

# Newsletter May 2019 - October 2019

[UN SDSN Greece @ PESD](#), [National and Kapodestrian University of Athens](#) and [ICRE8](#)

[EIT Climate KIC Greece @ Athena Research Center](#)

[ReSEES @ Athens University of Economics and Business](#)



## From the editor:



Dear Readers,

It is a great honor to be the new Editor of the joint Newsletter of [UN SDSN](#) Greece (@ [National and Kapodestrian University of Athens](#) and [ICRE8](#)), [EIT Climate-KIC](#) Greece (@ [ATHENA Research and Innovation Center](#)) and [ReSEES](#) (@ [Athens University of Economics and Business](#)). It is indeed a great pleasure to launch our seventh edition.

In this issue we present our currently running research and demonstration projects and training and acceleration programs, as well as scientific activities and events from January 2019 until the end of October 2019. The dedication and hard work of a big team of senior and junior researchers, as well as administrative people, is what makes all of these happen and want to thank them all! Enjoy!

[Lydia Papadaki](#), Manager, [EIT Climate KIC Hub Greece](#), Manager, [UN SDSN Greece](#)

## From Scientific Co-Chairs of the cluster of Institutions:

In October 2018 the IPCC special report on “Global Warming of 1.5 °C” warned that there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5 C, beyond which, even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people around the globe. Urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target. [UN SDSN](#), [EIT Climate-KIC @ ATHENA RC](#) and [ReSEES @ AUEB](#) are clustering their activities towards the common aim of facilitating the implementation of the urgently needed sustainability transition. Below an update on our relevant efforts! [Here](#) you can find all members of the Scientific Advisory Board of our cluster.



[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#), [Athens University of Economics and Business \(AUEB\)](#), Greece

Co-chair [UN SDSN](#) Greece, Director [EIT Climate KIC Hub Greece](#), Director [ReSEES, AUEB](#), President of the [European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists](#), Scientific Advisory Board Chair [ICRE8](#), Scientific Advisory Board Chair [European Forest Institute](#)



[Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#), [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens \(NKUA\)](#), Co-chair [UN SDSN](#) Greece, Director [Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab](#) (PESD), (NKUA), Greece

## UN SDSN

The [United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(UN SDSN\)](#) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

The Greek chapter, [SDSN-Greece](#), works closely with other United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement in Greece. It is co-hosted by

the [International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy \(ICRE8\)](#), a non-for-profit, private, Research Centre dedicated to interdisciplinary research on the **Environment, Energy, Economy, Eco-innovations**, and the [Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab \(PESD\)](#), dedicated to researching the political economy dimension of sustainable development as well as promoting teaching and student involvement in these matters.



**Chairs:** [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) & [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#)

Meet [UN SDSN Leadership Council](#)

Learn about [UN SDSN Youth Initiatives](#)

UN SDSN Greece, EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece (ATHENA RC) and ReSEES (AUEB) are clustering their activities towards the common aim of facilitating the implementation of the urgently needed sustainability transition.

## ReSEES



[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) founded the [Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability \(ReSEES\)](#) in June 2016. The ReSEES laboratory is the outcome of the evolution of the Research Team on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability.

ReSEES does policy relevant interdisciplinary research on environmental, natural resources and energy issues. The overarching goal of ReSEES theoretical and empirical research is to support the understanding and implementation of Sustainable Development. Central to ReSEES laboratory mission is the pursuit of excellence in the conduct and presentation of research and a commitment to explore relevant environmental, natural resources and energy, issues for a variety of circumstances and stakeholders and across different temporal and spatial scales.

Research tools include financial analysis, socio-economic and econometric analysis, environmental valuation, political and institutional analysis, integrated environmental-economic modeling, life cycle analysis, risk analysis, geographical information systems, game theory, information technology decision making tool development.

Read [ReSEES projects](#)

## EIT Climate KIC Hub Greece

The [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme](#) accelerates climate innovation across Europe. EIT RIS facilitates connections into our established innovation hubs, now in 12 countries in the centre, east and south of Europe, securing [EIT Climate-KIC's](#) pan-European reach, boosting climate innovation capacity across the continent. The newly established [EIT Climate KIC](#) Greece Hub is coordinated by [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) and is composed by a consortium of various organisations across the knowledge triangle partners of:

- [Athena Research and Innovation Center \(ATHENA RC\), Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#)
- [Academy of Athens \(AA\) - Research Centre for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology, Prof. Christos Zerefos](#)
- [European Regional Framework for Co-operation \(ERFC\), Nikolas Petropoulos](#)
- [Uni.Fund, Assoc. Prof. Katerina Pramatar](#)

The [EIT Climate KIC](#) Greece is supported by the associate Partners:

- [UN SDSN Greece](#) hosted [ICRE8, Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#)
- [Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research \(IOBE\), Prof. Nikos Vettas](#)
- [Eunice Energy Group, Zisimos Mantas](#)

The hub is a focal point for organisations from across business and entrepreneurship, higher education, and research and technology, supporting knowledge sharing and integration and accelerating the journey of solutions from the lab through to market. In particular, the [EIT Climate KIC](#) Hub is bringing to surface the potential of Greece for innovative solutions in CleanTech, WaterTech, Circular Economy & innovative financing innovative financing schemes.

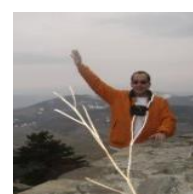
### Running Programs:

**[Accelerator](#):** The only EU acceleration program focused on climate impact by cleantech commercialization. In 2019, 7 start-ups are supported through both financial schemes and mentoring. **Applications open in November 2019.** Stay tuned!

**[Pioneers into Practice](#):** The Pioneers into practice program operating in eight European locations, runs from May through to November and consists of a 4-6 week placement (domestic or international) funded by the EIT Climate-KIC, bespoke transitions thinking & systems innovation mentoring delivered through a structured workshop program and online training. **Applications open in April 2020.** Stay tuned!

**[Climathon](#):** Climathon is a global movement dedicated to solving the toughest climate challenges cities face today, through a 24-hour hackathon taking place simultaneously in major cities around the world. Citizens, city officials and partners connect under a shared vision for a healthier city and try to find innovative solutions. In 2019, 3 Climathons took place in Athens, Mytilene and Larissa under the auspices of EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece. The next annual Climathon is taking place on **25th October 2020.** Stay tuned!

**[Launchpad Competition](#):** Climate Launchpad is the world's largest green business ideas competition. Our mission is to unlock the world's cleantech potential that addresses climate change. The competition creates a stage for those ideas. Climate Launchpad is part of the Entrepreneurship offerings of EIT Climate-KIC. **Applications open in February 2020.** Stay tuned!



Address: [Athena Research and Innovation Center \(ATHENA RC\)](#)

c/o [EIT Climate-KIC](#) Hub Greece, Artemidos 6 & Epidavrou, Maroussi, Attica Region – 15125, Greece

Website: [www.athena-innovation.gr](http://www.athena-innovation.gr), Contact: [info@athena-innovation.gr](mailto:info@athena-innovation.gr)



[Professor Phoebe Koundouri](#) was elected President of the [European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists](#) (EAERE).

EAERE is the oldest, largest and most prestigious Scientific Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. Founded in 1990, EAERE has more than 1200 institutional members (from research and academia, international organizations, the public sector and the business world) in over 60 countries from Europe and beyond. Membership is open to individuals who by their profession, training and/or function are involved in environmental, climate and resource economics as a science, and to institutions operating in fields connected with the aims of the Association.

This year's EAERE Elections terminated, on July 10th, 2019. 44.81% of EAERE membership took part in the elections (4.30% more than in 2017). Results are available [here](#).

**Phoebe Koundouri was elected with 53.51% of votes.** She will serve as President-Elect in 2020 and 2021, from 2021 to 2022 as Past-President, at the end of the presidential term.

## New Projects



**@ Ministry of Environment and Energy, Government of Greece**  
**LIFE-IP AdaptInGR:** Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece (LIFE17 IPC/GR/000006). The overall goal of the LIFE-IP AdaptInGR project is to support the implementation of the national adaptation strategy in Greece. To this end it will build national and regional capacity for coordinating, prioritising, monitoring and mainstreaming adaptation policy actions. Pilot projects will be developed in priority sectors for 3 regions and 5 municipalities. Our cluster contributions to the project are

supported via our collaboration with the Bank of Greece.

