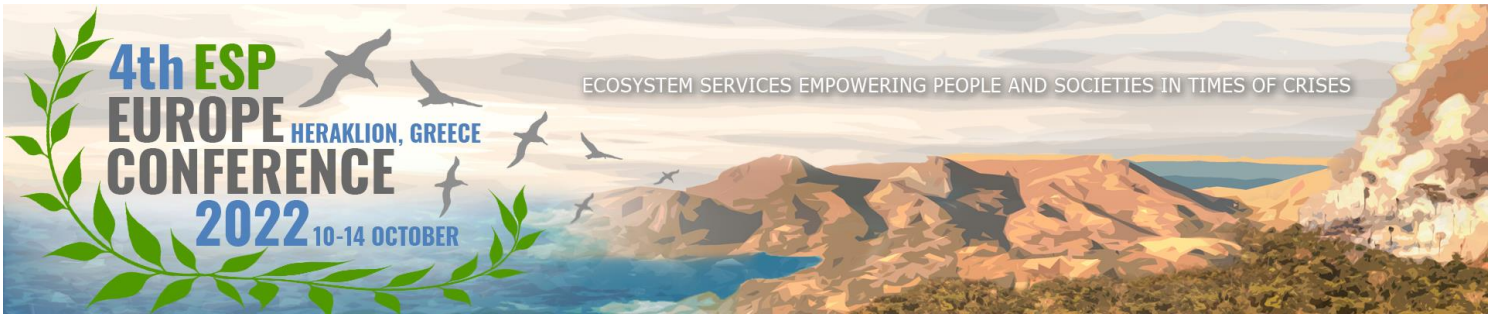



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## I. SESSION DESCRIPTION

### ID: O1

Ecosystem services research, practice and policy in Greece: current status and ways forward

### Hosts:

| | Title | Name | Organisation | E-mail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Host: | | Evangelia Drakou | Harokopio University of Athens, Department of Geography, Greece | e.drakou@hua.gr |
| Co-host(s): | | Panayotis Dimopoulos | School of Biology, University of Patras, Greece | pdimopoulos@upatras.gr |
| | | Ioannis Kokkoris | School of Biology, University of Patras, Greece | kokkoris.i@gmail.com |
| | | Maria Tsiafouli | School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece | tsiafoul@bio.auth.gr |

### Abstract:

"Scientific research on ecosystem services, as well as its inclusion to practice and policy is facing an exponential growth. A series of projects, initiatives and outputs are ongoing to support this argument. Still there is a lot of research that needs to be done at the national and local context and a need to recognize the multiple values its pristine ecosystems have for nature and society.

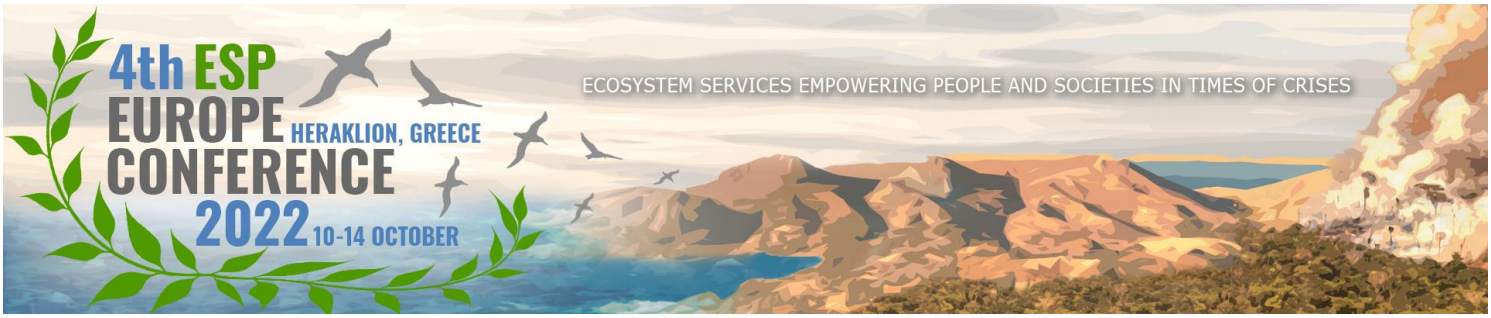
But what do local and national level experts think about that?

With this session we invite national and local level experts to join a facilitated discussion in which a list of dedicated topics will be addressed. We will target issues related to:

- Current research and methodological needs and expertise.
- Current policy and practice needs.
- Political awareness on the topic.
- Social awareness and need of inclusion of the topic in education and training schemes.

