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## **The Institute for Sustainable Water Management and Water Law of the EPLO Celebrates World Water Day in Chios**

On the occasion of the celebration of World Water Day, which is celebrated annually on March 22nd, the Institute for Sustainable Water Management and Water Law of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), in collaboration with the Chios Water and Sewerage Company (DEYA Chios), organized a series of actions for the celebration of World Water Day, as part of the "**Chios Water SOS**" project. This initiative aims to inform and raise awareness among citizens about the water supply and water scarcity issues in Chios.

Specifically, citizen information actions took place in Chios Town, **in the N. Plastira Square on March 21, 2025, and in Apolutaria on March 22, 2025.** During these events, more than 1,500 informational leaflets were distributed to citizens, and a demonstration of a membrane ultrafiltration unit for water purification was held.

Additionally, in collaboration with the non-profit organization Spotin (Spotlight on Innovation), a series of experiential awareness actions were implemented, where both children and adults wrote their own messages and shared their stories about water. This contributed to the creation of a participatory "map of the island" featuring notable water points on Chios.

**On Saturday, March 22, an informational scientific Conference was organized at the Homerion Cultural Center of Chios.** The event started with a greeting by the **Mayor of Chios, Mr. Ioannis Malafis**, who emphasized the importance of sustainable water management for the island.

**Mr. Manolis Koutoulakis, Secretary General of Aegean and Island Policy**, spoke about the resilience of water resources and their relationship with the challenges of climate change, emphasizing the need for integrated management strategies.

**Mr. Prodromos Manolakis, President of the Chios Water and Sewerage Company (DEYA Chios)**, presented the scope and complexity of Chios' water supply system, noting that DEYA Chios manages over 1,000 kilometers of network, 80 reservoirs, 160 natural springs, 100 wells, 15 dams and reservoirs, as well as 10 desalination units.

**Mr. Ioannis Katsogiannis, Professor of Environmental Technology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Water Management and Water Law at EPLO**, presented four fundamental challenges regarding water management in his speech: drought, extreme weather events, pollution, and, most importantly, mismanagement, while he presented strategies for addressing the issue at both national and local levels, **Ms. Ioanna Dovletoglou, lawyer and member of the Board of Directors of Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Thessaloniki (EYATH)**, discussed the role of technology in the sustainable management of water resources, citing as an example the innovative practices implemented by EYATH, such as the remote control systems and installation of "smart" water meters.



**Dr. Athanasia Tolkou, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry at Democritus University of Thrace**, discussed the value of wastewater reuse after proper treatment by biological treatment plants. She noted that thousands of cubic meters are discarded into the sea every day in Greece. For Chios, she suggested integrating water reuse into the overall management design, with targeted investments in infrastructure and local networks.

Finally, **Ms. Alkyoni Baglatzi, Founder of the NGO Spotin**, presented best practices for utilizing data and digital tools by citizens, which can contribute to their active participation in the sustainable management of water resources.

After the speeches, a discussion followed, moderated by journalist and environmental expert **Mr. Giorgos Lialios**, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions and exchange views. The event was attended by representatives of the military authorities, deputy mayors, regional and municipal councilors, as well as citizens interested in the sustainable management of water resources.

On **Sunday, March 23**, a similar Conference was organized at the **Kardamyla Cultural Center**, with the participation of local authorities and citizens. In his opening speech, **the Mayor of Chios, Mr. Ioannis Malafis**, emphasized the importance of implementing water projects in areas with available resources, such as Kardamyla, for the overall development of the island. At the end of the Conference, an interesting discussion took place, focusing on the utilization of water from Nagos and the completion of the dam at Sarapieio.

On Monday, March 24th, Professor **Ioannis Katsogiannis** and Associate Professor Athanasia Tolkou visited the Chios Wastewater Treatment Plant, where they were briefed on its upgrade with tertiary treatment. The goal is to reuse the treated water for irrigation projects in neighboring agricultural areas, a significant project for the island's water resources management.