Duration: 2019-2026 (8 years)

[Project website](#)



**@ ATHENA RC**

**DESIRA: Digitisation of Economic and Social Impacts in Rural Areas**

Call: RUR02, H2020: Research & Innovation Actions

Coordinator: University of Pisa, 25 European partners

Duration: 2019-2023



**@AUEB**

**AWESOME - mAnaging Water, Ecosystems and food across sectors and Scales in the sOuth Mediterranean**

The main objective of AWESOME is developing a decision-analytic platform based on a multi-level, integrated WEF model to better understand multi-sectoral WEF tradeoffs and to capitalize on potential synergies, also exploring the interdependencies and feedbacks across a hierarchy of spatial scales.

Duration: 2020-2024



## New Initiatives

### Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping

IPCC warned of unprecedented changes if we exceed 1.5 degrees of warming. Maritime transport emits around 940 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (3rd IMO GHG study). These emissions are projected to increase significantly if mitigation measures are not put in place swiftly. According to the 3rd IMO GHG study, shipping emissions could under a business-as-usual scenario increase between 50% and 250% by 2050, undermining the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping aims at bringing together shipowners, shipbuilders, technology developers and researchers, ports and policy makers, on innovation related to zero emissions shipping, from across the globe, to target net-zero emissions by 2050. It will be launched at a specific session on the zero-carbon ocean shipping at the two-day COP 25 in Santiago, Chile hosted by SDSN on December 9th & 10th 2019.



### The UN SDSN 4-Seas Initiative

The UN SDSN 4-Seas is a Euro-Asian Initiative that aims to mobilizing science driven sustainable blue growth in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea, in order to protect the future state of global seas and oceans by providing a Blue Sustainability Transition Plan “from rivers to the oceans”.

The initiative is led by SDSN Greece and SDSN Black Sea, established leaders on research for the implementation of SDGs in rivers and wetlands, coastal zones, seas and oceans, shipping, marine transport, offshore energy production, fishing, aquaculture, marine litter, and relevant education and training.

[Project website](#)



## Our events and conferences

### Signature programmes workshop, EIT Climate-KIC, Amsterdam, Netherlands

On **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**, a member of UN SDSN attended the interactive workshop on EIT Climate-KIC signature programmes hosted by EIT Climate-KIC in Amsterdam. The workshop aimed at reviewing the intent, outcomes, target participants and design of three EIT Climate-KIC programmes: the "Journey", the "Pioneers into Practice" and the "Young innovators".



### EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers Local Managers meeting, EIT House, Brussels, Belgium



On **7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**, a member of the UN SDSN Greece attended the interactive workshop on EIT Climate-KIC pioneers and local managers hosted by EIT House in Brussels. The main goal of the workshop was setting the scene, the priorities and the key challenges of the "Pioneers into Practice" programme.

### EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers Local Managers meeting, EIT House, Brussels, Belgium

"EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers into Practice Train the Trainer" workshop took place at Multiburo Parliament, Brussels, Belgium from **8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May**. The Train the Trainer workshop helped coaches understand deeper all aspects of the



programme, how systems innovation delivered by the pioneers can be applied to the group projects in each country and the use of the relevant tools.





### The General Assembly of the EU H2020 COASTAL project, Messinia, Greece



Dr. Ebin Akinsete and Alice Guittard represented ICRE8 at the first General Assembly of the EU H2020 COASTAL project, which took place in Methoni, Messinia (Greece) from the **7<sup>th</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2019**.

The local Greek case-study team led by the Hellenic



Centre for Marine Research organized a field visit to present the Greek case study (South-West Messinia), followed by a presentation of the ongoing work by the local partner, THEMES, in Costa Navarino. Warm welcome and constructive discussions followed the first-year results of the consortium.

### EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers into Practice, Athens Greece



EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers into Practice Introductory workshop organized by **ICRE8 (EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece)** took place at ATHENA RC, in Athens (Greece) from **15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May**. The Introductory workshop helped pioneers understand deeper all aspects

of the programme, how their learning journey will be formed and inspire them through Climate-KIC vision of systems innovation.



### 4th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference, Lisbon, Portugal

From **28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**, the 4<sup>th</sup> European Climate Change Adaptation Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal. There, Dr.



Ebin Akinsete participated in a panel on the Food-Water-Energy Nexus, presenting work on the H2020 DAFNE project.





## 32nd Panhellenic Statistics Conference, The Science of Statistics and its contribution to the Sustainable Development in Ioannina, Greece



On **31<sup>st</sup> May**, the 32nd Panhellenic Statistics Conference took place in Ioannina. The Conference highlighted the role of Statistics in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda and, consequently, its interdisciplinary nature and the possibilities for its use and application. In this context, the Conference presented modern methods of Mathematical and Computational Statistics for the management of large volumes of data, model development and the delivery of results in various areas directly related to sustainable development such as health, innovation, labor market, tourism, environment, sport. Among the scientific panel was Prof. Koundouri, who gave a speech on Sustainable Development and Innovation.



## Resilience as a parameter of urban design, NTUA, Athens, Greece

On Wednesday **5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, an event on Resilience and urban design was hosted by the National University of Athens in Athens, Greece. Among the speakers were: Prof. Serraos, NTUA, Asst. Prof. Myrivili, University of Aegean, Prof. Melissas, NTUA and Lydia Papadaki, UN SDSN manager.



## World Oceans Day 2019, Lesvos, Greece



On **8th June 2019**, World Oceans Day took place in Lesvos, organized by healing Lesvos. Lydia Stergiopoulou, researcher at ICRES gave a speech on the ecosystem services, presenting three projects to local stakeholders: a) [RECONNECT INTERREG Balkan-Mediterranean project](#), b) [AMARE INTERREG MED project](#) dealing with marine protected areas and c) their related ecosystem services and [EU H2020 COASTAL project](#), which seeks to increase land-sea synergies and coastal-rural collaboration through an innovative participatory approach.

In the morning participatory activities with students took place along the coast of Avlaki.

Moreover, one of the successful pioneers from Climate-KIC Greece, Lauren Mezari, shared her experience with the audience on how to apply system innovation tools to tackle climate change and environmental issues like marine litter in the Aegean Sea.



### SIMRA General Assembly, Athens, Greece

The **International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8)** hosted the 3rd annual General Assembly of the Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas (SIMRA) project in Athens, Greece. The event which lasted from **10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June**, took place on the premises of the ATHENA Research and Innovation Center, and brought together project partners from across Europe. The EU funded SIMRA project aims to fill the significant



knowledge gap in understanding and enhancing social innovation in marginalized rural areas by advancing the state-of-the-art in social innovation and connected governance mechanisms in agriculture and forestry sectors and in rural development in general. Social Innovation has been recognized by the European Commission as a means to develop new ideas, services and models to better address social issues; and a key driver for development and growth. As part of the project,



SIMRA analyzed a number of case studies across Europe and the wider Mediterranean region. The ICRE8 team works on the Greek case study, “A Box of Sea” (“Ένα κουτί θάλασσα”), in collaboration with Greenpeace Hellas.



For more information on SIMRA, please visit the EU project website at <http://www.simra-h2020.eu>

For more information on A Box of Sea, please visit the project website at <https://www.greenpeacegreece.org/kouti-thalassa/>



### Citizens united for the energy transition in Greece, Rainbow warrior, Athens, Greece



On **12<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, a workshop on energy transition in Greece took place in Marina Zeas in Athens, hosted by Rainbow Warrior Boat of Greenpeace. The discussion was focused on energy communities and innovation as they are key answers to energy transition. Among the speakers were Prof. Hatziargyriou Nikos, NTUA, Tsekeris Dimitris, Special Advisor Energy & RES at Ministry of Energy & Environment, Minister's Office, Lydia Papadaki, manager UN SDSN Greece, Dimitris Kitsikopoulos, vice-president ELECTRA energy and Christos Stefantatos, project officer Parity Platform. The former two speakers are among the

successful candidates for two Climate-KIC Greece programmes: Pioneers into Practice and Accelerator.



### PRO-RES Workshop on Ethics and Integrity in Environmental research, HCMR, Athens, Greece

On **18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, a high level discussion on “Ethics and Integrity in Environmental research” organized and hosted by HCMR was held in Athens. Its aim was to bring together researchers who would share their views on potential ethical issues arising from their work. Among the invited scientific team were members of UN SDSN Greece, who presented current challenges and potential pathways deriving from their work.



### Climate change impacts on cultural heritage: Facing the challenge, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with UNESCO and WMO, Athens, Greece

On **21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019**, a conference on “climate change impacts on cultural heritage: Facing the challenge”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with UNESCO and WMO, was hosted by Zappeion Megaron and attended by a significant audience. The main focus of the conference was to result in a framework of viable solutions, including the use of new technologies and concrete actions on how to monitor and protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage as well as strengthen its resilience.



