



Creation of a cross-border Water Assets Geopark in Nestos Area CB water Geopark

"Let ^{the} mountains talk,
^{the} rivers run.

Once more
and forever"

Interreg
Greece-Bulgaria



European Regional Development Fund

The project's overall objective is to identify study, describe, preserve and promote special interest territories connected with the target area's water assets for touristic reasons. In other words, the main aim of the project is to promote, enhance and sustain the natural and geographical characteristics of the target area, in strong connection with the heritage, culture, and sustainable touristic development.

The project's main objective is to create a Geopark in the cooperation area and to define and elevate at least four territories with unique geophysical features, the Geotopes. Geopark and Geotopes will be mapped and described on multiple levels (geographically, geophysically, and at bioclimatic, fauna, and flora level).

Accessibility and tourism capabilities of the Geotopes will be improved through the enhancement of the existing trails, paths, and routes and through labeling and marking actions.



The main outputs of the project are:

- A. Study on the description and significance of the water assets in the cross-border area. Includes the role and the significance of the water assets in the geographical and geophysical character of the area, the history, culture, mythology, and human presence in relation to the water.
- B. Definition, Geographical and Geophysical mapping and description of the Geopark. This output concerns the definition of the Geopark (boundaries/polygon), mapping and description of its geographical, geophysical, and environmental features
- C. Assessment of the potential Geotopes' accessibility and connectivity.
- D. Mapping and description of the Geotopes.
- E. Enhancement works on the existing trails, paths, and routes of the Geotopes.
- F. Labeling and marking of the Geopark and Geotopes via road signs. Road signs in the wider Geopark area, marking, and labeling within the Geotopes, aim to promote and inform visitors about the Geopark/Geotopes.
- G. Conduction of six environmental education/outdoor activities events with 120 trainees and conduction of a water festival.
- H. Environmental Education Assessment and Practical Guide.

The results of the project are:

- The integrated documentation about the Water natural assets of the project's area
 - The creation of a cross-border Water Geopark and the definition, and description, of at least 4 natural water assets territories, the Geotopes
 - The rehabilitation of the Geotopes and the promotion of them in the local society and the touristic market
 - The enhancement of the sustainable development in the target area with the promotion of an alternative form of tourism, the Geotourism.
 - The connection of the natural water assets of the area with the environmental education and the preservation of the natural heritage
- The project's results are linked with the Program's indicator “Number of cultural and/or natural assets rehabilitated/protected”. The improvement of the accessibility and touristic capabilities of the Geotopes via improvement of existing trails, paths, and routes and via labeling and marking, will contribute to the rehabilitation of these natural asset territories.



Place

All the activities of the project will take place in the cross-border area between the municipality of the Hadjidimovo, near the Greek- Bulgarian borders, and the municipality of Drama in Greece. The distance between the two cities by road is about 65 km. This area dominated by the Nestos river (Mesta in Bulgarian). The Bulgarian side of the cross-border area covers part of Gotse Delchev Hollow and Valley of the river Mesta the southern part of the eastern slopes of the Pirin Mountains, part of the mountain Slavyanka, a small part of the southwestern slopes of the Dubrava ridge of the Western Rhodopes.

The Greek side covers the city of Drama, to the Sidirinero area where Nestos river crosses the mountains of Rodopi and the wooded area to the North by the forest of Elatia. Large part of this cross-border area is characterized as Natura 2000 territories. The area, dominated by the Nestos river, is rich in natural assets, with significant potential of economic and touristic development.

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The play
**«Creation of a cross-border Water Assets Geopark
in Nestos Area-CB Water Geopark»**
unded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
and national resources of the
countries participating in Cooperation Program
INTERREG V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020”

<https://cbwatergeopark.eu>

Project Beneficiaries:



ΜΟΥΝΙЦИΠΑΛΙΤΗΤΑ ΔΡΑΜΑΣ

Municipality of Drama



ΜΟΥΝΙЦИΠΑΛΙΤΗΤΑ ΝΕΣΤΟΥ



ΜΟΥΝΙЦИΠΑΛΙΤΗΤΑ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ



ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΓΙΑ ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

Το έργο υλοποιείται στα πλαίσια του Προγράμματος Συνεργασίας INTERREG V-A «Ελλάδα - Βουλγαρία 2014-2020» και συγχρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ) και εθνικούς πόρους των χωρών που συμμετέχουν στο Πρόγραμμα.
The project is implemented in the framework of INTERREG V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme and is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Programme.