



**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"**  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND APPLIED ECONOMICS  
HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

**PRESS RELEASE**

The 1st Open-Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction" took place at the Harokopio University of Athens on February 16-18, 2024, with great success.

The conference was organized by the Postgraduate Programme "Sustainable Development" of the Harokopio University of Athens, with the active cooperation of the Syros Institute, Openair Cities and the Municipality of Kallithea.

172 papers were presented at the conference, which were organized in 26 thematic sessions related to Local and Regional Development, Urban Reconstruction and the 17 Global Goals of Sustainable Development.

A total of 352 faculty members, professors and researchers from many universities in Greece and abroad participated in the conference. Many of the participants were distinguished scientists with extensive academic, teaching and research experience.

Professors who are active in a specific field related to sustainable regional and urban development were invited to present as keynote speakers such as: Joseph Stefanou, Roido Mitoula, Konstantinos Moraitis, Slobodan Veleviski, Ilaria Mariotti, Psycharis Yannis, Alcestis P. Rodi, Aspa Gospodini and Luca Salvati.

The conference in question achieved its objectives which were:

□ - **The extroversion of the University and the "Sustainable Development" Program of the Department of Economy and Sustainable Development.**

This was achieved with the large participation of scientists and students, from institutions and many universities in Greece and abroad.

- **The highlighting of research related to the main objectives of Sustainable Development.**

This was achieved with the valuable contribution of scientists from many universities in Greece and abroad, as well as from other institutions. It is noted that in addition to faculty members and established researchers, the conference was attended by many young scientists and researchers, such as PhD candidates, postgraduate students and a small number of undergraduate students. This gave them the opportunity to publicize their research so far and to receive feedback and observations from older and more experienced professors and researchers in order to improve it.

- **The cultivation of synergies between agencies.**

This was achieved through the successful collaboration of the Harokopio University's Postgraduate Programme "Sustainable Development" with private entities that have goals related to Sustainable Development, such as the Syros Institute and Open-Air Cities, as well as with the local government, which is de facto the main manager of issues for the success of sustainability in many areas of everyday life of its citizens.

Decisive for the success of the work of the 1st Open-Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction" was the active contribution and cooperation of important sponsors, who are highly aware and carry out activities to promote sustainable urban and regional development, such as:

- The OLYMPIA FORUM, which aims to develop issues related to sustainable regional development and highlight good practices through the annual forums it holds for this purpose.

- The LAMDA DEVELOPMENT. LAMDA Development, listed on the Main Market of the Athens Exchange (ATHEX), is a holding company specializing in the development, investment and

management of real estate. LAMDA Development Group retains a leading position in the large shopping and entertainment sector in Greece, with investments as well in residential and office space developments primarily in Greece and in Southeastern European countries. The Group investment portfolio includes four shopping and entertainment centers (The Mall Athens, Golden Hall, Designer Outlet Athens and Mediterranean Cosmos in Thessaloniki), office buildings, residential complexes as well as the Marinas in Flisvos, Ellinikon and Kerkyra. LAMDA Development has undertaken the complete urban regeneration of the Ellinikon-Aghios Kosmas Metropolitan Pole (including the area of the former “Ellinikon” airport and the coastal front), which is the largest private investment in Greece and one the largest urban regeneration project in Europe. The majority stake in the company is held by the Latsis Group.

- The company FIBERGEN SMART TECHNOLOGIES MANAGEMENT which, through infrastructure and energy projects, applies all the principles of sustainability governed by the SDG 9 that concerns innovation and infrastructure.
- KLIDARITHMOS PUBLICATIONS that specialize in university publications related to the promotion of environmental protection and general sustainability.
- The manufacturing company of NOUNOU products, which has included in the entire production process of its dairy products the global principles of sustainability and environmental protection.
- The companies ZACHARIAS WINES (wine merchants), CHRISTA.IKE (traders of tsipouro PRIMAROLIA), TRIKALINOS E.E. (traders of Bottarga), which through the business of trading traditional local products and drinks, promote sustainable local development.

The particular success of the 1st Open-Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction" provides the guarantees for its organization next year as well. It is one of many international Conferences organized by the Harokopio University of Athens <https://www.hua.gr> and is an established process of the Postgraduate Programme Sustainable Development of the Department of Economics and Sustainable Development of the Harokopio University <https://www.dhee.hua.gr/>.