Furthermore, it aimed at raising awareness and encouraging global action on this issue, contributing at the same time to the goals of the Climate Summit in September 2019 and the implementation of UNESCO’s strategy for action on climate change.

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, member of the scientific committee and Prof. Andreas Papandreou, both co-chairs of UN SDSN Greece, presented the results of their work related to the effects of climate change on cultural heritage.

You can find their presentations here: [www.ccich.gr](http://www.ccich.gr)

### COASTAL workshop, Messinia, Greece

On **26<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, as part as the COASTAL project, ICRES participated at the multi-sectoral workshop of the Greek case study held at the Navarino Environmental Observatory in South-West Messinia. Local stakeholders from rural and coastal areas were invited to validate the fuzzy cognitive maps representing land-sea interactions as well as visioning future scenarios for their regions.



### OECD's Environmental Impact Assessment, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Athens, Greece



On **27<sup>th</sup> June 2019** the OECD reviewing team attended closed consultation meetings with Greek stakeholders, in the context of the Environmental Performance Review of Greece. The scope of the review accounted for the timeframe since 2009.

Assessment and recommendations, differentiated into two parts, were expressed: assessment on the progress towards sustainable development and assessment on the progress towards selected environmental objectives. The meetings followed a fixed program divided into three timelines. The morning activities



consisted of closed meetings and debriefing with the Hellenic authorities and consultations with industries, unions, environmental NGOs, independent experts and Academia. A brief lunch break was called for, followed by the evening activities, including closed sessions and consultations with representatives from local authorities. Dr. Ebun Akinsete presented activities of ICRE8, EIT Climate-KIC and UN SDSN Greece showing our contribution on the sustainable development in the country.

### 24th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Manchester, UK

From 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the University of Manchester hosted the 24th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in Manchester, UK. Prof. Phoebe Koundouri presented results of DAFNE (H2020) project focusing on the theory and the application of the



Management of Transboundary & Uncertain Waters in Omo River Basin in Africa. Well known professors contributed to this three-day discussion with thematic areas varying from environmental innovation and economic performance to choice modelling and climate change.



You can find more at: [www.eaere-conferences.org](http://www.eaere-conferences.org).

### Designing Climate Ecosystems Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Designing Climate Ecosystems Conference, organised by Cyprus University of Technology took place in Royal Hall Nicosia, Cyprus. Speakers from France, Australia, Israel and other countries presented their experiences of how to strengthen and support networks, clusters, consortia and value-chains in



traditional and non-traditional sectors, with specific emphasis on climate innovation. Among the speakers were: Dr. Kirsten Dunlop, CEO, Climate KIC Europe and Christopher Lee, CEO, Climate KIC Australia.



### EIT Awareness Day in Cyprus hosted by Royal Hall, Nicosia, Cyprus

On **27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**, EIT Awareness Day in Cyprus organised by Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and it was hosted by Royal Hall Nicosia, Cyprus.

During this EIT Awareness Day, the EIT Community introduced its ongoing activities in Cyprus and at pan-European level, as well as specific information on potential areas for cooperation with interested national stakeholders. Organisations and individuals from all sides of the Knowledge Triangle (business, education and research), as well other interested stakeholders are invited to participate at the event, meet representatives from the EIT Innovation Communities and contribute to the discussions.



### Deep Demonstration workshop, Valencia, Spain

From **9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**, a two-day workshop was held in Valencia port aiming to identify the design process of the *Deep Demonstration project*, funded by EIT Climate-KIC. During the event a small cohort of high-ambition port authorities in Valencia (Spain), Piraeus (Greece), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Turku (Finland) and others demonstrated how ambitious maritime hubs can be catalysts for reversing the fast-growing emissions from international shipping and trade hotspots.



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri as the representative of the team, which will coordinate the project for Greece, presented ATHENA research center's vision on rendering the Port of Piraeus a resilient maritime HUB.





## Summer Workshop: Neo-Classical Economics Reconsidered within Plato's and Aristotel's Epistimological and Ethical framework, Athens, Greece



From Monday **29<sup>th</sup> July** to Friday **2<sup>nd</sup> August**, the summer Workshop on Neo-Classical Economics reconsidered within Plato's and Aristotel's Epistimological and Ethical framework has held, organized by UN SDSN Greece and Black Sea. We are in debt to all participants for the incredibly interesting discussions, but most of all, to Prof. Jeff Sachs and Prof. Nikitas Pittis, who inspired us all!

Last but not least, we are in debt to Suzanna Laskaridis and the Panos Laskaridis family for hosting us at the incredible library of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation.



During his stay [Professor Jeffrey Sachs](#), Columbia University met with the Environment and Energy Minister Kostis Hatzidakis in order to discuss Greece's shift to a sustainable development model. The focus of the meeting were the potential pathways, in which Greece can combine environmental protection with the attraction of significant investment and the creation of new jobs on a large scale.

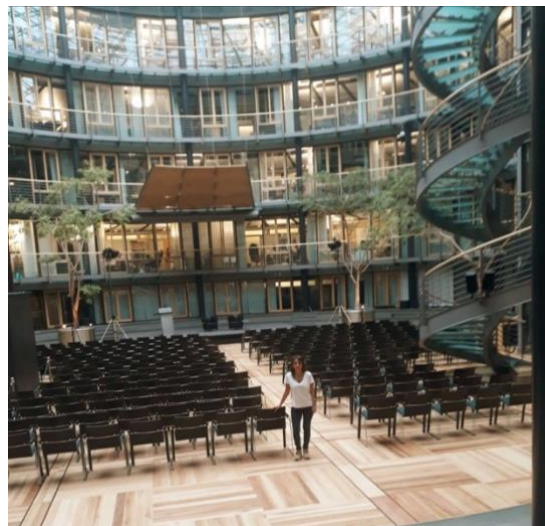
The meeting was attended by [Professor Phoebe Koundouri](#), Athens University of Economics and Business, [Professor Andreas Papandreou](#), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, [Professor Yannis Ioannidis](#), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Director of ATHENA Research and Innovation Center, [Dr. Sonia Sachs](#), Director, Health Sector, Centre for Sustainable Development, as well as the Secretary-General for the Environment and Water, [Associate Professor Konstantinos Arabosis](#). You can find the relevant press release [here](#), which was widely disseminated in all Greek mass media.



*The meeting of Professor Jeffrey Sachs with Minister Kostis Hatzidakis*

## DAFNE - H2020 European Commission Project General Assembly, Berlin, Germany

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the general assembly of DAFNE (H2020) project took place in Berlin, Germany. DAFNE is A Decision Analytic Framework to explore the water-energy-food Nexus in complex transboundary water resources of fast developing countries. During the conference Prof. Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business presented the ICRE8 partner report to the assembly.



## International Thessaloniki Fair 2019, Thessaloniki, Greece

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019, EIT Climate-KIC Greece, led by ATHENA RC was represented at the 84<sup>th</sup> International Fair of Thessaloniki. During the Fair, on September 14<sup>th</sup> a workshop organized by **ATHENA RC** took place on “Mobilising Sustainability Transition in Greece”, where Prof. Theodossiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, chair of UN SDSN Black Sea Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis, Dean of the School of Economics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Lydia Papadaki, manager of UN SDSN Greece, Charis Stavridis, manager UN SDSN Black Sea presented ongoing programmes and projects related to sustainable development in Greece.





## Meeting of the EFI Scientific Advisory Board, Aberdeen, UK



The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the European Forest Institute (EFI) met at The James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen on **17<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, a day before the Annual Conference. There, **Prof. Koundouri was elected as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of EFI for 2020-2021** as a result of a secret ballot after giving short presentations of their capacity for the SAB chairpersonship. The discussions focused on current and new projects, current activities and relevant programmes. The European Forest Institute is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provide policy support on forest-related issues, connecting knowledge to action.

## Workshop on "Deep Demonstration Project", Port of Piraeus, Greece

On Tuesday **17<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, a workshop between EIT Climate-KIC, Blue Growth and Port of Piraeus Authority organized by **EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece** took place in the port of Piraeus. The aim of the workshop was to identify



challenges and opportunities for the port of Piraeus and also to examine how a common ambition could be reached with the support of EIT Climate-KIC.



## LIFE IP - AdaptInGR: "Strengthening policy implementation on adaptation to climate change in Greece", Athens, Greece

On **18<sup>th</sup> September** the project AdaptInGR was held at the bank of Greece presenting the methodology and the main outcomes of the research. Prof. Koundouri is one of the three distinguished scientists in the scientific advisory board. Among the results was underlined that Greek citizens believe that climate change and pollution of the environment are two of the most important issues our society faces nowadays. Among the speakers was Mr. Xatzidakis, minister of Energy and Environment, who also declared the significance of plastic reduction, waste management and energy savings in the Greek economy.



