

# Newsletter January 2019 – May 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 sixth 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 mid of April 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](#),

Researcher, [ICRE8](#)

Co-manager, [UN SDSN Greece](#)

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

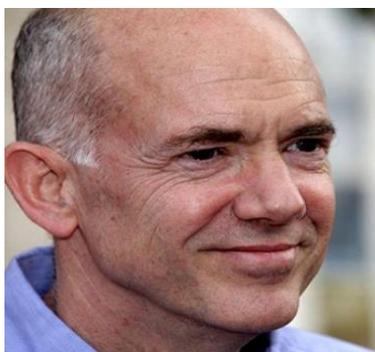
In October 2018 the IPCC special report on “Global Warming of 1.5 °C” warned that there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which, even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions 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 Greece](#), [ATHENA RC](#), Greece  
Director [ReSEES](#), [AUEB](#), Greece  
Scientific Advisory Board Chair [ICRE8](#) Greece  
Scientific Advisory Board Vice 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



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](#)



[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](#)



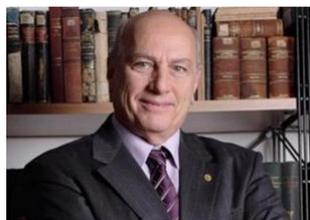
## EIT Climate KIC Hub Greece:

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 Pramatarı](#)

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

- [United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (UN SDSN-Greece, hosted by [ICRE8: International Center for Research on the Economy and the Environment](#)), [Prof. Andreas Papandreu](#)
- [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. In 2018 the Hub focused on engagement and networking activities with local actors as well as raising awareness on the new Hub and co-creation of initiatives.

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)

Running Programs:

1. **Accelerator:** <https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/entrepreneurship/accelerator/>
2. **Pioneers into Practice:** <https://pioneers.climate-kic.org/>
3. **Climathon:** <https://climathon.climate-kic.org/en/>
4. **Launchpad Competition:** <https://climatelaunchpad.org/>

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



***Prof. Phoebe Koundouri was nominated by the Council of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) to be one of the two candidates running for EAERE Presidency! She enthusiastically accepted the honor! Below read her note to the members of EAERE.***

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 1.5C, 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. EAERE should and must play a central role in the needed sustainability transition!

I believe that EAERE members research outputs and policy initiatives can have an instrumental role in creating a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient society with a circular, zero-carbon economy. Why? Well, EAERE not only boasts members which include the majority of the most influential scientists in the field, but it also organizes the most prestigious annual international conference in the field, bringing together in fruitful discussion hundreds of research and policy institutions. In addition, its official journals, ERE and REEP, shape a significant part of the relevant research agenda. Moreover, EAERE has strong research and policy related dissemination impact in more than 30 countries, via national representatives, while it works on re-enforcing its policy role, through the newly developed “Policy Outreach Committee”.

I am truly and deeply honored to be nominated for EAERE presidency, and I sincerely thank the nominating committee and the council for their trust. If I am elected, I believe I can contribute to continuing and advancing the already excellent work carried out by our association.

Let me first quickly say that I am currently ERE co-editor and REEP associate-editor, have served as EAERE vice-president for 2 years and council member for 4 years, EAERE newsletter editor for 4 years, president of the EAERE fellow-nomination committee, member of president-nomination committee, member of the policy outreach committee, member of the annual conference scientific committee and country representative for more than 15 years, and was the chair of both the scientific and local organizing committees of the 2017 EAERE conference. The last 20 years, the association has been my academic home!

If I am elected, I will do my best to serve the association along the following 4 directions, by formulating respective consultation groups composed by EAERE members and key members from corresponding communities, as well as devoting lots of energy to leveraging the needed grants smartly and efficiently.

