

THE FUTURE OF OCEAN SCIENCE STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

15 April, 13:00-13:50, Multifunctional Room 2 Round Table Events

Lead: University of Athens (UOA)

Co-organizers: Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Hellenic Oceanographers Association

The side event aims to examine the present and future of ocean science studies at University level. The developments of ocean sciences follow two directions.

On the one hand, we have the widening of ocean studies and inclusion in them of a large number of blue economy activities. This approach, addresses current and future socio-economic trends and rapidly expanding blue growth activities, such as aquaculture, ocean energy, marine biotechnology, fisheries, maritime transport, and coastal tourism among others.

On the other hand, we observe the deepening of the studies to more basic scientific research, aiming at better understanding of phenomena related to climate change, energy and material circulation at various depths and specific environments, e.g. underwater volcanos, hypoxic and anoxic conditions, deep/dark waters, etc. These kind of studies require very expensive equipment and infrastructure, usually available only in specialized research centers.

The main enabling conditions for the development of ocean studies are two: a) prepare pupils and young students for ocean related university studies, through well-structured ocean literacy contributing to basic understanding of the marine environment (i.e., resources, and protection) and b) the enhancement of the cooperation of universities with advanced research centers.

Furthermore, the opening of ocean science and studies to the society could be obtained through more systematic cooperation between Universities, the Industry and other economic sectors. This synergy could be materialized through innovative and career-oriented MSc and PhD studies. Finally, NGOs that deal with the various aspects of Marine Environment sustainability may attract the interest, subsequently engage and inspire pupils and students to follow marine studies.



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Michael Scoullos - Professor Emeritus of Environmental Chemistry and Oceanography at the University of Athens, Team Leader of the Water and Environment Support (WES) project, Chairperson of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med

Alexandra Gogou - Research Director, HCMR

Serafim Poulos - Professor, University of Athens

Adonis Velegrakis - Professor, University of the Aegean

Paraskevi Nomikou - Associated Professor, General Secretary of HOA



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SIDE EVENT AGENDA