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University of Thessaly Participates in European Initiative for the Decarbonization of Trawling Fisheries in the Mediterranean

The University of Thessaly, through the Department of Agriculture, Ichthyology, and Aquatic Environment (DIAAE), is pleased to announce its participation in the European research project TRAWLCARBON— Networking Actions for the Know-How and Experience Exchange Related to the Decarbonization of the Mediterranean Trawl Fishing Fleet in Relation to Selectivity, Impact on the Sea Bottom Environment, and Climate Change. The project benefits from a 79.827,50 funding from the EEA Grants (funding period 2014-2021), which represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway towards a green, competitive and inclusive Europe. The project is coordinated by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research in partnership with the University of Thessaly (Greece) and the Arctic University (UIT) of Norway. The objectives of the project are:

1. networking for the two-way transfer of experience and know-how on fossil fuel decarbonisation of trawl fisheries in Europe targeting EU waters in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. Networking will allow for better conduct of research projects in the future as a key critical mass of scientists will be available either to provide scientific and technical support or to collaborate in larger European projects (e.g. HORIZON).
2. visit and briefing of stakeholders in trawling in both Greece and Norway (fishermen, administrators and the fishing industry) on how to tackle the problem and achieve the objectives, the possibility for stakeholders to adopt the scientific advice and the results so far in terms of improving fuel consumption
3. exploiting the team and the cooperation that will be created by organising 1 hybrid seminar to be held at the University of Thessaly for undergraduate and postgraduate students and members of the administration throughout Greece, on the problem of fossil fuels and policies to reduce dependence on them, climate change and the impact on the environment.

As part of the networking activities, a delegation from the University of Thessaly visited Tromsø, Norway in November 2024 — a global hub for sustainable fishing practices and cutting-edge technology. The delegation was led by Associate Professor Dimitris Klaoudatos, who spearheaded meetings and discussions with Norwegian experts.

During the visit, the team:

- Visited the Faculty of Biosciences, Fisheries, and Economics at the Arctic University of Norway, where they were briefed on their research activities.
- Toured a processing unit in Tromvik, observing modern energy-efficient technologies.
- Visited the trawler *Hera* of Harmes S.A., a model of technological innovation equipped with automated filleting and freezing systems for maximum efficiency and minimal environmental impact.