

# The 2021 Asterousia Hybrid University

Introduction, goals, structure, methodology

**Prof. Michael Scoullos**

MIO-ECSDE Chair, MEDIES Coordinator

UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development

Management and Education in the Mediterranean, University of Athens

Chair, Greek National Commission of MAB UNESCO



Venice Office  
Regional Bureau for Science  
and Culture in Europe



MEDIES



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REGION OF crete  
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ



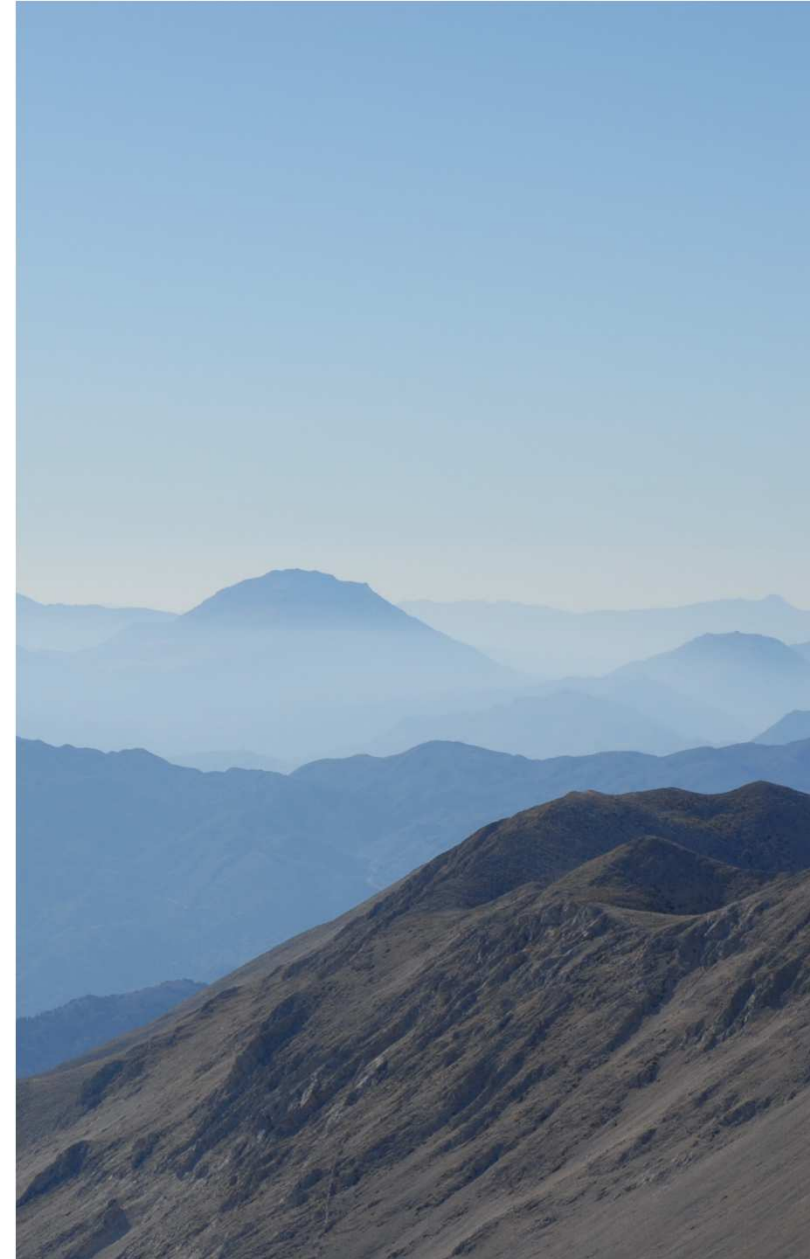
Αναπτυξιακή  
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HERAKLION  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



# Introduction

The 2021 Asterousia Hybrid University is based:

- on the continuation of a long tradition of Summer Universities established already in 2012
- on the necessary adaptation to the health provisions that became necessary because of the COVID-19 pandemic
- on the specific opportunities and priority issues reflecting key global concerns



# The background

- MIO-ECSDE
- the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice Office)
- the UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education at the University of Athens (UoA)

in cooperation with international and national actors:

