



Sarajevo 27/09/2018

**“Rivers and streams in Attica-Athens.  
Struggles to save the few ones which are still alive”**

At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Attica-Athens in Greece, was an area with about 700 streams and rivers. Nowadays, very few rivers and streams or parts of them (about 70) have survived the urban expansion and remain in their natural state! **Most of them have survived thanks to the struggle and fights of many citizens, simple people who care, for many decades now.**

**Now, we have to continue this struggle because of the Flood Management Plans of the State, that prefer expensive projects for flood protection! Projects that, not only spare valuable natural and economical resources but also destroy the environment!** These include:

- 1. Deforestation** of the slopes and the beds of the rivers, which **means cutting thousands of trees in Attica, which is an area like a concrete jungle!**
- 2. Placing gabions** or constructing bored pile walls, **or even worse, boxing rivers in concrete**, turning them into culverts. In this way, they **decrease the ability of the river to absorb the water and protect us from the flood!**
- 3.** The protection of the buildings and other constructions on the slopes and the banks of the rivers (many of them being illegal) by making more constructions! **These constructions narrow the bed of the river more and require more funds!**  
**At the same time, in some cases there is no plan, even for the reconstruction of the wrong technical works, for example some bridges based in the bed of a stream, which are the only specific spots, where overflow is caused or can be caused!**
- 4. Construction of rainwater channels, which have proved to be mostly inadequate during intense rainfalls, in areas with filled and destroyed streams.** On the other side, they are more expensive than using natural materials, with natural ways, keeping rivers in their natural state!

These days, most streams and rivers are still in danger in Attica, because of the disastrous plans of the State for flood protection, for example the Stream of Pikrodafni, the Great Rafina River, the Stream of Podoniftis etc.

That is why, many associations, societies, fellowships and simple citizens, struggling to save our rivers are becoming more and more, every day in Attica...

**We all live under conditions of not only global warming and extreme weather but also economical crisis, because of which we suffer to a great extent in our country. So, we are not allowed to spare natural and economical resources!**  
**We should all be taught by the wisdom of mother Nature and become wiser and more responsible when managing them!**