

Notes from the editor

An ultimate ALAS Newsletter

Yes, believe it or not, but this is the last issue of the ALAS quarterly Newsletter. We managed to produce seven – well, eight if we consider the first electronic issue. As editor I would like to thank all contributors for articles and photos and also for the many spontaneous messages and letters that readers have sent.

The official closing date of the ALAS project is on December 15, but the "spirit" will continue much longer, as I hope you will understand when reading further in this issue.

A main event was the Final Conference that took place during three days between November and December. Participants came from all over Europe to the Greek island of Lesvos and made this meeting a success. Not only were the lectures and debates of high quality, we even managed to create a follow-up of ALAS in the form of a new network. The proceedings from the conference are under production and will soon be ready for sending out.

Due to the shortness of the project, many of the awaited publications were ready just before the project's end. But now most of this production (Technical Letters, Leaflets, books, video) can now be ordered. The website will continue to operate and provide you with rich, updated information and you will also be able to check out the studies and reports that were made through ALAS.

I wish you a Happy and Healthy 2003,

In sale salus,

Hj Walm
editor

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Artemia salina
(see page 12)

The ALAS Newsletter is published with the financial support of the European Commission.



ECOS-Ouverture is the European Commission's Programme for Co-operation between the regions and cities of the European Union and their counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe.

Island of Kythera (Greece)

While working on the ALAS video I needed images of people making salt out on the rocks. The Flying Dolphin from Pireaus takes five hours down to Kythera, situated just under Peloponessos. Here I was met by my fellow compatriot, Göran, an olive grower and salter that lives on the island since several years.

Early one morning in June, just as the sun was rising, we had an appointment with an old salter, Antonis, who took us out in his boat to his salt pits. Antonis skimmed the fragile crystals with his "koutali" (spoon) and I got some very interesting shots for the film. Göran and I studied the old man's skilled movements, we admired his many decades of salt collecting out on the rocks.

How much these old salters – Amadeu and Manuel in Portugal, Kyriakos in Pomorie, Raymond in Guérande, Rinaldo in Piran, Antonis on Kythera – know. ALAS has tried to save a part of their knowledge from being lost.



The ALAS project was constructed for three years of action, but it was set up and prepared much earlier. Due to administrative constraints the most intensive part lasted less than two years: the Launching Conference took place in March 2001 and the Final Conference in November/December 2002. Nevertheless, most actions – both on local and interregional levels – have taken place. **Theodora Petanidou** and **Hjalmar Dahm**, two of the initiators of the project, give an overview. **Robert Turk** explains more in detail what happened in Piran.

The ALAS Project: perception, challenges and future

The perception of the Project

The ALAS story started in June 1997, during the Conference «Nature and Workmanship – Artificial Wetlands in the Mediterranean coast» held in Paris under the auspices of the European Commission, UNESCO and INSULA

(: International Scientific Council for Island Development – an international NGO).

During that Conference many experts, organisations and agents responsible for coastal manmade wetlands from numerous Mediterranean countries pointed out the prominent value of salt-making business for the local economy and related historical, cultural and natural heritage. They concluded that sustainable development of salt-making areas

should comprise rehabilitation of abandoned saltworks, training of young people, developing quality policy based on labels and initiating common actions, such as public awareness. An issue of particular interest discussed in the Conference was to promote the concept of «Mediterranean Salt Routes» in order to safeguard the salinas of the basin through restoration and rehabilitation programs, using them at the same time as a basis for local development. Among the participants and reputable salina lovers were people from Guérande (France) Piran (Slovenia) Portugal

was over, these people were decided to make the Salt Routes possible in the Mediterranean.

ALAS kick-off

It was not earlier than November 15 1998 that a concrete kick-off came from the consortium with the elaboration of the project proposal. The official start of the implementation of the ALAS Project was December 15, 1999. However,

basic salt and salina issues,

C. action, both at **local** and at **interregional levels**, by re-establishing the economic importance of the «white gold» in small scale, especially by investing in sustainable local development based on salt and salinas and,

D. diffusion of information, i.e. passing the info – ideas – knowledge produced and experience gained to newcomers and followers of ALAS.