1. I will encourage EAERE to continue to seek to meet the highest expectations of scientific merit, in a way that will increase its visibility and influence amongst the relevant associations on other continents, as well as in the general economics profession. This can be achieved through inter-association merit-based awards, fellowships and joint academic events/projects/special issues etc., which can be stimulated via capitalizing on our members' academic networks, while mobilizing grants from selected funding organizations, which will support these activities. Such visibility will also help in attracting international sponsorships earmarked for lowering the participation fee for our annual conference.

2. I will encourage EAERE to embrace more explicitly interdisciplinary scientific work. Almost all applied problems are interdisciplinary, hence scientific solutions need to be interdisciplinary and support socio-economic and environmental sustainability. That said, interdisciplinary work is difficult and expensive. Given my 20 years of experience and passion for interdisciplinary work, I can bring the association closer to the relevant academic community and funding sources. Given my 20 years of collaboration with DG Research and Innovation, I will invest time in increasing the influence of the association in formulating the priorities of research and innovation policy at the European Commission.

3. I will put a lot of effort in bringing our academic community closer to the innovation community that catalyzes and nurtures innovation, from large corporations, research institutes and public bodies, through to start-ups and individual entrepreneurs. Technological and social innovations ought to integrate our scientific results, while their acceleration in the market should be supported by our expertise in market, financial and economic sustainability. Such a strategy will encourage fresh new thinking from beyond the mainstream and I drive work towards achieving this aim in my capacity as Director of EIT Climate KIC Greece (and member of EIT Climate KIC Europe, [www.climate-kic.org](http://www.climate-kic.org)).

4. I will continue to reinforce EAERE's role in being an influential bridge between the academic community and the other stakeholders that are instrumental in the implementation of the sustainability transition: politicians, policy makers, businesses and the civil society. My role as co-chair of UN SDSN Greece (and member of UN SDSN Global, [unsdsn.org](http://unsdsn.org), [unsdsn.gr](http://unsdsn.gr)) places me in a unique position to facilitate this work.

I believe that the above strategy will enhance EAERE's role in the urgently needed sustainability transition.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Manchester!

Phoebe.

## 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](#)

[Project Website](#)

[Read GLOBAQUA latest newsletter](#)



**BRIGAIID 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. BRIGAIID 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 BRIGAIID 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](#)

[Project website](#)

[Read BRIGAIID latest newsletter](#)



**DAFNE**

**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. Ebum Akinsete](#),

[Project Website](#)

[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. Ebum Akinsete](#), [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)

[Project website](#)

[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, ondemand 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](#)

[Project website](#)

[Read OpenAIRE-Connect latest newsletter](#)



**COASTAL**  
Collaborative Land-Sea  
Integration Platform

**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](#)

[Project website](#)

[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](#)

[Project website](#)

[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](#)

[Project Website](#)

[Read RECONNECT latest news](#)

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**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. We control for the quality of institutions, the global competitiveness index and its pillars and economy structure indicators among others. We categorize the countries into groups using statistical techniques, accounting for technological heterogeneity by adopting the metafrontier framework. 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. We collect data on a large set of controls by combining, matching and harmonizing distinct but complementary publicly available sources. The analysis is developed into two interconnected stages. In the first stage we employ the tools of efficiency and productivity analysis such as Data Envelopment Analysis, Directional Distance Functions etc. while the second stage empirical strategy relies on investigating the role of path dependence, competitiveness level, economy structure, spillover effects and institutions' quality through economic models employing cutting-edge econometric techniques to explain performance patterns. From a policy perspective, the aim is to highlight that lack of appropriate handling of technological heterogeneity distorts the benchmarking process leading to incorrect results. We argue that a tailored policy based on historical achievements, capabilities, level of SDGs adaptation, development and eco-innovation might be a more appropriate strategy in enhancing performance instead of a one-size fits all policy.

Lead researcher: [Dr. Nikos Chatzistamoulou](#)

## New Projects



**@ ATHENA RC**

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

Call: RUR02, H2020: Research & Innovation Actions.

Coordinator, University of Piza, 25 European partners.

