PRESS RELEASE: VIKOS-AOOS UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK: NETWORKS OF COOPERATING COMPANIES AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZAGORI

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UNESCO VIKOS-AOOS GLOBAL GEOPARK: NETWORK OF COOPERATING ENTERPRISES AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZAGORI.

EPIRUS SA in collaboration with the Municipality of Zagori, organized on the afternoon of Monday 13/7/2020 at the Open Theater of Monodendri “Angelos Kitsos” an informative event for tourism entrepreneurs and in general all active citizens of the region regarding the possibility of cooperation and participation in public promotion of Vikos-Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark .

The event was attended by the Mayor of Zagori Mr.Soukouvelos Georgios and the Deputy Mayor Mr. Tsaparis Ioannis, the presidents and members of the Association of Tourism Enterprises of Zagori, the Association of Tourist Enterprises of Monodentri and the Association of Papigo Professionals ,as well as other professionals and residents of Zagori and other neighboring areas such as Metsovo and Nestorio (Kastoria). The Mayor Mr. Soukouvelos opened the event with a short greeting and briefly referred to the difficulties that are faced by local companies due to the pandemic, and the efforts of the Municipality to support them, as well as in continuous cooperation with EPIRUS S.A. for the development and promotion of the Vikos-Aoos Geopark but also of the Municipality of Zagori in general.

From EPIRUS S.A., the members of the Board of Directors Mr. Rokkou Eleni and Mr. Exarchou Elsa, as well as the executives Georgia Kitsaki, Aristotelis Stagikas and Haritakis Papaioannou were present, who in collaboration with the representative of LIME Technology IKE Mr.Christos Bellos presented the THEMA project, implemented within the INTERREG Greece-Albania Program 2014-2020. One of the actions of the project, which has already been completed, concerns the design and development of three thematic routes, with various objects concerning culture, health-wellness and local products but also geology, the route of which is cyclically developed and includes the whole area of Vikos-Aoos Geopark. Their presentation is made with the use of new technologies, “smart tools”, such as mobile applications, which are already in operation. The pioneering element in this case, in addition to the presentation of the area, lies in the possibility of interaction of businesses and visitors-users through a game (gamification) that delivers virtual and physical rewards, which can be registered by interested companies.

In the second part of the event, the executives of EPIRUS SA developed the idea but also the way through which the active and voluntary participation of the local community in the promotion and development of the Vikos-Aoos Geopark can be achieved. This is about the activation through the foundation of two Networks: the Network of Volunteers and the Network of Collaborating Enterprises of the Vikos-Aoos Geopark, which aim at mobilizing civil society and the business community and involving them in the sustainable development of the region in accordance with the principles of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

This event marked the beginning of the creation of the two Networks. Those interested can register in the Network of Volunteers and the Network of Collaborating Enterprises through the website of Vikos-Aoos Geopark . EPIRUS S.A., as the Body Management of the Vikos-Aoos Geopark, will schedule additional meetings with the members of the Networks during

which the guidelines for the operation of the networks will be jointly prepared.

EPIRUS S.A. intends to organize corresponding events and initiatives, which will concern the Vikos-Aoos Geopark in the area of Konitsa, in collaboration with the Municipality of Konitsa in the near future.