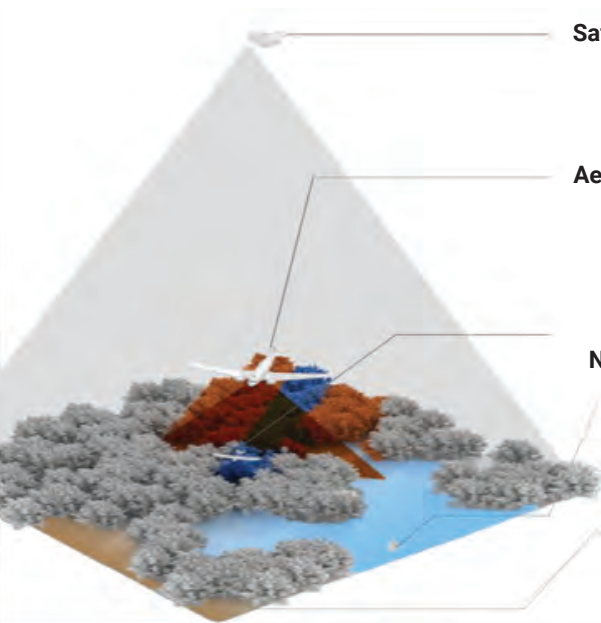


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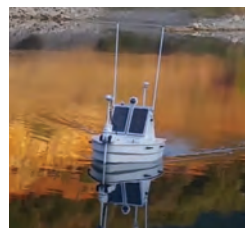


Satellite for large scale, low cost

Aerial Earth Observation in-situ data

Novel field (water) data collection

Spectroscopy for field (soil) data collection



«Conservation and quality assurance of the surface improving water management bodies in Greece and Albania using earth observation techniques»



The views expressed in this publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority.

AquaNEX is a strategic project of the Greece-Albania cross-border cooperation program 2014-2020, in the framework of which innovative earth observation technologies were developed and tested, aiming at integrated solutions for the most effective monitoring of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem.

The project was based on the NEXUS approach and was implemented in pilot areas both in Greece and in Albania, setting in motion the axes for the future adoption of new monitoring technologies by the relevant management and policy-making directorates. The added value of the project is focused on supporting the obligations of the transnational region to the European Directives, such as the Framework - Directive on Water and at the same time acts as an accelerator for the smooth and reliable integration of Albania to the European Community.



The **overall objective of AquaNEX** is to enable joint sustainable water resources management in the cross-border area and enhance its efficiency within the Water Framework Directive with the application of advanced water monitoring tools.

The **main derivatives** of the project are: river basin identification in Albania, water body monitoring guide in Albania, data from water monitoring in pilot areas, satellite image library, high-resolution altitude model, soil characteristics data, geodata, hydromorphic soil data model, guide to standard methodologies for priority substances monitoring, development of an electronic platform, training seminars, guide to the harmonization of Albanian legislation with the Water Framework Directive, guide to linking earth observation tools to the Water Framework Directive and public engagement / participation actions. Alignment of Albanian legislation with the Water Framework Directive will benefit all residents of Albanian as well as local authorities.

The AquaNEX project is based on the NEXUS approach, which integrates the water, energy and agricultural production sectors at a river basin level to optimize agricultural production and ecosystem services. The cross-border approach ensures the transfer of know-how between the project partners, as each part is at a different level of ability to implement the Water Framework Directive, and establishes communication between stakeholders by promoting common solutions during and after the end of the project. In the two pilot river basins of the project progressive management approaches and innovative technological tools that have not been used before in the cross-border area will be implemented in order to improve the effectiveness of water monitoring and increase the sustainability of available resources

The role of the Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece & Ionian

The Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece and Ionian in the context of the project implemented substantial actions regarding the evaluation and the current state of the National Water Monitoring Network as well as the difficulties identified in the preparation of the reports of the River Basin Management Plans. The proposals for shaping an ambitious and realistic future of the cross-border region of Greece-Albania through innovative water monitoring tools and satellite remote sensing methods, allow the creation of permanent and reliable monitoring methods as well as the strengthening of the existing network.

Area of implementation of project pilot actions: the 4 lakes of the wider area of Amyntaio in the Prefecture of Florina (Zazari - Heimaditida - Petron - Vegoritida).

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Partners



Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania



Decentralized Administration of Ipirous - Western Macedonia



Decentralized Administration of Peloponnese, Western Greece & Ionian



Interbalkan Environmental Center



National Agency of Natural Resources, Albania

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**The project is co-funded by the European Union
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