



Joint JLU-AUTH **Workshop**

“Bridging disciplines to address the challenges  
and prepare responses in the  
Mediterranean changing environment”

**The Mediterranean Hot-Spot:  
Challenges and Responses  
in a Changing Environment**

13 October 2017  
Amphitheatre Central Library  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

## ***Workshop rationale***

The Mediterranean is already facing the impacts of the recent climate and environmental change, as damage and loss of life. Future changes will present unprecedented risks for human well-being, socio-economic development and biodiversity. Observed and projected rates of climate change in the Mediterranean Basin exceed global trends for most variables, in the atmosphere and the ocean.

The multifaceted nature of the current and future risks of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean realm calls for interdisciplinary, holistic approaches to efficiently inform policies for the mitigation of the risks, support adaptation strategies and plans, and advise society about the challenges of changing environment and climate.

Resilient societies, prepared for future risks, require properly informed policy making and future planning that are based on the comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying socio-cultural resilience to climate and environmental stress. This can be achieved through integration of the research of scholars in all the relevant disciplines, natural and environmental sciences, political, economic and social sciences, humanities and life sciences.

Smart integration of earth observations with sectoral data, effective information exchange and exploitation of earth observations-based services and their capacities can pave the way to address the regional and local needs of economic and social sectors in the complex and environmentally stressed Mediterranean countries.

Bridging disciplines to address the challenges that the Mediterranean changing environment poses can provide the necessary scientific support and coordination to existing infrastructures. Interdisciplinary cooperation between scientists, stakeholders, policy makers and the general public has the potential to deliver consolidated information and knowledge for long term strategic planning on adaptation and mitigation to climate and environmental change.



Adapted from [www.ulivisecolaridipuglia.com](http://www.ulivisecolaridipuglia.com)

**08:30-09:00 Registration**

**09:00-10:00 Opening**  
**Chairperson: Ass. Prof. Prodromos Zanis**

**09:00-9:30**      **Welcome address**

**09:30-10:00**      **Prof. Juerg Luterbacher**  
Dept. of Geography, Justus-Liebig-University of Giessen: “The Mediterranean Hot-Spot: Challenges and Responses in a Changing Environment – A DAAD Project”

**10:00-12:30 Invited talks**  
**Chairpersons: Ass. Prof. Klairi Tourpali and Prof. Andreas Mamolos**

**10:00-10:30**      **Prof. Christos Zerefos**  
Research Center for Atmospheric Physics and Climatology of the Academy of Athens: “Lessons learned downscaling to the Eastern Mediterranean hotspot”

**10:30-11:00**      **Dr. Haris Kontoes**  
Institute for Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Applications and Remote Sensing, National Observatory of Athens: “Earth Observation based services to address the problem of natural disasters in the complex Mediterranean Environment: The BEYOND Center of Excellence”

**11:00-11:30 Refreshments break**

**11:30-12:00**      **Prof. Dimitris Psaltopoulos**  
Dept. of Economics, University of Patras: “Multi-disciplinary and Participatory Challenges for Agricultural and Rural Policy in Europe”

**12:00-12:30**      **Prof. Sotirios Tsiouris**  
School of Agriculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: “Effects of climate change on agriculture”

**12:30-14:00 Roundtable**  
**Bridging disciplines to address the challenges and prepare responses in the Mediterranean changing environment**  
**Chairperson: Dr. Elena Xoplaki**

**Panellists:**

**Prof. Alkiviadis Bais** (School of Physics, AUTH); **Prof. Theodoros Karacostas** (School of Geology, AUTH); **Dr. Haris Kontoes** (National Observatory of Athens); **Prof. Juerg Luterbacher** (Dept. of Geography, JLU); **Prof. Ernst-August Nuppenau** (Agricultural and Environmental Policy, ZEU, JLU); **Prof. Dimitis Psaltopoulos** (Dept. of Economics, University of Patras); **Prof. Sotirios Tsiouris** (School of Agriculture, AUTH); **Prof. Christos Zerefos** (Academy of Athens)