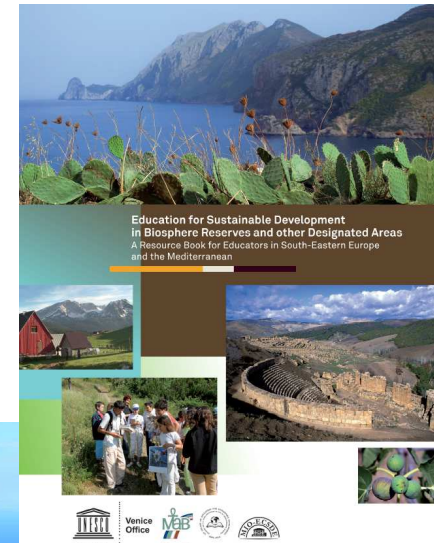
have jointly run series of summer universities for managers, scientists and educators on how to design and implement Sustainable Development initiatives in Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas: *the **Hybrid University of Asterousia (2020)**; at the Central Balkan BR (2019); Parnon (2018); Sardinia (2017); Samothraki (2016); and Amfissa (2014); Lavrion and Amfissa (2012)*



Asterousia Hybrid 2020



Bulgaria, 2019



Parnon, 2018



Sardinia, 2017



Amfissa 2014



Samothraki, 2016

Lavrion and Amfissa, 2012

# Hybrid University of Asterousia 2021 - Structure

## Phase A: Crete (19-24/10/2021)



- Small number of participants
- Selected content will be used in Phase B supplementing the 2020 filming

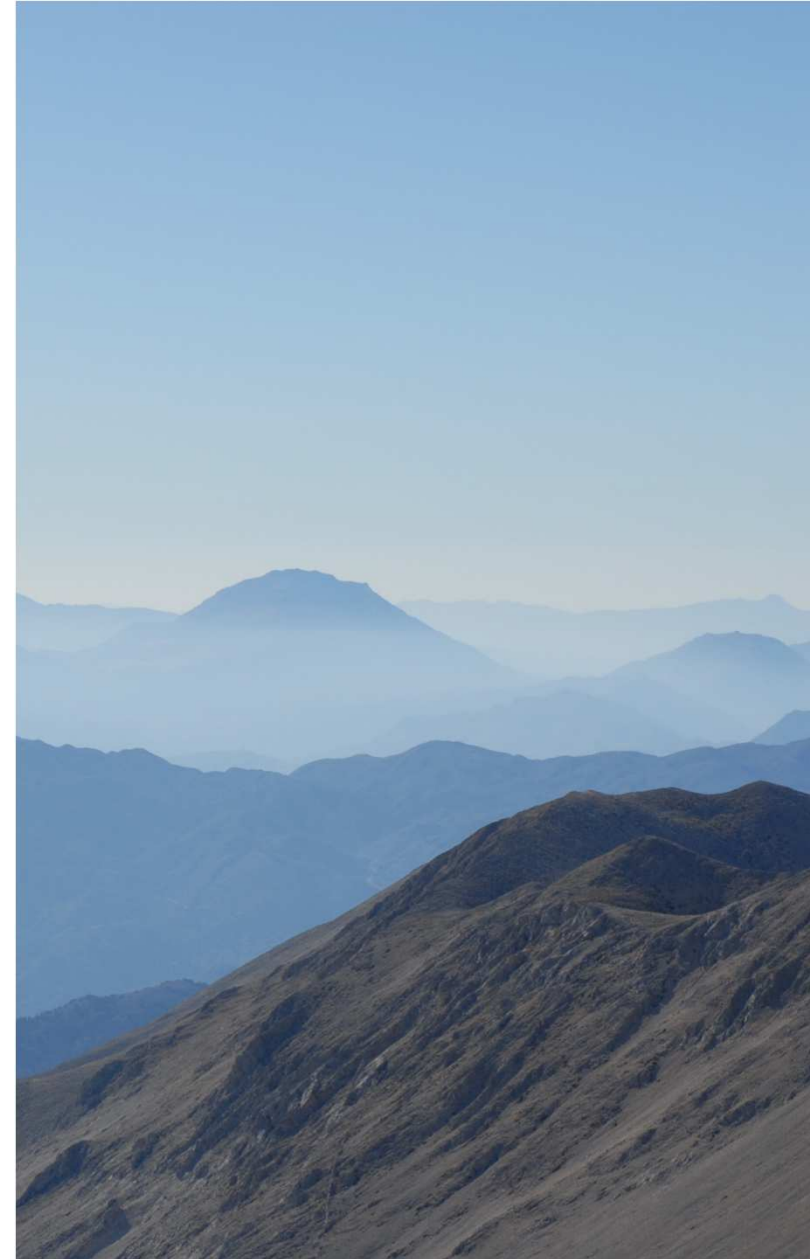
## Phase B: virtual (January 2021)



