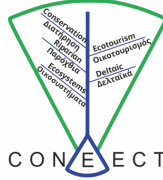




United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



- UNESCO Chair on Conservation and Ecotourism of Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems
- Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMaTTech), Greece

UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect

UNESCO Con-E-Ect SDGs\*:

- > 3. Good Health and Well-being
- > 4. Quality Education
- > 6. Clean Water and Sanitation
- > 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- > 13. Climate Action
- > 15. Life on Land
- > 17. Partnerships for the Goals

## "Trans-European Network for Coordination, Education & Training for Natural Disasters & Technological Risk Mitigation"

by Dimitrios Emmanouloudis



Christos Stylianidis

On October 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at the International Hellenic University in Kavala, GREECE, the Workshop "Trans-European Network for Coordination, Education & Training for Natural Disasters & Technological Risk Mitigation", was held. The above workshop was organized by the UNESCO Chair CON-E-ECT, the laboratory of informatics AETMA, and the MSc Programme "Analysis and Management of Natural and Manmade Disasters." The workshop was attended by the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, the DG ECHO Director, Felix Bloch, the General Secretary of Greek Civil Protection authority, Nikos Chardalias,

as well representatives from Universities and Civil Protection authorities from Southern Europe, Israel, and Australia. The issues discussed by the delegates, were the cooperation of the South-Eastern European countries and those in the broader Neighborhood area, on the prevention of hazards



Conference participants

and the awareness and preparedness of the inhabitants of the participating countries. This cooperation is to be implemented through the creation of a Network consisting of both Academic Institutions and Civil Protection authorities of the countries of the region and dedicated civil society organizations and market practitioners. The city of Kavala was proposed to be the first hub of this Network. The Network that will strive to disseminate good practices and research produced by Universities in the field of natural disasters, technological hazards and their associated effects on humans and the environment, often in direct relation to climate change, as well as in the field of internal and external security, migration and extremism challenges faced today by Europe, the wider Mediterranean area. Network members will benefit from the operational experience and expertise from national civil protection authorities and dedicated civil society organizations and market practitioners. The Network will be supported by funding from EU funds and other international organizations, such as the United Nations.

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Dimitrios Emmanouloudis

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

15 LIFE ON LAND

13 CLIMATE ACTION

\* SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals



## First International Conference of UNESCO Chairs

by George N. Zaimes

George Zaimes was invited to participate and present in the First International Conference of UNESCO Chairs “Linking education, transdisciplinarity and international partnership – UNESCO Chairs for a sustainable future.” The conference was organized by the UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurship and Intercultural Management, University of Wuppertal, GERMANY, in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. The event was hosted in Wuppertal, GERMANY Decem-



Conference Participants

ber 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. During the meeting George presented a poster on the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect titled “Mapping sustainability for riparian areas, deltas & humans.” In this poster the current activities of the Cahir were described. In addition, George presented the Best Practice Sessions.



Workshop Panel

Specifically, he presented “WaSec - Innovative Educational Tools for the Sustainable Water Management and Water Security in the Eastern Mediterranean.” The



George N. Zaimes

WaSec project brings together and strengthens the cooperation between companies and universities through the development of new courses in Water Resources Management, while taking into



consideration potential climate change impacts, with adaptive learning and teaching methods for the Eastern Mediterranean region. The lessons learned from this interna-



Workshop Group

tional project that are applicable in other similar project. Overall many contacts with other Chairs in similar scientific fields were made in order to establish new future collaborations among the UNESCO community.

## Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances Meeting & European University Business Forum

by George N. Zaimes

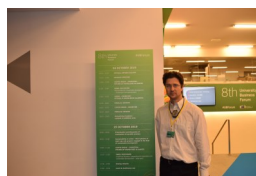


Workshop Group

George Zaimes was invited to participate in the Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances Thematic Cluster Meeting on University-Business Cooperation on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Brussels, BELGIUM. He was invited to represent the Knowledge Alliance project “Specialization process for the ecoengineering sector in the Mediterranean environment. Generation of the necessary feedback between enterprises and universities in a changing climate environment (ECOMED)” and discuss with other representatives from other Knowledge Alliance



Conference Participants



George N. Zaimes



projects how this EU program can be improved in the future.

