

PRESS RELEASE (SYMSITE PRESENTATION)

On 15/5/2023, the European program "SYMSITES" (Horizon Europe) was presented at the Primary School of Ano Alissos.

It is a 4-year funded project which aims to develop new technologies and solutions based on the Industrial and Urban Symbiosis concept., applied on local and regional collaborators such as citizens, municipalities and businesses as well as on sectors that improve the sustainability of the use of industrial and social resources such as solid organic wastes and wastewaters.

Main advantage of the "SYMSITES" project is the utilization of waste materials originated from urban and industrial activities such as industrial side streams, industrial waste, by-products and municipal waste at the end of their life cycle with the aim to transform them into energy resources and raw material for industrial processes.

The program of total duration of 48 months has already started its activities since 1/6/2022 with the participation of 30 partners coming from 9 countries. Greece is represented by the Municipality of Western Achaia, the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and specifically by the Laboratory of Organic Chemical Technology of the School of Chemical Engineering (person in charge Prof. G. Lympieratos), SIRMET S.A. and EEP. Aim of the Greek partnership is the utilization of municipal (liquid and solid) and industrial (liquid) waste, originating from olive mill processes, through a pilot plant that will be set up at the biological treatment plant of the Municipality of Western Achaia in order to convert them into biogas, bio-hydrogen and bio-plastics.

In order to achieve the above, a network of brown bins will be set up in the wider area of Alissos in order to collect household organic waste, while there will be a contribution of wastewater from both industry (EEP) and the Municipality of Western Achaia. At the same time, the NTUA will contribute to the development of innovative processes for the more efficient utilization of the above waste and will cooperate with SIRMET S.A. for their implementation.

It should be noted that the choice of this particular school was made in order to inform both children and residents of the Alissos area about the project as it will be the area of its implementation (installation of a network of brown bins). The presentation was coordinated by Mr. Marios Didachos, while representatives of the project stakeholders and the mayor of West Achaia Mr. Spyros Mylonas were present, who explained to the students the importance of the whole project and the need for all participants to embrace it.