

# MOUNTMED SPRING SCHOOL 2023

## Sustainable and inclusive development in the face of the climate crisis Focus on Mediterranean mountain areas

2-6.5.2023 | Troodos, CY

Photo: Christiana Christophidou

Under the auspices



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## CONTEXT

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Global crises, including the climate crisis, alter the capacity of mountain areas to produce wealth, goods, and livelihoods for local populations as well as for others who are more distant but nonetheless dependent. The Mediterranean regions are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on natural ecosystems and local value chains. It is urgently needed to assess these impacts. We need a long-term vision that rethinks infrastructures, economic models, services accessibility, and social inclusion for the sustainable future of mountain regions.

The MountMed Institute ( Institute of Research and Development for Mountain Regions of the Mediterranean Islands) aims to contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development of mountain communities and territories in the Mediterranean region. This Spring School is organized under the high patronage of the MountMed Institute Scientific Committee, the University of Thessaly, the Cyprus University of Technology and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research of the University of Lausanne, with the technical support of the Association Origin for Sustainability.

**The MountMed Spring School is under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment of the Republic of Cyprus.**

## AUDIENCE

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This training is addressed to Master and Ph.D. students, post-Ph.D. researchers, young researchers, and professors:

- with a focus on rural development, agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, social sciences, marketing and business, ecology, geography, conservation biology, and forestry,
- interested in studying in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment for the sustainable development of Mediterranean mountainous areas.

Language: Speakers and facilitators from various European countries will provide trainings mainly in English. The training will also involve some group work sessions in Greek, French, and Spanish.

Location: The Spring School is on-site in Agros village - Troodos, Cyprus.

## OBJECTIVE

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Gather international participants from various backgrounds to develop a systemic and interdisciplinary vision of the socio-ecological systems of Mediterranean mountain areas.



## LEARNING GOALS

- Work with conceptual frameworks and identify synergies among multiple disciplines,
- Present and discuss the vulnerability analysis of natural environments to climate change,
- Share the main challenges for sustainability in mountain areas, with a focus on the Mediterranean,
- Learn from local initiatives and discuss the transposability of practices to other regions and socio-ecological systems,
- Engage with local stakeholders on the significance of sustainability in development approaches,
- Strengthen group work skills.

## OUTCOMES

- Build an international and interdisciplinary network of young researchers with a focus on rural development in the Mediterranean regions,
- Scientific and social exchanges across disciplines and actors,

## OVERVIEW

	Wednesday 3rd		Thursday 4th		Friday 5th		Saturday 6th	
	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
<b>Session 1</b>	Check-in / Round Table / Agenda	Field Visit in Agros village	Concepts useful for understanding the socio-ecological systems of the mountain areas. <i>Laurent Rieutort</i>	Areas of development on a territorial scale. Example of Troodos <i>M. Stavridines</i>	Concepts useful for understanding the socio-ecological systems of the mountain areas. <i>Laurent Rieutort</i>	<b>Discussion with Dr. Maria Panayiotou Commissioner for the Environment</b>	<b>Group Work</b>	Field visit in Atsas Training Center and Kyperounta village
break - 15'								
<b>Session 2</b>	Major sustainability issues in Mediterranean mountain regions. Example of Troodos. <i>Dimitris Goussios/Dimitra Gaki</i>		Conceptual framework for systemic adjustments. <i>Thomas Dax</i>	Field Visit Odou village and Farmakas village	Conceptual framework for systemic adjustments. <i>Dominique Barjolle/Andreas Vavvos</i>	<b>Group Work</b>	<b>Synthesis and conclusion 1st part</b> Restitution of group work	
break - 15'								
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Group Work</b>	Areas of development on a territorial scale. Example of Pinde <i>Dimitris Goussios/Dimitra Gaki</i>		<b>Group Work</b>	Cultural stakes in relation to the sustainable dynamics of mountain and rural environments <i>Evangelos Pavlis</i>	<b>Synthesis and conclusion 2nd part</b> Participatory synthesis and conclusions		

## PROGRAM

### Tuesday, May 2<sup>ND</sup>

Schedule	Activity	Location
19 :30 – 20 :30	<b>Informal Dinner</b>	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant

### Wednesday, May 3<sup>RD</sup>

Schedule	Activity	Location
06:00 – 7:00	Rose harvesting	Agros Village
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
8 :30 – 9 :15	<b>Session 1</b> Check-in / Round Table / Agenda	Hotel conference room
9 :15 – 9 :30	Coffee Break	Hotel Cafeteria - Panthea Terrace

#### **Session 2**

Major sustainability issues in Mediterranean mountain regions.  
The examples of Troodos, CY & Pinde,GR

Dimitris Goussios

Dimitris explains the compatibility of the mode of territorial development and sustainable management of rural space and the new opportunities for the reorganization of land uses of an agroecological plan. He will illustrate the above issues on a territorial scale, through examples in the Troodos mountains (Cyprus) and Pinde mountains (Greece).

Ioannis Faraslis

Ioannis explains the application of 3D geovisualizations (3D GIS, Remote Sensing) for supporting participatory processes in rural areas. He will present a methodology that combines sources, methods, and tools (3D models) for sustainable management in remotely areas through examples in Troodos and Pinde, mountains.

Hotel conference room

11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	Conference Hall
11:15 – 12:15	<b>Group work</b>	Hotel conference room
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Field visit</b>		
14:00 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AgRose Rose Products, Rose field producers cooperative</li> <li>• Niki's sweets</li> <li>• Venus Rose Cosmetics, Rose factory</li> <li>• Kafkalia traditional meat products</li> </ul>	Agros village
<b>Spring School Opening Ceremony with:</b>		
<b>Antonis Tsolakis</b> , President of Agros Village		
<b>George Lakkotrypis</b> , President of Mount Med Institute		
18:00 – 19:00	<b>Dimitris Goussios</b> , Professor at University of Thessaly <b>Dominique Barjolle</b> , Senior researcher at University of Lausanne <b>Petros Xenophontos</b> , Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
19:00 – 20:30	<b>Cocktail</b>	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant

### Thursday, May 4<sup>TH</sup>

Schedule	Activity	Location
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Session 1</b>		
8:30 – 9:15	Concepts useful for understanding the socio-ecological systems of mountain areas.  Laurent Rieutord  Laurent presents the transition and resilience challenges in mountains and presents a first model to analyse the contribution of mountains to transitions	Hotel conference room
9:15 – 9:30	Coffee Break	Hotel Cafeteria - Panthea Terrace
<b>Session 2</b>		
9:30 – 11:00	Conceptual framework for systemic adjustments	Hotel conference room

	<p>Thomas Dax</p> <p>Thomas focuses on the need to understand the interconnectedness of socio-ecological systems, particularly implying tensions, and pressures for mountain regions. He will highlight the core relevance of the concepts of public goods, place-specific value chain types, and linkages of mountain governance to approaches for protection and high-quality ecological development.</p>	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	Conference Hall
<b>Session 3</b>		
<p>Areas of development on a territorial scale.</p> <p>The examples of Pinde,GR and Troodos,CY</p>		
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Dimitra Gaki</p> <p>Dimitra will illustrate sustainability issues in the Troodos (Cyprus) and Pindos (Greece) mountains of the Mediterranean on a territorial scale, focusing on the contribution of pastoralism and HNV farming to the sustainable management and territorial development of mountainous areas.</p>	Hotel conference room
Lunch break		
12:45 – 13:45	<p><b>With Mrs. H.E. Dorothea Auer</b></p> <p><b>Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Cyprus</b></p>	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Session 4</b>		
<p>Areas of development on a territorial scale.</p> <p>The example of Troodos,CY</p>		
13:45 – 15:00	<p>Menelaos Stavridines</p> <p>Menelaos discusses the impacts of land abandonment on the provision of ecosystem services and explores potential routes to reversing land abandonment in Cyprus.</p>	Hotel conference room
<b>Field visit</b>		
15:30 – 21:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oros Machaira, honey farm at Odou village</li> <li>• Vasiliki Ghi, farmers' cooperative , Odou village</li> <li>• Santa Irene Winery, Farmakas village</li> </ul>	Odou & Farmakas villages