## Workshop on "Circular Economy Transition in Smart Specialization Strategy", Ministry of Environment and Energy, Athens, Greece



On Thursday **19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, a workshop on "Circular Economy Transition in Smart Specialization Strategy" organized by **EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece** took place at the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy. The focus of this workshop was the presentation of the mapping of the key aspects of the National Strategy on Circular Economy (CE) in relation with the Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization (RIS3) and the discussion on the implementation of these strategies identifying the needs, barriers and strengths in Greece.



Ministers, Region officials, Town mayors, firm owners and many more stakeholders relevant to circular economy composed the audience in this participatory workshop, sharing their views on how the challenges of CE can be overcome and the opportunities to be exploited.



## Global Goals Jam, Athens, Greece



On **21<sup>st</sup> September 2019**, Global Goals Jam organised by Service Design Network Greece and Orange Grove - Embassy of Netherlands, took place in Greece for first time. The aim of the workshop was to develop start-up solutions for a sustainable economy with a design-driven approach with main focus areas the SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). Lydia Papadaki, manager UN SDSN Greece and Antonis Alevizos, Deputy manager UN SDSN Greece presented relevant to Sustainability transition ongoing activities and the importance of the SDGs for working around the globe collaboratively under the same goals and targets.

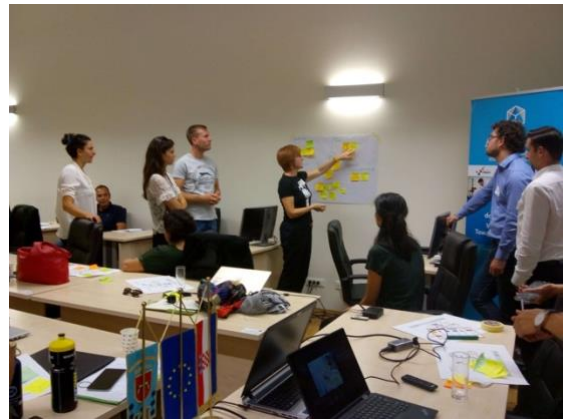




## Climate-KIC Ideation workshop on plastic waste management – Marine plastic litter, Sibenik, Croatia

On **24<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, ATHENA-RC and Climate-KIC Hub Greece were invited by Climate-KIC, in collaboration with Climate-KIC Hub Croatia to participate to an ideation workshop on plastic waste management – Marine plastic litter in Sibenik, Croatia.

Researchers, local municipalities, starts-up, private sector, environmental associations were invited to work together to co-develop ideas on how to tackle marine plastic issues. By using Climate-KIC system innovation tools, participants assessed the problem and focus on current gaps in projects related to these issues.



Additionally, preliminary results from the Climate-KIC BL.EU project (reduction of CO2 emission by tackling plastic marine littering in southern European waters through innovation) regarding the Croatian case study were presented. It was also an opportunity to visit the island of Zlarin, which enter the process of becoming a plastic free island with the ban of single-use plastic items.

## SDSN National and Regional workshop, New York, USA



A three-day workshop took place on **23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September** in New York aiming at bringing together SDSN Network managers from the globe to exchange ideas on specific initiatives happening both at regional/SDSN level and at thematic level that Networks could participate in and identify new initiatives for networks, defining needs and potential timelines. Lydia Papadaki, manager SDSN Greece participated at the workshop sharing ongoing and new projects and initiatives with the other networks. Network managers had also the opportunity to expand their knowledge on GIS tools with the support of ESRI experts.



## Linking evidence with policy to achieve the SDGs: The Social Systems Evidence platform, New York, USA

On **24<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, a networking workshop hosted by SDSN Canada and SDSN Australia, NZ & Pacific



took place at the Columbia University, New York. The aim of the workshop was to bring together knowledge creators and knowledge users from SDSN, policymaking and other groups taking action on the SDGs to introduce SSE and discuss how to best harness it to achieve the SDGs. Lydia Papadaki, manager SDSN Greece, shared ongoing projects relevant to Social Systems Evidence (SSE) database and discussed on potential synergies.



## SDSN's Inaugural Global Solutions Forum (GSF), New York, USA



On **25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, SDSN's Global Solutions Forum (GSF) was hosted by Columbia University, New York. The aim of the Forum was to bring together the network's sustainable development experts from around the world to showcase how they are implementing local initiatives that are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inaugural GSF convened inspiring SDG actors for rapid-fire presentations



where they can share progress, highlight victories, and inspire all of us to keep moving forward. SDSN Greece was represented at the Forum as well.

## 14th SDSN Leadership Council Meeting, New York, USA

The 14th SDSN Leadership Council Meeting in New York lasted two days from **26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. During the meeting, chairs from all the networks shared their views on the new strategies, initiatives and opportunities for Sustainable Development. Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business, co-chair UN SDSN Greece, shared two new initiatives she directs: the 4-Seas Initiative and the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping.





### The Tipping Point in Education, Ioannina, Greece

On **25th September 2019**, Antonios Alevizos MA PhD C., Deputy Manager of UN SDSN Greece, spoke about the SDGS to the Stavraki Primary School of Ioannina and other eight (8) schools from Greece and Cyprus via a platform which is supported by the Tipping Point in Education, a NGO that connects Schools from all over the country and aims to help young people to be informed by mentors for the choices about their academic career, career path, etc.



### Researcher's Night Event, Athens, Greece

Researcher's Night Event 2019 held at the historic building of the National technical university of Athens on the **27th September 2019**. ReSEES Laboratory at the Athens University of Economics and Business was represented by Dr Nikos Chatzistamoulou who demonstrated the work and disseminated some of our research main findings on Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Water management and Efficiency. The topics of interest captured the attention of the visitors who were very keen in knowing more about those concepts. The increasing interest highlights the importance of the above mentioned and makes what we do more important. We are glad to participate in events that boost awareness and trigger the process of making our society and environment a better place.



### "POLITEIA" International Conference of Political Scientists, Athens, Greece



On **27th, 28th and 29th September 2019**, "POLITEIA", an International Conference of Political Scientists, was organized by the



Hellenic Association of Political Scientists under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr Prokopios Pavlopoulos. The conference was officially supported by the European Commission (Representation in Greece) and by the United Nations Regional Information Centre of Greece and Cyprus. It was held with the support of the Central Union of Municipalities in Greece and hosted by Zappeion Megaron while significant audience attended. The main focus of the Conference was on the present and the future of EU and the role of political scientists in the analysis of both the European state of play and the rising challenges. Researchers from all fields of social sciences participated to offer interdisciplinary approaches to the topics of the conference. Antonios Alevizos MA PhD C., Deputy Manager of UN SDSN Greece, presented the relationship between social equality and sustainable development and the contribution of the UNSDSN Greece in the above relationship.

### Sustainable shipping, embassy of Norway, Athens

On Tuesday **1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**, a conference on Sustainable Shipping took place at the Embassy of Norway in Athens. The focus of the conference was on how to cut environmentally harmful emissions from shipping and on the future of green shipping. Prof. Koundouri took part in the discussion, together with Harald Solberg, CEO of the Norwegian Shipowners Association, and representatives from the Greek shipping industry and environmental organisations.



### Conference on Environment and Energy, Athens, Greece

On Thursday **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**, a conference on Environment and Energy, organized by the Association of Women Engineers in Greece (EDEM) took place in Athens under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and



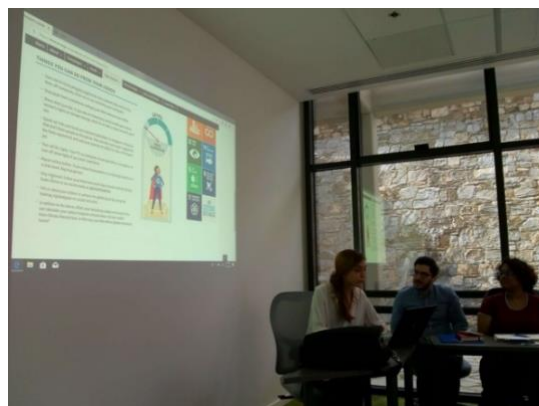
Energy. Among the panel were Prof. Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and



Business, Aravossis Konstantinos, General Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Spyros Oikonomou, president, Centre of Renewable Energy Sources and many more.

### Youth Pre-Workshop for Athens Democracy Forum, Athens, Greece

On **8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, the SDSN Greece Youth team along with the Deputy Manager of SDSN and two researchers from ICRES Research Center visited the campus of the American College of Greece in Athens, with the aim to support and participate in the Youth/Student Pre-Workshop prior to the Athens Democracy Forum.



