



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
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## 1st MedCyclones Worskhop & Training School

Professor Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos

Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

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*Dear esteemed guests and colleagues*

Over the past years, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens has remained firmly focused on the forefront of science research and educational activity in the field of environmental and climate change. Toward addressing the modern challenges in the respective fields from a multidisciplinary perspective, **the NKUA has dedicated the year 2022 to the climate crisis.**

Part of NKUAs Strategic Plan are the newly established Centers of Excellence;

- **the Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and**
- **the Center for Disaster and Crisis Management,**

that further reinforce the promotion and development of innovative activities on climate crisis and natural hazards, providing important opportunities for NKUA to lead such fundamentally important actions concerning environmental awareness.

On that respect, the **1st MedCyclones Worskhop & Training School** respond to the innovative actions of NKUA pertaining the study of climate change and natural disasters.

As the Mediterranean cyclones constitute a major environmental risk and are often associated with hydrogeological hazards, understanding the science pertained to these phenomena and improving our ability to predict their occurrence become urgent for the benefit of our society

This event, taking place in the premises of NKUA and with its full support, provides a unique opportunity for direct interaction between academics, researchers and weather/climate prediction scientists to accomplish an important goal that will establish fruitful future science collaborations and form the science objectives that the community should pursue.

*Ladies and gentlemen*

The important role played by Universities internationally, is reflected in the *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020*, the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. **The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, for instance, has been highly ranked in individual goals of economic and social development, confirming the significant impact it has as a University on improving social welfare, economic development, tackling social inequalities, education and health.**

In recent years, our University has grown significantly as far as new structures and infrastructures.

**We are, also, let me mention, motivated about the European Universities Initiative.**

**The previous month we had the great honor and the unique opportunity to welcome here in Athens at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the oldest Public University in our Country and in the whole area of the Balkans and the East Mediterranean more than 300 delegates for the GLOBAL CIVIS DAYS, a unique event for our outstanding coalition!**

CIVIS's objectives for the next four years are in line with the European Strategy for Universities. The CIVIS alliance joins forces and

invests in transnational cooperation to educate a new generation of European citizens on key contemporary challenges.

The CIVIS alliance joins forces and invests in transnational cooperation to educate a new generation of European citizens on key contemporary challenges. These challenges are reflected in its five interdisciplinary Hubs; among them there is the ***Climate, Environment, & Energy HUB.***

Environmental sustainability within **CIVIS has two facets: encouraging sustainable forms of mobility on the one hand and a green digitalization agenda on the other.**

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

I would like once again to welcome you all at this unique event, the **1st MedCyclones Worskhop & Training School.**

Thank you.