We invite researchers, but also policy and decision makers, members of civil society organizations and the general public to join the session."

### Goals and objectives of the session:




"The goal of of this session is to broaden the existing network of ecosystem service community in Greece. Specific objectives are to:

- Expand the list of people interest in ecosystem services research in Greece
- Generate awareness of ongoing efforts from different institutions
- Open the floor and discussion between research, civil society organizations, NGOs and governance institutions
- Discuss on ways forward and seek pathways for collaboration among institutions."

## Planned output / Deliverables:

- A repository of ES research in the country
- A novel and integrated network that extends beyond research institutions
- A roadmap for future research within the ESP context for Greece."

## Session format:

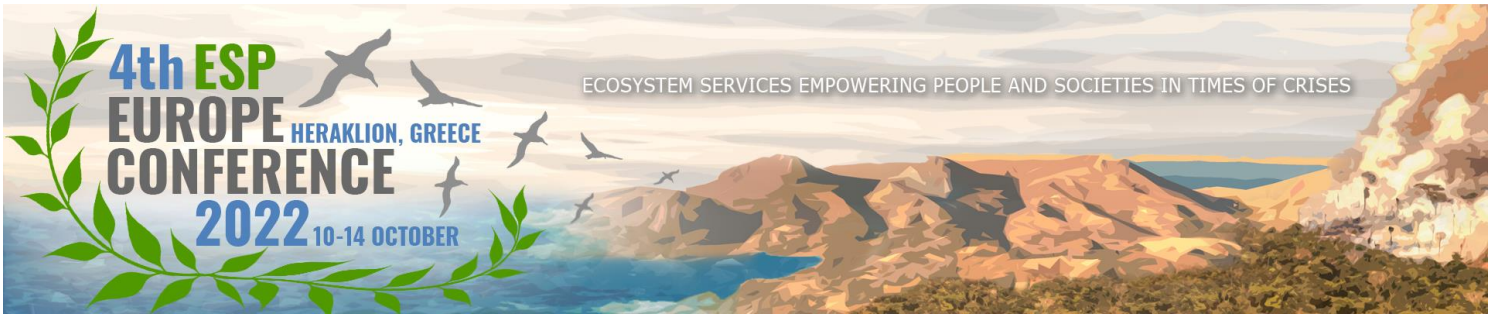
World café

## Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

## Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

National network: Hellenic ESP




## II. SESSION PROGRAM

**Date of session:** Thursday 13 October
**Time of session:** 11:00–12:30

### Timetable speakers

| Time | First name | Surname | Organization | Title of presentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11:00–11:10 | Evangelia | Drakou | Harokopio University of Athens | Introduction to the session |
| 11:10–11:25 | Ioannis | Kokkoris | University of Patras | Integrating ecosystem services into environmental management and decision making: achievements of the LIFE IP 4 NATURA project in Greece |
| 11:25–11:40 | Ifigeneia | Kagalou | Democritus University of Thrace | Linking Ecosystem Services to Water Framework Directive. A practical study from Greece |
| 11:40–11:55 | Anna | Kagiampaki | Region of Crete | Optimizing the integration of ecosystem services in Environmental Impact Assessments in Greece: a case study from Crete |
| 11:55–12:30 | Guided Discussion of the Working Group | | | |

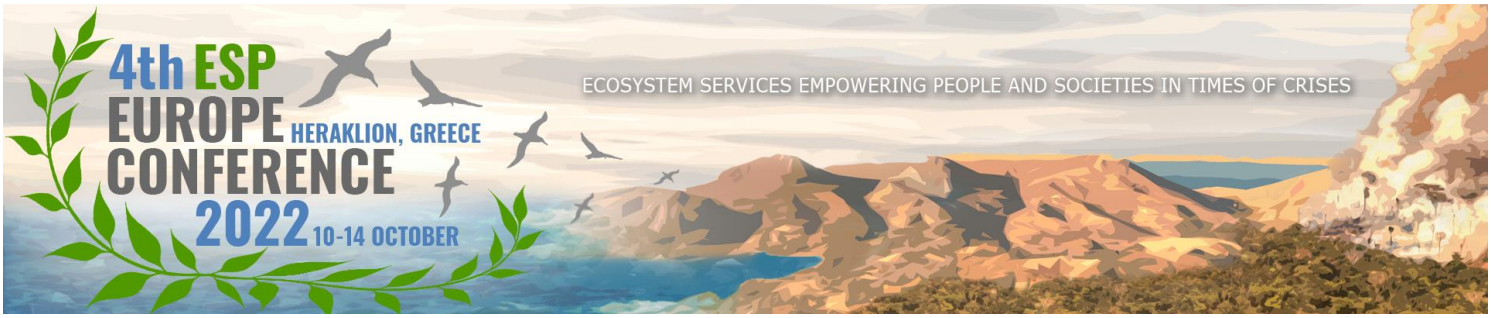
## III. ABSTRACTS

*Abstracts are ordered based on the session program. The first author is the presenting author unless indicated otherwise.*