George also participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> European University Business Forum that was held in Brussels, BELGIUM on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The Forum brought together policymakers, representatives from higher education, business and other stakeholders to discuss and debate the role of university-business cooperation for innovation and sustainable development. It provided a unique opportunity to discuss, share experience, exchange of good practices, networking and mutual learning.

## UNESCO Chair on World Heritage & Biosphere Reserve Observation & Education

by George N. Zaimes

George Zaimes visited the UNESCO Chair on World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve Observation and Education that is located at the Heidelberg University of Education in GERMANY on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The purpose of the Chair in Heidelberg is to promote an integrated system of research and its application, training and education, based on modern geo-information technologies and geo-ecological methods, in order to analyze, model and visualize environmental changes at UNESCO designated sites. During the visit George presented the past and current projects of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect, while members of UNESCO Chair in Heidelberg presented their projects. George also visited the GIS-Station and Geco-Lab of Heidelberg Univ. of Education. George had discussion with Prof. Alexander Siegmund, the Chair, and Dr. Tobias Matusch, the Executive Manager of the UNESCO-Chair. After these discussion it was clear that potential collaborations should be expected because of the complementarity of the two UNESCO Chairs.



A. Siegmund

T. Matusch



Alexander Siegmund



George N. Zaimes



Heidelberg UNESCO GIS-Station





# The future of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean in the context of Climate Change: A UNESCO perspective

by Valasia Iakovoglou

climate change education and ESD can contribute to changing minds on

Jonathan Baker, the Head UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe Unit



climate in the region; and g) identify key issues, challenges, and partners to



George Zaimas press conference

be involved in developing a project proposal to support UNESCO sites in the region as they adapt to the new realities brought about by climate change. Valasia and George learned on what UNESCO future efforts on climate mitigation intend to be in the Mediterranean, and also established new contact of UNESCO Chairs and Sites that should lead to future collaborations.

Valasia Iakovoglou and George Zaimas from the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect were selected to participate in conference title “The future of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean in the context of Climate Change: a UNESCO perspective” that was held in Venice, ITALY, 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Some of the aims of



and world heritage properties located close to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to discuss the cooperative efforts and potential synergies; c) share knowledge, best practices and lessons learned on wa-



Valasia Iakovoglou & George Zaimas

the UNESCO conference were to: a) highlight challenges and problems Mediterranean sites are facing in relation with climate changes, exchanges between on



Valasia Iakovoglou presented the results of working group



Greek delegates

which are the main strategies and actions they are carrying out; b) provide a venue for MAB biosphere reserves, geoparks

ter and ocean governance and climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean region; d) Identify means to support UNESCO sites, notably through UNESCO programs such as IHP and IOC and MAB in being effective in better adapting to climate change; e) Strengthen UNESCO’s regional network of stakeholders of experts working in climate related areas, notably those working in, with or for UNESCO sites; f) explore how

## Virtual School

by Avgoustos Tsinakos



Avgoustos Tsinakos

The Virtual School aimed to educate students on how to deal with natural disasters and to protect them from such hazards by using Mixed Reality technologies, and to be trained on the use of three-digit emergency numbers. Students are asked to build a 3D model of their school, and use cutting-edge technologies (Augmented Reality) to train in dealing with natural disasters (earthquake, flood, fire, injury, etc.). The pilot implementation of the action (September 15<sup>th</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019) aimed to create a network of 10 innovative schools, with a focus on isolated and remote schools in Greece and Cyprus. The pilot action, which ran voluntarily and involved 13 teachers and 182 students.

This action was implemented by UNESCO Chair CONEECT, the MSc Program Analysis and Management of Manmade and Natural Disasters and the Research Laboratory AETMA and presented on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019, at the Workshop “Establishing a Trans-European Coordination, Education and Training Network to Tackle Natural Disasters and Technological Hazards”.