Duration: 2019-2023



**@ 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](#)

# Lead Researchers in our team!



[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#)



[Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#)



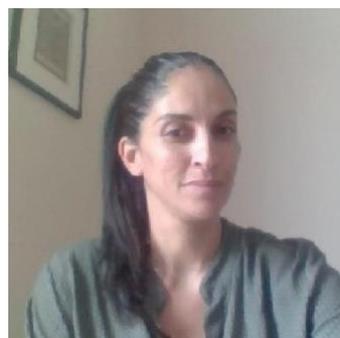
[Prof. Nikitas Pittis](#)



[Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#)



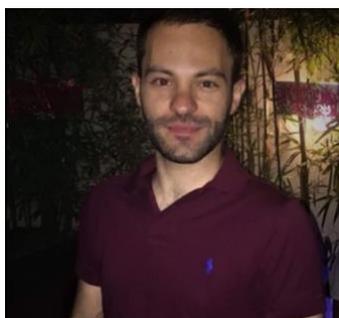
[Dr. Ebum Akinsete](#)



[Adj. Prof. Stella Apostolaki](#)



[Dr. Stella Tsani](#)



[Dr. Nikos Chatzistamoulou](#)



[Alice Guittard](#)



[Evita Mailli](#)



[Lydia Papadaki](#)



[Lydia Stergiopoulou,](#)

# News

## [European Commission training course on sustainable management of ephemeral rivers: SMIRES, ATHENA Research Centre, Athens, Greece](#)

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February SMIRES training was organized by [ATHENA RC](#) and [ICRE8](#), where eight lecturers spoke on different subjects in a three-day workshop:

- [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) - “Sustainable development goals, MEA and Agenda 2030- Links to Management of Intermittent Rivers and Ephemeral Streams Room”
- Dr. Emmanouil Tyllianakis – “Theory and application session I: Valuation of natural resources for sustainable development”
- [Asst. Prof. Achilleas Vassilopoulos](#) – “Theory and application session II: Non-market valuation methods- Choice & Lab Experiments, Contingent valuation”
- [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#) – “Sustainable IRES management under climate change”
- [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) – “Linking water values to water prices: Deriving and managing values in a river basin”
- [Dr. Stella Tsani](#) – “Theory and application III: Benefit transfer methods”
- [Dr. Ebum Akinsete](#) - “Participatory approaches to Ecosystem Services valuation”
- [Adj. Prof. Stella Apostolaki](#) – “Water features and rivers as part of the urban design: Services provided, past and current trends”



[7th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists](#), Udine Italy

On February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, the 7th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists took place at Udine Italy. [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) spoke about “Ambiguity Aversion, Modern Bayesianism and Small World”.



## [Delphi Economic Forum: Innovating for Climate Resilience](#), Delphi, Greece

Delphi Economic Forum IV (<http://www.delphiforum.gr/>) took place between Thursday, February 28 and Sunday, March 3, 2019 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. Moreover, it places Greece's need for structural reforms and new leadership strategies under the microscope with the aim to explore a new model of governance. The main theme of Delphi Economic Forum IV is "The Challenge of Inclusive Growth". [UN SDSN Greece](#) and [EIT Climate KIC](#) Greece have co-organized the following sessions:

[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) chaired a session on Innovating for Climate Resilience, which featured as main speakers:

- [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#), Professor of Environmental Economics, [National & Kapodistrian University of Athens](#), Greece
- Demetres Karavellas, CEO, WWF, Greece
- Dr. Thanh –Tam Le, Managing Director, Climate-KIC SAS & Director for the Mediterranean, [Climate-KIC](#)
- Dr. Dimitri Zenghelis, Visiting Research Fellow, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change, LSE
- Nick Keramidas, Director of EU Affairs, Mytilineos S.A. , Greece

Moreover, [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) a speaker at the session on Environmental Degradation and Climate Change, chaired by Christos Zerefos, Head, Research Center for Climatology, Academy of Athens, Greece. The main speakers of the session were:

