thematic Meeting was held in April;
- The second Steering Committee Meeting was organized on-line in April;
- A third Dissemination Event was organized by Project Partner Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) in May;
- The Seminar “Technological Innovations in Marine Environmental Quality Forecasting and Dissemination Techniques related to the Assessment of Fish-stock and Non-fish Resources” was organized on-line by AUTH;
- Brochure “ONE YEAR OF COLLABORATION (MAY 2020 - MAY 2021)” was developed, printed, and disseminated;
- An on-line meeting of all Project Partners with the JTS was organized;
- Preparation for the Pilot Demonstration Project started.



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CROSS BORDER  
COOPERATION

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Thematic Transboundary Meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> TTM was hosted by AUTH (Thessaloniki, Greece). Due to movement and travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was organized as an online meeting, hosted in MS TEAMS platform. Each partner involved few key stakeholders, who attended the meeting/discussion as individual participants.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> TTM included presentations and discussion on:

- a) the completed inventory on innovative environmental monitoring technologies for the assessment of fish stock and non-fish species;
- b) the draft study on transboundary coordination mechanisms, available organizational and human resources in the study area, and their relevance to the planned technological upgrade;
- c) the ongoing implementation of activities referring to novel Information/Communication Technology (ICT) tools for numerical modelling, data handling, and GIS technologies for dissemination to end-users.

The main objectives of TTM-2 were:

- to assist local and national authorities and decision makers to understand and promote advanced technologies (while implementing obligations under relevant Conventions and Agreements);
- to support cooperation in R&D innovation about data sharing and cross-border information exchange systems on environmental issues within the Black Sea Basin (BSB).



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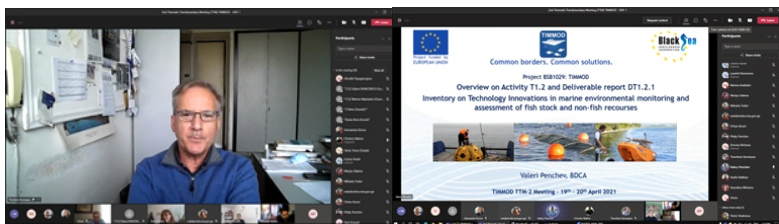
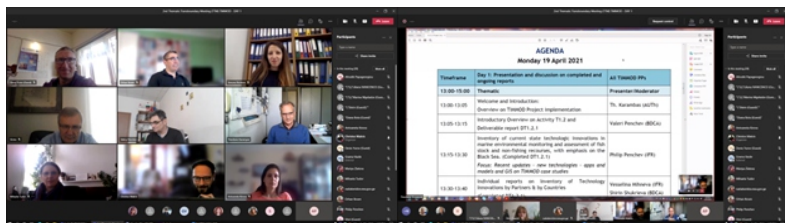


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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Thematic Transboundary Meeting

TTM-2 included participation of experts from all PP countries, as well as invited external experts (outside the project's consortium). Representatives of local stakeholders were invited, including academia, monitoring performers, environmental agencies, local and regional authorities, EU Commission Directorate General, etc. A "seminar" part of the TTM-2 event included presentations by selected involved parties, decision makers, and external experts, demonstrating their experiences on the TTM subjects. This way, TIMMOD project assists in better understanding and capacity building for decision makers, public authorities, and monitoring performers upon the role of advanced technologies in implementing MSFD and DCF programs in the Black Sea area.



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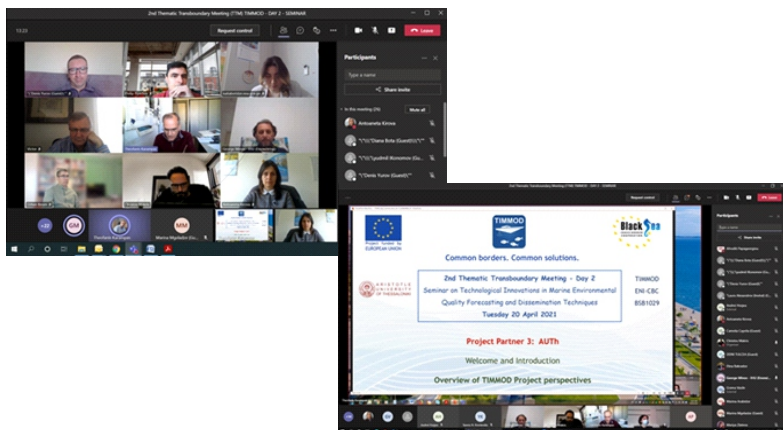


