



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

PRESS RELEASE

The 3rd Open-Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction" took place at the Harokopio University of Athens on 5th-7th December 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 Syros Institute and the Openair Cities.

203 papers were presented at the conference, which were organized in 28 thematic sessions related to Local and Regional Development, Urban Reconstruction and the 17 Global Goals of Sustainable Development.

A total of 262 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, Minas Angelidis, Alcestis Rodi, Aspa Gospodini, Luca Salvati, Stavroula Kaldi, Despina Dimeli, Giacomo Di Foggia and Roido Mitoula.

The Conference was honored with the presence of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Mrs. Marcela Hanusová. Slovak Republic 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 Slovak Republic, 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 Slovak Republic 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 Syros Institute and the 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 GREEN FUND. The aim of the Green Fund is to enhance development through environmental protection with the administrative, economic, technical and financial support of programs, interventions and actions aimed at the promotion and restoration of the environment, the support of the country's environmental policy and the service of the public and social interest through the administration, management and utilization of the resources provided for in articles 3 and 8 of Law 3889/2010. The support of the Green Fund is part of the "FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EXTROVERSE ACTIONS 2025", within the framework of the Green Fund's Financial Program "NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE 2025" ("PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - CLIMATE RESILIENCE & OTHER ACTIONS").

- 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 3rd 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/>.