

UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect gets... connected!

Establishment of UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect

We are delighted to announce that the UNESCO Chair on Conservation and Ecotourism in Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems (Con-E-Ect) has been established in the Department

programme involves 700 institutions in 116 countries.

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is located in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, a region of

findings, training and awareness-raising activities addressed to various target groups, so that, finally, all stakeholders will harmonize their actions towards the sustainable management of the riparian and deltaic ecosystems via the development of ecotourism.

The creation of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect, dealing with crucial humanity issues, will be of immense importance not only for the Balkan region, but also for the international scientific community.

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect will be involved in actions regarding the education, scientific research, institutional development, as well as it will offer scholarships to students and visiting professors. Each implementation is based on the following four Axes:

- Research
- Conservation-Sustainability
- Dissemination-Education-Training
- Best Practices

Last but not least, it should be mentioned that the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is the first Chair in Greece awarded to an Educational Institute outside Athens or Thessaloniki (located in a rural area).

The inauguration event in Drama.



of Forestry and Natural Environment Management of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology in Drama.

The UNESCO Chairs Programme was first established in 1992 following the relevant decision of the General Conference of UNESCO taken at its 26th session. The program was conceived as a way to advance research, training and programme development in higher education by building university networks and encouraging inter-university cooperation through transfer of knowledge across borders. As of end of 2013, the Pro-

a unique -in Europe- ecosystem which spreads over an area of 200 km and comprises five major riparian and deltaic ecosystems.

The objective of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is to join forces with national, regional and international stakeholders, in order to elaborate an International Common Strategy Framework for the Conservation and Ecotourism of Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems.

The Framework's targets will be accomplished through promotion of research by collecting and assessing data, dissemination of research

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

* SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals



Photos from the workshop.



**17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS**



**"We approve
the objectives
of the Con-E-
Ect UNESCO
Chair and
declare our
intention to
work together
to achieve its
objectives"**

1st Workshop of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect

The new UNESCO Chair in Greece "Conservation and Ecotourism in Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems" (Con-E-Ect) held its first public event last Saturday 17/09 at the premises of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology.

The -first of its kind in the Balkans- UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect aims to join forces with national, regional and international stakeholders to elaborate an International Common Strategy Framework for conservation and ecotourism for riparian and deltaic ecosystems.

The first workshop of the Con-E-Ect UNESCO Chair, coordinated by the Chairholder Prof. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis, was held with the participation of many scientists and representatives of institutions, associations and groups from Eastern Macedonia (mostly from the prefectures of Kavala, Drama) and representatives of UNESCO Serres Group, as well as regional and local councilors in our region, aiming to present the Chair's

objectives and to address an open call for collaboration in order to achieve these goals.

The Chairholder, Prof. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis, the Executive Secretary Dr. Maria Roussi and the Technical Advisor to the Chair, George Pashalidis, presented in detail the objectives and priorities of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect. The forthcoming research and the results will not only appeal to the region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (which will operate essentially as a "laboratory" for the Chair), but aspire to reach an international level.

The first workshop of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect was organized in groups of representatives of institutions and scientists / researchers who participated in the event and discussed the perspectives of the Chair and the activities to be developed over the next years to achieve its objectives. The conclusions were presented by the coordinator of each working group and at the end all the attendees synthesized the Declaration of

Principles of the Chair, stating among others that:

"We believe that the existing environmental protection status quo may trigger the activation lever of local people in order to increase employment in the fields of research, environment, culture and ecotourism and on the long-term improve the health and living standards generally.

We approve the objectives of the Con-E-Ect UNESCO Chair and declare our intention to work together to achieve its objectives, contributing to the creation of the Common Strategy International Framework for conservation and ecotourism of riparian and deltaic ecosystems.

We hope and believe that this strategic plan is a guide for other regions of the world with similar characteristics."

**Conservation and
Ecotourism in
Riparian and Deltaic
Ecosystems
(Con-E-Ect)**



Participants of the scientific meeting in Drama.