Management

For a better use of human resources dealt in the realisation of the aims of the ALAS Project at the interregional level, a supreme decisional body was set, the **Project Management Committee (PMC)** comprising four voting members, one from each country,

and a few other opted members without vote. Of similar, decisional character were the four **Local Steering Committees (LSC)** functioning at local levels. Of major importance were the 6 **Technical Working Groups (TWG)**, one for every interregional task of ALAS, having scientific and executive cognisance.

it was not earlier than March 2001 the Launching Conference of the project took place in Mytilene. Hence, the effective period available for the project implementation diminished from 36 to ca. 22 months (official end date was December 15, 2002).

The **objectives** of the ALAS Project, to be achieved mainly through a very active networking among the four ALAS sites, have been ambitious since the conception of the project. Principally, the project intended to promote:

A. collaboration among the four sites in order to develop ideas on «how to make it» or even «how to make it better»

The challenges of ALAS

ALAS has been an ECOS-Ouverture project, a project of interregional co-operation. For this reason, one of the most important challenges of the project was to act and create locally and, at the same time, at the interregional level. Indeed, at the

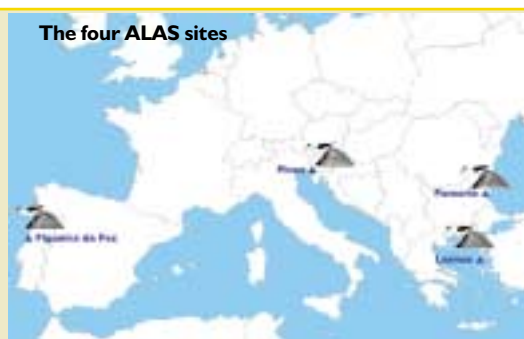
The island of Lesbos, Greece, 90,000 inhabitants, lies in the North East Aegean and is characterised by rural activities (olive oil, fishing, husbandry - mostly sheep and goats). It is famous for its gastronomic delicacies (salted fish, cheese, olive oil and its many varieties of ouzo). Two salinas are in operation. Within ALAS, Lesbos has played the role of the interregional coordinator (project manager) for the whole Project.

Figueira da Foz, 62,000 inhabitants, is located on the west Portuguese coast, at the Mondego Estuary, and is known as an important port for coastal and open sea fisheries. The local salt production was formerly of high importance, but is today declining. Many of the traditional salinas have been transformed into fish farms and the future of those still in operation seems uncertain.

Piran, Slovenia, with 17,000 inhabitants, is located in the narrow coastal strip of northern Istria, in the Adriatic Sea. For ages, salt has been traditionally produced in salinas close to the town. A salt museum was established 10 years ago together with an abandoned salina that was restored inside the Landscape Park (*Ramsar site*).

Pomorie, Bulgaria, lies on the Black Sea coast. The town of the 15,000 inhabitants is an important tourist and health resort. For over thousand years, probably since the antiquity, Pomorie has been a site of salt production, but recently the production has declined.

The four ALAS sites



for a first **systematic study** on the history of salt and salinas (e.g. for Greece). Further, it offered to all the participants many opportunities to share the experience of creating **salt museums** in three ALAS sites, to develop here and there local actions for the **conservation** of cultural and natural heritage. Still, although in some ALAS sites we did not fulfil the pre-set expectations, some of the participants managed to develop somehow a **local concept** on traditional salt, make local people interested in local development based on salt. Yet, it was a great and unforgettable experience to bring together producers of knowledge (University), politicians (local and state authorities), and local people (co-operatives, salters, laymen). At interregional level the challenges were extremely interesting: we learned a lot from each other and, although it remains still a lot to be done in the future, we shared the common experience of carrying out many studies and produce interesting material at interregional level.

A challenge and at the same time a bottleneck, as it is probably the case in most ECOS-OUVERTURE projects, is to pass from theory to implementation by putting together heterogeneous people, and all this in so short time span, that some partner areas cannot afford to keep administrative and

pleasure to collaborate with brilliant exceptions of persons, always informed, elegantly wise to smoothen down troubles.

Theodora Petanidou

Department of Geography,
University of the Aegean, Lesbos

(from the Conference proceedings)

Results in...

... Lesbos

An important local task was the creation of the first Greek **salt museum** in Polichnitos. The restoration works have been carried out under the supervision of the Hellenic Saltworks SA, whereas the initial exhibition has been established by the University of the Aegean.

A consequential part of the project has been **local studies**, e.g. on **ecological management** and **research on the history of salinas and salt-making in Greece**. Even the recent history was quite unknown until now, but many people have largely contributed to the work coordinated by the Department of Geography of the University of the Aegean.

