

# Con-E-Ect at the UNESCO General Conference in Paris

## Important meetings at the UNESCO premises during the conference

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect was represented at UNESCO's recent General Conference in Paris by the Chairholder, prof. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis, as a member of the National Delegation. Other National Delegations, Heads of States, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Ministers of Education from 168 member states were also present.

During the conference a new UNESCO General Secretary was elected, while a vast array of parallel activities and sessions took place, like the member states Ministers of Education meeting. During those sessions, topics about good and/or innovative practices were discussed, which UNESCO has the capability to suggest the best of them to the governments.

In addition, Prof. Emmanouloudis, along with the President of the Greek National Committee, A. Tzitzikosta, participated in the anniver-

sary workshop organised at the General Conference premises. The workshop celebrated the 25 years anniversary of the UNESCO Chairs initiative.

Moreover, the Chairholder, accompanied by the Donations and Grants Consultant, had a meeting with the Head of the

Administrative Sector of UNESCO Chairs, Ms Liliana Simionescu. During the meeting, they discussed issues regarding the Chair's operation, while there was also a brief meeting with Dr. Qian Tang, Assistant-Director General for Education.



Ms. Tzitzikosta, Prof. Emmanouloudis, and Ms. Chatzivaryti in, Assistant-Director General, Dr. Tang's office.



Prof. Emmanouloudis at the Greek delegation booth.



Panorama of the main hall, where the UNESCO General Conference took place.

UNESCO Chair  
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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



## UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect gets... connected at Geneva!

UNESCO's vast network of Chairs and Networks specialized in the Natural Sciences held their first meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from 05 to 07 July 2017, in order to unite their efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

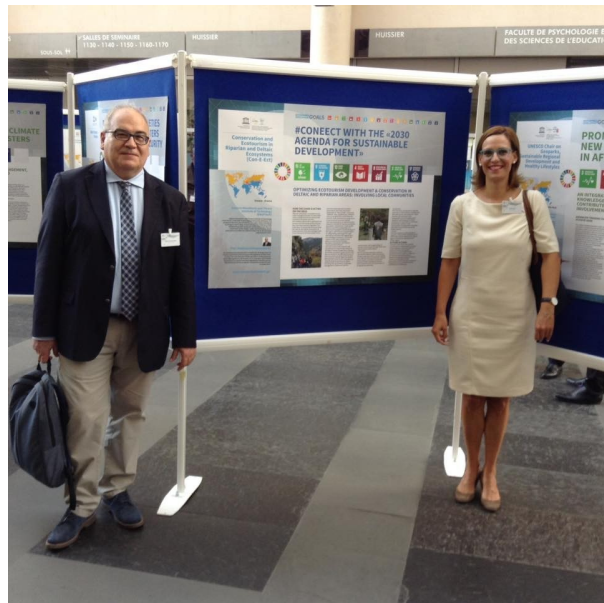
**"The first meeting of Chairs and Networks specialized in the Natural Sciences was held in Geneva."**

In the conference "Mobilizing UNESCO Chairs in the Natural Sciences for Policy Action Towards the 2030 Agenda", the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect was represented by its Chairholder Dr. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis, the Vice-Chairholder Dr. George Zaimis and the Donations and Grants Consultant Mrs Io Chatzivaryti.

During the conference, the delegates of the chair had the opportunity to present their vision for embodying Nestos River in the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB/ UNESCO) to all the participants. Furthermore, they participated in different workshops of various topics that were organized along with the general meeting.

During those workshops, connections were established and opinions were exchanged with other chairholders from all around the Globe. Some chairholders received invitations to participate in the International Workshop for the inclusion of Nestos at the MAB programme.

Last, the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect had a poster participation at the Posters' Forum that was organised by the Natural Sciences Sector at the University of Geneva.



**Prof. Emmanouloudis, and Ms. Chatzivaryti in front of the Con-E-Ect Poster at Geneva Meeting.**

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



**Team work for Nestos MAB.**



## Nestos MAB/UNESCO Programme International Workshop

The International Workshop about the integration of the Riparian Nestos Delta, the Nestos Straits, and the surrounding area to the Programme 'Man and Biosphere' of UNESCO (MAB) was a success. The workshop took place on October 19 and 20, and was organized by the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMATTECH), in cooperation with the Nestos Delta-Vistonida-Ismarida Management Facility, which functions under the supervision of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy, aiming at the protection and management of the protected area of the National Park of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. The integration of Nestos in the MAB/UNESCO programme is supported by the municipalities of Kavala, Nestos, Topeiros and Xanthi. A preparatory meeting took place at the Technological University of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, with the participation of the Municipalities of Nestos, Kavala, Xanthi and Topeiros, and the presence of prof. M. Skoulos, Head of the MAB programme in Greece.

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect was represented by the Chairholder, prof. D. Emmanouiloudis, the Deputy Chairholder, Dr. G. Zaimis, the President of the Scientific Committee, prof. N. Katopodes, V. Iakovoglou –member of the Scientific Committee of the chair, the Donations and Grants Consultant, Io Chatzivaryti, and E. Samourkasidou –urban

planner and member of the Scientific Committee. The Nestos Delta-Vistonida-Ismarida Management Facility was represented by the Chairman of the Board, Dr. M. Koutrakis, and the biologists Anastasia Mirli and Efterpi Patetsini. The workshop was also attended by directors of MAB areas from all over the world, under the coordination of the Chair of the MAB/UNESCO National Committee, Prof. I. M. Skoullas, and P. Pypaert, MAB programme advisor from the UNESCO Office in Venice.

