



GREEN LEAGUE
Sport Alliance for the Environment

Case Studies Collection

Good Practices on Sport and Environment Protection- Greece



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SPORT & ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES IN GREECE



CASE 1

PANSERRAIKOS FC ACADEMY ENVIRONMENTAL ACT FOR THE WORLD'S ENVIRONMENTAL DAY 2022 #ONLYONEEARTH

<p>AIM</p> <p>To raise awareness and educate on matters of proactive environmental actions via the use of the vast Football network.</p>	<p>TARGET GROUP</p> <p>Football Athletes and enthusiasts of all ages.</p>
<p>GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</p> <p>At Omonia Athletic Park, the facilities of Panserraikos FC Academy, in the city of Serres in northern Greece.</p>	<p>SPORT or PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVED</p> <p>Walking, Football</p>

STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

The good practice was possible due to the organisation and initiative of Panserraikos FC in coordination with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations dedicated to ecosystem restoration 2021-2030 programme and in cooperation with the Municipality of Serres. The practice was also in coordination with goal #15 and #17 of the UN.

WEBSITE REFERENCES

<https://www.mgspanserraikos.gr/δράσεις-για-το-9ο-τουρνουά-ακαδημιών-πο/>

<https://www.mgspanserraikos.gr/ο-πανσερραϊκός-στηρίζει-την-δεκαετία/>

SHORT DESCRIPTION

During the "9th Football Academies Tournament for the Environment 2022" Panserraikos FC Academy, with the participation of athletes and non-athletes of the community, carried out clean-up operations at the Omonia Athletic Park of Serres, on Saturday, June 4, to celebrating in this symbolic way the World Environment Day.

PANSERRAIKOS FC also provided to the participants the necessary "tools" (bags, gloves, etc.) for the implementation of this action. On Sunday 5th June, football games were held in order to celebrate the day, at the Omonia Athletic Park.

The good practice used the methodology given by the guidelines of the UNEP and the United Nations dedicated to ecosystem restoration 2021-2030 programme for World's Environmental Health Day.

CHALLENGES

The participation at this initiative was lower, because it occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, future events had to be postponed in this period.

IMPACT

This particular event was the first of many, since Panserraikos FC Academy started a series of events dedicated to the UN programme on ecosystem restoration from 2021, until 2030. From the articles written, it appears that the Academy's network was significant and the participants were more than enough.

SUSTAINABILITY

This particular event was the first of many, since Panserraikos FC Academy started a series of events dedicated to the UN programme on ecosystem restoration from 2021, until 2030. Therefore, it appears as the first sustainable act from all of its aspects (organizational, economical etc.). The fact that the events are endorsed by the UN programs and goals, also provides sustainability for the project, since these programs are well-structured and draw the attention of participation for other organisations and parties to contribute.

REPLICABILITY

Apart from the conduct of similar acts on the primacies of the particular academy, other sporting academies could follow Panserraikos's example and dedicate their events on acts for the protection of the environment, following the UN's programme dedicated on the restoration of the ecosystem, or other similar European project on eco-friendly acts and good practices. It is worth mentioning that the particular academy, as well as other sporting clubs could attend to the rest of the UN goals towards the protection of the environment.

LESSONS LEARNT

The events that occurred during the tournament and on the following day had an impact on all the participants, regarding raising awareness on the matter of environmental health and getting familiar with the World's Environmental Health Day, the UN projects and its goals regarding environmental protection. However, the impact on the younger participants is even more crucial, since it is up to the younger generation to address the restoration of the environment and raise awareness on the matter to their peers.

One significant success factor of the good practice was the use of the Academy's network. Football is one of the most famous and followed sports nationally and internationally, therefore gathering a number of people that are willing to participate in activities within the Academy. The fact that the events were held in coordination with the UN projects, also made it more valid, thus successful.

CASE 2

COASTAL CLEANING BY YOUNG FOOTBALL ATHLETES

AIM The objective of the good practice was for the young athletes to get acquainted with volunteering, via participating in the cleaning of a major coast.	TARGET GROUP Football Athletes and enthusiasts of all ages.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA Beach in the settlement of Alykes in Epanomi, Thessaloniki.	SPORT or PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVED Walking, Football

STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

The Football Academy PAOK FC, and more specifically their organisation “PAOK ACTION” with the environmental organisation iSea and “Simeonidis Tours”, coordinated the participation of the coastal cleaning from the young athletes.

WEBSITE REFERENCES

<http://staging-action.paokfc.gr/perivallon/mathima-ethelontismou-gia-tis-k20-ke-k17/>

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Even though the main goal of PAOK Academy is to train Greek football players, the academies of the PAOK maintain a pedagogical character, wanting to form complete personalities and not just athletes.