- H.E. Yasuhiro Shimizu, Ambassador to Greece, Embassy of Japan
- Dr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland
- Guy Brasseur, Leader, Env.Modeling Group, Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology, Germany
- Prof. Pantelis Capros, Energy Economy Environment Modelling Lab, [University of Athens](#), Greece
- Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, [Athens University of Economics & Business](#), Greece
- Prof. Anastasios Xepapadeas, Professor, [Athens University of Economics & Business](#); US Academy of Sciences, Greece



**[Ex post evaluation of major projects supported by the European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) and Cohesion Fund between 2000 and 2013, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium](#)**

On March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) gave a speech at the Ex post evaluation of major projects supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund between 2000 and 2013 at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium



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**Innovation for Climate Action: [EIT Climate KIC](#) meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, Prof. Phoebe Koundouri participated at the Innovation for Climate Action: [EIT Climate KIC](#) meeting in Sofia (Bulgaria), speaking about Innovation for Climate Action at the meeting of the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology-Climate KIC Meeting on 20th March 2019.](#)



[Business Innovation Greece Programme, Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#), Athens

On March 27th 2019, another event took place at Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The launch event for the Business Innovation Greece Programme is aiming to increase value creation and sustainable growth in the Greek business sector. The Programme is part of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, and the areas of support are:

- Innovative technologies, processes and services
- Sustainable business development
- Greening of existing businesses and processes
- Development and implementation of innovative products and services

[Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) spoke about Innovation for Sustainability Transition: A Challenge and an opportunity for Greece.



[Conference on the Energy Economics and Law](#) for the launch of the new [MSc in Energy Economics and Law](#), School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

On the 27th March, the conference on the Energy Economics and Law for the launch of the new MSc in Energy Economics and Law took place at the School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business. Specialists from all fields participated in the conference giving insights from their individual fields of work. Among the speakers were:

- [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#), Professor at the [Athens University of Economics and Business](#), Director of the [Research Center for Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability \(ReSEES\)](#), co-chair [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#), Director of the [EIT Climate-KIC](#) Hub Greece
- [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#), Professor at [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#), co-chair [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#)
- Vera Alexandropoulou, Vice President at [Thalassa Foundation](#)
- Prof. Katerina Pramataris, Associate Professor at the Department of Management Science and Technology of the [Athens University of Economics and Business](#), Partner of Uni.Fund
- Zissimos Mantas, Senior Business Development Officer at [Eunice Energy Group](#)



## Convergences Greece Forum

[The Convergences Greece Forum launched in Athens on April 1st and 2nd, with hundreds of people participating.](#) It is the first platform for thought in Europe that aims at building new convergences between public, private, and solidarity-based actors to promote the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a world “Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty.” The Convergences Greece Forum is under the auspices of the President of the Republic and is co-organized by the International Convergences Forum and the World Human Forum, president and co-founder [Alexandra Mitsotaki](#). It is organized in cooperation with [UN Sustainable Network Solution Network Greece](#), co-chaired by [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#). During the forums which took place on Tuesday, April 2, at the "The Hub Events" organizations, companies, private and public bodies, representatives of SMEs, academics, students and citizens will meet not to recycle problems but to jointly seek sustainable solutions to the most important issues they face our country. Among these forums, [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#), Prof. Lenio Myrivili, Marianthi Liapi, Eric Scotto, Dr. Andriasopoulos and other speakers discussed potential solutions aiming to make cities Green! At the event held at Impact Hub Athens there were many tangible examples of the convergences that can be achieved both in the field of innovation, with Startups linking with merchant shipping, for example, the environmental impact of the Greek fleet, with solutions to urgent issues, such as to a disease that destroys plane trees in Europe and Greece.



The President of the Republic [welcomed](#) prominent professors and co-organizers of the 1st "Convergences Greece Forum - Convergences on Innovation, Social Economy and Sustainable Development". The President of the Republic received earlier Professor Muhammad Yunus, Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Jean Luc Perron, Deputy Chairman of the World Forum Convergences, Alexandra Mitsotaki, President of the World Human Forum and co-organizer of the Convergences Greece Forum and Professor Andreas Papandreou, co-chair of SDSN Greece (Sustainable Development Solutions Network), participating in the 1st" Convergences Greece Forum ", to be held in Athens, 1-2 April, under the auspices of the President of the Republic.