1. *Type of submission: Abstract*

O. Other sessions: O1 – Ecosystem services research, practice and policy in Greece: current status and ways forward

Linking Ecosystem Services to Water Framework Directive. A practical study from Greece




*Presenting author: Ifigenia Kagalou*

*Other author(s): Dr. Dionyssis Latinopoulos, Prof. Christos Akratos*

*Contact*: ifikagalou@gmail.com

The adoption of Ecosystem Services (ES) Approach in water management offers an added value by providing a framework for conceptualizing the link between the environment per se and the ways people value and 'use' it. While there are many links between the Water Framework Directive (WFD) principles and ES approach, their integration is still limited. In order to highlight their linking points, our target is to address the knowledge of ES that lies within the existing River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in Greece, focusing on the extras that ES concept can offer in the next (3rd) cycle of RBMPs. Water quality has become a major concern, while its causality with ecosystem health and the benefits for the society remain poorly understood. Our case study is the Lissos river basin (Thrace District, Greece) whose water quality is related with nutrients and chemical substances loads from agriculture. Yet, it is questionable if the targets of the WFD can actually be fulfilled up to 2027.

We firstly review the current knowledge of the ES approach in RBMPs in Greece and then we assess the water quality of the river depicting the influence on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus-related ES. The water quality is assessed applying standard analytical methods. The identification and the classification of the ES is based on the CICES framework since it provides a hierarchical structure, with each level providing a more detailed description of the identified ES.

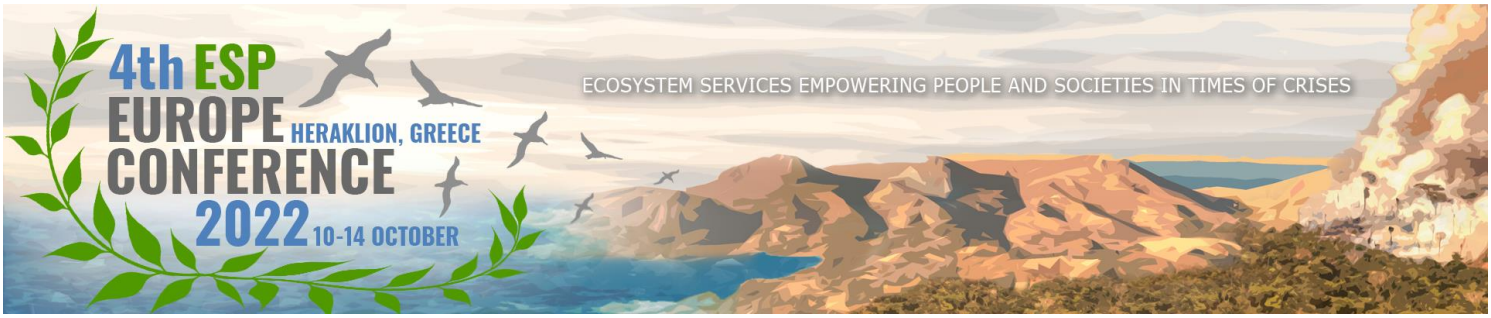
Our results highlight that a wide suite of water-related ES is hindered, blocking the multiple benefits the Greek river basins could offer. Regarding the Lissos basin, the variety of benefits attached to high quality of agri-food production, recreation and tourism (with significant impacts on the local economy), are directly negatively affected by the deterioration of water quality, given the uncertainty that each productivity sector faces

*Keywords*: River Basin Management Plans, CICES, Water-Food-Energy Nexus, water quality

*2. Type of submission: Abstract*

O. Other sessions: O1 - Ecosystem services research, practice and policy in Greece: current status and ways forward

Integrating ecosystem services into environmental management and decision making: achievements of the LIFE IP 4 NATURA project in Greece




*Presenting author: Ioannis P. Kokkoris*

*Other author(s): Georgios Mallinis, Ioannis P. Kokkoris, Eleni S. Bekri, Eleni Iliadou*