**Friday, May 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Schedule	Activity	Location
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Session 1</b>		
Concepts useful for understanding the socio-ecological systems of the mountain areas.		
8:30 - 9:15	Laurent Rieutord  The second session of Laurent will go through a 2nd model of analysis on learning territories and networks of actors: examples in France and the Balkans.	Hotel conference room
9:15 - 9:30	Coffee Break	Hotel Cafeteria - Panthea Terrace
<b>Session 2</b>		
Conceptual frameworks for systemic adjustments.		
Dominique Barjolle  Dominique will introduce both the conceptual frameworks of the local food systems, and of the socio-ecological systems, and examples of their implementation in the context of Alp mountains.		
9:30 - 11:00	Andreas Vavvos  Andreas will demonstrate how community empowerment can be crucial for developing regional strategies and implementing policies for sustainability and socio-ecological systems in Mediterranean regions. Example will be around carob in hilly and semi-mountainous regions of Crete. He will highlight the past and present challenges of creating a sense of belonging around a value chain.	Hotel conference room
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break	Conference Hall
11:15 - 12:15	<b>Group Work</b>	Parallel sessions Hotel conference rooms
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
14:00 - 14:45	<b>Discussion with Dr. Maria Panayiotou Commissioner for the Environment</b>	Hotel conference room
14:45 - 15:15	Coffee Break	Hotel Cafeteria - Panthea Terrace
15:15 - 18:00	<b>Group Work</b>	Parallel sessions Hotel conference rooms

<b>Session 3</b>		
Cultural stakes in relation to the sustainable dynamics of mountain and rural environments		
17:15 – 18:00	<p>Evangelos Pavlis</p> <p>Evangelos presents the “ecomuseum” concept, as a laboratory of sustainable local development. He refers to the case study of the open Ecomuse Marathasa Troodos which regards the activation of human, social, cultural and natural assets of marginal regions through the combinational development of small-scale tourism (agrotourism, ecotourism, educational tourism, etc), local manufacturing, and primary production sectors.</p>	Hotel conference room
Dinner		
19:30 – 20:30	<p><b>with H.E. Mr. Christoph Burgener Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Cyprus</b></p> <p><b>and Dr. Kristina Lakos, Charge d’Affairs of the Embassy of Hungary in Cyprus</b></p>	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup></b>		
Schedule	Activity	Location
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
8 :30 – 10 :00	<b>Group Work</b>	Parallels Hotel conference rooms
10 :00 – 10 :15	Coffee Break	Hotel Cafeteria - Panthea Terrace
10 :15 – 11 :00	<b>Synthesis and conclusion 1<sup>st</sup> part</b> Restitution of group work	Hotel conference room
11 :00 – 11 :15	Coffee Break	Conference Hall
11 :15 – 13 :00	<b>Synthesis and conclusion 2<sup>nd</sup> part</b> Participatory synthesis and conclusions	Hotel conference room
13 :00 – 14 :00	Lunch break	Dionysos Hotel Restaurant
<b>Field visit</b>		
14:30 – 21:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atsas Training Centre, Katydata village</li> <li>• Dinner, Kyperounta village</li> </ul>	Katydata & Kyperounta villages



## SPEAKERS

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**Dr Dominique Barjolle,**  
Interdisciplinary Centre of Mountain research,  
University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Dominique is agronomist, and economist. She teaches “Food Security” at ETH in Zurich and “Food Systems Sustainability and Resilience” at University of Lausanne. She has published scientific papers and research reports about food qualification and certification schemes, geographical indications, role of food quality schemes for the rural development, nutrition as driver for agroecology, farms’ resilience and true cost of food.



**Dr Thomas Dax**  
Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain  
Research, Austria

Thomas is regional planner and deputy director of BAB in Vienna, Austria. He has published widely on rural development and mountain challenges and opportunities in the European context. In his studies he focuses on the territorial dimension, an integrated perspective of local development and interrelations between different types of areas. He is also member in various international working groups, including the OECD Working Party on Rural Policy.



