BALKAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

2019 CONFERENCE

UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the Balkan Region

The Role of the Universities

5th Annual Meeting

Thessaloniki, April 16-18, 2019

Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center

Under the auspices of:
Scientific Committee:  

Rector, Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas,  
BUA President in Office,  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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BUA President-Elect for 2019-2020,  
University of Bucharest

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Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Ms. Marianna Pavlidou,  
Public Relations Office

Mr. Aris Tachinoslis,  
Public Relations Office
Welcome Message
by the Rector of AUTh

Welcome to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has the pleasure to host in its main campus in Thessaloniki, Greece, the BUA 2019 Conference and the 5th Annual Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association (April 16-18, 2019).

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, founded in 1925, draws its inspiration from the ideas of the Greek scientist and philosopher Aristotle, who established the concepts of nature, learning, and practice, as the pillars of education. Upon entering the campus, the visitor is greeted by the statue of Aristotle, a constant reminder of his philosophical beliefs, underlining that our future ultimately depends on the goals we set.

The goals of academic freedom, service to community, and, above all, the relentless pursuit of knowledge motivated the foundation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Ever since, for almost a century, the University’s mission is guided by the excellence in scientific research.

In accordance to our vision as an educational institution, we firmly believe that cross-national initiatives in the Southeastern region of Europe are vital in achieving the goal of a new image of the Balkans based on cross-cultural synergies that would promote academic collaboration, scientific research and technological innovation along with sustainable and inclusive growth.

The BUA 2019 Conference aims at providing a high level scholarly platform for discussing extensively these issues. Topics range from Agriculture and Forestry, Sustainable Development and European projects to Quality Assessment and Quality Assurance in Education along with the Impact of Universities in Local and Regional Economies.

The ancient city of Thessaloniki, with its rich history, diverse multicultural heritage, and stunning archaeological monuments, is today a modern and vibrant metropolis that offers numerous choices for cultural visits and entertainment. A captivating destination with its museums, Byzantine churches, Roman and Ottoman sites, restaurants, cafes, and shopping centers set along the bay and in the shadow of Mount Olympus, renders Thessaloniki the ideal environment for our conference.

As Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and President of the Balkan Universities Association, I expect this conference to be a unique gathering of top scholars from our region and we are looking forward to welcoming you all in our home town.

Professor Pericles A. Mitkas
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center Auditorium I

Workshop on “Quality Assurance in Higher Education”

13:30-14:00 Registration - Welcome Coffee

Chairs
Prof. Ariadni STOGIANNIDOU, Vice-Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Prof. Alkiviadis BAIS, Member of the Quality Assurance Unit, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

14:00 –15:15
• Prof. Pantelis KYPRIANOS, President of the Hellenic Independent Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HQA)
  Academic Accreditation requirements in European Higher Education Area and National Quality Assurance Agencies

• Prof. Muzaffer ELMAS, President of the Quality Committee in Higher Education Council of Turkey
  International Accreditation

15:15 –16:00 Quality Assurance Unit - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Dr. Konstantinos AIVAZIDIS, Ms. Alexandra TZANERAKI

• The AUTh Quality Management System: A proposal for monitoring SDGs’ integration in academic curricula and research

16:00 –16:30 Coffee Break
16:30 –18:30 Department of European Educational Programs, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Ms. Ioanna GEORGIADOU, Head of the Department, Mr. Nikos LIOLIOS, Ms. Konstantina TOLIA

• Quality vs Quantity: Ways to promote quality student mobility
• Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility: New features, old problems

19:00 - 20:00 Guided tour at the AUTh Teloglion Foundation of Art

20:00 - 23:00 Welcome Dinner (Only invited guests)
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center

8:30 - 9:00  Registration

09:00 - 09:30  Welcome Speeches

09:30 - 11:30  Keynote Speeches
Chair  Prof. Pericles A. MITKAS, Rector, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

- H.E. Amb. Michael B. CHRISTIDES, Secretary General, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
  
  Regional Organizations as promoters of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The case of the BSEC Organization

- Prof. Rolf TARRACH, President, European University Association
  
  The European University Association: A successful European knowledge hub

- Prof. Pericles A. MITKAS, Rector, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  
  Sustainable Development Goals: The role of the Universities

- Prof. Nicolaos P. THEODOSSIOU, Chair, SDSN Black Sea, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  
  Sustainable Development Solutions Networks: Challenges and opportunities

