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EU Climate Pact Building Capacity Event “Ambassadors Influencing Local Authorities to Take Climate Action”.

REPORT

The EU Climate Pact Building Capacity event was online as a webinar on Thursday, 29 February 2024. The workshop, organised by INZEB, the National Coordinator for Greece, aimed to empower Climate Pact Ambassadors to influence local authorities, urging them to design, adopt, and implement climate strategies. By understanding the needs of local authorities, Ambassadors can tailor their initiatives for greater effectiveness in combating local climate issues.

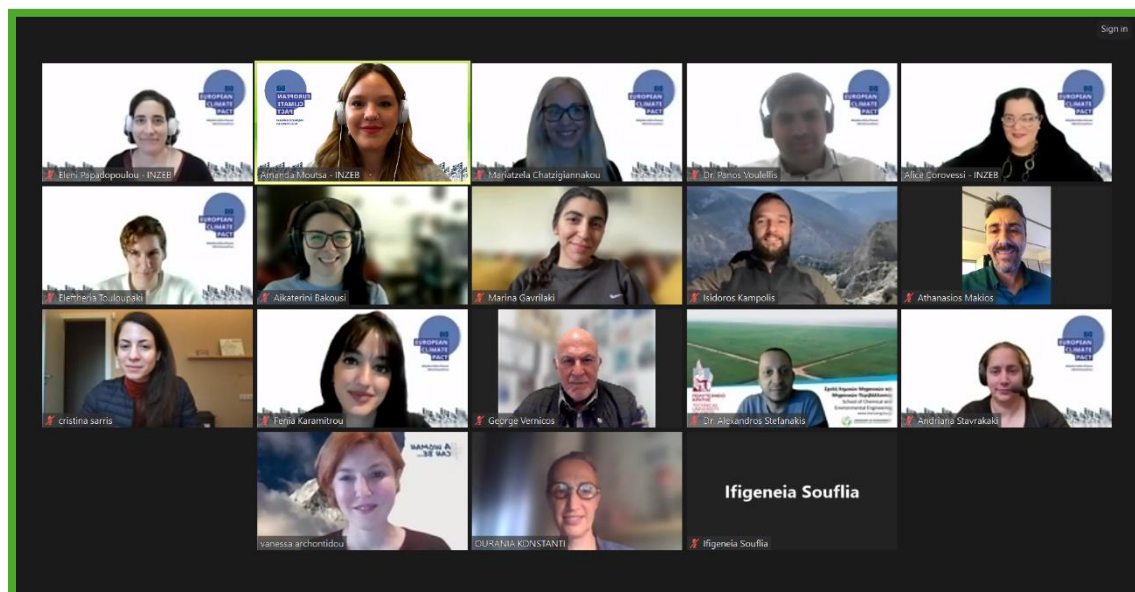


Photo 1: Screenshot from Zoom's Webinar for the Building Capacity Event – 29.02.2024

The workshop began with the keynote speech on Local Authorities' Climate Action in Greece by **Andriana Stavrakaki**, Senior Energy and Environmental Expert. She presented municipalities' and regions' obligations, strategic actions, and participation in European Union and global initiatives. Moreover, she mentioned methods for the Ambassadors to engage with the local authorities.

Afterwards, **Dr Panos Vouellis**, EU Climate Pact Ambassador and Urban Planner, took the floor and introduced the attendees to the EU Mission of 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, the objectives for climate neutrality in 2050, and Greece's participation in the mission.

Ifigeneia Souflia, EU Climate Pact Ambassador and Surveying and Hydraulic Engineer, followed with her presentation on Climate Data and the Use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). She shared interesting information about the use of GIS in the municipality of Athens and provided details about relevant applications.

Subsequently, the Sli.do tool was used to engage the Climate Pact Ambassadors and understand the extent of their knowledge of climate mitigation and adaptation concepts. The questions asked were the following:

- Is installing Renewable Energy Sources an action of mitigation or adaptation to the consequences of climate change?
- Is the installation of exterior shade systems an action of mitigation or adaptation to the consequences of climate change?
- Are the new pavements, cycle paths, and parking spaces created for better connectivity with public transport, etc., actions of mitigation or adaptation to the consequences of climate change?
- Are seminars for eco-driving, actions of mitigation or adaptation to the consequences of climate change?

After a brief discussion of the Sli.do results; the presentations continued with **Phoebe Koundouri, Professor** at the Athens University of Economics and Business and EU Climate Pact Ambassador, who highlighted the importance of keeping up and reporting on the progress of environmental goals. She talked about the methods for measuring this progress and how this measurement can connect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the European Green Deal and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESGs). Moreover, the best process for a municipality to create a mitigation and adaptation plan in the context of the national adaptation and mitigation plan was explained. She also referred to the 17 goals and 169 targets for sustainability and the importance of a holistic approach to the problem of climate change.

Afterwards, **Dr Alexandros Stefanakis, EU Climate Pact Ambassador and Assistant Professor** at the University of Crete, proceeded with his speech on Circular Sewage Sludge Management Using Nature-Based Solutions. He discussed the disadvantages of municipalities' current linear sewage sludge management and showcased the circular approach's benefits.

Fenia Karamitrou, EU Climate Pact Ambassador and legal counsel specialised in regional development, mentioned in her presentation the difficulties faced by the municipalities and showcased best practices from the Municipality of Grevena.

Dr Mariatzela Chatzigiannakou, a member of Phoebe Koundouri Professor's team, followed with her complimentary presentation on the progress of the Greek regions about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the needed next steps.

The webinar concluded with a short discussion between the Ambassadors and the speakers and a short poll to evaluate the event.