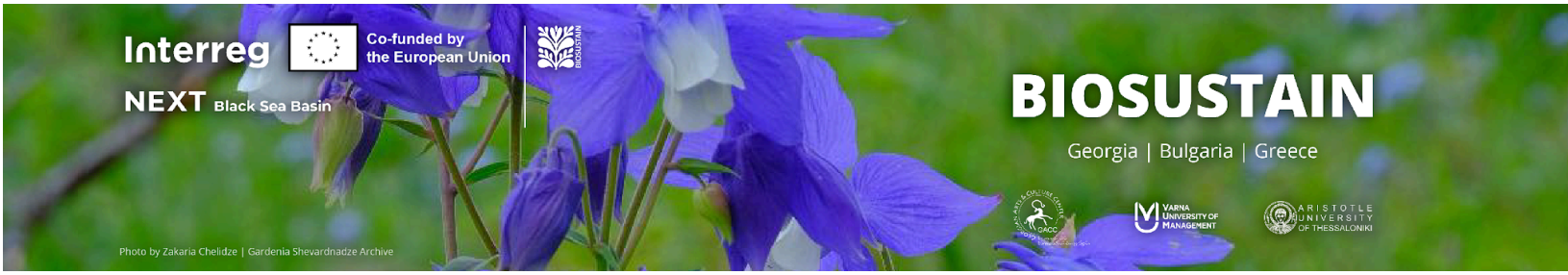

Sustaining BSB Biodiversity through Traditional Knowledge and Innovation - BIOSUSTAIN
With the support of the EU Black Sea Basin Interreg NEXT program

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Black Sea Basin Countries: Preservation, Sustainable Use, and Innovative Applications of Traditional Plant Species

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE, 2026

Venue: Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center (KEDEA)
3rd September AUTh CAMPUS, 546 36, AMPHITHEATER 3, Thessaloniki, Greece
(https://kedea.rc.auth.gr/)

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration | Welcomes | Salutations**

09:30 - 09:45 **Presentation of BIOSUSTAIN Project**
Mariam Dvalishvili, *Georgian Arts and Culture Center (GACC) Director*

09:45 - 10:00 **Presentation of COMMON METHODOLOGY**
Eleni Athanasiadou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Scientific coordinator*

10:00 - 10:30 **TEK STUDY IN GEORGIA**
Zurab Shevardnadze*, Lead Expert, Georgian Arts and Culture Center (GACC)*

10:30 - 11:00 **TEK STUDY IN BULGARIA**
Hristo Stoyanov & Tzvetalina Genova**,** *Varna University of Management (VUM)*

11:00 - 11:30 **TEK STUDY IN GREECE**
Eleni Athanasiadou, *Scientific coordinator, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)*
& Maria Gidarakou, *member of the research team (AUTH)*

11:30 - 12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00 - 12:30 **TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE IN ITALY**
Professor Mauro Agnoletti, *UNESCO Chair – Agricultural Heritage Landscapes*
Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental, and Forestry Science and Technology

12:30 - 13:00 **MARCHING TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY**
Panagiotis Saitanoudis**,** *Founder of Peliti 'An alternative community for harmonious coexistence.'*

13:00 - 13:30 **RE-INTRODUCTION OF HERITAGE CROPS ON FARMER'S FIELDS – EXAMPLE OF BIOLOGICAL FARMING ASSOCIATION ELKANA, GEORGIA**
Elene Shatberashvili, *Biological Farming Association Elkana, Advocacy & Research Officer*

13:30 - 14:00 **NEW BULGARIAN CUISINE ASSOCIATION AND THE CULINARY TRADITIONS OF THE BULGARIAN BLACK SEA REGION**
Kaloyan Kolev, *Chef Instructor and Chairman of the New Bulgarian Cuisine Association*

14:00 - 15:00 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION & Conclusions**

Coordinator - Professor Maria Partalidou, *Rural Sociology & Agritourism*

Participants:

Panagiotis Sainatoudis, *Peliti, Greece*
Anastasia Chamalidou, *Treli Rodia*, *Rehabilitation NGO, Greece*
Stefanos Chatzilazarou, *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Greece*
Hristo Stoyanov, *Varna University of Management (VUM), Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute - Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria*

Tzvetalina Genova, *Varna University of Management (VUM), Bulgaria*
Vessela Panova, *Varna University of Management (VUM), Bulgaria*
Zurab Shevardnadze, *Georgian Arts and Culture Center (GACC), Georgia*
Maka Dvalishvili, *Georgian Arts and Culture Center (GACC), Georgia*
Elene Shatberashvili, *Biological Farming Association `Elkana`, Georgia*

15:00- 16:00 **Lunch break**

Working language: English

Livestreaming & recording link https://audiovisual.auth.gr/video/120111

The International Seminar is Organised by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Co-organised by the Georgian Arts and Culture Center and the Varna University of Management.

About the Project-BIOSUSTAIN:
The overall objective of the international project BIOSUSTAIN is to contribute to the preservation of BSB ecosystems through innovative approaches to traditional ecological knowledge. The project envisages pilot studies in partner countries and explores the application of this knowledge in areas such as traditional crafts, food traditions, and traditional medicine, while also strengthening the capacity of local communities as stewards of traditional ecosystems and promoting public awareness of the value of local knowledge and community practices.

The Project is implemented by the Georgian Arts and Culture Center (Georgia) as Lead Partner, in partnership with Varna University of Management (Bulgaria) and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), with the support of the **EU Black Sea Basin Interreg NEXT program.** (2026 - 2027)

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