11:30 - 12:00  Coffee Break - Press Conference
### Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 12:00 - 14:00 | Parallel Session: 
|              | DEGREES ON BALKAN STUDIES                                           |
|              | Parallel Session: 
|              | EUROPEAN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH NETWORKS                            |
|              | BUA Subgroup-meeting of the Faculties of MEDICINE                   |
|              | AUDITORIUM I                                                        |
|              | AUDITORIUM III                                                      |
|              | MEETING ROOM II                                                     |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | Lunch                                                                |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | Parallel Session: 
|              | RESEARCH PROJECTS AND COOPERATION                                   |
|              | Parallel Session: 
|              | MODERN APPROACHES ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY                       |
|              | BUA Subgroup-meeting of the Faculties of ECONOMICS                  |
|              | AUDITORIUM I                                                        |
|              | AUDITORIUM III                                                      |
|              | MEETING ROOM I                                                     |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Coffee Break                                                         |
| 17:00 – 19:00 | Parallel Session: 
|              | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT                                              |
|              | Parallel Session: 
|              | QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION – INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION |
|              | AUDITORIUM I                                                        |
|              | AUDITORIUM III                                                      |
| 21:00-23:00  | Gala Dinner (Only invited guests)                                   |
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Thessaloniki City Hall, City Council Assembly Hall

9:00 - 11:00  1st Session of the 5th Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee Break

11:30 - 14:00  2nd Session of the 5th Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association

14:00 - 16:00  Lunch
### Parallel Session - Auditorium I

**12:00 – 14:00**

**Degrees on Balkan Studies**

**Chairs**

- **Prof. Erhan TABAKOĞLU**, Rector, Trakya University
- **Prof. Chryssi VITSILAKI**, Rector, University of the Aegean
- **Prof. Ali JASHARI**, Rector, University «Fan S. Noli»

**Speakers**

- **Prof. Harry PAPAPANAGOS**, Head, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia
  
  *The Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies*

- **Assoc. Prof. Manolis MANOLEDAKIS**, Dean of the School of Humanities, International Hellenic University
  
  *The MA in Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Studies*

- **Dr. Erinda PAPA**, Deputy Rector for Research and Project Management, University “Fan S. Noli”
  
  *The Department of Language and Literature*

- **Prof. Eleni SELLA**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
  
  *The Faculty of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies*

- **Prof. Katerina FRANTZI**, Head, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
  
  *The Department of Mediterranean Studies*

- **Assoc. Prof. Maria DIMASI**, Head, Department of Language, Literature and Civilization of the Black Sea Countries, Democritus University of Thrace
  
  *The Department of Language, Literature and Civilization of the Black Sea Countries*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

**14:00 – 15:00**

*Lunch*
12:00 – 14:00  **European Academic and Research Networks**

**Chairs**
- Prof. Mircea DUMITRU, Rector, University of Bucharest
- Prof. Dragan ANTIC, Rector, University of Niš
- Assoc. Prof. Stella KOSTOPOLU, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**Speakers**
- Prof. Ariadni STOGIANIDOU, EUF President, Vice-Rector, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  *The European University Foundation (EUF)*
- Prof. Anastasia ZAMPANIOTOU, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  *The role of RMEI in Sustainable Development Goals of the Mediterranean countries*
- Assoc. Prof. Stella KOSTOPOLU, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  *The European Interdisciplinary Silk Road Tourism Centre*
- Assoc. Prof. Grigoris ZAROTIADIS, ASECU President, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  *The Association of South Eastern Europe Economic Universities (ASECU)*
- Asst. Prof. Meltem Okur DİNÇSOY, Trakya University
  *The contribution of Universities to local and regional economy: A case of Trakya University*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

14:00 – 15:00  **Lunch**
15:00 – 16:30

**Research Projects and Cooperation**

**Chairs**
- Prof. Triantafyllos ALMPANIS, Rector, University of Ioannina
- Prof. Mynyr KONI, Rector, University of Tirana
- Prof. Sasho KORUNOVSKI, Rector, University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - Bitola

**Speakers**
- **Prof. Juliana POPOVA**, Vice-Rector, University of Ruse
  *The University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev” as a driving force in the regional development*

- **Prof. Cafer ÖZKUL**, Istanbul Technical University
  *Two ambitious European projects: EELISA and IDEAL*

- **Prof. Grigoris PAPAGIANNIS**, Head, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
  *Enhancing storage integration in buildings with photovoltaics (the PV-ESTIA project)*

- **Assoc. Prof. Emre ATILGAN**, Trakya University
  *The three C’s of successful Project Management: A definition from experiences*

- **Assoc. Prof. Arbër GJETA**, University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”
  *The role and importance of the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” in scientific research*

- **Assoc. Prof. Oğuzhan ERDEM**, Trakya University
  *University – Industry Collaboration (UIC) in Edirne*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

16:30 – 17:00

**Coffee Break**
Wednesday, April 17, 2019 | Parallel Session - Auditorium III

15:00 – 16:30

**Modern Approaches on Agriculture and Forestry**

**Chairs**

- **Prof. Hristina YANCHEVA**, Rector, Agricultural University - Plovdiv
- **Prof. Antonios TOURLIDAKIS**, Rector, University of Western Macedonia
- **Prof. Marjan DEMA**, Rector, University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”

**Speakers**

- **Prof. Hristina YANCHEVA**, Rector, Agricultural University- Plovdiv  
  *Agricultural education in Bulgaria – traditions and future*

