

# Waterways and Stories on E4 Path and the Geoparks in East Mediterranean

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## Abstract:

Waterways concerns with the improvement and enhancement of the attractiveness of areas of natural and cultural interest through the protection and highlighting of important "water elements" on the E4 path in Crete and Cyprus, Sitia Geoparks (Crete) and Troodos (Cyprus) belong are part of European and international networks protection Natura 2000 and the UNESCO Geoparks network.

The project highlights the value and special characteristics of the geological and cultural heritage, contributes to the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural environment and raises citizen awareness on climate change and sustainability.

Waterways aims at exchanging best practices, adopting common approaches, and implementing common actions with main objectives:

- a. improve attractiveness and increase the number of visitors to intervention areas that are disadvantaged in terms of economic development and are more prone to climate change,
- b. exploit and promote, as cultural and geological tourist destinations throughout the year and thus lengthen the tourist season. The increase in traffic will be achieved through the upgrading of the tourist product with the introduction of the water element as an important factor in shaping both the natural landscape and culture in these areas.

the project focuses on:

- actions augmenting the capabilities of existing infrastructures (visitable sites and interactive models),
- enrichment and development of activities, information and education of residents, tourists, students and entrepreneurs with the use of new ICT technologies, such as AR, Serious Games and Digital Learning Objects, specific tourism / recreational / educational visits.
- Record and document of monuments and areas of natural interest of water elements
- Portable museum kits

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