After presenting the Main and Youth Network, the team facilitated the discussions on goals #4, #10, #13, #16 between the students, which were divided into 4 groups, one for each goal. The result was a report on the challenges and actionable solutions for each goal through enjoyable cooperation, fruitful discussion and exchange of different ideas.





### Financing Greener Cities, Athens, Greece

Discussions on Financing Greener Cities was the main goal of the workshop, which took place in Athens on **8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Prof. Koundouri gave a speech on valuation of biodiversity, while other speakers focused on financing challenges for biodiversity projects, access to funding options and nature-based solutions.



### Hubs for Circularity – Process industries, Regions and Cities Deploying Circular Economy at Scale, Brussels, Belgium



On **9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, a workshop hosted by the EIT House on Hubs for Circularity (H4C) aimed to facilitate a discussion about the concept and modelling of H4C, the scope and common characteristics for existing and new hubs, conditions for implementation, co-investment framework that needs to be put in place, impact monitoring and success criteria.

Synergies between the H4C model and the EIT KICs activity were explored in terms of the existing portfolio of action and further opportunities. Researchers from both EIT Climate-KIC and UN SDSN Greece participated in the workshop sharing their views.



### Executive meeting for the CE in S3 project, Brussels, Belgium



On **9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, an executive meeting with main EIT Climate-KIC partners and representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria and Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece was held at the EIT House. The Greek team was composed of Mr. Liogkas, expert advisor at the Hellenic Ministry of Energy and the

Environment, Prof. Koundouri, AUEB, Director Athens University of Economics and Business and Lydia Papadaki, manager EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece. During the meeting discussions on Circular Economy implementation in both countries took place considering the individualities of each location and the existing policy framework.



## Athens Democracy Forum, Athens, Greece

From Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Athens Democracy Forum in association with The New York Times was hosted in Greece and specifically at the Grand Bretagne, Zappeion Megaron and the Old Parliament House. Personalities across the globe discussed different views on the future of Democracy capturing great interest by those attended it. UN SDSN Greece supported the section dedicated to the SDGs together with the Global Liberal Arts Alliance students by providing knowledge and mentors.



## Education Day "Climate Change and Education", Athens, Greece

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the Goulandris Natural History Museum performed a large program on the impacts of climate change in Greece, based on the latest study of the Bank of Greece, under the scientific responsibility of the academic Prof. Christos Zerefos, entitled: "Climate change: Planet Earth sends a distress signal Time for Action, Time for Hope". Professor Phoebe Koundouri participated giving a speech about sustainability education.





### BlueMed 4<sup>th</sup> Platforms Meeting, Barcelona, Spain



On **15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, BlueMed 4<sup>th</sup> Platforms Meeting hosted by Palacio Real de Pedralbes took place in Barcelona. There, Lydia Papadaki, SDSN Greece manager, presented the 4-Seas Initiative led by UN SDSN Greece and UN SDSN Black Sea and other ongoing projects related to Blue Growth and Sustainability transition.



### Third Sustainability Summit by UN SDSN and the Economist, Athens, Greece

On **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, the Economist Events and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Greece in association with UN SDSN Mediterranean, UN SDSN Black Sea and EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece, organized the Third Sustainability Summit for south-east Europe and the Mediterranean hosted by Goulandris Natural History Museum.



*On the left, the speech of Yannis Stournaras, governor of the Bank of Greece. On the right, Sustainability Leadership and the UN SDSN Four Seas Initiative: Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Mr. Mladen Ivanić, former member, Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, former prime Minister Republika Srpska, Mrs. Kateryna Yushchenko, former First Lady of Ukraine, Prof. Nicolaos Theodossiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, chair UN SDSN Black Sea, Prof. Angelo Riccaboni, University of Siena, chair, PRIMA Foundation, Prof. Yannis Ioannidis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, General Director, Athena Research Centre. Credits: Stavros Giannoulis Photography Videography.*

Over the years this Summit has developed into the main annual meeting of high-profile academics, innovators, politicians, policy makers and civil society stakeholders in the South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, convening networks of expertise, mobilizing resources and influencing regional policy for the urgently needed sustainability transition.

Among the speakers were: **Prof. Jeff Sachs**, Columbia University, Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, **Prof. Phoebe Koundouri**, Athens University of Economics and Business, President Elect of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Director of EIT Climate KIC Greece and **Prof. Andreas Papandreou**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



On the left, Welcome remarks by Prof. Andreas Papandreou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, co-chair UN SDSN Greece, Mr. John Andrews, consultant editor, The Economist. On the right, Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University, Director of the Global UN SDSN Leadership Council, during his speech. Credits: Stavros Giannoulis Photography Videography.



Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Professor Phoebe Koundouri, and Dr. Sonia Sachs met also Professor Christos Zerefos, head of the Research Centre for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology at the Academy of Athens.



Meeting with Mareva Mitsotaki, first lady of Greece. In the picture: Mrs. Marianthi Papandreou, Prof. Andreas Papandreou, Mrs. Mareva Mitsotaki, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Prof. Nicolaos Theodossiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, chair UN SDSN Black Sea, Dr. Sonia Sachs, Director, Health Sector, Centre for Sustainable Development, Prof. Yannis Ioannidis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, General Director, Athena Research Centre.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Professor Phoebe Koundouri, Antonis Alevizos, Katerina

Lambrinou and Dr. Sonia Sachs had also a meeting with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, a leading private philanthropic organization committed to the creation of positive impact for the society at large, through the promotion and financial support of initiatives related to arts and culture, education, health, sports, and social welfare.

### International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites, Athens, Greece

From 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 an International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites organized by the [BLUEMED project](#) with the support of the Med Sustainable Tourism Community



with the theme "Dive in Blue Growth" has hosted at the Acropolis



Museum. The conference aimed to answer questions related to the common challenges that these assets face: a) lack of coordinated policies, methods and tools, adapted to support sustainable economic development, b) ineffective protection



of their underwater natural and cultural heritage and inability to use it as an asset for sustainable and responsible tourism development, c) in sufficient measures to tackle impacts of extreme climatic conditions. 230 participants joined the conference, and distinguished guests and keynote speakers honored the event with their presence (Minister of Culture - Lina Mendoni, the president of the Greek National Tourism Association – Angela Gerekou, Secretary for General Greeks Abroad - John Crysoulakis, the Directors of the Italian and the Greek Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities – Dr. Barbara Davidde and Dr. Pari Kalamara). RECONNECT Interreg Balkan – Med project was presented by the researcher Lydia Stergiopoulou as a case study of evaluating Cultural Ecosystem Services that emerge from the co-existence of cultural and natural heritage in Marine Protected Areas.

### Global Green New Deal, Athens, Greece



On **21<sup>st</sup> October 2019**, Professor Koundouri participated in a debate regarding the urgency for a Global Green New Deal together with Prof. Robert Pollin and moderated by the journalist Pavlos Tsimas at the Goulandris Natural History Museum. Prof. Koundouri contributed to the discussion with a speech which title was: "The Sustainability Transition has started! Will it happen fast enough?".



### Towards COP 21: Youth Event, Naples, Italy

On **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**, SDSN Greece took part in the meeting "*Towards COP 21: Youth Event*" in Naples, organized by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, in collaboration with the Municipality of Napoli and the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean of the National Research Council (ISMed/CNR), with the support of UN SDSN Mediterranean. The event is part of the preparatory process towards the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties to the Barcelona Convention, that will take place in Naples on 2-5 December 2019.



The main issues related to the future of Mediterranean were introduced by Maria Carmela Giarratano, Director General for Nature and Sea Protection of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, Ilias Mavroeidis, from UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Desiree Quagliarotti, from ISMed/CNR, and Stefania Toraldo, from SDSN Mediterranean.

As remarked by the Italian Minister of Environment, Land and Sea Sergio Costa during his introductory speech, for the first time, students, researchers and young professionals from Mediterranean countries had the chance to discuss and present their ideas for an integrated and sustainable development of the region. Supported by experts from ISMed/CNR and



representatives of UN SDSN, Mediterranean youth defined priorities, challenges and potential solutions that will be presented to the High-Level Segment of COP 21 on 4 December 2019.