In this initiative, the players got an important life lesson and found out that the clean environment is the responsibility of all of us.

The young football players participated in the cleaning of the beach in the settlement of Alykes in Epanomi, Thessaloniki, participating in the action of PAOK ACTION and the environmental organization iSea.

The athletes were informed by the people of the organization about various issues related to environmental protection and then got to work, while at the end of the day they enjoyed their efforts, relaxing in the renewed landscape.

Since the optimal goal of this act was the familiarization of young athletes with volunteering, the approach was not only the conduct of the cleaning, but the lessons provided by the people of the organization as well. During the good practice, the participants learned about various issues related to environmental protection and at

CHALLENGES None	IMPACT PAOK FC academy is one of the biggest Football Academies in Greece, holding a huge network of fans and trainees. Therefore, the impact of PAOK ACTION projects is significant.
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SUSTAINABILITY

REPLICABILITY

The good practice is sustainable, since it is based on participating in already existing environmental acts. Therefore, the organising of the practice as well as the economical factor of it have low demands, thus being sustainable.

This environmental act could be replicable, since many organisations and Greek NGO's conduct projects for the restoration of the ecosystem and the undoing of the environmental damage in affected areas (ex. Areas after fire). All the organizing parties are in need of volunteers and sporting academies such as PAOK FC are in need of educating the young athletes on the matter of volunteering. f the UN goals towards the protection of the environment.

LESSONS LEARNT

On this environmental act the impact of the practice goes beyond the positive outcome on the environment. The young participants were familiarized with the idea of volunteering and through this relatively small environmental act, they learned more about the existing environmental damage and other-bigger methods to make a more significant difference on the restoration of it.

The young athletes gained a lot of positive knowledge that could be divided to the following:

- How to contribute to the cleaning of a coast (by cleaning the coast themselves and learning the process).
- The general positive outcome of volunteering (by relaxing in the reformed beach).
- The various issues related to environmental protection and how our community's responsibility to refrain from further environmental pollution and act in order to correct the damage already done.

CASE 3

COASTAL CLEANING BY YOUNG ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES

AIM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean the coast of Katakolo at Pyrgos Ilias and To allow parents and the young athletes to send their own message for a better environment for a better future. 	TARGET GROUP Young athletes of Olympiacos FC Academy of the Pyrgos Ilias's Academy and their families.
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA Katakolo coast, Pyrgos Ilias, Greece	SPORT or PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVED Walking, Athletics

STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

The embodiment of this environmental act was a result of the work of, the Olympiacos FC Academy of Pyrgos Ilias, the organisation "Lets Do It Greece" and the participation of the coaches, parents and trainees of the Academy.

WEBSITE REFERENCES

<https://www.olympiacos.org/2017/04/03/perivallontiki-drasi-apo-tin-scholi-pyrgoy/>

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The Olympiacos FC Academy in Pyrgos Ilias, with the initiative of the head of the academy, Mr. Tasos Ferekidis, together with the children and their parents decided to participate in the cleaning of the beach in Katakolon. The Academy participated in the organisation of the good practice, while supporting the campaign "Be the change you expect..." of "Let's Do It Greece".

The children together with their parents and the Academy's coaches dedicated the morning of Sunday 2 April to cleaning the beaches of the region, sending their own message for a better environment for a better future.

The method that was used in this case study is the utilization of the employees, the network of the Academy of Olympiacos FC as well as the community of Pyrgos Ilias, in order to draw attention on environmental matters and the need of the community to act for a better environment and therefore a better future.

CHALLENGES

None

IMPACT

The impact on the beneficiaries was significant, since it united the parents with their children and the young athletes with their coaches. Connecting over a bigger purpose can be reinforcing other aspects of their life, such as the children's efficiency on the training or the general relationship with their parents. Equivalent are the benefits of parents and coaches, who have the chance to get to know

with their children and athletes on a deeper level that may allow them to be more effective advisors for them.

SUSTAINABILITY

Even though we cannot proclaim the detailed costs of the act, from the methodology, it appears as if both the organisational and the economic factors make the good practice sustainable. Also, the fact that the environmental act is organized by Olympiakos FC, one of the most famous sport academies of Greece, with one of the biggest and more vivid fan clubs, allows the good practices as such to be known to a vast number of people.

REPLICABILITY

Once again, the network of Olympiakos FC, being one of the most vivid sport academies of Greece, ensures a satisfactory level of participation in this and probably all the following similar good practices that will be advertised through the Academy. As for upscaling, instead of one region's Olympiakos Academy, the majority of them could participate in a similar environmental act.

