



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

13th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region

BSUN 2018 Congress

**UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the Black Sea
Region: From Science to Implementation**



June 18-19, 2018

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, Greece



The Black Sea Universities Network and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki cordially invite you to the 13th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region and BSUN Congress in Thessaloniki, Greece. Website: <http://bsun2018.auth.gr/>



The Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) represents the cooperation framework for Academic Institutions from the Black Sea Region. BSUN intends to facilitate the inter-university cooperation and the generation of synergies among education, scientific research, innovation and cultural cooperation. At present, the Network includes 110 universities from the 12 member countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. <http://www.bsun.org/>



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) is the largest University in Greece and its foundation dates back to 1925. It is a public and comprehensive institution of 11 Faculties and 41 Schools, serving a broad array of scientific fields, which range from natural and technological to social and health sciences, arts and humanities. All 41 Schools offer Postgraduate Programs that award either Doctorate Diplomas (PhD) or Postgraduate Diplomas (Master's Degree), which currently amount to more than 90 MSc programs.

AUTH provides more than 250 research Laboratories and its strongest research fields include: Environment & Energy, Health & Food, Materials & Processes, Computers & Telecommunication, Social & Economic Sciences, Culture, and Urban Development.

AUTH has signed over 160 bilateral agreements with Universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, and Asia aiming at the promotion of research, knowledge transfer and academic cooperation among students and academic staff. More than 700 affiliations with European Universities and around 1550 inter-departmental agreements, have been achieved in the framework of the A+ and Erasmus+ International program. AUTH takes pride in its active participation in Erasmus Mundus, TEMPUS, EU-Canada, EU-Australia (GEJI), along with other cooperation programs.

Mission and Vision : An Excellent, Public University with International Outreach.

<https://www.auth.gr/en>



Location of the event: Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki itself never doubted its own cultural identity and its millennia of existence. It was founded in 315BC by Cassander, who named it after his wife and Alexander's the Great sister. It was chosen as the co-reigning city of the Byzantine Empire alongside Constantinople. Historically one of the Europe's oldest and most multiethnic cities, widely considered as the cultural capital of Greece, Thessaloniki is truly unique in the sense that it intricately combines its thousand-years-old-multicultural heritage and the architectural marvels with the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Sephardic Jew history. With a student-strong population of 150.000, Thessaloniki boasts an under-30s do-it-yourself youth culture-creative movement seen nowhere else in the southern part of Europe. The cutting-edge art performances and cinematic avant-garde, recently launched cultural sites and creative projects, Arts and Entertainment hubs all-in-one, numerous monuments, fifteen listed at the UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the 5km meandering waterfront make Thessaloniki a "must-see destination". Geographically, due to its privileged location of land-proximity to both Europe and the East, travelling to Thessaloniki has always been easy.

Information about the City of Thessaloniki you may find at <https://thessaloniki.gr/i-want-to-know-the-city/?lang=en>





Congress Theme

UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the Black Sea Region: From Science to Implementation

The theme was selected based on the assessment of the emerging themes and trends in higher education systems globally, that interest equally the Rectors of BSUN, stakeholders and interested parties, decision-makers and key actors in higher education.

As it is widely known, in 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this document, the heads of UN member states have committed their countries that: *“Until [...] 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. [...] also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.”*