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## Seminar: “Technological Innovations in Marine Environmental Quality Forecasting and Dissemination Techniques related to the Assessment of Fish-stock and Non-fish Resources”

Theofanis Karambas, the Project Partner Manager of the Host Institution (AUTH - PP3) of the meeting, opened the Seminar event and welcomed participants. He shortly introduced the agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> TTM's Seminar and presented an overview on TIMMOD Project perspectives. He also focused on the activities of the TIMMOD project, the methodology description and main expected results. Special attention was put to the published promotion materials and the target groups, the main portals of dissemination for further information on TIMMOD and ENI-CBC BSB programme, while the following dissemination events were pinpointed. After the presentation, he answered questions and clarifications, and called Christos Makris to start the TIMMOD Activities Session presentations. The seminar continued with presentations from TIMMOD PPs' experts, external experts, and stakeholders. The Q&A session followed after the detailed presentations and was quite informative.



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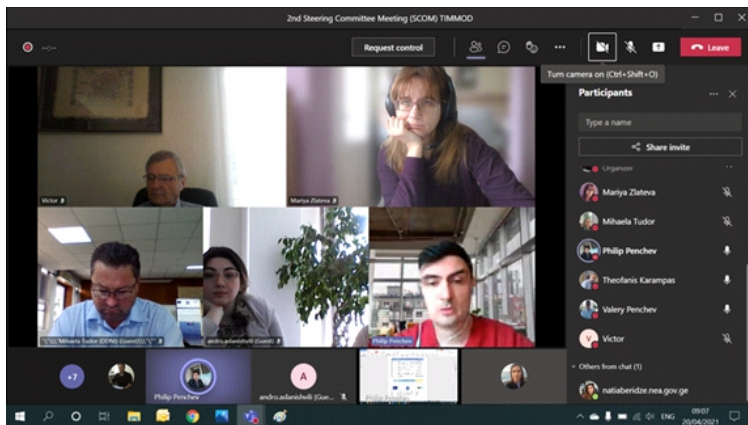


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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting (SCOM) was held on-line on 20 April 2021. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Elitsa Petrova (IFR). The main topics discussed at the SCOM were the Project Progress Review, approval of all TIMMOD deliverables completed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> project period, approval of the members of Regional Stakeholders Groups (RSHGs), discussion and approval of the notification no. 3 and addendum no. 1 to the JTS. During the meeting, the assessment of COVID-19 impact on forthcoming project activities and the possible changes in the project activities was discussed.



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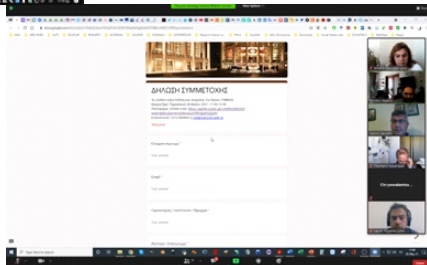
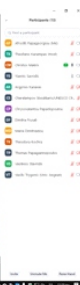
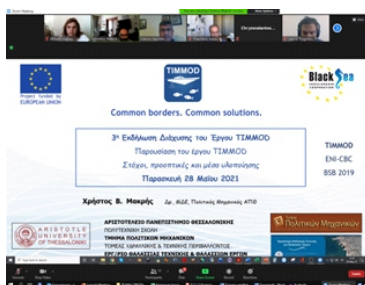


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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Dissemination event

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), the partner in the project "Promoting Technology Innovation in Environmental Monitoring and Modelling for Assessment of Fish Stock and Non-fish Resources" (TIMMOD) implemented within the Joint Operational Program "Black Sea Basin 2014-2020", hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> project Dissemination Event on 28 May 2021. The event was attended by more than 20 (of 39 registered) participants representing different stakeholders. The main goals, activities, methodologies, and expected results of the TIMMOD project were presented, as well as information on the current status of the project's implementation. A discussion on the application of modern technologies for ocean modelling and ecological evaluation of Black Sea resources took place.



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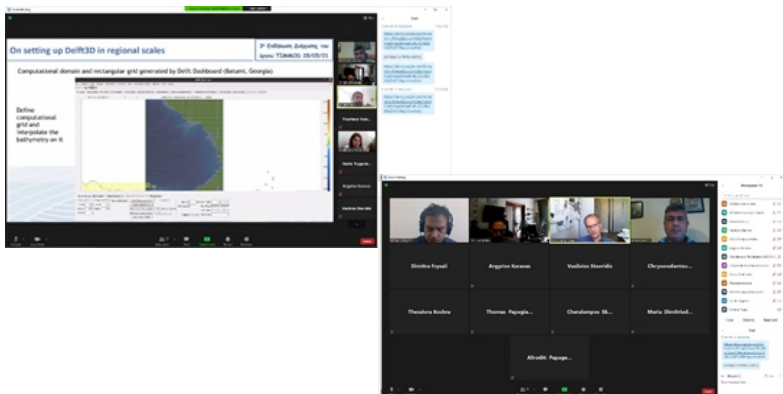