**Dr Ioannis Faraslis**  
University of Thessaly, Greece

Dr Ioannis N. Faraslis is an environmentalist currently working as researcher and technical Staff at Department of Environmental Science, University of Thessaly. Moreover, he is a member of the Laboratory of Rural Space from more than 20 years. He has more than two decades of experience in the field of rural areas (environment) analysis using Remote Sensing and GIS techniques. Particularly he works on: geodatabase multi-criteria analysis, satellite



**Dimitra Gaki,**  
University of Thessaly, Greece

Dimitra is agroeconomist. She teaches “Rural Development” et “Territorial Development Plan: Methods and Tools” at University of Thessaly in Volos. She has participated at several research projects about local and rural development, farming system at mountainous areas, valorisation of local resources, participatory guarantee systems



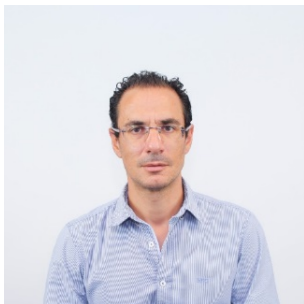
**Prof. Dimitris Goussios,**  
University of Thessaly, Greece

Dimitris is geographer-sociologist, director of Laboratory of Rural Space (Uni. of Thessaly). He teaches “Rural Development”, “Geography”, “Rural Planning”, “Territorial Development Plan: Methods and Tools” at University of Thessaly in Volos. He has published scientific papers and has participated at several research projects about territorial development and planning in rural areas, methodology for territorial diagnosis, the support of participatory processes using 3D visualization tools, cultural and rural heritage, participatory guarantee systems.



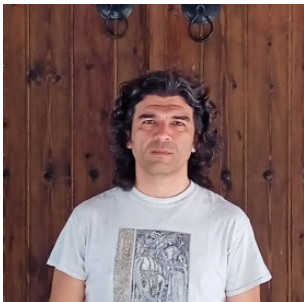
**Prof. Laurent Rieutord,**  
University of Clermont-Auvergne, France (distance participation)

Professor of geography at Clermont-Auvergne University, Laurent is Director of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Institute for the Development of Territories, a Public Interest Group associating local authorities and higher education establishments. Within the UMR Territoires (Clermont Auvergne University, AgroParisTech, INRAe, VetAgro Sup), his work focuses on European and Mediterranean rural areas, mountains, the anchoring of agri-food sectors and public policies.



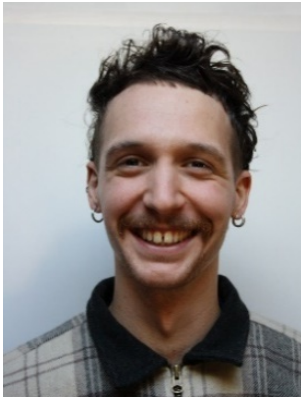
**Prof. Menelaos Stavrianides,**  
Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus

Menelaos is interested in sustainable agricultural systems that promote biodiversity conservation. A large part of his work focuses on developing knowledge and tools for the branding of local traditional products based on environmental performance and ecosystem service provision.



**Dr Evangelos Pavlis,**  
Hellenic Open University

Evangelos is a post-doctoral researcher, a lecturer at the Hellenic Open University and also an administrator and consultant in environmental, local development and social economy acts and initiatives. His main interests regard rural, social and cultural geographical issues with an emphasis on landscape and rural change/development. He has published scientific papers, book chapters, reports, articles in conference proceedings, etc., on landscape perception, landscape values, spatial conscience, land use change, sustainable rural development, social and solidarity economy and ecomuseums.



**Marco Trentin,**

Association Origin for Sustainability, Suisse

Marco is project manager in the association Origin for Sustainability. He holds a Master II in Agroecology. He works as young researcher as well on territorial development challenges in the Drôme valley in France. His main interests are pastoralism, food justice and food democracy. Marco oversees the preparation and coordination of the Spring School. He is the organizer and facilitator of the work-in-group sessions and the resource person for the whole organization of the week.



**Andreas Vavvos,**

University of Crete, Greece

Andreas is a doctoral candidate at the University of St. Andrews Department of Social Anthropology and the University of Crete Department of Psychology. His dissertation investigates how various social groups envision their futures in a globally connected sector (energy). He belongs to the HORIZON 2020 Moving (Mountain Valorization through Interconnectedness and Green Growth) Greece team. In this research, his focus is on the difficulties in forging a community of practice around the carob flour value chain in the mountainous and semi-mountainous areas of Crete.

## ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

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