Virtual Meeting



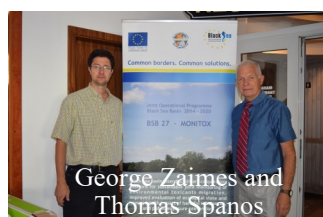
Participants



## MONITOX International Symposium “Deltas and Wetlands”

by George N. Zaimes

George Zaimes and Thomas Spanos participated in the International Symposium “Deltas and Wetlands” that was held in Tulcea, ROMANIA, September 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. George Zaimes was an **invited lecturer** and presented the “WaSec – Innovative Educational Tools for the Sustainable Management of Semi-Aquatic Ecosystems to



George Zaimes and Thomas Spanos



Conference Participants

Promote Water Security in the Eastern Mediterranean.” In addition, the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect had two poster presentations a) “Assessing and Restoring Urban Riparian Areas to Improve the Quality of Life of Urban Dwellers” and b) “Detecting Riverbank Changes with Remote Sensing Tools. Case study: Aggitis River in Greece.” During the second day of the confer-

ence, the participants had the chance to visit the Danube Delta. This Delta is the best preserved in Europe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and designated as a Man and Biosphere Reserve and a Ramsar Wetland signifying its ecological importance. This Symposium was part of the Black Sea Project with the code BSB27 and titled “Black Sea Basin interdisciplinary cooperation network for sustainable joint monitoring of environmental toxicants migration, improved evaluation of ecological state and human health impact of harmful substances, and public exposure prevention – MONITOX.” The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is participating in the research project.



George Zaimes



Danube Delta



## Australian Researchers guest lecture at the Man & Water MSc

by Kostas Krikopoulos & Kostas Kalaitzis

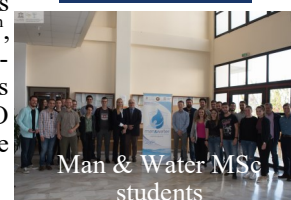


Garry Stevens



Spyros Schismenos

Dr Garry Stevens, a Senior Lecturer and Course Advisor in the Humanitarian and Development Studies (HADS) Program at Western Sydney University presented the topic “Managing human factors for best-practice flood evacuation” to the students of the Man and Water Msc program. In addition, Spyros Schismenos a PhD student at Western Sydney University present part of his dissertation work “Hydropower for Disaster Resilience Applications (HYDRA).” The presentations took place at the School of Geotechnical Sciences November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. After the presentation there was a fruitful discussion among Garry, Spyros and MSc students on Natural Disasters. Finally, Dimitris Emmanouloudis showed the offices and laboratories of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect and discussed potential collaborations between the Chair and Western Sydney University.



Man & Water MSc students

## International Conference on Climate Change & Forestry

by George N. Zaimes



George N. Zaimes

George Zaimes participated at the International Conference on Climate Change and Forestry (ICCCF 2019), that was hosted by the Foresters’ Association of Turkey (FAOT) in Beldibi/Antalya, TURKEY, from 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. More than 100 delegates, including key opinion leaders and scientists from the disciplines of forestry, climate change, and related fields, presented the recent advances on the topic of forestry and climate change. George presented “Riparian Areas as a Tool to Mitigate Climate Change Impacts in Urban Settings: The Case Study of Drama City, Greece.” This is part of the project that is funded by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the implementation of the “Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Municipality of Drama” of the R.O.P. A.M.T. 2014-2020. UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is participating in this project



Conference Participants



Prof. Sezgin Özden, the Conference Chair





**Innovations in Water Education Programs: Enhancing Water Security and Socio-economic Development in the Eastern Mediterranean under Climate Change**

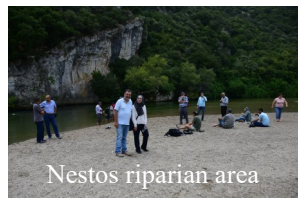
By Valasia Iakovoglou and Olga Papantsiou

This project will bring together and strengthen the cooperation between companies and universities through the development of new courses in Water Resources Management, while taking into consideration potential climate change impacts, with adaptive learning and teaching methods for the Eastern Mediterranean region. It should lead to a new culture of working relationships among universities and enterprises that will allow universities their better integration within the larger society. In addition, true collaborative efforts with enterprises will provide students support from practical placement, entrepreneurship and employability that will allow graduates to develop capacities that guaranty greater success when joining the labor market. Finally, new and innovative learning and pedagogical approaches will be implemented to offer high quality education and graduates with a cultural, environmental and social identity that utilize water resources sustainability assuring its future while also incorporating climate change impacts. This project that is co-funded by the ERASMUS + Programme of the European Union and for more information check the website: [wasec.just.edu.jo](http://wasec.just.edu.jo), twitter: @CoWasec and Facebook: WaSec Co-Funded by Erasmus+.