You can find more about the meeting [here](#).



## Climate Change Symposium: Threats, Challenges, Solutions for Greece, DERE University

[On Wednesday 3rd April 2019 "Climate Change Symposium: Threats, Challenges, Solutions for Greece"](#) took place at the American College of Greece, DERE University and co-organised by DERE University and [UN SDSN Greece](#). Aiming at presenting the scientific content of Climate Change in Greece, specialists from different fields joined the panel showing how to formulate holistic solutions able to combat this global problem and eliminate its negative impacts for the environment and the society. The main speakers of the Symposium were:

- [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, AUEB](#).
- Yannis Stournaras, Governor, Bank of Greece
- Socrates Famellos, alternate minister for energy and environment
- Prof. Dimitris Lalas
- Prof. Manolis Pleionis, Director and President of the board of directors of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA)
- Nikos Charalambides, Executive Director of Greenpeace Greece
- Dr. Michael T. Valahas, Director, Centre of Excellence for sustainability, Office of public affairs, the American College of Greece
- [Prof. Andreas Papandreou](#), Professor of Environmental Economics, [National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#)
- [Prof. Stella Apostolaki](#), DERE University and senior researcher at [ICRE8](#)

After the panel discussions, participants had the chance to join games related to Climate Change to enhance the understanding of CC impacts, identify level of awareness and assist the process of formulating relevant solutions. The games were: 'SDGs and Climate', an interactive test of knowledge game, 'Debating Tennis', a game in which players debate and argue in favour or against motions/statements related to climate change and 'Stabilization Wedges Game', a team-based exercise (a Board Game) that teaches players about the scale of the greenhouse gas problem.





## Athens Science Festival, Technopolis, Athens

[On Thursday 4th April 2019 "Athens Science Festival" took place at Technopolis, Athens](#), bringing all citizens close to science. The main focus of the festival is to demonstrate modern scientific and technological performance and to bring new knowledge through a continuous and open dialogue with the public. Among the events of the festival was "Climate Change: Science, Innovation and Participation", organized by [ICRE8](#) and [ATHENA RC](#) where:

- [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#) ([Athens University of Economics and Business](#)) and Director of [EIT Climate-KIC Greece](#) ([Athena RC](#))
- Dora Trachana, Uni.Fund
- Eleni Atsikbasis, founder of "Healing Lesvos"
- Efi Tritopoulou, General Director of "Citipost"
- Lefteris Arapakis, Director and Co-founder of "Enaleia"
- Giorgos Iliou, vice-mayor of Kithnos

Lastly, Eleni Petra, Elli Papadopoulou and Lydia Papadaki engaged the audience in an interactive game regarding the SDGs and the Climate Change.



## Interreg MEDGRASPINNO project, TMEDE, Athens

The Interreg MEDGRASPINNO project was held in Athens on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Prof. Dr. Phoebe Koundouri, AUEB, Director of ReSEES and Co-Chair of the EIT Climate – KIC Hub Greece talked about “the Business Acceleration aiming to promote CleanTech solutions focusing on the Climate Change” at the Seminar “Project Interreg MED GRASPINNO – Green Public Contracts - Cyclical Economy - Energy Upgrade of Public Buildings” held at TMEDE Building, Athens.