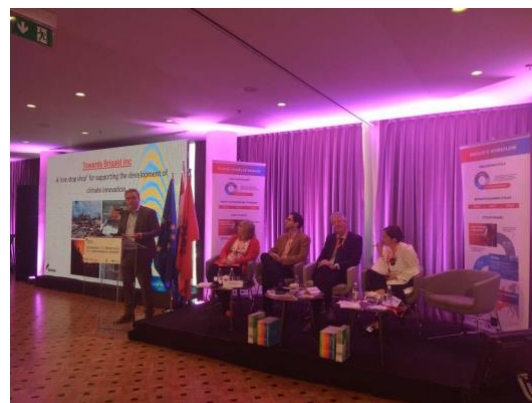
#### EIT Climate-KIC HUB event, Ljubljana, Slovenia



On **23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, Kemijski inštitut hosted the 'Climate-Kic Hub event Slovenia', focused on exploring collaboration opportunities and synergies in Deep Demonstration activities. The event integrated both presentations on Deep Demonstrations topics as also debates and brainstorming sessions on energy transition, circular economy, industry 4.0, adaptation to climate changes, food and more, in which ICRE8 researcher Alice Guittard actively took part.

#### BRIGAIID project meeting, Tirana, Albania

The last [BRIGAIID Project Meeting](#) took place from **23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019** in Tirana, hosted by our partner AKPT, and with a strong involvement from the national Community of Innovation supporting BRIGAIID activity in Albania. In addition to the regular Project meeting, two external events took place. On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019, a workshop has been organised to reflect on the main climatic problems in Albania and think ahead on how BRIGAIID tools and methods can be applied in practice to help cope with them!



#### Futures Literacy Lab on Maritime Hubs, Turku, Finland

On **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, Prof. Andreas Papandreou, Vera Alexandropoulou and Mr. Spyrou attended a workshop on the EIT Climate-KIC Deep Demonstration in Turku, Finland. The aim of the lab was to envision the future of the ports participating in this process.



In particular, it introduced participants to futures literacy; produced collective knowledge about potential futures of net-zero ports; and further activated this group of ports and their local networks to work on these issues.



#### EIT Climate-KIC Climathons 2019, Athens, Larissa & Mytilene, Greece



On Friday **25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, three Climathons took place in Greece under the auspices of EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece, in Athens, Larissa and Mytilene, Greece.



In particular, the Athenian Climathon co-organised by EIT Climate-KIC Greece, UN SDSN Greece, Organization Earth and Aeiphoria was hosted by HFAISTOS Educational

Association of Athens. This year's challenge was to **create bikeways in Athens as a solution to air pollution and climate change**. Among the awards, the winning team will have the chance to present its idea to the municipality of Athens and discuss the implementation plan with the Municipality officers.



### **International Seminar on legal indicators, Athens, Greece**

On **25<sup>th</sup> October 2019** an international seminar organised by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the UNESCO chair on climate diplomacy and the International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law took place in Athens aiming at exploring the potential role of legal indicators in assessing the performance of sustainable development law. Prof. Koundouri gave a speech on the role legal indicators should play in the Sustainable Development Indicator Framework.

### **Workshop on the economic impacts of Maritime Spatial Planning, Brussels, Belgium**

On **29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, Hotel Bloom in Brussels hosted the peer review workshop on the economic impacts of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), organized in the framework of the European Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Professor Phoebe Koundouri was invited and took part in the workshop, which included different moments: the presentation of the study by the Consortium, the presentation by each of the experts of the results of their review of the draft Final Study and thematic discussions on different aspects, like methodology, case studies, sectors and so on.

### **Nexus cluster workshop, Brussels, Belgium**

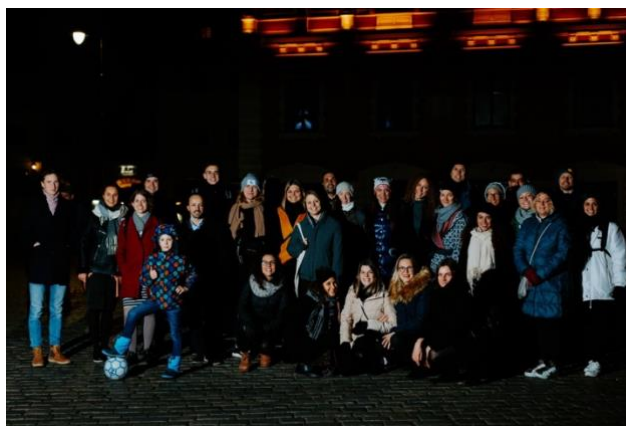
On **29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, the 'Nexus cluster workshop: Methods, tools and data for policy support on the Nexus' took place in Brussels. The purpose of the workshop was to showcase the achievements from research projects in defining the resource nexus, including the development of methods as well as the use of tools and available data. The projects address several policy domains including sectoral policies (e.g. energy, climate, environmental and agricultural), as well as cross-sectoral policies (e.g. resource efficiency, circular economy). The workshop was co-organized by the H2020 project DAFNE -which is managed by ICRE8,

among the others- together with the Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME), SIM4NEXUS, UNU-FLORES and the Nexus Project Cluster.

The workshop brought together EU-funded projects related to the resource nexus as well as other (non-EU funded) related initiatives with the objective to stimulate peer-to-peer and science-to-policy discussions on how to get the most out of nexus research for the benefit of society and policy-making.

#### EIT Climate-KIC RIS Partner & Hub Days 2019, Riga, Latvia

From **30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October** EIT Climate-KIC RIS Partners met in Riga at the Riga Technical University Design Factory to discuss on their ongoing projects, share their experiences and feedback on the main challenges they needed to overcome. Deep Demonstrations, Place-based innovation and financing tools were presented, while participants had the opportunity to work on community building and innovative thinking. Lydia Papadaki, EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece manager attended the workshop, where almost all European countries were represented.



#### Science and Ethics for Happiness and Well-being, Rome, Italy



On Monday and Tuesday **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, an event on Science and Ethics for Happiness and Well-being took place in Vatican in Rome. Phoebe Koundouri and Andreas Papandreou participated at the event.





### Circular Learning Hub, kick-off meeting, Ancona, Italy

On **7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, the kick-off meeting of the Circular Learning Hub project supported by EIT Climate-KIC took place in Ancona at Università Politecnica delle Marche. There all partners reviewed the goals of the project launching officially the beginning of the project.



### Circular Economy in the industrial and financial perspective: innovative solutions to engage firms and investors in the circular thinking, Ancona, Italy

On **7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, an open event hosted by Università Politecnica delle Marche shared the main goals and challenges of the Circular Learning Hub project with the wider University community and interested stakeholders. Lydia Papadaki, ATHENA RC, presented innovation related projects of ATHENA RC and the main obstacles and tools in engaging firms in the circular thinking.



## Funded Research Projects



**GLOBAQUA FP7 European Commission Project:** Managing the effects of multiple stressors on aquatic ecosystems under water scarcity. **GLOBAQUA** is an EU-funded project aiming to identify the prevalence of, and interaction between, stressors under water scarcity in order to improve knowledge of relationships between multiple stressors and to improve water management practices and policies.

Lead scientists: [Prof. Nikitas Pittis](#), [Dr. Stella Tsani](#), [Adj. Prof. Stella Apostolaki](#)

[Read GLOBAQUA latest newsletter](#)



**BRIGAID H2020 European Commission Project:** Bridging the Gap for Innovations in Disaster Resilience. Europe is particularly prone to these natural hazards and evidence is now ever stronger that

damages will increase. Evaluations also show a huge potential to reduce these risks through adaptation strategies. BRIGAID is a 4-year project (2016-2020) under EU Horizon 2020 aimed to effectively bridge the gap between innovators and end-users in resilience to floods, droughts and extreme weather. The objective of BRIGAID is to provide innovators with guidance to develop testing plans which increase the TRL of an innovation and its potential for market uptake. Lead scientist: [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)

[Read BRIGAID latest newsletter](#)



**DAFNE H2020 European Commission Project:** Decision Analytic Framework to explore the water-energy-food Nexus in complex transboundary water resource systems of fast developing countries.

The overall objective of DAFNE is to establish a decision-analytic framework (DAF) for Participatory and Integrated Planning (PIP). The DAF is a multi-step procedure that will enable the extensive, quantitative analysis of the anticipated effects of

alternative planning options on the broad range of heterogeneous and often competing interests in transboundary river basins ultimately facilitating comparison and negotiation based on **active engagement of stakeholders** in the process from the outset of the project, and integration of multiple and diverse international and local academic expertise ranging from natural sciences, water engineering, and environmental economics, to water governance and laws in order to develop **tools to facilitate social understanding of the impact and support comparative analysis of the alternative** through negotiations.

The DAFNE decision-analytic framework incorporates a quantitative assessment tool, which allows the detection of **feedback mechanisms** between the WEF components. As outlined in the sections below, it will be established through the following steps:

1) Compilation of data to characterize the hydrologic, engineering developments, social systems, economic systems, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;



- 2) Definition of the objectives of infrastructure and agricultural expansion;
- 3) Identification of stakeholders and their concerns, needs, and expectations, as well as their knowledge;
- 4) Identification and assessment of robust water management alternatives, or temporal sequences thereof.

