



Trans Adriatic  
Pipeline

# TAP respects the Greek land hosting the pipeline



The Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) traverses 550km of Greek soil. For its construction, access is needed for about 10,200 land plots. Except for 51 land plots to be used for building the pipeline's above-ground facilities, i.e. the compressor station and block-valve stations, **this access will be temporary.**

This means that, with the exception of these 51 cases, **there will be no purchase of land plots** along TAP's route, only easement and **use of land** for the time necessary to conclude construction. Subsequently, the **land is returned** to its owners and users, **after being reinstated** to its former condition.

During this process, TAP supports affected land owners or users **before the beginning of construction, during the implementation of works and after the return of their land.**

## BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

### 1. Registry for recording land plots and property titles

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TAP established special cadastral offices in all project-affected areas to identify:

- the land affected by the construction of the pipeline
- the land's owners/users

At these offices, TAP's contractors researched, recorded for the first time or updated cadastral data regarding the ownership and use of each plot.

### 2. Accelerating procedure for judicial recognition of compensation beneficiaries

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For the people who are willing to enter into agreement with TAP and give the Project access to their land, but cannot do so due to legal barriers (e.g. lack of necessary paperwork and documentation), TAP accelerates the process of their judicial recognition.

Once the relevant court decision that recognises the beneficiaries is issued, **they can collect their compensation from the Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund** to which it has been deposited.

## DURING CONSTRUCTION

### 1. Land Parcel Preparation Programme

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This programme ensures that all parcels affected by construction, particularly those previously cultivated with annual and/or perennial crops, are properly reinstated to at least their pre-project state.

#### 1.1 Soil analyses

In order to do that, TAP has commissioned pre-construction soil analyses to be conducted by the Agricultural University of Athens, which:

- maps agricultural land along the pipeline route
- evaluates soil quality for the cultivation of crops
- recommends measures for the improvement of the soil's chemical and natural content

A copy of the soil analysis report is shared with land owners/users, along with an invitation to discuss with the specialist team:

- the findings of the study
- recommendations for enhancing the fertility of their parcel and improving irrigation (if applicable)
- other best practices to improve the production and added value of their crops

## 1.2 Free provision of fertilisers

**All project-affected growers**, owners and users of land, will receive from TAP fertilisers **for free**. These fertilisers will be of the appropriate type, as per the soil analysis recommendations, and in quantities corresponding to the portion of their land that is affected by the project.

## 2. Perennial Crop Grower Programme

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For parcels containing perennial crops/fruit trees, particularly, TAP has designed and implements a series of mitigation measures in order to restore and –where possible– improve the livelihoods of cultivators; because according to Greek legislation and safety regulations, no deep-rooted plants are allowed within Zone A of the pipeline, i.e. 4 metres on either side of it

### 2.1 Compensations

**Owners of land containing perennial crops/trees receive cash compensations** for the affected crops/trees at full replacement value, which takes into consideration the type, yield, age, life cycle and market price of the crops/trees, as well as production costs. Project-affected persons are also compensated, inter alia, for the temporary use of their land during construction and monitoring.

### 2.2 Free provision of seedlings

Replacement **trees are provided for free** for all the perennial crop cultivators affected by the project within Zone A, along with management advice for their proper growth.

### 2.3 Consultations with specialists

On top of receiving the soil analysis of their land parcel and recommendations from specialists on fertility, project-affected persons with perennial crops/trees are also given the opportunity to receive consultation on:

- viable planting alternatives within the 8-meter Safety Zone
- ways to enhance the productive value of the unaffected portions of their land parcels

## 3. Financial management training programme

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In collaboration with Deloitte, TAP organised eight financial management training workshops in different communities along the pipeline route between April and July 2017. All households affected by TAP's land easement and acquisition process were invited. The following topics were discussed:

- family budgeting and domestic economics
- savings and investment options
- agricultural insurance
- taxes and tariffs

More seminars will be organised in the future.

## 4. "THRIVING LAND": Agri-food education support programme

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TAP, in collaboration with the Bodossaki Foundation, the American Farm School of Thessaloniki and the Institute of Applied Biosciences of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, implements the agricultural initiative "**THRIVING LAND | Supporting Agri-food Education.**" The initiative is part of the project's voluntary Social and Environmental Investments (SEI) programme, implemented across all three Regions of Northern Greece traversed by the pipeline.

The investment pertains to educational and biotechnological activities, aiming to **support the cultivation, marketing, and sale of agri-food products or varieties**, locally produced along TAP' route. In the wider Kavala area, the project focuses on beekeeping and will be implemented until late 2019.

# AFTER CONSTRUCTION

## 1. Land reinstatement

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TAP has already started the reinstatement process in almost half of its 550km route. Reinstatement follows strict international standards and includes:

- backfilling and compacting the trench.
- restoring the Right of Way to its original condition.
- evenly respreading the topsoil, the most productive and fertile soil, on the ground's surface.
- undertaking revegetation programs in more challenging areas, such as steep slopes.
- monitoring land productivity for 3 years after the parcel has been returned to its owner/user.
- remediation, if necessary, to address any project-related impacts on land parcel productivity.

## 2. Return of land to its lawful owners/users

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Upon the conclusion of construction and the reinstatement of the temporarily accessed land, TAP's contractors invite land owners/users to inspect their reinstated plots. **The land hand-back process is complete once the Land Exit Protocol is signed**, confirming that the project-affected person is satisfied with the reinstatement.



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