The participation in the roundtables of all the parties involved was pivotal, because through that, a number of working groups was formed (biodiversity, economic activity, culture-training, and intervention area design) that represented all the important institutions of the area. More specifically, the institutions represented were: The Technical Chamber of Greece – Section Eastern Macedonia, the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece –Section Eastern Macedonia, the Technological

Institute of Kavala, the Centres of Environmental Education of Filippoi, Rodopi and Avdira, the Fisheries Research Institute, the Chamber of Xanthi, the Regional Unit of Kavala and its Department of Environment and Hydro-economy, the Democritus University of Thrace, the Kavala Forestry Office, the Architects Association of Kavala, the Regional Unity of Xanthi, the Directorate-General for Sustainable Fisheries, the Stavroupoli Forestry Office, and the Local Land Improvement Organizations.

During the workshop, the participants managed to gather numerous suggestions, cast aside doubts, create collaborations, and define the area that will include the plan of the programme. Most importantly, there was a strategic route planning for the next eight months until the final submission of the proposal (June 2018), which will include meetings, workshops, consultations with local institutions, and data collection.



Nestos MAB workshop moments.

**“The workshop was also attended by directors of MAB areas from all over the world, under the coordination of the Chair of the MAB/UNESCO National Committee, Prof. I. M. Skoullas, and P. Pypaert, MAB programme advisor from the UNESCO office in Venice”**



Workshop participants at Nestos River riparian area.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



We're on the Web!  
<http://unescochair.teiimt.gr/>

UNESCO Chair  
 Con-E-Ect

**“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 riparian environments.”**



United Nations  
 Educational, Scientific and  
 Cultural Organization



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

Greece - Drama

**Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMaTTech)**

Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMaTTech), is the lead Technological University of Greece. It is situated in the N.E. part of Greece, in a region that is bordered by Bulgaria and Turkey. It has a strong international profile collaborating with numerous Universities from four (4) Continents of the Globe. Under the framework of this international profile the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect has been established in 2016.

**Prof. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis**

Dr. Dimitrios Emmanouloudis is a Professor at Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management of EMaTTech, Greece. He is the director of the Laboratory of Mountainous Water Management and Control. He is a Forester-Hydrologist specialist on erosion and land degradation monitoring and estimation as well as on aquatic ecosystems protection and management.

<http://unescochair.teiimt.gr>

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**#CONNECT WITH THE «2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT»**

**OPTIMIZING ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION IN DELTAIC AND RIPARIAN AREAS: INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**HOW THE CHAIR IS ACTING ON THE SDGS**

Riparian and deltaic ecosystems are of major ecological interest, for they fulfill many ecological functions and provide important ecosystem services. Nevertheless, due to their exploitation by humans over the course of the centuries, they have been severely degraded. The importance of conserving and protecting the riparian and deltaic ecosystems of Greece has been duly acknowledged both in the framework of the European Union

and other international normative instruments, since they have been designated as "Natura 2000" areas and "RAMSAR" sites. Establishing a UNESCO Chair in the EMaTTech will enable the scientific staff, with extensive experience in numerous environment-related international projects, to conduct further research in the field of riparian and deltaic ecosystems. Furthermore, it will enable them to record the indisputably rich natural and intangible cultural heritage of the region, with a view to contributing to its safeguarding, assessing it through educational activities and integrating it into a Strategy Framework. The theme content of the chair is based on four pillars: Environmental Sciences, Education, Ecotourism, and Culture.

**- Environmental Sciences**  
 The Chair works on the research and classification of material that relates to the effects climate change has on riparian and deltaic ecosystems, given the fact that they are the first to be affected because of their immediate proximity to the sea and their imminent altitude difference with it. The Chair also works on the completion of research projects that focus on topics including, but not limited to, hydrology, management of deltas and riparian

environments, and ecophysiology of aquatic environments through continuous measurements and analyses.

**- Education**  
 We are working to develop a series of educational material, which will address all age groups (pre-school, school, adults). This material will be thematically relevant to the riparian and deltaic ecosystems (climate change, endangered species), with emphasis on the acclimatization of all age groups with them.

**- Ecotourism**  
 The Chair has as an objective to raise the awareness on best practices, of adults who deal with tourism and ecotourism. These practices will contribute to the enhancement of all interested parties capable of undertaking action about ecotourism on a local level. Its main goal would be the creation of new opportunities of employment in this field, especially because of the crisis of the Greek economy.

**- Culture**  
 The Chair aspires to create, through its research, a Cultural Arc: a database which will include content related to the cultural legacy of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**  
 The action plan of the Chair could be summarized as: implementation of open-access databases, behaviour codes for visitors of riparian and aquatic ecosystems, manual guides for the development of ecosystems, creation of microbotanical thematic gardens, detection of endangered species of fauna, creation of a laboratory for the observation of biotic and abiotic elements. Organization of local and international workshops and conferences.

The Con-E-Ect Poster as presented at Geneva, July 2017. More details on the Con-E-Ect website.