



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

PRESS RELEASE

The 2nd Open-Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction" took place at the Harokopio University of Athens on February 14-16, 2025, 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 EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY Cost Action CA22124 ECO4ALL, Syros Institute, and the Openair Cities.

237 papers were presented at the conference, which were organized in 29 thematic sessions related to Local and Regional Development, Urban Reconstruction and the 17 Global Goals of Sustainable Development.

A total of 416 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 and researchers 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, Konstantinos Moraitis, Olesea Plotnic, George Kremlis, Josep-Maria Arauzo-Carod, Georgios Panetsos, Kalliopi Radoglou, Minas Angelidis, Konstantinos Lalenis, Constantina Kottaridi, Alcestis Rodi, Aspa Gospidini, Roido Mitoula, and Luca Salvati.

The Conference was honored with the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, Mrs. Vogl Gerda. Austria is a country particularly sensitive to the issues of the circular economy and sustainable development. It participates in all international forums and takes serious measures to protect the environment, both of cities and regions. The Ambassador of Austria, following this policy, supports any action related to the sustainability of places. As a university, as an international conference and as a scientific community, we seek every cooperation with Austria and its representatives.

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 entities that have goals related to Sustainable Development, such as the EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, Cost Action CA22124 ECO4ALL, the Syros Institute and Open-Air Cities.

Decisive for the success of the work of the 2nd 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 HELLABIOM Hellenic Biomass Association. For many years now the global community has realized that we could not succeed in the issues of sustainable development unless all stakeholders, such as central and local administration, scientists, Businesses and Associations and Business networks, cooperate. One of these Associations that is actively working on the issues of environmental protection and sustainable development is HELLABIOM Hellenic Biomass Association. HELLABIOM serves the twelfth Global Goal of Sustainable Development, which relates to responsible consumption and production.

- WATERECO Irrigation and Water Supply. An active role in the issues of sustainable development of cities and regions is played by companies that implement and promote technologies that respect the environment. One such company is WATERECO Irrigation and Water Supply, which undoubtedly serves the 6th Global Goal of Sustainable Development which relates to "Clean Water and Sanitation".

- KLIDARITHMOS PUBLICATIONS that specialize in university publications related to the promotion of environmental protection and general sustainability.

- NOYNOY. The manufacturing company of NOUNOU has included in the entire production process of its dairy products the global principles of sustainability and environmental protection.

The particular success of the 2nd 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/>.