- A self-paced, asynchronous e-course, 3 weeks-long, including 3 meet-the-experts web-meetings
- In English

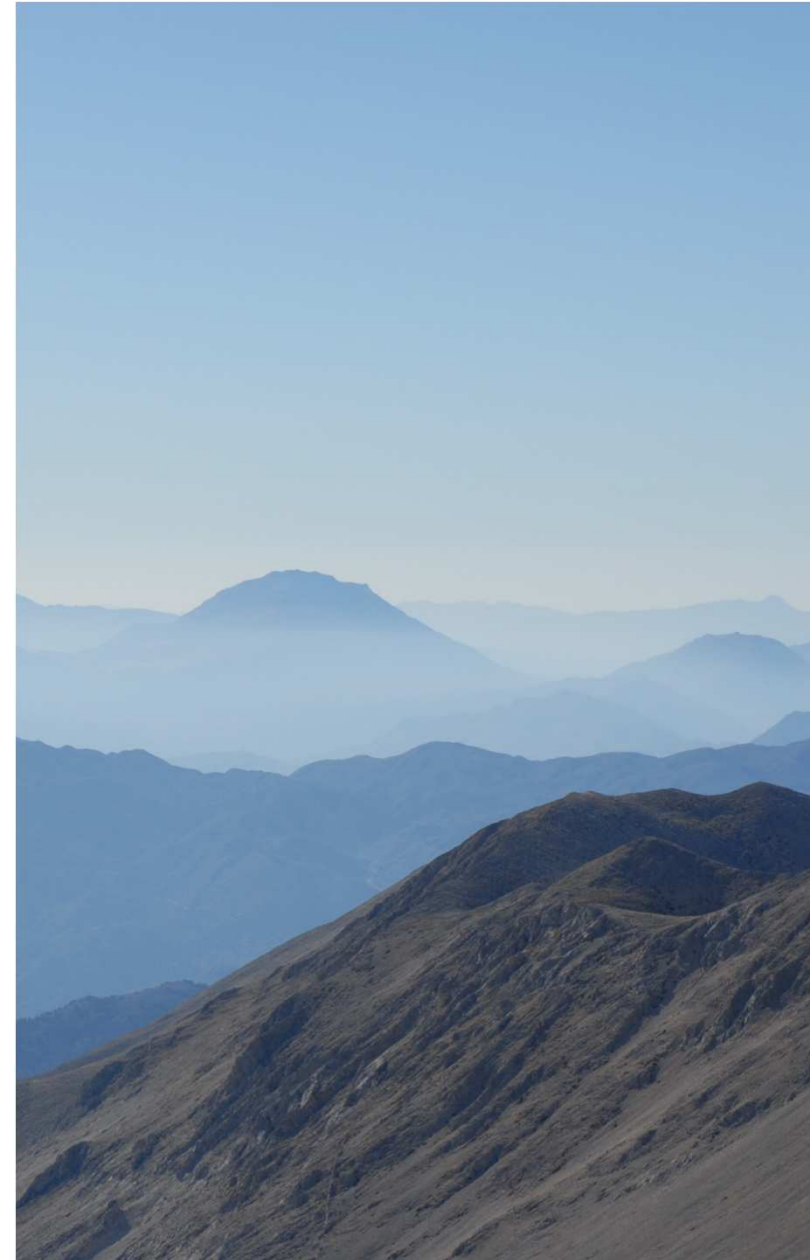
# Overall Objectives

- The promotion of the concepts behind the establishment and operation of Biosphere Reserves helping key stakeholders and target groups to better understand and actively participate in the proper management of these areas
- Address the relationship of management with different forms of education, awareness raising and participation of local communities
- Train, enhance the capacities of managers, post-graduates and other stakeholders involved



# Key thematic areas for this year

- Sustainable Development Management in Biosphere Reserves
- Marine pollution & biodiversity in the Mediterranean
- Marine Litter / Monitoring and assessment of marine pollution from plastics
- Single Use Plastic (SUPs): prevention and mitigation actions/ the role of key stakeholders (educational community, tourism businesses, local authorities, etc.)
- Water Cycle and the Water – Energy - Food – Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus
- Public awareness raising and Public Participation
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Ocean literacy



# HAU 2021 - Synergies

This year's participants will have the chance to benefit and join local interventions and more specifically:

- **On Thursday 21/10/2021:**

- (*morning*) The 1<sup>st</sup> Beach Cleanup & Participatory Science Action in Mylopotamos / Marine Litter activities with schools

- (*afternoon*) A Workshop with a small group of tourism professionals in Mylopotamos

Organized by MIO-ECSDE/MEdIES with the support of MADE Consultants in the framework of the Project “Waste ashore-Mylopotamos” funded by AKOMM

- **On Friday 22/10/2021:**

“An Awareness raising action on the Asterousia BR for residents, socio-economic collectives and other stakeholders” of the Municipality of Gortyna.