- **Prof. Alper ÜNAL**, Vice-Rector, Istanbul Technical University  
  *Forestry Information System applications in Turkey: ORBIS System*

- **Prof. Yalçın KAYA**, Trakya University  
  *Novel technologies in crop improvement and precise agriculture*

- **Mr. Aristeidis GEORGAKIS**, PhD(c), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
  *Big BAF and Point-3P sampling: Two efficient sampling methods for estimating the tree volume of forest stands*

- **Ms. Chaido KAGIALI**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
  *Monumental trees in the historic centre of Thessaloniki: Highlighting them through a cultural route*

- **Mr. Valdrin DERVISHAJ**, PhD(c), Universum College  
  *Skills gap education and ICT start-ups in Kosovo*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

16:30 – 17:00  
**Coffee Break**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:00 – 19:00</td>
<td><strong>Sustainable Development</strong></td>
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<td>Chairs</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. Nermina HADŽIGRAHIĆ</strong>, Rector, University of Tuzla</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. Anastas GERDJIKOV</strong>, Rector, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. Stylianos KATRANIDIS</strong>, Rector, University of Macedonia</td>
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<td>Speakers</td>
<td>• <strong>Prof. Mihai GÎRTU</strong>, Vice Rector, Ovidius University of Constanța</td>
<td><em>The role of Balkan and Black Sea universities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</em></td>
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<td>• <strong>Prof. Petros PATIAS</strong>, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</td>
<td><em>The use of Earth Observation Data in support to UN Sustainable Development Goals – Research activities of the Laboratory of Photogrammetry &amp; Remote Sensing, Department of Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</em></td>
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<td>• <strong>Asst. Prof. Faton SHABANI</strong>, University of Tetova</td>
<td><em>Consumer protection as prerequisite for sustainable development – The importance of harmonizing the legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia with the European Union Law</em></td>
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<td>• <strong>Asst. Prof. Fatbardha ISMAILI</strong>, University of Tetova</td>
<td><em>Witness protection of Kosovo from the aspect of Human Rights</em></td>
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<td>• <strong>Asst. Prof. Enver Erdinç DİNÇSOY</strong>, Trakya University</td>
<td><em>Regional policies and practices for sustainable development in the Balkan region</em></td>
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<td>• <strong>Dr. Kimon PAPADIMITRIOU</strong>, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</td>
<td><em>Training on applied methods and procedures for underwater surveying</em></td>
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</tbody>
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**Quality Assurance in Higher Education – International Accreditation**

**Chairs**

| Prof. Vullnet AMETI, Rector, University of Tetova |
| Prof. Mehmet KARACA, Rector, Istanbul Technical University |
| Assoc. Prof. Katerina TSIKALOUDAKI, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki |

**Speakers**

| Prof. Vullnet AMETI, Rector, University of Tetova |
| Employer contribution – A need for Higher Education Quality |
| Prof. Mehmet KARACA, Rector, Istanbul Technical University |
| International Accreditation as a means of improving engineering education: The ITU – ABET Experience |
| Prof. Edmond HAJRIZI, Rector, University for Business and Technology (UBT) |
| From the university of excellence to quality in higher education – The New Paradigm |
| Prof. Ahmet Muzaffer DEMİR, Dean of Medical Faculty, Trakya University |
| Accreditation of basic medical education experience of Trakya University medical faculty |
| Assoc. Prof. Ebru DULEKGURGEN, Istanbul Technical University |
| Power of continuous-knowledge-sharing in preparing for successful accreditation reviews |
| Asst. Prof. Kushtrim AHMETI, University of Tetova |
| The ranking of higher education institutions in the Republic of North Macedonia – A mechanism for increasing the quality of education or the violation/restriction of university autonomy |
17:00 – 19:00  **Sustainable Development**

**Speakers**

- **Ms. Evropi-Sofia DALAMPIRA**, PhD(c), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
  *Simplifying SDGs for the society: A network analysis*

- **Ms. Aikaterini KARAGIANNI**, PhD(c), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
  *Remote sensing data and techniques in sustainable urban development*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

21:00-23:00  **Gala Dinner** (Only invited guests)
Wednesday, April 17, 2019 | Parallel Session - Auditorium III

17:00 – 23:00

**Gala Dinner**
(Only invited guests)

17:00 – 19:00

**Quality Assurance in Higher Education**
– **International Accreditation**

**Speakers**

- **Asst. Prof. Ibrahim NEZIRI**, University of Tetova
  *Attitudes of university professors towards Higher Education in the Republic of North Macedonia and their job satisfaction*

- **Ms. Shkurte LUMA-OSMANI**, University of Tetova
  *Plagiarism as a current phenomenon in higher education institutions*

**Discussion and closing remarks**

21:00 – 23:00

**Gala Dinner** (Only invited guests)
Ivan Savvidis’ Charitable Foundation

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