

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Water Matters – Increasing knowledge on the importance of Good status of Water Bodies”** campaign, funded by “Water Management” Program of the EEA Grants (European Economic Area of the Financial Mechanism 2014-2021) with the Ministry of Environment and Energy acting as Program Operator, participated in the festival "*Discovering the Gulf of Corinth, learn, observe, get informed, protect, paint the sea*", which took place from **1st to 2nd of September** in the city of Akrata at Achaia region.

Focusing on raising awareness among the citizens and students of the wider region, a variety of experiential activities and presentations were held where the public had the opportunity to learn about the progress of the project as well as the ecological quality of the rivers in the Aigialia region.

Participating in various experiential activities, the young and eldest visitors had the opportunity to learn and observe in stereoscope various freshwater animals (Benthic Macroinvertebrates) which are indicators of the quality of a water body, as well as to get familiar with the microcosm of rivers by observing Diatoms, the microalgae with the characteristic "glass" cases that provide important ecosystem services. Finally, taking part in hands on activities-painting, crafts and educational games, they formulated and exchanged messages with the scientists for the protection of water and aquatic ecosystems.

**In total, more than 60 people participated in all awareness and information actions/activities.** We would like to thank the Municipality of Aegialia and the Friends of the Environment Association of Akrata for their cooperation in organizing the festival

For more information on the awareness-raising actions implemented, please visit the project's website: <https://water-matters.hcmr.gr/>

