



## CALL FOR REGISTRATION

ASTEROUSIA HYBRID UNIVERSITY 2024-2025:  
**Phase B (online): 27 January—16 February 2025**  
*Integrated Management in Biosphere Reserves and  
other Designated Sites of South-East Europe  
and the Mediterranean*

## ABOUT

This CALL FOR REGISTRATION concerns the organisation of the online part (Phase B) of the Hybrid University 2024-2025. It is primarily targeting post graduate students, young researchers, educators and site managers of existing and candidate Biosphere Reserves (BRs) of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Scientific Programme and other UNESCO designated sites, such as Global Geoparks, Ecohydrology sites, World Heritage Properties (WH), and other areas such as Protected Areas (PAs), Natura 2000 sites, etc., from not only from Mediterranean countries but from all around the world.

---> **Anyone with an interest, study or work on such sites can participate** ←-

Phase B comes as a follow up of Phase A (live) that took place from 21 to 25 October in and around Asterousia Biosphere Reserve in Crete (Greece), with 30 participants from 11 countries. Read more on Phase A: <https://medies.net/asterousia-hybrid-university-2024-phase-a-completed/> and <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/empowering-next-generation-addressing-environmental-challenges-south-east-europe-and-mediterranean?hub=66976>

**Phase B** is scheduled as a 3-week long online course to capitalize and broaden the outcomes of Phase A and to provide learning and networking opportunities to a wider audience. Phase B will combine asynchronous (self-paced) learning with synchronous learning content (3 live “*meet the experts*” sessions).

## THE E-COURSE IN A NUTSHELL

**Duration:** Three weeks, starting from **27 January** to **16 February 2025**.

**Format:** Asynchronous (self-paced) and synchronous sessions (weekly live meetings, every Friday afternoon).

**Commitment:** The total training time for learners is approx. 15 hours (~5 hours/week).

**Participants:** The course is targeting primarily post graduate students, young researchers, educators and managers of existing and candidate Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas, such as Global Geoparks, Ecohydrology sites, World Heritage Properties (WH), Protected Areas (PAs), Natura 2000 sites, etc., globally. Anyone with an interest, study or work on such sites can participate.

**Class size:** Up to approx. 100 online learners.

**Language:** English.

**Platform:** <https://envirolearning.net/>

**Certification:** Learners who successfully complete 80% of the course assignments will get the certificate co-signed by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and the UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean from the University of Athens.

**Cost:** Thanks to the kind contribution of the organizers the course is **free of charge!**

## LEARNING GOALS

What are learners expected to gain from this e-course?

- A better understanding of the Man and the Biosphere Programme and its Biosphere Reserves as beacons of sustainability and ideal places to apply Integrated Resources Management.
- An increased understanding on the global and regional policies for effective integrated water management in Biosphere Reserves and other UNESCO designated sites.
- An increased knowledge of the challenges and threats of water resources today pressed by the climate crisis, especially droughts
- An overview of current integrated management approaches such as IWRM/ICZM, the Source-to-sea & nexus approaches in water resources management and applications insights
- Case studies highlighting the possible ways to overcome the challenges through application of integrated best practices e.g. Nature based Solutions, non-conventional water resources (NCWRs), small dams and built terraces; etc.
- A better understanding of how Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) focusing on Water and Climate Change is applied in various sectors (science, culture and education), ecosystems and disciplines
- Access to a wealth of online resources.
- Networking with people with similar interests and concerns.

## E-COURSE WEEKLY FOCUS:

Every week we focus on a “cluster of topics” with a dedicated team of experts. Learners follow the course content on their own pace (asynchronously) and have the chance to interact with the experts and their co-learners in a live (synchronous) session.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Week: 27 January - 2 February 2025, The wide picture & Management Frameworks:** The overall context; The UNESCO MAB Programme; Global and regional environmental policies; Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean and beyond; The Agenda 2030 and the SDGs; The climate & water crisis in the Mediterranean, etc.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Week: 3-9 February 2025, Case studies, dealing with the challenges:** Integrated Management (IMF); Retention and Detention approaches; Response to challenges (e.g. drought, Non-Conventional Water Resources, Monitoring tools)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Week: 10-16 February 2025: Education, Awareness, Outreach:** Case studies and materials on bridging Science-and Policy; Effective communication; stakeholders' engagement; Citizen Science; Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) on Water/NCWR, and Climate Change.
- **Extra Week: 17-24 February 2025:** 7 days available to complete all assignments and tasks.

## FORMAT

Every week combines Asynchronous (self-paced) and synchronous learning content.

Asynchronous content:

- Video lectures from experts invited
- Recordings from Phase A (Crete, October 2024)
- Existing online videos and documentaries
- Readings: Online toolkits, Guidelines, Ppts, etc.

Synchronous content:

- Three live 1.5 hr "meet the experts" sessions where the participants can discuss with the experts on their lectures. These sessions are held via Zoom, **every Friday, 14.00-15.30 (CET)**, and are then uploaded on YouTube, to be available to those who missed them.

## CO-ORGANISERS

- The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Link)
- Region of Crete (Link)
- Heraklion Development Agency (Link)
- The Local Management Committee of Asterousia
- UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education at the University of Athens (UoA)
- The Greek National Committee of the MAB/UNESCO Programme
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) through the MEdIES initiative (Link MIO-ECSDE, Link MEdIES)
- Romanian Science UNESCO network
- Association for the Protection of Asterousia (Link)

## REGISTRATION LINK

[https://www.eventora.com/en/Events/Onlinecourse\\_2025\\_Asterousia\\_hybrid\\_univ](https://www.eventora.com/en/Events/Onlinecourse_2025_Asterousia_hybrid_univ)