

# Press Release: Kick off Meeting of H2020 ARSINOE Project

Innovation ecosystem for adaptation to climate change



On October 1<sup>st</sup> the H2020 Project “**ARSINOE- Climate Resilient Regions Through Systemic Solutions and Innovations**”, has officially started. ARSINOE is financed by the European Commission with a total budget of 15 million euros and is coordinated by [Prof. Chrysi Laspidou, University of Thessaly](#). It brings together 41 partners from 15 countries and intends to be a game-changer for shaping pathways to resilience by delivering regional innovation packages that build an ecosystem to develop and implement innovative climate change adaptation measures and solutions across Europe. The kick-off meeting of the project took place in Athens on October 14 and 15, as a hybrid event.

This consortium brings together several members of the **Cluster for Sustainability Transition**, directed by [Prof. Phoebe Koundouri](#):

**(i) The Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability ([ReSEES](#)) at [Athens University of Economics and Business](#)** where the Principal Investigator of the project is Prof. Koundouri. **ReSEES Laboratory at Athens University of Economics** is the Leader of WP7: Financial issues and financing instruments/Business models (AUEB), the leader of “Case study 2: Mediterranean ports” and is heavily involved at the Athens & Black Sea case studies. Given its expertise in economy, finance and funding, AUEB-RC will contribute in creating a portfolio of financing solutions that collectively can contribute to the improvement of various regions' resilience. AUEB-RC will play a major role in identifying financial innovation pathways, co-developing stakeholder specific financial pathways and business plans, designing financial instruments and developing a hybrid financial reporting model that integrates profits, social, environmental and governance criteria. Along with Prof. Koundouri, members of AUEB team are: **Dr. Conrad Landis, Ms. Alice Guittard and Ms. Maria Lentoudi**; also, **Prof. Dionysis Assimacopoulos, Prof. Vasiliki Tsoukala**

and Ms. **Vasiliki Chalastani** from the National Technical University of Athens are also included in the AUEB team.

(ii) The **Sustainable Development Unit (SDU)**, at “**Athena**” **Research Center** where the Principal Investigator of the project is **Dr. Ebum Akinsete**. SDU is Scientifically directed by Prof. **Phoebe Koundouri**. SDU engages in cutting-edge research to enable the transition to resilience and sustainability, through the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 (17 SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. The Unit focuses on interdisciplinary systems research and the delivery of innovative solutions for the transition to a green, digital, job-based and fair future. The work on its large interdisciplinary team focuses on the inter-dependencies between research and innovation, the economy, the society, the environment, policy-making and politics. The **Sustainable Development Unit**, at “**Athena**” **Research Center** will contribute to the project through its valuable experience and know-how in innovation (Systems Innovation Approach-SIA), in the participation and activation of stakeholders (Stakeholders Engagement) and as a hub for intelligent data and virtual reality (VR and Data Intelligence Hub). **Prof. Yannis Ioannidis, Prof. George Halkos, Prof. Nikitas Pittis, Dr. Akrivi Katifori, Ms. Panagiota Koltsida, Ms. Alysia Helming, and Ms. Eleni Toli** are all heavily involved in the project.

(iii) **SDSN Europe**, co-chaired by **Prof. Koundouri**, through **SDSN Paris**, is also involved and co-leads the WP8 “Impact maximization / Exploitation / Communication / Dissemination / Outreach / Replication”. People involved are **María Cortés Puch**, VP of Network Program Paris and **Dorothea Strüber**, Manager, Networks Program Paris.

**Ms. Alessia Pietrosanti**, the Project Officer from the European Commission/CINEA attended the kick-off meeting in person and delivered a welcoming speech the first day of the kick off meeting.

**Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, President of the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network** and member of the external advisory board of ARSINOE delivered a keynote speech on societal resilience under climate change conditions that fascinated and inspired all participants. It lasted about an hour, raised serious questions in the audience and lead to fruitful discussions on the issue of Sustainability and Climate Change in Europe and the rest of the world.

Furthermore, there was a **Joint Session** with presentations of projects funded under the same topic: TRANSFORMAR (IA), IMPETUS (IA) and REGILIENCE (CSA) where all partners joined. It is impressive that in all the IA projects, a case study from the Metropolitan Athens area is included. That being said, synergistic activities will be organised to maximize impact.

**Check out the ARSINOE [YouTube video](#) to find out more about our concept!**

For further information about the project, please contact:

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