

## **FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT**

### SUMMER UNIVERSITY

#### **“Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Management, Tourism and Local Products in Biosphere Reserves (BRs)”**

**Sunday 8 July to Sunday 15 July 2018, Parnon, Greece**

*The current call concerns the organisation of a Summer University around the themes of designation and functioning of Biosphere Reserves (BR) / within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme of UNESCO. It will be held from July 8<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 in the important and beautiful area of Parnon, Greece. It is addressed to post graduate students, young researchers and managers.*

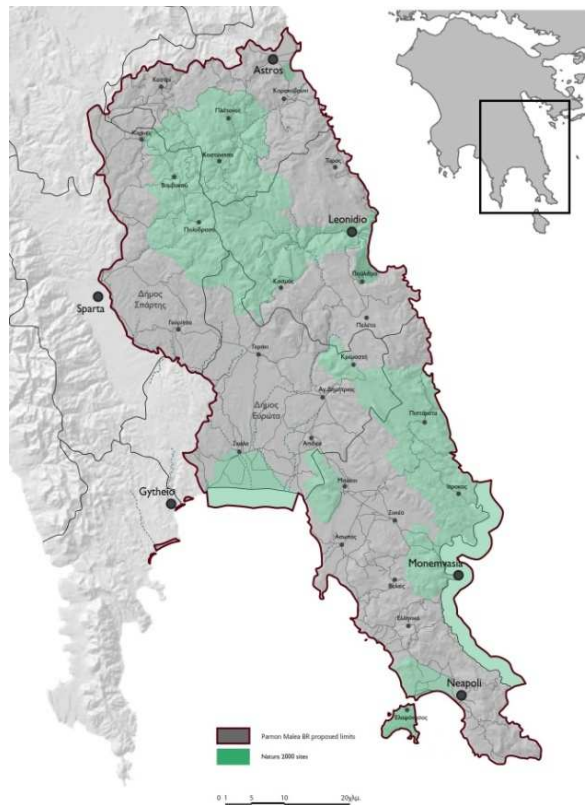
*Following the successful Summer Universities in Amfissa (2014), Samothraki (2016) and Sardinia (2017), the 4<sup>th</sup> Summer University will provide capacity building around a series of topics including management, local development, protection and conservation.*

#### **THE IDENTITY OF THE PARNON REGION**

The proposal for the designation of a new Biosphere Reserve in SE Peloponnese (Parnon) is based on the coexistence of very significant cultural and environmental characteristics of the area. The region has important high quality agricultural production, seaborne trade and some particular intangible heritage (language and customs) in which tourism is a fast growing activity. All the above provide ideal conditions for the development of educational prospects, particularly through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The region is sparsely populated: its 75,000 inhabitants are scattered in small towns and villages, both mountainous and coastal. The BR reference area is spread over 6 municipalities (Voria Kynouria, Notia Kynouria, Sparta, Evrota, Monemvasia, Elafonisos), including:

- Areas of agricultural production (farming and fishing)
- Areas of cultural interest e.g. monasteries, ancient sites, citadels, the submerged city of Pavlopetri, Leonidio, the famous fortified city of Monemvasia (Malvasia).
- Eighteen (18) protected traditional settlements e.g. Monemvasia, Ag. Andreas, Kastanitsa, Tyros.
- Six (6) Information Centres: Fabrica of Culture (Leonidio), Mount Parnon flora (Leonidio), Maritime Museum (Neapoli), in Ag. Petros, Astros & Kastanitsa.
- Two (2) Centers of Environmental Education (CEE) in Kastri and Molaoi.



Top: Peloponnese (bleu) within Greece  
Right: The boundaries of proposed Biosphere Reserve.

The conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and biodiversity is a basic axis of the proposal. Therefore, the management and the conservation of the landscape of these areas play an active role in configuring and promoting the conservation objectives and is a necessary condition for the development of an area that requires “protection” and sustainable management. Within the boundaries of the proposed BR, several forms of protected areas coexist. More specifically there are eight NATURA 2000 sites designated as Protected Areas for Habitats and Species, the Regional Ecological Park of Mount Parnon & Moustos wetland, two Strict Nature Reserves, eight Nature Reserves, and seven Wildlife Refuges. A Management Plan exists for the Regional Ecological Park of Mount Parnon & Moustos wetland. Furthermore there are several archaeological and historic sites and monuments.

Biosphere Reserve Parnon – Maleas (3.5 min video): <https://youtu.be/XkhX46VHy6g>

### SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY

The Summer University seeks to provide high quality training on different aspects of management, including ESD to post graduate students, young scientists and managers of Biosphere Reserves from European –mostly South European- and Mediterranean countries.

The Summer University is a milestone in the efforts of the Parnon region to be designated as a Biosphere Reserve of MAB/UNESCO and be included in the World Network Biosphere Reserves. The participants will have the opportunity to:

- acquire basic theoretical knowledge in BR management (using Parnon area as a case-study);
- acquire basic knowledge and skills in educational programs, based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (using Parnon area as an open air laboratory);
- gain a direct experience of preparing a dossier for the application of candidature and the participatory procedures followed;
- share experiences from various ongoing and proposed projects to support the economic development of the region and the local social capital;
- discuss with stakeholders and inhabitants dealing with the primary, the agro-tourism and cultural sectors of the region;
- exchange views and practices with managers from older and newly established BRs;
- be informed about relevant regional (Mediterranean) developments and programmes in the region (e.g. Mediterranean Commission on SD, Union for the Mediterranean, SWIM-H2020 SM, etc.);
- contribute their own proposals for the drafting of the management plan of the Parnon region.

### **WAY OF WORK**

The Summer University will include morning theoretic sessions, followed by group work and a series of targeted visits and field work in various 'hotspots' in the area. The trainees will be asked to integrate their own observations and field data in order to prepare their own recommendations, for the Action Plan and/or issues related to the designation for the Parnon to become a BR.

### **THE DAILY PROGRAM**

The draft version of the daily program is annexed. Be aware the agenda foresees five overnights at Leonidio (north) and 2 nights at Molaioi (south).

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The expected results of the summer university are:

- A number of trainees knowledgeable on procedures relating to the BR designation and establishment; formulation of management plans, and their branding strategy, based on the principles of the MAB/ UNESCO programme.
- A number of trainees acquainted with the design and implementation of ESD programmes on the ground.
- A set of proposals / recommendations from the trainees, for the enhancement of the Management Plan of the Parnon region.
- Enhanced networking between the young researchers, educators and managers in BRs around the Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe.

### **PARTICIPANTS PROFILE**

The profile of the participants includes:

- Recent graduates of all disciplines relevant to sustainable development and management, in particular: natural and environmental sciences, urban, rural and land planning, ESD, social and economic sciences, tourism.
- Master or PhD students or Post Docs in any of the above mentioned disciplines.
- Junior researchers on Biosphere Reserves and protected areas management.
- Staff of management bodies of Biosphere Reserves and/or other designated areas or in private/public organisations working on sustainable development, management, or ESD.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

An estimated number of 30 trainees will be accepted. If applications exceed this number the participants will be selected based on country (priority to SE European and Mediterranean), connection to an existing BR and relevance of their profile; CV; motivation letter.

### **FEES**

A small registration fee of 150 EUR will apply to all trainees selected to participate. Locals not requiring travel and accommodation will be exempt of fees.

With the kind support of the organisers of the Summer University, the following expenses of selected trainees will be covered:

- international travel (including visa costs), national travel and local transports
- accommodation (in shared rooms with bathroom) and meals

## REGISTRATION

Only online registrations will be accepted. Individuals interested to participate in the Summer University should complete the [online registration form, together with a short CV and an argumentation letter](#) to support their participation.