... Figueira da Foz

Among the many things that the local team has made, should be mentioned the **exchanges of**

south of the country, in the Algarve, as well as the **studies** on the **economy and quality of the local salt** that have been produced.

Yet, the most visible ALAS action is the **restoration** of a whole salina, **Corredor da Cobra**, and the **reconstruction** of a totally new –but built in a traditional way– **warehouse**. This complex now



Nature trail around Corredor da Cobra. Photo: Sonia Pinto

operates as an outdoor **eco-museum** with a **nature trail**, although the final museum building is still only on paper.

... Pomorie

In Pomorie the local team has concentrated efforts on the creation of the **Salt Museum** of Pomorie, which opened its doors when the ALAS Project Management Committee met there in September 2002.

The rest of the actions were

especially to extend the tourism period over a longer part of the year, for instance by integrating the salinas in this concept policy. The **ecological management** of the Pomorie Lake has also been an important issue.

Interregional activities

The interregional work, exchanges and collaboration are the basic concepts of an ECOS-Ouverture project.

Due to many problems in the start of the project, we could not hold our first interregional meeting (the **Launching Conference**) until March 2001. That is less than two years ago. Since then, the **Project Management Committee (PMC)** has met at several occasions. During these PMC meetings we went through the work plan, examined the progress on both local and



Breeding platforms in the Secovlje salinas.

interregional levels, took the necessary decisions and used the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences.

Some other main events have also taken place: two **Annual Conferences** (Figueira in September 2001 and Piran in May 2002). These meetings were more enlarged and included many participants, with invited guests from other salt sites, with workshops, lectures and

...Piran

In a general view the results of the project completely met the overall objectives set out in the original application. Awareness raising through exhibitions, printed materials and press conferences, inventory of the cultural heritage, reconstruction works in the salt-fields and in the salt-works infrastructure as well as the reconstruction of the museum and its exhibition and last but not least interregional collaboration between the four principal partners are undoubtedly the principal gains of the implementation of the ALAS project. What makes the said even more important as Piran is concerned is the fact, that the fulfilment of the listed objectives is at the same time in line with the activities foreseen by the management plan for the Secovlje salinas Landscape Park. To be mentioned in the first place, the reconstruction of salt fields, the museum and the pier. Beside the installed collaboration between the ALAS partners is to be mentioned the links put up with the salinas of Guérande. Last but not least, the project indirectly enabled the employment of one person at the museum and increased the opportunity for the salters, gathered in the newly established salters co-operative to actively participate in the process of re-establishing traditional salt production in the Secovlje salt-works.

There is however a minor set of objectives that were somehow harder to achieve or at least hard to completely fulfil. This set of objectives concerns mainly the activities aimed into preparing the local and regional public, associative and private players for EU accession, in particular in terms of EU policies for structural and regional development, the environment, and co-operation with partners in other countries. All this are in fact long-term objectives that can be hardly properly monitored in such a short period of time. This is especially true if we take into account the fact, that due to the delay in signing the Grant Contract, the project lasted only two instead of three years. The other very important factor that influences the fulfilment of the mentioned objectives is the not yet defined and somehow complicated relationships between the state, the municipality of Piran and the company that runs the salt production. The last, *Soline d.o.o.*, changed ownership in 2002. The former owner, the company *Droga d.d.*, sold the subsidiary firm *Soline d.o.o.* to the biggest mobile phone company in Slovenia – *Mobitel d.d.*, which committed itself to re-establish traditional salt production on the whole area of the salt-works.

However, negotiations between the mobile phone company and the state, concerning the management of the Landscape Park and concerning also the salt production are still under way. A draft contract has already been prepared and it is bound to be signed in the beginning of 2003.

In spite of what is said above, the general impression concerning the ALAS project is that it has been a very important and fruitful project. This goes for both the interregional and the local level, although it was evident that it was easier to accomplish the local tasks and somehow harder with the interregional ones. Nevertheless, the tasks were fulfilled, there was and there will be further collaboration between the partners in the project and last but not least, a network of salinas was established under the umbrella of MedWet.

Robert Turk, ALAS project manager in Piran

Interregional publications and other results

The project has produced printed publications: regularly printed **newsletters** that have been sent to over 250 addresses in Europe; several **interregional studies** and **experts' reports** that deal with themes of the ALAS interest; **general leaflets** for both tourists and local inhabitants and some **technical letters**; the ALAS **video** and the ALAS **website**. Further, a **book** on the whole project experience is currently under production in Figueira da Foz and, of course, there will be also the **proceedings** of the Final conference in Lesbos.

