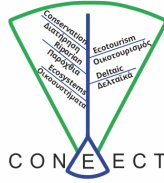




United Nations
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- UNESCO Chair on Conservation and Ecotourism of Riparian and Deltaic Ecosystems
- Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMaTTech), Greece

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

* SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO Con-E-Ect and Nova Friburgo, BRAZIL. Establish collaboration with the University of Rio de Janeiro and the company Petrobras.

by Dimitrios Emmanouloudis

Dimitris Emmanouloudis and George Zaimes were invited speakers to the International Workshop on Environmental Conservation and Ecotourism hosted in Nova Friburgo, Brazil, 15-17 January, 2019. Dimitris Emmanouloudis presented at the workshop the “Man and Water and Analysis and Management of Natural and Anthropogenic Disasters. Two Innovative Master Programs” and “A New Tool for the Protection of the European Union: Preparing and Raising Population Awareness in the case of Natural and Technological Disasters.” George Zaimes presented on “Riparian areas their importance, uniqueness, & ecotourism opportunities” and “Recent and future projects of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect.”



During this workshop an MoU was signed between the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect and Municipality of Nova Friburgo. During the second day of the workshop, field visits to different ecotourism operations and discussion with owners and managers on how to improve their operations were done. In addition, Dimitris Emmanouloudis and George Zaimes visited the University of Rio de Janeiro. Specifically, meetings were held with Geotourism and Geo-hydrology laboratories of the University. A tour of the facility and a meeting with the personnel from the Petrobras were also done. During these visits potential future collaborations and partnerships were planned.



Overall, through this visit the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect established collaborations in South America, further expanding its international character and activities.



by Anastasia Savvopoulou

Prof. Haifeng Jia visited the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment, IHU (former EMaTTech), in Greece from February 7-10th, 2019. He is a full Professor and the Head of the Center for Urban Runoff Control & Stream Restoration, School of Environment, Tsinghua University, China. His main focal areas of research include watershed/urban water environmental planning and management, water quality and hydrologic models, urban runoff control, LID- BMPs, sponge city, urban river restoration and environmental remote sensing and GIS.



During his visit potential collaborations and future proposals were discussed and formulated. In addition, during this visit, Prof. Haifeng Jia presented his current research to the graduate students of the Man & Water MSc program of (IHU) that runs under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect. Specifically, the title of his presentation was "Sponge city— A novel solution for urban healthy watershed" that is very relevant to the MSc program that has a course on

"Urban Hydrology." The MSc students really enjoyed the seminar and found very innovative the methods that Prof. Haifeng Jia has implemented in his projects in the cities of China. Overall his presentation of his research showcased the main potential collaborative opportunities between the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect and the Center for Urban Runoff Control & Stream Restoration.



Photos from the presentation of Prof Jia.

The New ERASMUS + project on Sustainable Water Management in the Eastern Mediterranean

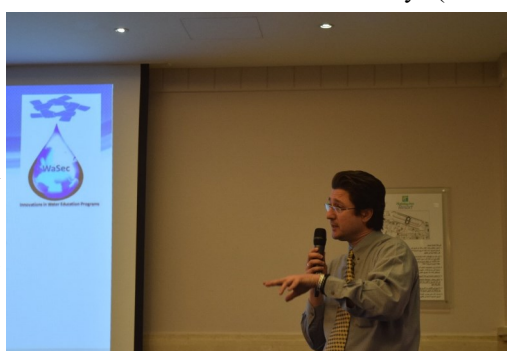
by Olga Papantsiou



George Zaimes and Olga Papantsiou presented and participated in the Kick-off meeting of the ERASMUS + project "Innovations in Water Education Programs: Enhancing Water Security and Socio-economic Development in the Eastern Mediterranean under Climate Change (WaSec)(598480-EPP-1-2018-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)." The Kick-off meeting was held in the Dead Sea, Jordan, from February 27th 2019 till March 2nd, 2019 with all 13 partners participating. The Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie is the coordinator and the International Hellenic University (former



EMaTTech) and the UNESCO Chair-Con-E-Ect is a partner. Its specific objectives are: a) develop a Water Network among institutions involved in water management to promote universities and enterprise collaboration; b) develop new or updated courses on water management with the true integration of enterprises in English and Arabic; c) provide graduates specialized knowledge in water resource management for the Eastern Mediterranean region that understand



