

**BALKAN
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION**

2019
CONFERENCE

**UN 2030
Sustainable
Development
Goals
in the
Balkan Region**

The Role
of the Universities

Programme



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI



BALKAN
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

5th Annual Meeting



**Thessaloniki,
April 16-18, 2019**

Aristotle University
Research Dissemination Center

Under the auspices of:



GENERAL
SECRETARIAT OF
THE GOVERNMENT



REGION OF
CENTRAL
MACEDONIA



CITY OF
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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

12:00 - 14:00

Parallel Session

**DEGREES
ON BALKAN
STUDIES**

AUDITORIUM I

Parallel Session

**EUROPEAN
ACADEMIC
AND RESEARCH
NETWORKS**

AUDITORIUM III

**BUA
Subgroup-meeting
of the Faculties of
MEDICINE**

MEETING ROOM II

14:00 - 15:00

Lunch

15:00 – 16:30

Parallel Session

**RESEARCH
PROJECTS AND
COOPERATION**

AUDITORIUM I

Parallel Session

**MODERN
APPROACHES ON
AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY**

AUDITORIUM III

**BUA
Subgroup-meeting
of the Faculties of
ECONOMICS**

MEETING ROOM I

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee Break

17:00 – 19:00

Parallel Session

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

AUDITORIUM I

Parallel Session

**QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION
– INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITATION**

AUDITORIUM III

21:00-23:00

Gala Dinner (Only invited guests)

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Thessaloniki City Hall, City Council Assembly Hall

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- 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*

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



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 KOSTOPOULOU,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Speakers

- **Prof. Ariadni STOGIANNIDOU**, 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 KOSTOPOULOU**, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki
The European Interdisciplinary Silk Road Tourism Centre
- **Assoc. Prof. Grigorios 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. Chaïdo 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*



17:00 – 19:00 ***Sustainable Development*****Chairs**

Prof. Nermina HADŽIGRAHIĆ, Rector, University of Tuzla

Prof. Anastas GERDJIKOV,
Rector, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Prof. Stylianos KATRANIDIS, Rector, University of Macedonia

Speakers

- **Prof. Mihai GÎRTU**, Vice Rector, Ovidius University of Constanța
The role of Balkan and Black Sea universities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- **Prof. Petros PATIAS**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
The use of Earth Observation Data in support to UN Sustainable Development Goals – Research activities of the Laboratory of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing, Department of Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- **Asst. Prof. Faton SHABANI**, University of Tetova
Consumer protection as prerequisite for sustainable development – The importance of harmonizing the legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia with the European Union Law
- **Asst. Prof. Fatbardha ISMAILI**, University of Tetova
Witness protection of Kosovo from the aspect of Human Rights
- **Asst. Prof. Enver Erdinç DİNÇSOY**, Trakya University
Regional policies and practices for sustainable development in the Balkan region
- **Dr. Kimon PAPADIMITRIOU**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Training on applied methods and procedures for underwater surveying



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

17:00 – 19:00

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 – 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)*



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