After ALAS

It has been challenging to work with interregional co-operation although it is never a very easy task. ALAS has been an important and positive experience for all partners.

What will remain after ALAS? Well, the **publications, books, studies** etc. will of course be useful also in the future. The **video** will most probably be shown in other sites and museums too, the **website** will be largely modified, enriched, and continue to operate permanently also after the project's ending. On the local levels, **salt museums** have been established and will hopefully be important poles for the local communities.

Also the idea of **networks** -like a network between the salt museums and information centres related to salt and salinas- can be developed in the future, because here ALAS was a pioneer. **Nature conservation** linked to salinas, the possibilities of developing **quality labelling** for the salt within the European Union, **historical research**, yes, there are many themes open for future networks, exchange and co-operation.

Hjalmar Dahm

What happened at the Final Conference?

The Final Conference had as central theme "**Salt and salinas as natural resources and alternative poles of local development**". It took place 29 November – 1 December, in Mytilene and in Polichnitos. Invited speakers and specialists came from all over Europe, the debates were of high quality and the conference was a successful way of finishing ALAS "en beauté" with the creation of the new **Mediterranean Salinas Network**.

During the second day, the participants were the first visitors to the salt museum in Polichnitos (see page 8).

The proceedings from the conference will be published in a book.

From the preface of the Conference Proceedings book:

The volume contains the papers of the Conference, in full or short form, the main discussions held during the conference, as well as the final round table comprising the process of setting up the «Mediterranean Salinas Network»; it also includes descriptions of the parallel activities carried out during the Conference. All contents are in the language they were originally spoken during the Conference (English, Greek, French). Despite of the polyglossy, a phenomenon that more and more comes into the Mediterranean and European everyday life, we considered that this was inevitable, because only the maternal language can express both senses and sentiments, something very important in our salty business.



Different types of salt cellars had been made for the conference participants.

*The results presented in the Proceedings, together with many other deliverables of the ALAS Project, aim at providing the basic help to anybody interested in salt and salinas. We hope that these results will be soon exploited and well used by state and local authorities, associations and private bodies interested in local development based on salinas and salt, as well as in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage of the respective areas, especially of traditional salinas. In a way, this book, together with the rest of the ALAS deliverables, is made to propagate the love for salt, the sense of **alonitoi**, so that more people are inspired by the salt essence.*

*The editors
Mytilene, December 2002*

A new salinas network

The MedWet/Salinas network was created at the Final conference of ALAS in December 2002. The participants in the meeting agreed that the effort commenced through this project should be continued in order to conserve, promote and where possible restore the values (environmental, cultural and socio-economic) of Mediterranean salinas, both coastal and inland.

The participants who expressed their willingness to participate in the network proposed its operation under the auspices of **MedWet**, a proposal in line with the decisions of the 4th Mediterranean Wetlands Committee meeting in Sesimbra, Portugal (June 2001). The Medwet/Salinas network members further agreed on the Goal and Objectives of the network presented below. It was finally agreed that the members will participate and contribute to the operation of the network to the extent of their resources and capacity, while in the meantime the network will strive to mobilise new resources for further

projects and activities. A first meeting of the network is planned to take place in spring 2003, most probably in Guérande, France.

If you wish to get more information or to join the MedWet/Salinas network, please contact:

MedWet coordination unit
Spiros Kouvelis
Villa Kazouli
Lambraki & Kifissias
GR-16561 ATHENS
Greece
kouvelis@medwet.org

MedWet/Salinas Network

Goal

To promote the collaboration for the appropriate management of salinas and the salt cycle in the Mediterranean region, for the long-term benefit of the environment, culture and social and economic interest of all stakeholders involved in the salt cycle.

Objective 1

Bring together all stakeholders as equal partners and address ownership issues.

Objective 2

Develop and promote relevant policies and strategies at all appropriate levels (regional, national, local).

Objective 3

Define and implement specific actions and research and documentation to promote sustainable socio-economic development, nature conservation, protection and valuation of cultural wealth of salinas and surrounding areas.

Objective 4

Promote and encourage the restoration of Mediterranean salinas.