Lead scientist: [Dr. Ebun Akinsete](#),

[Read DAFNE latest newsletter](#)



**[SIMRA H2020 European Commission Project](#):** Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA) is a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. SIMRA seeks to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how to

boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe, with a focus on the Mediterranean region (including non-EU) where there is limited evidence of outcomes and supporting conditions.

Lead scientists: [Dr. Ebun Akinsete](#), [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)

[Read SIMRA latest newsletter](#)



**[OpenAIRE-Connect H2020 European Commission Project](#):** Open Science is around the corner. Scientists and organizations see it as a way to speed up, improve quality and reward, while policy makers see it as a means to optimize cost of science and leverage innovation. Open Science is an emerging vision, a way of

thinking, whose challenges always gaze beyond its actual achievements. De facto, today's scientific communication ecosystem lacks tools and practices to allow researchers to fully embrace Open Science. OpenAIRE-Connect aims to provide technological and social bridges, and deliver services enabling uniform exchange of research artefacts (literature, data, and methods), with semantic links between them, across research communities and content providers in scientific communication. It will introduce and implement the concept of Open Science as a Service (OSaaS) on top of the existing OpenAIRE infrastructure, delivering out-of-the-box, on demand deployable tools. OpenAIRE-Connect will adopt an end-user driven approach (via the involvement of 5 prominent research communities), and enrich the portfolio of OpenAIRE infrastructure production services with a Research Community Dashboard Service and a Catch-All Notification Broker Service. The Research Community Dashboard Service will serve research communities to (i) publish research artefacts (packages and links), and (ii) monitor their research impact. The Catch-All Notification Broker Service will engage and mobilize content providers, and serve them with services enabling notification-based exchange of research artefacts, to leverage their transition towards Open Science paradigms. Both services will be served on-demand according to the OSaaS approach, hence be re-usable by different disciplines and providers, each with different practices and maturity levels, so as to favor a shift towards a uniform cross-community and cross-content provider communication ecosystem.

Lead scientist: [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#), [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)

[Read OpenAIRE-Connect latest newsletter](#)



**COASTAL H2020 European Commission Project:** Engaging local and regional business entrepreneurs, administrations, stakeholders, and scientific experts in a multi-actor process for knowledge exchange. Funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme

**COASTAL** is a research and innovation project, a unique multi-actor collaboration of coastal and rural business entrepreneurs, administrations, stakeholders, and natural and social science experts to formulate and evaluate business solutions and policy recommendations aimed at improving the coastal-rural synergy to foster rural and coastal development while preserving the environment.

Lead scientists: [Dr. Ebum Akinsete](#), [Adj. Prof. Stella Apostolaki](#), [Alice Guittard](#)

[Read COASTAL latest newsletter](#)



**AMARe - Actions for Marine Protected Areas, INTERREG MED Project.** The main objectives of AMARe project are: To develop shared methodologies and geospatial tools for multiple stressors assessment, coordinated environmental monitoring, multi-criteria analyses and stakeholders

engagement. To develop concrete pilot actions and coordinated strategies in selected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to solve hot spots of conflicts affecting marine biodiversity and the services it provides. Transnational cooperation and regulations, development of coordinated best practices, data access to share information and concrete stakeholder and users' involvement are the expected results. The final aim is to scale up strategies and recommendations at transnational level adopting an ecosystem-based approach considering the goals of the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\)](#) across MPAs.

Lead scientist: [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)

[Find AMARe new flyer](#)



**RECONNECT:** Regional cooperation for the transnational ecosystem sustainable development (RECONNECT) project aims to develop strategies for sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Natura 2000 sites. The overall objective

of the project is to promote efficient management of natural systems which will enhance the competence of local management authorities through the development of a multidisciplinary Decision Support System (DSS). The new transnational holistic approach which will be developed, will change the current protection strategies in the Balkan-Mediterranean area promoting more efficient and accurate management practices. The project's duration is 24 months, starting from 15 September 2017 and ending on 14 September 2019.

Lead scientists: [Lydia Stergiopoulou](#), [Lydia Papadaki](#)

[Read RECONNECT latest news](#)





**Enhancing Environmental Performance through Sustainable Development. The Role of Technological Heterogeneity" (EPSD Research Project) - Action II Research Framework.**

Funded by: The [Athens University of Economics and Business](#) Research Centre.

Duration: 1 year

**EPSD:** The project produces two working papers. The first one examines the patterns of environmental efficiency through heterogeneous environmental awareness and development regimes across the globe from 2006 through 2014, investigating the relationship between measures of performance such as environmental efficiency and productive performance under technological heterogeneity. The second piece considers the relationship between environmental efficiency, energy efficiency and productive performance under alternative eco-innovation regimes across Europe from 2010 through 2015 by examining whether there is a relationship running through measures of performance.



EIT Climate-KIC 2019 projects:

**Climate-KIC**

**Deep demonstration in the Port of Piraeus: Deep demonstration of maritime systems innovation in Piraeus**

aims at the decarbonization of the Port of Piraeus, which is the second maritime cluster globally, but also a particular hotspot of waste and shipping industry emissions

**BL.EU. Climate: Climate innovation in Southern European Waters**

aims to address the challenge of CO2 emissions by tackling plastic marine littering in southern European waters through innovation.

**CE in S3: Circular Economy Transition in Smart Specialization Strategy in RIS countries**

aims to stimulate the timely and systemic adoption of the CE in S3s for the 2020-2027 programming period in EU Member States.

**CL-Hub: Circular Learning Hub**

aims to create the mindset required to act against the climate change focusing on the circular economy in the industry production

## Interviews

Following the Third Sustainability Summit, Professor Phoebe Koundouri gave an interview on the axes and investments in tackling climate change at the World Energy News. Focusing on the work of the UN SDSN and EIT Climate-KIC in Greece, she underlined the need for a “transformational change” in Greece and specifically for investments in Blue Economy and Green Energy. Also, she briefed the main outcomes of the Third Sustainability Summit, highly supported by Professor Jeff Sachs, i.e. the 4-Seas Sustainable Blue Growth and the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Shipping Initiatives. Greece and Professor Koundouri team are at the forefront of both of these initiatives that have been put under the auspices of the United Nations. Find more [here](#).

# New Sustainable Development Report 2019

The new Sustainable Development Report 2019 is now available! Download it [here](#).

## Documentary

A short documentary of the Green Attica Symposium, which met in Athens, as well as on the islands of Spetses and Hydra is now available at [www.greenattica.patriarchate.org](http://www.greenattica.patriarchate.org)

## Relevant Courses



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri is also involved as lecturer in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Mediterranean through [the MOOC course "Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective"](#), which is part of the [UN SDSN SDGs Academy](#). UN SDSN SDGs Academy provides free massive open online courses and educational materials from the world's leading experts on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Launch of the new [MSc in Energy Economics and Law, School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece](#)! The aim of this programme is the scientific training and application of knowledge in current

economic, political and legal issues characterizing modern energy markets at international and European level.



[Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#) on 'Simulation models for the design of transition paths towards a sustainable society' has been organized within the framework of the European research project 'MEDEAS' (Horizon 2020).

The course lasts six weeks with an estimated amount of work of 5h/week. There are two short videos for each topic, documentation on each subject, auxiliary materials, tasks for the student and a self-assessment questionnaire. No requirements are needed in order to take part in it (except for the proper knowledge of the English language). In short, this MOOC will help students reach the necessary competences in the use of simulation tools for the evaluation of economy, energy and environment systems, and, more specifically, the different MEDEAS tools which have been developed in the MEDEAS project.