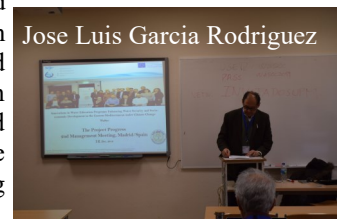
**First Management and Technical Meeting**

The first Management Meeting of the WaSec project was held in Kavala, GREECE, September 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Meeting was organized by the International Hellenic University (IHU) (formely T.E.I. Anatolikis Makedonias and Thrakis / EMaTTech). The key players in organizing and hosting this meeting were George Zaimes, Olga Papantsiou, Giorgos Gkiatas, Anastasia Savvopoulou and Valasia Iakovoglou (members of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect). All partners participated in the three-day meeting. During the first day of the meeting the Lead partner of each workpackage presented the accomplished deliverables but also the upcoming deliverables that need to be implemented. All partners agreed that major efforts are required in order to accomplish the deliverables. The second day included field visits to areas where integrated water resources management is implemented. Specifically, the participants visited the Nestos River Delta and Gorge. Both sites are protected by National and International agreements (e.g. Natura 2000 and Ramsar Convention) because of their unique hydrologic conditions and high biodiversity. Both sites have high ecotouristic value. One of the major concerns of the Delta are the impacts of upstream dams that have enhanced coastal erosion and seawater intrusion. During the field visit the participants evaluated on how a course with hydrological and ecological fieldwork in river systems could be taught. During the last day the Steering, Scientific and Quality Committee and Subproject Working Group had meetings.



**Second Management and Technical Meeting**

The second Management and Technical Meeting was held in Madrid, SPAIN in December 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, hosted by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and organized by Jose Luis Garcia Rodrigues and Martin Gimenez. All partners, participated and during the first day of the meeting the progress of each workpackage was presented. During the second day a workshop was held where public authorities and private companies presented on sustainable water management practices in Spain and the Eastern Mediterranean. Specifically, Fernando Magdaleno from the *Ministry for the Ecological Transition*, Leonor Rodríguez and Miguel Marchamalo from the *UPM Water Alliance*, Enrique Fernández Escalante, José María González Ortega and Eduardo Pastor from *Grupo Tragsa*, Natalia Garcia Estevez/ Carolina Ferrandis Pomés from *Acciona* and Subhi Samhan from the *Palestinian Water Authority*. From the workshop new working relationships were established with public authorities and private companies that work in water management. In addition, these organizations could provide examples of successful water management for the course modules of the WaSec project while also providing feedback the applicability of the modules.



We're on the Web!

<http://unescochair.teiimt.gr/>

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Wave running – Run for clean beaches

by Anastasia Savvopoulou  
& Georgios Gkiatas

The 6<sup>th</sup> WAVE running event took place on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from Keramoti to Avdera city, GREECE. The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect and the Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) were some of the sponsors of the event. Four graduate students from the MSc program Man & Water that is under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect, Anastasia Savvopoulou, Valantis Kiosses, Ilias Germatzidis and Georgios Gkiatas were there as volunteers to help accomplish the three main goals of the race which are: a) promote the natural and cultural wealth of the region, b) enhance environmental awareness and c) strengthening sport tourism and ecotourism. The main motto of the race was: Run for clean beaches. This is a serious problem in Greek beaches that have thousand of tourists every summer along its sea-



6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



coast. The WAVE running contest consists of three races: 5km, 10km and 28km, which are conducted on the sand, along the coast, giving the athletes the opportunity to race while enjoying the sea breeze of the Thracian Sea! It is considered a special event, on a European level, due to the exceptional natural surrounding where it is conducted. The 28 km sandy beach, the waves, the riverside (riparian) forest as well as the estuary of Nestos River are unique and aesthetically pleasing ecosystems that are protected by International Treaties (Ramsar Convention and Natura 2000). For more information about the race you can visit the following link <http://www.waverunning.gr/index.php?language=en>

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Editor: George N. Zaimes

Co-Editor: Georgios Gkiatas

“The long-term objective of the UNESCO Chair on “Conservation and Ecotourism of Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems” is to create a Common Strategy Framework that will govern the protection, study, development and ecotourism of deltaic and

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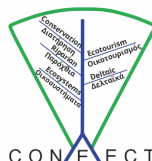
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