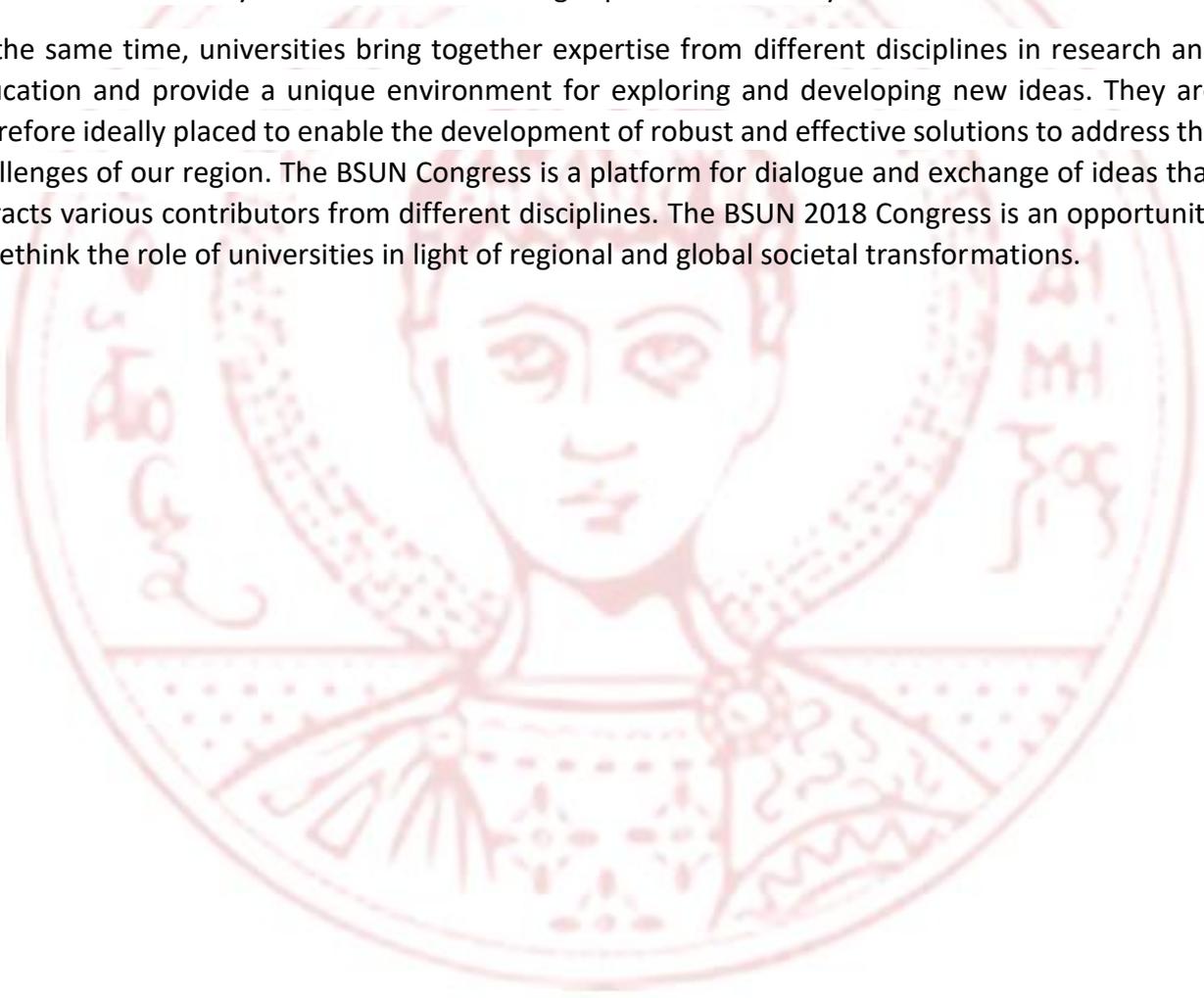
According to the document, *“By 2030, [...] the signatory states have to [...] ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”*



In a world facing dynamic, complex and fundamental changes, such a commitment is a Grand Challenge for all countries including, the countries of our Region.

Universities are also part of such an ever changing environment, which requires them to change their methods and shift from their core knowledge to also include greater emphasis on skill and attitude development. The current challenges in all fields of education require to include scientific research approaches in all taught programmes. With the growing availability of technology-enhanced learning there is a clear role for them with regards to the delivery of knowledge, allowing flexible modes of study and an efficient learning experience for many.

At the same time, universities bring together expertise from different disciplines in research and education and provide a unique environment for exploring and developing new ideas. They are therefore ideally placed to enable the development of robust and effective solutions to address the challenges of our region. The BSUN Congress is a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas that attracts various contributors from different disciplines. The BSUN 2018 Congress is an opportunity to rethink the role of universities in light of regional and global societal transformations.



Key Topics:

Taking into account the 17 SDGs, as an umbrella theme for the 13th BSUN Congress and General Assembly, the following topics have been selected to provide breakdown possible discussions, in order for the complex theme of the event to be explored:

- Scientific and educational cooperation for sustainable economic development in the BSR
- Inclusiveness and Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- Sustainable energy conversion and conservation
- Climate change: mitigation and adaptation
- Blue growth and sustainable management of water resources
- Space technology and food security

Satellite Event: Summer Camp

(Owing to organisational reasons the Summer School is provisionally postponed)

As a follow-up activity to the core thematic discussions covered during the conference sessions, the BSUN 2018 Congress shall have a satellite event dedicated to students and young researchers. A **Summer Camp** at the Halkidiki Camp of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (<http://camping.auth.gr/en>) will take place during June 20-27, 2018. A series of seminars will revolve around: ***“Innovative Concepts for the Sustainable Development of the Black Sea Region”***.