Photos from the presentation and Participation in the Kick-off Meeting of the Erasmus + Project

climate change implications; d) implement courses with clear learning outcomes and materials, accredited in all partner countries, jointly taught and delivered and tailored to utilize new technologies; e) develop a virtual learning platform with learning materials in digital format to facilitate learning and assessment; f) run and assess the pilot courses in the partner countries; g) disseminate the results in order to be adopted by universities from other countries of the region; and h) exploit the results by organizing knowledge transfer to other practitioners. For more information on the WaSec project check the website: wasec.just.edu.jo, twitter: @CoWasec and Facebook: WaSec Co-Funded by Erasmus+.

by George N. Zaimes

George Zaimes participated in the 1st MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1) Lead Author meeting that was held in the CNR Center in Milan (Italy) from 4 to 7 March 2019. The network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) has been created in 2015 to complete the gap in terms of information accessible to decision-makers about the Mediterranean environment and the current and future impacts of climate and environmental changes. This meeting gathered 59 participants from 16 countries: Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs) of MAR1, MedECC Steering Committee Members and MedECC partners. George Zaimes is one of the LAs for the “Land-sea interface ecosystems” and the “Terrestrial ecosystems” chapters.



Photos from the participation in the MedECC Network and Assessment Report

Man & Water Students Visit the Nestos Delta and the Nestos Gorge

by Georgios Gkiatas

The Man & Water Master’s program is organized by the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect which is established in International Hellenic University (former EMaTTech). This program provides students a holistic approach on water related issues by involving several sectors of water such as water management both in water surplus or water demand conditions, energy use, climate change and water legislation.

One of the key activities of the program is field experiences. Specifically, the students visited the Nestos River and specifically its Delta and Gorge. This visit complimented the courses “Riparian and Deltaic Areas Ecology and Management” taught by George Zaimes and “Ecosystems and Water Conservation through Ecotourism Practices” taught by Valasia Iakovoglou.

The riparian forest of the Nestos Delta hosts one of the most unique and highly ecologically significant riparian forests in the Mediterranean region. It hosts four



natural riparian forest habitat types, with more than 307 different birds (34 endangered), and many mammals, reptiles and insects. Dimitris Filiadis

from the Forest Service explained the current management of the Nestos Delta at the Educational Center near Nea Karia, Kavala. Then the students entered the riparian forest and took field measurements on riparian vegetation to evaluate the species composition, density etc. and to assess the overall conditions.

The next stop was the Nestos Gorge where the riparian forest is called aesthetic, because of its natural beauty that is related to its geomorphologic conditions. Dimitris Filiadis informed the student about the three dams of Nestos River in the

Greek territory. George Zaimes discussed with students the implications of Nestos River being transboundary, the impacts of the dams on the river functionality and the riparian vegetation, while the student also measured the river discharge. Finally, Valasia Iakovoglou explained to the students the ecotourism opportunities and how these promote the sustainable management of the river. The students though this field trip had the opportunity to visit unique riverine, riparian and delta ecosystems. They took field measurements necessary to implement sustainable water, riparian and delta management plans. Finally, they learned the impacts that anthropogenic activities can have by these ecosystems.



Photos from the field trip in Nestos Gorge



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Nestos Delta Visit, MONITOX Project

by Kostas Kalaitzis

George Zaimes, Thomas Spanos, Georgios Gkiatas, Anastasia Savvopoulou and Kostas Kalaitzis visited the Nestos Delta. The Nestos Delta is a unique ecosystem of great ecological importance and is designated as both a Natura 2000 site (SPA, GR1150001; SCI, GR1150010) and a RAMSAR wetland. The visit was for the Black Sea Project MONITOX. The UNESCO chair Con-E-Ect is participating in this European Union project. During this visit, the partners from Romania, "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati and Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, and the Republic of Moldova, Institute of Zoology and Institute of Geology and Seismology also participated. The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate the type of water and sediment sampling that will be conducted for the project and finalize the sampling sites to assess the pollutants that have impacted the Delta.



Photos from the prvisit to the Nestos Delta

"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."

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