

# Con-E-Ect starts collaboration with local authorities and communities!

## The Avdera Case

Multi-stakeholders partnerships are on the Agenda 2030 principles for Sustainable Development, and an objective that UNESCO is actively pursuing.

As illustrated by the SDG 17: Partnership for this Goal is one of the objectives that UNESCO Con-E-Ect has set

nicipality of Avdera (hometown to Democritus) on Ecotourism Development support.

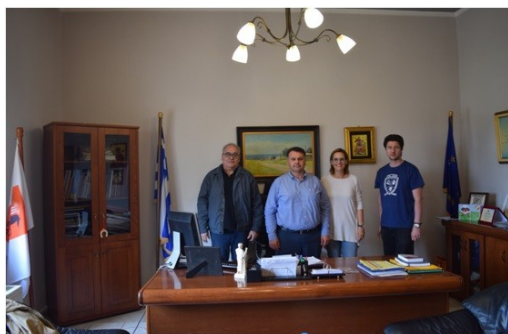
In Particular in April 2017, the UNESCO Chair and the Mayor of Avdera signed a Programme agreement for three years on a common goal: The Promotion of Ecotourism for

by Io. Chatzivaryti

pality of Avdera providing them a detailed roadmap towards sustainable ecotourism development as well as providing mentoring services to assist the Municipality to overcome implementation obstacles. During this three years period, thematic pathways will be designed, digitized and projected in an interactive map; a tool necessary to support the tourist flows.

Finally, respecting the local history and the bonds that the area holds with Democritus-father of atomic theory, the Chair will assist the Municipality in hosting along with CERN an International Atomic Energy Conference, in Spring 2017.

The mayor of Avdera with Con-E-Ect Team.



since the very beginning of its operation. In achieving tangible results on the field, the Chair has established a detailed strategy of involving local authorities and stakeholders to the Chair's Programme.

Under this strategy, and over the first 12 months of the Chair's operation, the Chair held numerous meetings with the Municipalities of the whole region. The results of those meetings were to raise awareness of the Chair's goals and objectives, and the final agreement with the Mu-

nicipality of Avdera providing them a detailed roadmap towards sustainable ecotourism development as well as providing mentoring services to assist the Municipality to overcome implementation obstacles. During this three years period, thematic pathways will be designed, digitized and projected in an interactive map; a tool necessary to support the tourist flows.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Avdera Riparian Area, Xanthi, 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



## Digital Storytelling for the Environment – Riparian Ecosystems

Photos from the workshop.



**"The whole meeting was held in a climate of positivity, creativity and active participation."**

The Environmental Education Centre of Vistonida and the team of adult trainers ICT4ALL (Dimitra Theodosiadou, Christos Pappas, Angelos Konstantinidis, Agoritsa Papachatz, Nikos Papadopoulos, Eirini Marna, Smaragda Karasi-mopoulou), in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect of the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology, organized a blended learning course on "Digital storytelling for the environment – riparian ecosystems" addressed to primary and secondary education in-service teachers. The face-to-face instruction of the course took place on Saturday, 18 February 2017, in the village of Genisea, near Xanthi.

After a brief introduction about the work of the Environmental Education Centre of Vistonida and its environmental programmes, its Director, Nikos Germantzidis spoke on biodiversity and human geography in riparian ecosystems, offering a wealth of useful information and comparisons with the past,

with a view to a sustainable future.

The participants were then divided into five groups, and after an introduction, team building activities were implemented using non-formal education methods, full of action and interaction, rhythm and movement. This was followed by the narration of a fairy tale, which demonstrated the importance of every single element in nature.

Dimitra Theodosiadou gave a comprehensive presentation on digital storytelling, its pedagogic and educational value, together with examples of digital stories that participants at previous courses have created. These good practices were presented and discussed, making obvious the benefits of using Web 2.0 tools.

A second narration followed, based on an ancient Greek myth about a king who just couldn't have enough. His end was tragic and made everyone think of the consequences of wasting our resources.

Angelos Konstantinidis presented the theory behind distance learning as well as important information about the course and the use of the platform.

The whole meeting was held in a climate of positivity, creativity, and active participation. The group dynamics that developed would prove invaluable during the four weeks of the course. The meeting was adjourned in the hope that the participants would create inspired digital stories on riparian ecosystems, stories which will enrich and enhance their teaching skills.



more details: <http://www.blog.ict4all.gr/2017/03/blog-post.html>

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



Canoeing is another ecotourism activity.



## UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Representatives from the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect visited the UNESCO Office in Venice - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE) on December 15th 2016. The representatives from the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect were the Chair, Dimitrios Emmanouloudis and the Deputy Chair George Zaimes. In this meeting the representatives from Con-E-Ect met with Philippe Pypaert the Programme Specialist - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. During this meeting Philippe Pypaert provided some insights on how to

operate a new UNESCO Chair in order for it to be effective and applicable. In addition he explained the UNESCO Programme "Man and the Biosphere, (MAB)" how it has been applied in Mediterranean deltaic ecosystems and the potential of establishing a new MAB programme for river Nestos. It was agreed to have a workshop organised in October at the Nestos Area on MAB programme with representatives from the local and regional authorities of the region along with representatives from other MAB programme in the Mediterranean.

by George N. Zaimes



**"Philippe Pypaert the Programme Specialist - UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe with the representatives from the UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect were the Chair Dimitrios Emmanouloudis and the Deputy Chair George N. Zaimes in the UNESCO offices in Venice"**

## ECOTOURISM – A New Opportunity for Rural Areas

by Valasia Iakovoglou

Ecotourism is a newly fast growing trend of tourism that focuses on natural environments, where people visit ecosystems under low impact, non-consumptive and locally oriented activities. It provides great opportunities of increased income, especially for rural and undeveloped areas. When practicing ecotourism other benefits can also be gained such as: a) getting acquainted with the cultural heritage of the area, b) being environmentally educated, c) enhancing of the protection and conservation of specific species, as well as d) getting economic benefits.

The main reason of the increased practice of Ecotourism is due to the greater number of protected areas worldwide that is considered the greatest land-use transforma-

tion of the 20th century. Greece is a country that retains a high number of protected areas due to its geomorphology and diverse climatic conditions. Consequently, Ecotourism can be an innovative way to enhance economic growth in rural areas by increasing job opportunities. However, the unmanaged practice of Ecotourism, particularly in protected areas, poses many irreversible risks for the environment, such as problems related to invasiveness and decreased biodiversity levels. Well trained professionals, as well as education and awareness are key factors for the sustainable implementation of ecotourism.

The UNESCO Chair Con-E-Ect has as its main purpose to develop management plans

that will enhance the conservation and ecotourism in areas of riparian and deltaic ecosystems such as the Nestos Delta while increasing job opportunities through the practice of Ecotourism.



**Ecotourism activities involve nature walks in the riparian areas.**



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  
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Cultural Organization



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## UNESCO Chair "Con-E-Ect" participates in the Urban Agenda of the Municipality of Drama.

by D. Karampatzakis

The Municipality of Drama, Greece, in 2016, opened the "Drama Urban Agenda" and has a strategic plan for sustainable urban development. Drama's urban integrated project (ITI) is 100% funded by the current Programming Period by National and European Funds and consists of several projects for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and climate change.

The core project is a bioclimatic reconstruction of a district in the central market of Drama and the connection of the two municipal parks of Drama.

The "Con-E-Ect" UNESCO Chair participates with a project for the monitoring and the exploitation of the riparian area of Santa Barbara water park into the urban center of Drama. The program is funded with 62.000 Euros.



Drama Urban Agenda presentation scheme.