## Lead researchers in our team



[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#)



[Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#)



[Prof. Nikitas Pittis](#)



[Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)



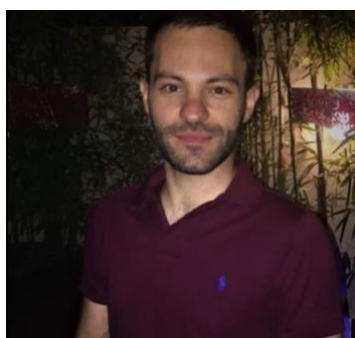
[Dr. Ebun Akinsete](#)



[Adj. Prof. Stella Apoatolaki](#)



[Dr. Stella Tsani](#)



[Dr. Nikos Chatzistamoulou](#)



[Alice Guittard](#)



[Evita Mailli](#)



[Lydia Papadaki](#)



[Lydia Stergiopoulou](#)

## Our interns

### Anna Gianvincenzo – MSc in Global Politics



*“From my first day at ICRE8, I got in contact with a dynamic team of economists and geographers, who helped me understanding what it means to conduct research in the field of environmental protection and natural resources management. Taking part in various projects, I could see how a different approach is needed for each of them. Finding my way to fit in different teams, as well as working on issues such as land-sea integrated management and marine protected areas, was challenging and exciting.”*

### Francesca Mazzoni - MSc in Green Economy and Sustainability



*“When I first arrived at ICRE8, I found a team of researchers working on loads of different relevant projects, organizing and attending many interesting events and meetings, not just in Greece but all-around Europe. It’s a very useful experience from multiple points of view: to understand how research centres work, to improve my ability to work in team as well as autonomously, and of course to deepen my knowledge on sustainability and environmental economics. I can already say my expectations are taking shape. I am working on some projects related to Circular Economy and the different pathways that could be taken in order to implement it and to promote this change in different sectors and at different levels.”*

## Our Pioneers

### Susana Galera Rodrigo - Administrative Law Prof.



*“The PIP program was a great opportunity to get in touch with colleagues in Greece and work together on European funded projects, such as COASTAL H2020 and also the chance to attend high-level conferences, such as the Third Sustainability Summit, co-organized by UN SDSN Greece.”*

### Zsolt Kazai - project consultant



*“The PIP program for me was a great opportunity to have a working experience with the scientific team of ICRE8. During the four week of my placement I participated in the organisation of Climathon getting real experiences about the challenges that the city of Athens facing concerning with climate change. Spending the placement at ICRE8 is a stunning opportunity to get new contacts and to know a huge variety of topics as the team is really active on national, European and Global levels.”*

## Scientific visits



From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Assoc. **Prof. Elisabetta Marzano**, University of Naples “Parthenope”, visited our premises aiming to strengthen our collaboration and identify future opportunities. Her research interests deal with macroeconomic analysis of tax evasion and underground economy; time series econometrics; ecological economics and water economics; business cycle and financial cycle. She has published in international peer reviewed journals such as the Journal of Money Credit and Banking; Land Use Policy and the Journal of Macroeconomics.



## Forthcoming events

**13 November 2019:** [EIT Climate-KIC Pioneers International Workshop 2019](#), Amsterdam, Netherlands

Operating in eight European locations, the Pioneers into Practice programme runs from May through to November and consists of a 4-6 week placement (domestic or international), bespoke transitions thinking & systems innovation mentoring delivered through a structured workshop programme and online training.



**14-15 November 2019:** [EIT Climate-KIC Climate LaunchPad Grand Final](#), Amsterdam, Netherlands

ClimateLaunchpad



[ClimateLaunchpad: The Green Business Ideas Competition](#). Provided you have a green business idea and have what it takes to become an entrepreneur. Your idea can be an innovation in renewable energy, a sustainable transition in the food chain, a mind shift in urban mobility or any other way to tackle climate

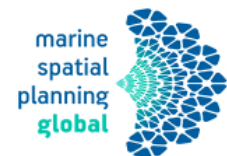
**18 November 2019:** [30 Years of Athena's History – Inventing the Future](#), Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece

By completing a 30-year history the Athena Research Center invites you to the special anniversary event that will take place at the Benaki Museum (138 Piraeus Ave., Athens) on Monday 18 November 2019. Find more [here](#).



**18-21 November 2019:** [Maritime Spatial Planning Forum: Global Meets Regional](#), Riga, Latvia

The [Maritime Spatial Planning Forum](#): Global Meets Regional will take place on 19-21 November 2019 in Riga, Latvia, and serve as a joint event for the 4<sup>th</sup> International MSPforum, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baltic MSP Forum as well as the final conference of the Pan Baltic Scope project. The focus will be on global and regional MSP topics, including the results and findings of the Pan Baltic Scope collaboration. It is organized together by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, VASAB, Pan Baltic Scope and European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.



**20 November 2019:** [The Importance of Data in the Maritime Economy](#), ATHENA RC, Athens, Greece

I4SEA project partners in the framework of the Single Action Research – Create – Innovate invite you to the conference “[The Importance of Data in the Maritime Economy](#)” Wednesday 20 November 2019 9:00 am. – 15:00 pm Athena Research Center (Artemidos 6 & Epidaurus – Paradise of Maroussi)



**21 November 2019:** [There is no Plan\(et\) B: A Climate Reality Workshop in Athens](#), Athens, Greece

On Thursday, November 21, Global Shapers Athens Hub and Atraktos join forces and invite you to an exclusive, interactive Climate Change Workshop. Opinion



leaders, organizations and people involved with the Environment will be there to tell you “truths” and answer your questions. Register [here](#).

**21-22 November 2019: [PRIMA Workshop on Synergies with EU & International Initiatives](#), Athens, Greece**

The General Secretariat for Research & Technology of the Ministry of Development and Investment (GSRT) is organizing a Workshop on PRIMA synergies with EU and International Initiatives. The workshop will take place within the framework of PRIMA Annual Workplan and aims to discuss synergies and strengthen partnerships among the initiatives.



**21-22 November 2019: [EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece Pioneers into Practice final Workshop](#), Athens, Greece**

The Final Workshop shuts down the [Pioneers into Practice programme](#) after months of active learning and experiencing. The objective is to wrap up the programme in the most coherent and meaningful possible way for pioneers, while gathering diverse feedback to feed the next PIP editions. Therefore, it is time for individual and collective meaning making through sharing their personal and collective experiences and reflecting on both the insights gained and the possibilities for further steps. At the same time, the feedback gathered from pioneers will serve as scaffolding for future improvements of the programme.



**26-27 November 2019: [The Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis: European Conference 2019](#), Toulouse, France**

[The Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis: European Conference 2019](#), the first ever European conference of the Society for Benefit Cost Analysis (SBCA, [benefitcostanalysis.org](#)) will be held at the Toulouse School of Economics.



**2-5 December 2019: [BARCELONA CONVENTION – COP21](#), Napoli, Italy**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ([Barcelona Convention](#)) and its Protocols will take place on 2-5 December 2019 in Castel dell'Ovo, a seaside historical castle located on the Gulf of Naples.



**2-13 December 2019: [UN Climate Change Conference COP 25](#), Madrid, Spain**

The twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties ([COP 25](#)), the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15), and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2) will be held at IFEMA – Feria de Madrid in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 13 December 2019.



**3 December 2019: [AXXA Workshop, Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens, Greece](#)**



**3-4 December 2019: Deep Dive, Valencia, Spain**

The Deep Dive brings together sustainability experts from the Ports of Valencia, Cyprus, Piraeus, as well as innovators activists and communities from Spain, Italy, Sweden, and from across the world who are deploying novel open source technologies, circular economy projects, uncanny partnerships for change.



**5 December 2019: 10 Years of Entrepreneurship – 100 Years of AUEB, Athens, Greece**

The event will feature the awards of the 9<sup>th</sup> Business Idea Competition by the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit of AUEB, the Business Excellence Award, and networking. Register [here](#).



**16-17 December 2019: Conference on Sustainable Development, Panteion University, Athens, Greece**



**16-17 December 2019: Regional Climate Change Adaptation Forum, Nicosia, Cyprus**

A launch workshop will be hosted by the Cyprus Institute to discuss the activities ahead. Participants will be invited from Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

The workshop will include an overview of the challenges in the climate sphere, a presentation of best practices and participatory strategies and methods for social innovation, climate adaptation and science/policy/society interface; and the best organizational structure and mechanism to implement joint initiatives. We will start with a working dinner on December 15 and continue with two days of meetings on December 16-17, 2019.



**5-8 March 2020: Delphi Economic Forum V, Delphi, Greece**

[Delphi Economic Forum V](#) will take place between Thursday, March 5 and Sunday, March 8, 2020 aiming to identify the main global trends, assess their implications and review the resulting challenges and policy options confronting decision-makers of the wider Eastern Mediterranean Region, Europe and the World. A panel co-organized by UN SDSN and EIT Climate-KIC with the participation of Jeff Sachs will be hosted by Delphi Economic Forum on March.



**13-15 March 2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> Beyond CSR Impact Forum “From Homo Sapiens to Homo Deus, best practices and lessons learned on the SDGs from Minoan Civilization”, Crete, Greece**

In alignment with the Global Goals on Sustainable Development, Beyond CSR in strategic partnership with the World Human Forum and the Centre of the Hellenic Culture in Paris, organizes on March 13,14,15, 2020, in Heraklion Crete, at the Heraklion Archeological Museum, and on June 17,18, 2020 at the Centre of the Hellenic Culture in Paris, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beyond CSR Impact Forum “From Homo Sapiens to Homo Deus, best practices and lessons learned on the SDGs from Minoan Civilization”.



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