## DEADLINES

Deadline for applications is 13/05/2018.

The selected trainees will be notified by email by 20/05/2018.

## CERTIFICATION

The trainees successfully completing the Summer University will be awarded a certificate of participation provided by the UNESCO Chair Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

## MELITZAZZ FESTIVAL

The Summer University is organised back to back with well known melitzazz festival. Participants may want to come earlier in Leonidio, on their own expense to attend: [www.melitzazz.gr](http://www.melitzazz.gr)

## ORGANISERS

The Summer University is co-organised and supported by:



The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

[www.unesco.org/new/en/venice](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice)

The Greek National Committee of Man and the Biosphere Program of UNESCO

UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean of the University of Athens

<http://unescochair.chem.uoa.gr/>

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development ([www.mio-ecsd.org](http://www.mio-ecsd.org)) through its education initiative MEDIES ([www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net)).

OIKOM Environmental Studies Ltd

<http://www.oikom.gr/en>

Regional Development Company of Paronon (PARNONAS S.A.) [www.parnonas.gr/en/](http://www.parnonas.gr/en/)

Management Body of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon and Monemvasia

[www.fdparnonas.gr](http://www.fdparnonas.gr)

SUMMER UNIVERSITY PROGRAM -- DRAFT Vrs 6 --

Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Management, Tourism & Local Products in Biosphere Reserves (BRs)

Leonidio Area & Molaoi Area, Peloponnese, Greece

	Sun 08/07	Mon 09/07	Tues 10 /07	Wed 11/07	Thur 12/07	Fri 13/07	Sat 14 /07	Sun 15/07
0800					Breakfast			
0900-1100	Arrivals: A bus collects participants from Athens Airport and drives to Leonidio, seat of the summer university.	<b>Opening, Thematic day management</b> MaB UNESCO Program [F. Lenzerini]  The case of the Parnon nomination as a BR [TBC]	<b>Thematic day Candidacy</b>  BR application process with several concrete examples [F. Lenzerini]	<b>Thematic day tourism – innovation</b> Sustainable Tourism in BRs [Prof. Tsartas TBC]  Innovation and entrepreneurship within the Blue / Green growth in BRs [Mr Bollis TBC]	<b>Thematic day Conservation</b>  <b>Visit to Kastanitsa</b>  On-site lecture on Environmental parameters and biodiversity of the area [Prof. Dimopoulos & A. Boglis]	<b>Thematic day Education and Culture</b>  <b>Early departures</b>  Study visit at Geraki (tradit. village) KASEL (olive assoc), Malvasia (wine assoc) and Monemvasia Castle	<b>Thematic day Local products</b> Local products exploitation within BRs [V. Psallidas]	Wrapping up and evaluation Session
1130-1430		Integrated approaches for sustainable management in BRs [M. Scoullos]	Group work with tutor help	BR branding strategy [F. Lenzerini]  Group work with tutor help			Group work with tutor help	Bus drives to Athens airport.
1430-1800	Lunch – free time – swim							
1800-2100	Informal team building [MEdIES] Daily agenda distribution of material	<b>Intro session</b> Case studies, projects from trainees' organisations, regions, etc.	<b>Walking tour</b> in Leonidio (museum, tsikalioti and fabrica)	Study visit to Elona monastery, and Kosmas	<b>1900 Open consultation:</b> the views of local stakeholders (authorities, associations, business)	On-site lecture on ESD [M. Scoullos]  Evening arrival to Molaoi – settling	<b>1900 Open end event</b> Summer university conclusions: result of group work to support the nomination	
	Melitzazz		dinner				Farewell party	

<b>KEY</b>		Lecture - theory		workshop/ group work elaboration with tutor help		experience – study visit		Free time or recreation activity
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<b>GROUPS</b>	<b>A</b>	BR candidature	<b>B</b>	Management Plan	<b>C</b>	Education (ESD)	<b>D</b>	Local products & tourism
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