*Affiliation*: University of Patras, Greece

*Contact*: ipkokkoris@upatras.gr

One of the main Actions of the LIFE IP 4 NATURA integrated project, is dealing with the MAES implementation in Greece. The main objective of this action was to develop the appropriate methodology in order to identify, map and assess the Ecosystem Services (ES) within the Greek territory (primarily within, but also outside the NATURA 2000 network for enhancing connectivity), and thus create the appropriate base-line datasets for applying site conservation measures that also target ES in real-life management. All available spatial and biodiversity data, Corine Land Cover datasets and various local and regional, production and financial data have been analysed, resulting in spatially explicit ES quantification and mapping. Such results constitute a key requirement for the implementation of the ES concept in decision making processes, predominantly nature conservation and management. Finally, a framework for updating the ecosystem services and maps produced through the project will is introduced to ensure sustainability. The outcomes of this assessment provide the baseline information and a starting point, from which future management will take place, simultaneously supporting policy and decision making on integrated natural environment management under current national and EU legislation and strategies.

*Keywords*: LIFE project, MAES, Integrated management, Policy making

*3. Type of submission: Abstract*

O. Other sessions: O1 - Ecosystem services research, practice and policy in Greece: current status and ways forward

Optimizing the integration of ecosystem services in Environmental Impact Assessments in Greece: a case study from Crete

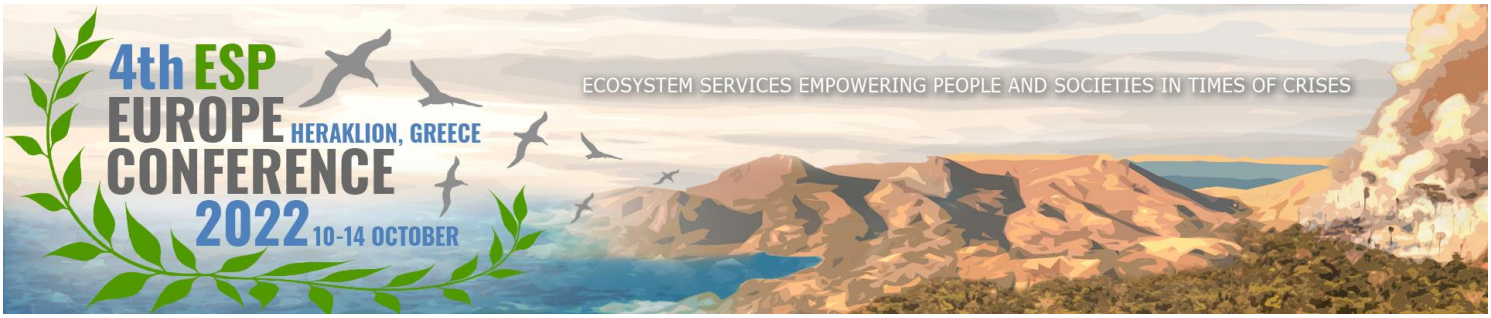
*Presenting author: Anna Kagiampaki*

*Other author(s): Georgia Piligotsi, Nikolaos Papastefanakis, , , , ,*

*Affiliation*: ,

*Contact*: kagiampaki@crete.gov.gr

Despite the great number of technical reports and research that have been done within the last two decades, proving that ecosystem services should be integrated in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), little attention has been paid to ES analyses.




Nevertheless, ES are briefly referred to in the technical specifications of EIAs in Greece, together with the prerequisite to record the present condition of local natural environment in the study area (Ministerial Decision No 170225/2014, chapter 8.5.1, National Gazzette 135B/17-1-2014).

This late integration signifies the need to optimize both the structure and the content of EIAs by indicating the ecological structure of the study area as well as the ecological functions and ecosystem services regulating all the three categories of benefits provided by the ecosystems of the study area (provisioning, regulating and cultural). In this paper we utilize the experience gained through the LIFE Natura2000 Value Crete project and the guidelines produced within the LIFE IP 4 NATURA project, and we present in a real case study on how an ES analysis could be integrated in an EIA for a major infrastructure project – the EIA for the new international airport in Crete that is currently under construction. Are the Hellenic Statistical Authority and the CORINE databases sufficient for the elaboration of an ES assessment? What other tools should be used for valuing ecosystem services in EIAs when these refer to major infrastructure projects? How ecosystems services should be weighted in an EIA based on expert knowledge, scientific literature or existing databases? Could this be sufficient to proceed with the approval or rejection of major infrastructure projects?

We provide evidence that ES evaluation is an absolutely necessary tool for Decision Making processes and we propose a conceptual framework and a set of ES indicators to be adopted in the technical specifications of EIAs.

*Keywords*: Environmental Impact Assessment, ecosystem services, Greek legislation, tools, technical specifications