Organized by MIO-ECSDE in the framework of a Project funded by the Asterousia Protection Society



# HUA 2021 Phase A - The full programme

**Wednesday, 20/10/2021**

**Coordination meeting for the two beach cleanups and participatory science actions**

Project Waste ashore-Mylopotamos!

(MEdIES team)

**Crete - Cyprus project on Marine Pollution**

(Dr. Aravella Zachariou, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute)

**Monitoring marine litter and generating fit-for-purpose data through a participatory science approach**

(Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE)

Discussion

Dinner and accommodation in Mylopotamos

# HUA 2021 Phase A - The full programme

**Thursday, 21/10/2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Beach Cleanup & Participatory Science Action** in Mylopotamos Geropotamos/ Marine Litter activities with schools

The participants of the AHU will join and observe the beach cleanups organized by MIO-ECSDE and MEdIES Team with the support of MADE consultants in the framework of the Project “Waste ashore-Mylopotamos”

Break

Going deeper: Methodology for Monitoring Marine Litter on Beaches

Lunch

**The European Nature Policy Toolkit**, a new educational toolkit on European Biodiversity, Interactive session (MEdIES team)

The **WEFE Nexus approach and the Water Cycle**(Prof. M. Scoullos)

**Workshop with tourism professionals**

The participants of the AHU will join this workshop organized by MIO-ECSDE and MEdIES Team with the support of MADE consultants in the framework of the Project “Waste ashore-Mylopotamos”

Discussion

Dinner and accommodation in Mylopotamos

# HUA 2021 Phase A - The full programme

**Friday, 22/10/2021**

Virtual connection to the Opening Session of the 2021 edition of the **Blue Eco Forum** "Towards Sustainable Blue Food in the Mediterranean", organized in Barcelona by Eco-Union with the support of MIO-ECSDE's Med Action Day 2021

**Papyrus handover ceremony** for the admission of the Asterousia Biosphere Reserve in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO/Man and Biosphere Program

Press conference in the local media

Break

## **Visit to the CRETAquarium of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research**

- Addressing Marine Litter and Climate Change in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas: The showcases of *Plastic Busters MPAs* and *MPA Engage* (Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, MIO-ECSDE)
- Marine pollution and biodiversity in the Mediterranean (Dr. Thanos Ntalianis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research)
- Virtual connection to the **UNESCO Venice Chair Training course on Water, Heritage and Sustainable Development: "BEYOND MUSEUMS-Tools for Promoting the Natural and Cultural Water Heritage"**

Departure to Gortyna / Lunch

**Awareness raising on the BR** will be carried out for residents, socio-economic cooperatives, etc. of the Municipality of Gortyna at the Cultural Center of Ag. Deka (MIO-ECSDE /MEDIES) and Ms. Th. Vrentzou Skordalaki (Asterousia Protection Association)

The participants of the AHU will join and observe the awareness raising event organized by MIO-ECSDE in the framework of a Project funded by the Asterousia Protection Society

# HUA 2021 Phase A - The full programme

**Saturday, 23/10/2021**

**Study Visits within the Asterousia BR/Landscape** interpretation with emphasis on freshwater and its interaction with the marine environment

Coffee break in Ag. Ioannis

**Certificate Ceremony**

Informal Meeting of the Local Management Committee of Asterousia and Consultation with Mayors and local officials, at Thalori

Lunch

Evaluation - Closing session

Departures

# Focus Themes of the e-course HAU (2021)

## WEEK 1

- Introduction, Framework
- The MAB/UNESCO programme
- A new narrative for MAB BRs in the pandemic
- Success factors for nomination
- European, Mediterranean, Global Initiatives for Biodiversity

## WEEK 2

- From Environmental to Sustainability Management
- Marine pollution/pollution from plastics example of participatory science in and around BR
- Communication and Branding in a BR
- Culture landscapes, culture management

## WEEK 3

- MAB Youth Forum and other youth-led initiatives for BRs
- Social capital
- Education for Sustainable Development

# Thank you!

Secretariat of the HYBRID UNIVERSITY of ASTEROUSIA

MEdIES / MIO-ECSDE

12, Kyrristou str. 10556, Athens, Greece,

[info@medies.net](mailto:info@medies.net), [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org)



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