

Press release

"THESEUS 2024": Emergency scenarios due to the climate crisis at the center of HEDNO's operational drills

The challenges posed by climate change and necessitating the state's organizational and operational capacity for dealing with potential asymmetric threats, was at the center of "THESEUS 2024" map drill coordinated by HEDNO.

The drill was carried out in collaboration with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, under the coordination of Dr. Efthymios Lekkas, Professor of Dynamic Tectonic Applied Geology, and examined events that may occur due to climate crisis.

In this context, the operational drill of HEDNO focused on emergencies that affect the lives of thousands of people and require an effective management plan such as: A prolonged heat wave in the Attica Region causing damage to the Distribution Grids of many areas; two serious large-scale forest fire fronts causing the mobilization of technical crews; extensive damage to a Distribution Center transformer supplying critical points in the center of Athens; and a sudden flood that results in the overflow of the Kifisos River in the urban area, putting a large number of substations out of service.

The key requirements for a successful emergency response are optimal planning, interoperability, preparedness and adaptation by all parties. Therefore, the objectives of the "THESEUS 2024" drill were, among others, to create common terminology and common understanding of such situations, to familiarize the trainee personnel with specific procedures, to improve the process of information collection and evaluation among all stakeholders, to identify any errors, weaknesses and omissions in planning, to draw conclusions and to take appropriate measures to eliminate them in order to improve and upgrade response in future crises.

Elaborating on the importance of the THESEUS 2024 drill, HEDNO's CEO, Tasos Manos, highlighted: *"Climate crisis severely affects all ecosystems resulting to unprecedented development. Therefore, the early recognition of pressures, re-planning operational*

strategies and a high degree of preparedness and interoperability are required. To this end, the "THESEUS 2024" drill has been designed to inform and mobilize all stakeholders for effective risk prevention and management.

In addition, Dr. Efthimios Lekkas pointed out: "The emergence of new types of risks, the occurrence of more extreme events, the larger scale of disaster occurrence, the complexity and sophistication of new risks and crises, are new challenges that need to be integrated into operational planning and require new policies at the crisis management level. Climate crisis is here and we need to adapt to the new reality. The main purpose of today's drill is to mobilize, coordinate and identify any gaps to improve our operational solutions and be able to respond to a real situation, i.e. an event that cannot be ruled out.

A Drill Planning Team was set up to coordinate and implement the drill, staffed by HEDNO's Executives and partners from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA). Other participants included Parliament representatives (Technical Service), representatives from the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, the Ministry of Environment & Energy, ESKEDIK - PY, ESKEDIK - EL.AΣ., GADA (Attica Police Headquarters), RAEWW, PPC, IPTO, EYDAP, STASY, OASA, ELLINIKO METRO, NEA ODOS, COSMOTE, EMY, National Observatory of Athens, OASP, EKPA, ITA, KEDE, as well as representatives from the Region and the Municipalities of Attica.

The drill took place on 16 October 2024.

Athens,
24 October 2024

Press Office