

## Summer Workshop

### Regional Governance: Policies for Nature Conservation, Sustainability and Resilience

9/6/22 - 11/6/22

Pursuing job creation, growth, and competitiveness while tackling the global environmental crisis, is a long-standing economic and societal challenge and a top priority for the European Commission. Any region's economic competitiveness and security—in the long run—depends directly on sustainable use of natural resources. The EU intends to invest substantially in nature-based solutions to tackle the socio-economic challenges we face in the 21st century. Large scale pilots and demonstration projects of tangible nature-based solutions should maintain or increase production of well-being and welfare at lower costs and offer potential for job-rich innovation. How could these concepts be implemented at national and regional level? Successful case study examples and potential applications will be presented.

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## Day1: 9 June 2022 - Policies for Sustainability

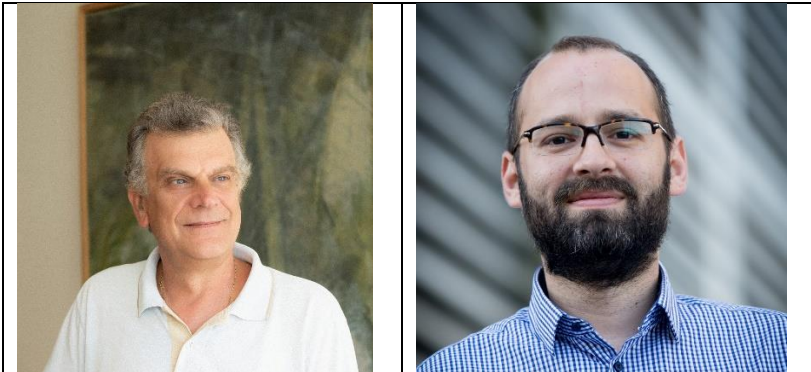
### Description

Sustainability has been at the heart of European Union (EU) policy, firmly anchored in the Treaty on European Union and mainstreamed in key cross-cutting projects, sectoral policies and initiatives. Sustainability targets the environmental, economic and social milieu and is closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 interlinked goals for society to increase prosperity. The seminar will introduce participants to the SDGs, their indicators and metrics. It will use “hands-on” exercises to assist them in exploring and evaluating the situation in Greece and the Region of Western Greece compared to other EU countries and regions for a subset of the SDG indicators.

### Time

9:00 – 13:00

### Lecturers: Dimitris Skuras & Spyridon Stavropoulos



**Dimitris Skuras** is a professor of economics at the Department of Economics of the University of Patras in Greece. He has a very long experience in EU and international programme development, evaluation and impact assessment. He has served as the first Dean of the School of Economics and Business (2014-2018) and Head of the Department of Economics (2003-2005). Dimitris holds a PhD (1990) in Economic Geography and an M.Sc. (1986) in Rural and Regional Resources Planning, both from the University of Aberdeen and a Diploma (Distinction) in Statistics and Data Analysis from the University of Essex (1991).

Webpage: <http://www.econ.upatras.gr/en/people/teaching-staff/skuras-dimitrios>

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**Spyridon Stavropoulos** is a researcher at Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO), Erasmus University Rotterdam and a candidate fellow at Tinbergen institute in the behavioural and experimental economics group. Previously, he held an assistant professor position of Urban & Regional Economics in the Department of Applied Economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research interests include happiness economics, regional economic transformation and evolution, agglomeration economies, and firms' locational behaviour. He holds a PhD with distinction from the University of Patras, an MSc in Health Economics from Erasmus University and an MSc in Methods and Statistics from Leiden University.

Webpage: <https://spyridon-stavropoulos.com/>

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## Day 2: 10 June 2022 - Policies for Nature Conservation

### Description

In this section (a) we will analyse the policies for the conservation management of species, habitats and ecosystems as issued by the European and National Strategy for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, (b) we will present the implementation of modern approaches for the assessment and mapping of ecosystem condition and ecosystem services actual and potential supply, with examples from the national, regional and local level of protected areas, (c) we will present the connection of the aforementioned approaches with the multi-level governance system for the protected areas of Greece, as well as with the decision-making supporting system for an integrated conservation management of nature, at various levels.

### Time

9:00 – 13:00

Lecturers: Panayotis Dimopoulos & Ioannis P. Kokkoris



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**Dr. Panayotis Dimopoulos** is professor in Botany & Ecology, Department of Biology, University of Patras. Research interests and key-expertise (1990-2022): biodiversity analysis; monitoring, conservation status assessment and mapping of habitat- and ecosystem- types, assessment of ecosystem's condition and ecosystem services; conservation policy and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Implementation. He has published 145 articles in international journals, has participated with 210 oral presentations in International and National Conferences. He has participated as lead researcher and has coordinated 65 national and European research projects. Since 2020 he is the Chair of the National Committee "Natura 2000" for the Protected Areas in Greece.

**Dr. Ioannis P. Kokkoris, Forester-Environmental scientist**, is a senior researcher at the Department of Biology, University of Patras, Greece. He holds a Ph.D. and MSc in Conservation Biology, and an MSc in Applied Economics and Big-data analysis. His research interests are within the spectrum of conservation ecology, ecosystem and ecosystem services mapping and assessment. He has worked in several national and European projects on conservation, biomonitoring and ecosystem services mapping and assessment. He has published several books and technical guides and more than 40 scientific papers.

## Day 3: 11 June 2022 - Policies for Nature Resilience

### Description

Natural systems that form the backbone of much of the world's economic activity, underpin the livelihoods of much of the world's population, and have considerable cultural significance in locations around the world. Natural systems are also the ones that require clear, deliberate management, yet are, at the same time, highly complex and uncertain. This seminar focuses on the challenge of developing measures to support the management of natural systems in water, forestry, and agriculture. Specifically, explores how the implementation of suitable measures can contribute to sustainability and resilience of natural resource systems and their ecological, socio-economic, community. As a lab of the lesson, we will work on issues of resilience and adaptability in relation to natural disasters (forest fires or floods) from the perspective of geoinformatics and remote data acquisition.

### Time

9:00 – 13:00

### Lecturers: Ierotheos Zacharias & Nikos Koutsias



**Zacharias I.** is Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering, at the University of Patras. He is the author of 93 articles (Scholar) in refereed international journals, 85 articles in refereed international and national conference proceedings, about 40 technical reports, as well as university notes for the courses he

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teaches at the University of Patras. He serves or served as the principal investigator of 22 funded research projects in the EU and Greece. Citations around 2.100 & H-index:25 (Scholar). His research interests are in the areas of environmental engineering, pollution & restoration of inland and coastal waters.

**Nikos Koutsias**, environmentalist, is a Professor at the Department of Environmental Engineering of the University of Patras, where he teaches courses in remote sensing, GIS, spatial analysis and informatics. For the last 25 years he has been working in the field of remote sensing and GIS with a special emphasis on wildlife fires, forestry, ecology and natural hazards. He has participated in national and European projects and has several publications in journals, books, and international conferences. He has editorial activities and he participates in the editorial board of few journals. Finally, he is the recent recipient of a Marie Curie Individual Scholarship.

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