Objective 5

Increase public awareness and education for Mediterranean salinas and actively disseminate the results of the network's activities.

Objective 6

Mobilize financial and human resources for the achievement of the network's goal.

A possible network between salt-museums?

In ALAS Newsletter 4 (April 2002) the European museums and information centres that deal with salt and salinas were presented. Prior to that newsletter, a questionnaire had been sent out and most answers indicated an interest for setting up a network between the different salt museums and information centres. Through this network, curators from museums could meet and exchange ideas, new pedagogical material could be developed, exhibitions could be exchanged. Once in full operation, the newborn salt museum in Lesvos could play the role of coordinator.

In the meantime, you can find a revised map of all these structures on page 11. The ALAS website also contains addresses and can help you to find contacts on your own.

Contact :

Hjalmar Dahm
hdahm@geo.aegean.gr

Salty exchanges between schools

Inspired by the ALAS project, the experimental high school of Mytilene has recently started working on an enviro-educational programme "The salt of Lesvos". The students, aged 12-15, would like to come in contact with other schools situated close to salinas. The aim is to create a network of schools throughout the regions of Europe in order to work on the same subject, initiate exchanges of ideas and collaborate through educational programmes, like "Comenius" of the European Union. If you are interested in salinas, their history and culture, their economical and ecological values, please write directly to us:

Vasilis Kontaras, Director
Experimental High School of Mytilene
Dikeli 6
GR-81100 MYTILENE, Greece
neirgvm@aegean.gr

Inland salinas are in danger too

ALAS has dealt with the preservation of coastal salinas. But in the Iberian Peninsula there are also inland salinas. These use brine from salt springs and are of high cultural interest. In order to learn more about inland salinas, we invited Katia Hueso (co-owner of the Salinas of Imon and La Olmeda in central Spain) to come to the Final Conference and make a presentation. Katia is also the president of the association **Friends of Inland Salinas**.



Salina and guardhouse at Imon. Photo by Katia Hueso.

The Cultural Association Friends of Inland Salinas (FIS)

was born in Sigüenza –a mediaeval town in Central Spain that grew in the wake of salt trade– in November 2002. Although FIS was strongly inspired by the presence of the Salinas of Imon and La Olmeda and other lesser saltworks in the close by Salado Valley, its aims is to

reach all inland salinas, everywhere.

We have noted that the problems of inland salinas are very similar, at least in the Iberian Peninsula: stagnated activity due to strong concurrence from the industrial coastal salinas, complex property situation, expensive investments needed for cultural purposes, etc. Therefore, we believe in the strength of cooperation, exchange of know-how and expertise, meetings, conferences, visits to salinas, etc. for the benefit of cultural development also of inland salinas.

As a Non Governmental Organization, we will hold regular meetings, perform activities related to salt in its broadest sense, keep in touch through bulletins, newsletters and a specific website. The first meeting was held in Sigüenza on December 14, attended by over 70 people.

If you are interested, please contact:

Katia Hueso
President

katia@silente.net



By bike on the salt routes

Gilles Dessomme

«By bike on the salt routes» is a project that stems from the discovery of two «pays blancs» in France: the traditional salinas of Guérande in Brittany and the saltworks of Salin de Giraud in Camargue. My experience in the core of these wetlands has definitely convinced me to carry out this project related to the discovery of the saltworks and salinas on the Atlantic and the Mediterranean: a full year for a journey by bike to promote the conservation of these manmade wetlands.

Salinas show that man's activities are not necessarily incompatible with nature conservation. Indeed, when man intended to make profit from natural resources, he built these agrarian landscapes –the salinas– which hold large economic, cultural and ecological values.

During this journey I would like to witness, first hand, the state of solar salinas on the European and Mediterranean coasts during 2003/2004. The objective is not only to show the value of salinas in these regions, but also to promote the exchange of information between the visited sites and to share the accounts of the realities of «salt-life» with photographic portraits and reports. A global approach to these areas will be encouraged: the life of the men, the organisation of their work, the typology of the landscape, the biological values, the evolutions of the salinas. My thirst for discovery is symbolic for a desire of the human encounter: at each step a pause of few days will allow me to share with the salt producers the spellbinding alchemy that makes up the salinas.

g.dessomme@oreka.net

Read his full project presentation in the proceedings from the Final conference or visit his website: www.cheminsdusel.com (scheduled online in March 2003)



Many people had joined up for the first visit to the museum. Nikos Tsarapatsanis, the director of the Hellenic Saltworks, presented the works carried out and Theodora Petanidou, from the University of the Aegean, described the background of the museum and guided the visitors through the exhibition.