LESSONS LEARNT

The Head of the local Academy Mr. Tasos Ferekidis speaking about this action noted: *"We have an obligation to train the right people and then make good footballers. Our Academy does not only have actions within the four lines of the stadium but is next to the local community and always makes sure to set a good example. We thank Olympiakos for supporting us in everything and for caring for the best future of our children."*

Other than the benefits gained through all of the participants working as a team, the young athletes learned about the benefits of volunteering and how to make a positive impact on the environment. By cleaning a coast that is familiar to them, they learn the difficulty of undoing the existing environmental damage and simultaneously ways to preserve a clean coast. Having their role models and mentors work with them on this act, validated its importance to them and imprint the importance of environmental preservation on their minds.

Because of the multiple benefits on different levels for the participants, a major success factor is the appeal of the good practice. Also, the use of the network of Olympiakos FC - one of the most famous sport academies of Greece, with one of the biggest and more vivid fan clubs - ensures a satisfactory level of participation in the good practice.

CASE 4

LIMITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF SAILING ACTIVITY FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SPORT

AIM

The objective was to draw attention to the impact of sailing on the water contamination of the seas and generally to the aquatic pollution, as well as on ways to tackle the matter.

Generally, the goal was to dedicate the already existing event to the water contamination of the Aegean seas and the vast pollution around the Greek Islands, thus to raise awareness to a significant amount of people, since the event already existed and had already drawn popularity

TARGET GROUP

Sailing Athletes

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Islands of Greece: Amorgos, Lipsi and Paros.

SPORT or PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVED

Sailing

STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

The beneficiaries and users of the good practice were the sailing athletes and generally the sailing team, who were acquainted with eco-friendly ways of sailing and rallied for the awareness of the sea's pollution. The practice took place after the initiative of the Panhellenic Open Water Sailing Club in coordination with HELMERA and other supporting organisations.

WEBSITE REFERENCES

<https://istioploikoskosmos.gr/perivalon/>

www.piraeus365.gr/2018/07/55ο-ράλλυ-αιγαίου-20-30-ιουλίου-2018/

[www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ISAFGreenEventGuidance-\[9984\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ISAFGreenEventGuidance-[9984].pdf)

www.amorgos-news.gr/οι-ιστιοπλόοι-του-55ου-ράλλυ-αιγαίου-καθ/

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The 55th Aegean Rally was dedicated to raising awareness regarding the pollution of the seas. The [ISAF guidelines](#) that were used for the good practice, specify how to avoid the environmental footprint of sailing, as a sailing athlete. The Rally was conducted on 20-30 of July 2018.

The methodology that was followed included the participation of the sailing athletes that would work as an example of the proper and eco-friendly way to sail. Ultimately, the goal was to raise awareness regarding the pollution of the seas and initiate other voluntary acts to tackle it, such as coastal cleaning.

The good practice was structured via the ISAF guidelines and initiated by the Panhellenic Open Water Sailing Club, according to multiple web page articles.

CHALLENGES

None

IMPACT

Taking into account the number of articles written on the good practice, the reported popularity of the event, and the vast participation, the impact of the good practice is considered significant.

The boats of the "Aegean Rally" carried the message "Save the seas" to raise public awareness. A representative of the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA) was present in each of the islands visited by the event to coordinate, in cooperation with the local authorities, the cleaning of the coasts and the distribution of information material. The actions took place on 23 July in Amorgos, 25 July in Lipsi and 27 July in Paros.

Skippers and crews became ambassadors in this campaign, and sailors also tried to use as little plastic as possible on their boats that year and onwards. It is worth mentioning that the International Olympic Committee also took part in a UN campaign to raise awareness among athletes and players about marine litter.

SUSTAINABILITY

Since the good practice was based on an already-existing and annual event, it can be considered sustainable. More specifically, the pre-existence of an event, onto which an environmental good practice could be built, makes the good practice sustainable and possible for it to be repeated, since all the organizational factors and funding parties will be participating in the event, anyway.

REPLICABILITY

Bigger Rallies that rout through all of the Aegean Sea and possibly all of the Greek Islands could be organized and be dedicated as well to an environmental act as such.

LESSONS LEARNT

Based on [WWF's report on plastic pollution \(2019\)](#), Greece produces approximately 700kT of plastic waste each year, which means 68 kg of plastic per capita. In Greek seas there are still significant populations of rare protected species that are threatened with extinction due to pollution. The effects of dumping plastic litter in the seas have an impact on the reduction of fishing and tourism, with the burden on coastal areas.

These major existing environmental issues led to the dedication of the 55th Aegean Rally to the reduction of the aquatic pollution, with a specification on the pollution caused by the lack of eco-friendly sailing techniques. With the premises of the event, sailing athletes were reported following the eco-friendly sailing guidelines and conducting coastal and marine cleaning of some areas in need.



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The participants raised awareness regarding the pollution of the sea with specifications on the environmental footprint of sailing. Simultaneously, they learned eco-friendly ways to sail and were motivated to participate in other environmental acts.



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