



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: press@auth.gr
Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki

[@Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [@authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [@Auth_University](https://twitter.com/Auth_University)

ANNOUNCEMENT

**“Microscopic Titans of the Forests: Forest Insects and the Climate Crisis”:
Open Event for World Forest Day**

Thessaloniki, 18/3/2026

On the occasion of World Forest Day (21/3), the School of Forestry and Natural Environment of Aristotle University is organizing an open event titled “Microscopic Titans of the Forests: Forest Insects and the Climate Crisis,” on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 10:00 to 12:30, at the Ceremonial Hall of the Old Faculty of Philosophy.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Dr. Dimitrios Avtzis, Research Director at the Hellenic Agricultural Organization–DIMITRA, who will present on the topic: “Insects in the forests of Greece: mapping an unseen world in the era of the climate crisis.”

World Forest Day is celebrated every year on March 21, a date that coincides with the spring equinox, aiming to highlight the fundamental importance of forest ecosystems for the planet while raising awareness within the global community.

According to the organizers, the United Nations selected the theme “Forests and Economies” for this year’s celebration, seeking to emphasize the role forests play in securing livelihoods and employment for forest-dependent and forest-adjacent communities, as well as in combating poverty and ensuring global food security. However, forest ecosystems, particularly under the pressures of the climate crisis, may either maintain their functionality and resilience or be adversely affected due to the presence of countless microscopic organisms found within them, the most significant of which are forest insects.

Brief biography of the keynote speaker

Dr. Dimitrios Avtzis is a forester, a graduate of Aristotle University, and holds a PhD from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna. He serves

as Research Director at ELGO-DIMITRA, coordinates the IUFRO Working Party (WP 7.03.05) on the Ecology and Management of Bark- and Wood-Boring Insects, is a member of the CITES Greece Committee, and coordinates the action “Identification and management of protected areas with regard to plant pests” at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. He maintains strong research activity through coordinating and participating in international and national competitive research programs and has an extensive publication record in prestigious international scientific journals.

The event will be broadcast live via live streaming at the following link:

<https://audiovisual.auth.gr/video/116930>

More information about the event is available at:

<https://www.auth.gr/events/ekdilosi-eortasmoy-tis-pagkosmias-ime/>

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.