On Saturday November 30, over 80 people could be seen on the salina of Polichnitos. They had come to visit the first Greek salt museum. Putting up the museum has not been

SA, owner and manager of the salina. The museum exhibition has been made by the University of the Aegean. It contains information

A new salt museum is born in Lesvos

a mince affair, although the first project dates back many years. Already in 1994, a booklet published by the Hellenic Saltworks SA forwards the possibility to establish "a saltworks museum in Polichnitos on the island of Lesvos (that) is expected to enrich knowledge of the Greek cultural heritage, sustain research and begin attracting an alternative type of tourism to the island" (Petanidou 1994).

In 1998 the question was reiterated in a study ordered by the same company ("Project on the Salinas of Lesvos", Dahm 1998). This study laid the basis for the museum part within the ALAS project.

The new salt museum is now hosted in an old building that was restored during autumn 2002 under the

about salt production in Europe and Greece, the ecological values of salinas and the role of salt museums. A private collection of relevant tools, scale models and images further enrich the museum.

Some restoration works are still due, but the museum will hopefully be fully operational in spring 2003. Already today a high school in Mytilene wants to collaborate with the museum.

Further, the statutes will be discussed between the Hellenic Saltworks, the Prefecture of Lesvos, the University of the Aegean and the Municipality of Polichnitos to clearly define how the museum will operate in the future.

Initial Salt Museum Exhibition List of the posters (90x150 cm) in the Salt Museum of Polichnitos:

1. The ALAS project
2. What is common salt?
3. Techniques of salt-making
4. How a solar salina works
5. Solar coastal salinas
6. Artisanal coastal salinas
7. Collecting salt on rocks
8. Salt-making sites in Greece
9. Historical dimension of salt-making in Greece
10. Making salt in the mangrove
11. The ecological value of salinas
12. Birds in the salinas
13. Salt museums

Two more posters will be ready for spring 2003.

The exhibition also contains objects and scale models linked to salt production.



Some of the posters in the museum.



First visitors to the museum.

Order the ALAS publications

You can now order most of the publications that have been produced through ALAS by using the order form below.

Please note that we have a limited number of copies, so we might not be able to fulfill all demands. Salt museums, institutions, local authorities and other



organizations will be given priority. Please be patient too, because we might not be able to send out all material immediately after your order has reached us. Some publications are already available and can easily be downloaded through the website and we are currently working on adding more. Studies and experts' reports will only be available through the website.

PMC meeting

The Project Management Committee is ALAS's supreme decisional body. Its last meeting was held just after the Final conference, on December 2nd, in the new buildings of the University. The meeting was attended by *Marco di Martino* from the European Commission. Project managers and accountants went through the last developments and drew the conclusions of the project. Generally, the project was resented as very positive on all sites. Or as *Sonia Pinto*, project manager in Figueira, expressed it: "*ALAS has been precious for the local community. People, schools and institutions got much more interested in the preservation of the salinas*".

The ultimate work of the PMC is now to present the final technical and financial reports to the European Commission before the end of March 2003.

Order form

- Salt and salinas of the Mediterranean (**ALAS video**, English version) by Hjalmar Dahm and Theodora Petanidou
- Idem (Greek version)
- Series of previous **Newsletters** (some issues are out of print, though)
- **Technical Letters**
- Ecological management plans: guidelines for drafting and implementation, by Rui Rufino, Andrej Sovinc and Hjalmar Dahm
- Restoration and upgrading of traditional salinas, by Renato Neves and Peter Derzek
- Traditional saltworks and tourism: a practitioners guide, by Rayna Mitkova-Todorova
- Saltworks, Cultural Heritage and Local Development: arguments for decision-making, by Theodora Petanidou and Lena Vayanni
- Marketing of traditionally produced salt: a practitioners guide, by Hjalmar Dahm
- Training of salters: guidelines and general material, by Flavio Bonin and Hjalmar Dahm
- Salt museums and the compilation of traditional salt-knowledge: experiences and tips, by Zora Zagar and Eda Bencic-Mohar
- **General Leaflets**
- Serie of 6 General Leaflets on the following themes: Traditional saltworks in southern Europe, The salter's profession, Traditionally produced salt, Traditional production of salt, Discovering traditional saltworks, Traditional production of salt and its culture.
(Authors: Theodora Petanidou, Renato Neves, Hjalmar Dahm and Lena Vayanni)
- **Final publication** by Sonia Pinto and Renato Neves (editors)
- **Proceedings** from the Final Conference, edited by Theodora Petanidou, Lena Vayanni, Hjalmar Dahm