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## [Athens Circular Forum-Symbiosis: Circular economy at the cities: the Greek case. Hypatia Mantion. Athens](#)

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#), [AUEB](#), chaired the forum at Athens Circular Forum, which aims at making Athens and Attica a promising example of an international player, acting as a beacon of innovation and disseminating good practices across Greece. Among the speakers are:

- Giannis Maniatis, ex Minister of Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Member of Parliament, Professor at University of Piraeus
- George Vernicos, President of Economic & Social Committee, General Secretary of SETE, Honorary President of Greenpeace & entrepreneur in shipping, tourism and yachting
- Maria Lekakou, Dean of the Business School of the University of Aegean, Professor of Maritime Economics, running the Blue Growth Initiative for the promotion of ocean literacy and blue entrepreneurship
- George Kofinacos, Managing Director of Storm Harbour LLP in London, Chairman of the BoD of EuPraxis FSI, previously CEO and Executive Director of a Private Equity Fund in Luxemburg focusing on Renewables and Green Investments, Distinguished Executive-in-Residence for Rutgers Graduate Business School



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

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, an interactive workshop on EIT Climate-KIC signature programmes hosted by EIT Climate-KIC in Amsterdam was attended by a member of UN SDSN Greece. 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".



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

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, an interactive workshop on EIT Climate-KIC pioneers local managers hosted by EIT House in Brussels was attended by a member of UN SDSN Greece. 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 into Practice: Train the trainer, Multiburo Parliament, Brussels

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



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

Dr Ebum 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. The local Greek case-study team led by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research organised 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 took place at ATHENA RC, Athens (Greece) from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Introductory workshop help 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.



ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ

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Στο εργαστήριο της...



ΔΡ ΜΑΡΙΕ ΠΑΛΑΜΑΝ

# Φοίβη Κουντούρη

Η καθηγήτρια του Οικονομικού Πανεπιστημίου διεξάγει μαζί με την ομάδα της διεπιστημονική έρευνα σχετικά με θέματα διαχείρισης της κλιματικής αλλαγής, των φυσικών πόρων και της ενέργειας.

**Η** κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη.



### Γλωσσάρι

**ΑΣΙΘΟΡΟΙ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ**  
Μια μορφή ανάπτυξης που αποσκοπεί στην κάλυψη των υλικών της σημερινής γενιάς και ταυτόχρονα διατηρεί τη δυνατότητα των μελλοντικών γενιών να ικανοποιήσουν τα δικά τους ανάγκες.

**ΣΥΝΟΛΙΚΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗ ΑΓΙΑ ΑΓΑΘΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ**  
Μια που αποτελεί γινόμενο της οφέλους της άσκησης περιβαλλοντικής πολιτικής και η περιβαλλοντική κατάσταση σε σχέση με οφέλη που αποφέρει και με το κόστος που επιβάλλει διασφάλισής τους ή ενός δείκτη της υλικής ευημερίας.

**ΜΕΘΟΔΟΙ ΧΡΗΜΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΠΟΤΙΜΗΣΗΣ**  
Μεθόδους προσδιορίζουν τη αξία και των υπηρεσιών κλιματικής - περιβαλλοντικής υπηρεσιών για το οποίο διακρίνονται με συγκεκριμένη οργάνωση, δηλαδή με τη χρήση της παραδοσιακής μεθόδου (π.χ. κλιματικές οικονομίες, οφέλη μεταφορών) και επεκτείνονται σε άλλους τομείς της οικονομίας.

Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη. Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη.

## Πράσινη ναυτιλία και μπλε ανάπτυξη

Οι συνέπειες της αλλαγής, αναφέρει η Φοίβη Κουντούρη, αναφέρονται στη βιωσιμότητα της οικονομίας και την κοινωνική αλληλεγγύη. Η Φοίβη Κουντούρη αναφέρει ότι η πράσινη ναυτιλία και η μπλε ανάπτυξη είναι δύο κεντρικά στοιχεία της στρατηγικής της χώρας για την αντιμετώπιση της κλιματικής αλλαγής. Η πράσινη ναυτιλία αφορά στην ανάπτυξη της ναυτιλίας με ελαφρύ και καθαρό καύσιμο, ενώ η μπλε ανάπτυξη αφορά στην ανάπτυξη της αλιείας και της αλιειοτροφίας με ελαφρύ και καθαρό καύσιμο.

Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη. Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη.

Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη. Η κλιματική αλλαγή αποτελεί για τον πλανήτη μας έναν άμεσο κίνδυνο. Ο στόχος είναι να ελαττωθεί η συγκέντρωση του διοξειδίου του άνθρακα στην ατμόσφαιρα (CO2) και να μειωθούν οι επιπτώσεις της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη.

### Τι λέει η «νέα γενιά»



**ΑΧΙΛΛΕΑΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ**  
Είμαι από τους βετεράνους υπάλληλους της κοινωνικής Climate-KIC Greece, είναι το να εντοπίζουμε και να υποστηρίξουμε προγράμματα που έχουν ορατότητα στο να εκμεταλλευτούμε τις δυνατότητες της κλιματικής αλλαγής. Πιστεύουμε ότι η επίτευξη της μετάβασης σε μια κοινωνία με μηδενικές εκπομπές διοξειδίου του άνθρακα δεν είναι μόνο προσιτότητα για την αποφυγή των επιπτώσεων της κλιματικής αλλαγής αλλά μπορεί επιπλέον να αποτελέσει άξια πρόκληση και δημιουργία ευκαιριών για τη μεταμόρφωση και τον κοινωνικό μετασχηματισμό.



**EBIN AKINSETE**  
Η κλιματική αλλαγή και η βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη δεν είναι προβλεπόμενοι μόνο περιβαλλοντικοί, αλλά και ανθρωπολογικοί. Ζητούμενο είναι να ανακατασκευαστεί η σχέση που διαγράφουμε και να λαμβάνουμε υπόψη το ανθρώπινο στοιχείο κατά της πρόκλησης, αντιμετώπισης και περιλαμβανόμενος τους ενδογενόμενες φορές στη προγράμματά μας. Επεκτείνω την ενσωμάτωση των ενεργειών στην πράξη, κατά τη στιγμή των κλιματικών λύσεων, διασφάλιση στρατηγικών στόχων, είτε από τη διαφορετικότητα στρατηγικών αποφάσεων.

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Interview of Prof. Andreas Papandreou and Prof. Efthimis Lekkas on Climate Change from [Vouli channel](#) on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019.



## Relevant Courses



Prof. Phoebe Koundouri is also involved as lecturer in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Mediterranean through [the MOCC 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.

# Upcoming events

## Upcoming events



Dr Ebum Akinsete will be participating in a panel on the Food-Water-Energy Nexus, presenting work on the H2020 DAFNE project, at the [4th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference](#), on the 28–31 May in Lisbon Portugal.

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On 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, [the general assembly of SIMRA is taking place in Athens](#) and hosted by [ICRE8](#).

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BRIGRID will hold a two-day **conference on Climate Disaster Resilience and Innovation** on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June in Bucharest.

**Find more:** <https://brigaid.eu/brigaid-conference-in-bucharest-romania/>



### [3rd Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe & the Mediterranean](#)

[UN SDSN Greece](#), co-chaired by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri and [EIT Climate KIC Greece](#), directed by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, have partnered with [The Economist Events](#) in establishing the Annual Sustainability Summit that aims to promote SDGs research and implementation in the Mediterranean and South-East Europe and beyond (see [program of last year's Summit](#)).

The 3rd Sustainability Summit will host many distinguished personalities from Europe and the US, including Jeffrey Sachs Director of UN SDSN Global, chairs of all members of UN SDSN Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Caspian Sea, as well as heads of states, academics, businessmen, policy makers and politicians, to share their knowledge and experience on science driven solutions for the urgently needed sustainability transition for the Region. The summit is scheduled to take place on October 16th - 17th, 2019 at the [Goulandris Natural History Museum](#) in Athens. The conference will be under the auspices of the President of the Hellenic Republic, who will also open the event.

The Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe & the Mediterranean is developing into the focal annual event of the Region, bringing together in a creative dialogue, all high-level representatives towards implementing Agenda 2030.

[Preliminary programme](#)

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