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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Dissemination event

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dissemination Event in Thessaloniki, Greece, was organized as an online event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Greece, imposing several restrictions, such as lockdowns, travel restrictions, self-quarantine imposed for arrivals of persons from partners' countries, limitations in participants on meeting events, keeping safety distances among attendees, recommendations for disinfection and use of protection, etc. The participation of members by Project Partners was hindered due to relevant restrictions. Accordingly, 20 Greek institutions, companies, organizations, and agencies were invited, selected as the most important relevant stakeholders to participate in the event as guests. An option for online introduction to the event by joining the page of the social networks and project webpage was also offered. E-mails containing the agenda of the event and a registration form (in Google docs/forms) have been sent to more than 75 individuals from regional stakeholders, such as local environmental consulting companies (kartECO, DRAXIS, etc.), monitoring equipment companies (ScientAct, Metrica, etc.), environmental agencies (MAPA-Thermaikos Gulf, INALE, etc.), the academic community of AUTH, local authorities (Municipality of Thessaloniki, Region of Central Macedonia, etc.), local companies (EYATH S.A., etc.) research institutes (HCMR, EKBY, ELGO-DIMITRA, etc.) as well as many other potentially interested parties and individuals.



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## “Pilot Demonstration Project on Innovative Monitoring”

The series of events will take place in Varna, Bulgaria, in the period 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 07<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The main event is TIMMOD “Pilot Demonstration Project on Innovative Monitoring” associated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Transboundary Thematic Meeting, a Seminar, the PMCT, and the Steering Committee Meeting. The events will be administratively hosted by BDCA, while the pilot surveys and demonstrations will be directed by the TIMMOD Leader IFR. The program includes testing and training on practical use of innovative hardware and software tools onboard of a survey ship in open sea (Black Sea), training activities, as well as field visits in Bulgarian coastal areas.



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## Brochure “ONE YEAR OF COLLABORATION (MAY 2020 - MAY 2021)” was developed

The brochure contains information on the implemented activities during the first year of implementation of the TIMMOD project.



Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014 - 2020



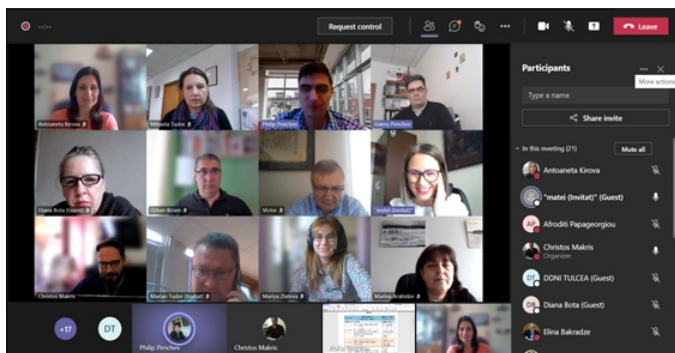
TIMMOD



ONE YEAR OF COOPERATION (MAY 2020 - MAY 2021)  
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## The on-line meeting with the JTS

The project implementation team had an on-line meeting with the representatives of JTS, Jesica Papusa, Communication officer and Raluca Buzan, Financial Officer. The meeting was organized at the request of the TIMMOD team in the perspective of the preparation of the narrative and financial interim reports. The project implementation team received qualified answers to different questions related to the preparation of the narrative and financial reports.



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## Main activities for the next period

- Finalisation of the tasks within the Group of Activities 1: Inventory & Promotion of Innovative Environmental Monitoring Technologies for Assessment of Fish Stock and Non-Fish Living Resources;
- Continuation of tasks within the Group of Activities 2: Assessment and Recommendation on Advanced Hydro-Environmental Numerical Tools for Data Handling, Real-Time Control and Forecasting of Marine Conditions in the Black Sea;
- Continuation of tasks within the Group of Activities 4: Innovation Strategy to Improve Joint Monitoring, Data Sharing and Cross-Border Information Exchange Systems in Compliance with MSFD and DCF;
- Updating the Stakeholders database;
- Organization of the 3rd Transboundary Thematic Meeting;
- Pilot demonstration project implemented in Varna, Bulgaria (Group of Activities 2);
- Preparation of the interim narrative and financial reports.



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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020  
Regional Environmental Centre Moldova  
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