1st Meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs

by George N. Zaimes

The 1st Meeting with UNESCO Chairs from the Balkan Peninsula was hosted in Kavala, Greece on November 8th 2016. This meeting was convened at the initiative of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO together with the newly established Chair Con-E-Ect. The general theme of the meeting was the role of UNESCO Chairs in promoting the Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021 of UNESCO in the Balkan Peninsula. The meeting had four different sessions with different thematic axes: a) Diversity of expressions / Access to information and knowledge / heritage, b) Life-Long Learning / Education for All / Global Citizens, c) Scientific Cooperation and d) Connecting Chairs. The meeting was led by Philippe Pyaert the "Programme Specialist - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe" and two representative members of the UNESCO

chair Con-E-Ect, Maria Roussi and George N. Zaimes. Representative from the following Balkan UNESCO chairs attended the meeting: i) Chair for Entrepreneurial Studies (Serbia), ii) Chair on Solid Earth Physics & Geohazards Risk Reduction (Greece), iii) Chair on Cultural Policy and Management - Interculturalism and Mediation in the Balkans (Serbia), iv) Chair in Quality Management of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Romania), v) Chair of Intercultural Policy for an active citizenship and solidarity (Greece), vi) Chair in Intercultural Studies and Research (FYROM), vii) Chair in Entrepreneurship Education (Croatia), viii) Chair on Open Technologies for OER and Open Learning (Slovenia), ix) Chair on ICTs in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage (Bulgaria), x) Chair on Natural Hazards on the Geosphere, the Hydrosphere

and the Atmosphere (Greece), xi) Chair for Business Administration (Romania), xii) Chair for Business Administration (Turkey) and xiii) Chair on Sustainable Management of Water and Conflict Resolution. The meeting ended with a plenary session where the results were presented. Overall the possibility of cooperation aspects between the Chairs and how to enhance the collaboration among the different chairs in Balkans was discussed extensively. Significant improvements in regards to future collaborations are expected that should help promote the Medium Term Strategy. Finally it was agreed that meetings will be held annually by a different chair. Specifically the next meeting will be held in Bucharest, Romania, at the invitation of the UNESCO Chair for Business Administration.



The participants of the meeting.

"1st meeting of Balkan UNESCO Chairs: the role of UNESCO Chairs in promoting the Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021 in the Balkan peninsula"

Scientific Meeting on Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems

by George N. Zaimes

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect organized the scientific meeting entitled "Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems: Practice and Management Perspectives for Sustainable Development." The meeting was held in Drama, Greece on November 7th 2016 at the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management, EMaTtech. The meeting was very successful since it was attended by more than 300 people. The purpose of the meeting was to present the current state of art in regards to the sustainable management of riparian and deltaic ecosystems world-

wide. Those ecosystems provide numerous services valuable to humans, but at the same time are very fragile, mainly due to the many anthropogenic activities they have endured for thousands of years as well as the potential climate change implications. In the scientific meeting, Philippe Pyaert the "Programme Specialist - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe" presented the UNESCO Programme "Man and the Biosphere, (MAB)" and how it has been applied in Mediterranean deltaic ecosystems. Michael Scoullas, the "UNESCO

Chair for SD Management and Education in the Mediterranean and Chair of the Greek National Commission of MAB UNESCO" presented on how the Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) can be used for the sustainable management of riparian and deltaic systems. Two of the presenters were renowned professors from Universities from the United States. Specifically, Nick Katopodes, Professor from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Michigan, presented on the active control of watershed dynamics and Richard C. Schultz, Professor

from the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University, presented on the need of riparian buffers in maintaining surface water quality. Finally, two representatives of the UNESCO chair Con-E-Ect, Valasia Iakovoglou and George N. Zaimes presented on how ecotourism can be used as a tool for sustainable management and the connections between riparian and deltaic ecosystems with climate change, respectively. Finally proceedings based on the presentation of the scientific meeting were also produced and are freely available at the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect website.

We're on the Web!

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

UNESCO Chair
Con-E-Ect

"The aim of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect is to collaborate and join forces with national, regional and international stakeholders in order to create an international framework of common strategy for the conservation of riparian and deltaic Ecosystems worldwide."



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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