Exhibition of photos & installations

The first Greek photo and art exhibition on salt and salinas was held during the ALAS Final Conference, at the Chamber of Lesvos. Seven photographers and artists participated in the exhibition. All of them live and create in Greece, being fascinated by salt, capturers of the light playing with the crystals. Like all true «salt-lovers», they are attracted by the magic salt substance, each one at different times and under different conditions.

This was a first step, and it can be renewed through the Salt Museum of Polichnitos.

Contributors to the exhibition:

Spyros Meletzis is a true lover of the Greek landscape, fascinated by the salt caryatids of Lefkada.

Gösta Hellner, photographer at the German Archaeological School in Athens for 23 years, is also a painter and an installation artist. He photographed the saltworks of Anavyssos the year before it closed.



The exhibition had a great affluence.

Yannis Karanikolas lives in Lesvos. The salt from Kalloni stretches without limits beyond his lens, so that he can map trips of life on its crust.

Giorgos Kokosoulas from the saline town of Messolonghi took the last views of manual work in the saltworks of Greece, namely those of Tourlis.

For **Christos Kazolis** salt is related to Limnos island, particularly its natural salt lake. He is the

photographer of colour.

Hjalmar Dahm has missed few salinas in his travels. Photography for him is not only art: it is a technique for documenting and a proposal for conservation.

In Messolonghi, **Vaggelis Rombolas** paints the colors of the lagoon on the immense white of salt: simple as the primary material he uses, charmingly complex as the lagoon he addresses.

Expéditeur

Name:

Function/Institution:

Postal Address:

Post code:

Country:

Email:

Stamp

To:

University of the Aegean
Department of Geography/Th. Petanidou
Xenia
GR-81100 MYTILENE

GRECE

Coastal salinas of Europe



Both maps by Hjalmar Dahm

European salt museums and information centres



International salt pan meeting in Northwich September 25-29, 2003

The Lion Salt Works Trust is restoring a nineteenth century open pan salt works which was operational between 1894 and 1986. As our development work proceeds we have been experimenting with historic salt pans. We have a lead salt pan and a replica iron pan based on Agricola's engravings.

We would like to encourage exchange of ideas and collaboration between other sites which already display working salt pans, or have been engaged in archaeological experiments or public demonstration of brine evaporation.

The meeting is being called to exchange ideas and practical experiences of brine evaporation

through all periods and cultures with others engaged in practical work to test theories, replicate processes and how these can be presented to the public.

Participants may be individuals, from museums, archaeologists, chemists, potters, saltworks.

Please contact me if you are interested in receiving further information.

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www.lionsaltworkstrust.co.uk

www.alas.gr or www.aegean.gr/alas/general.htm

The ALAS website will continue operating even after the project's end. We find it important not to lose all information gathered in the site. It will also be updated and new material, especially the ALAS publications, will be inserted.

The website is further a platform to use for future networks around salt and salinas.

The ALAS websites also invites you to discover other sites. Some examples of links:

www.marais-salant.com

www.zoutmuseum.nl

www.salcardona.com

www.insula.org

www.ramsar.org

www.medwet.gr

www.pomorie.com



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Calendar for coming salty events

First meeting of the MedWet/Salinas
Network, spring 2003

More information:
kouvelis@medwet.org

Salt meeting (theme: salt pans) in
Northwich, UK, 25-29 September 2003

More information:
afielding@lionsalt.demo.co.uk

Interdisciplinary conference "Sel de la
Baie et ses concurrents" in Nantes,
France, 16 - 18 September 2004

More information:
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All photos in this issue: Hjalmar Dahm (if not indicated other).

Drawing on page 1 by **Mperoch**: The brine shrimp *Artemia salina* lives exclusively in very salt water and is found in large numbers in all salinas, up to 100.000 individuals per m³ in optimal conditions. *Artemia* is eaten by most waterbirds. The illustrated specimen is an adult male (6-9 mm long).

Direct email to ALAS: alas@otenet.gr

