



Mediterranean  
Information Office for  
Environment, Culture and  
Sustainable Development



Mediterranean education  
initiative for environment  
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University of Athens  
Laboratory of  
Environmental  
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Venice Office**  
Regional Bureau for Science  
and Culture in Europe (BRESCE)



Centre of  
Environmental  
Education of  
Lavrion



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme

## International Training Workshop

# EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) IN MAB BIOSPHERE RESERVES (MAB BRs) & other specially designated areas in SEE and the Mediterranean

22-24 June 2009, Greece

### ORGANISERS

**UNESCO Office in Venice-Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (UNESCO-BRESCE)**

<http://www.unesco.org/venice>

**Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) through the MEDIES Secretariat**

<http://www.mio-ecsde.org>

<http://www.medies.net>

**University of Athens/Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry**

<http://www.chem.uoa.gr/>

**Centre of Environmental Education of Lavrion, Greece**

### BACKGROUND - GENERAL AIM

In a series of international meetings (International Conference on Biosphere Reserves - Seville 1995, Madrid World Congress of Biosphere reserves, 2008) it has been suggested that Biosphere Reserves (BRs), more than any other type of designated areas, should be used as open learning platforms for the implementation of educational activities. Such an orientation is today of particular importance in the context of the **UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development** (UN-DESD), and during the last EuroMAB meeting held in Turkey in late 2007, participants agreed that concrete ESD experiences should be developed within the European/Mediterranean network of BRs. The wider aim of the workshop is to inform, exchange views and train on ESD those staff of MAB BRs, as well as bodies of other kind of designated areas (Protected Areas - PAs), who are in charge of educational activities in their area.

More specifically the training aims at preparing the participants on possible ways to apply new educational material entitled "**ESD in MAB BRs and other specially designated areas**" that is being currently drafted in English Language. This material has been developed based on an initial Greek version that was thoroughly amended and enriched in order to accommodate specificities of South Eastern European and Mediterranean countries. Before its final edition in fact, UNESCO and MIO-

### TRAINERS

The workshop will be introduced by representatives of the partner organisations.

The Scientific Background will be covered by academia and experts' lectures, while the experiential part will be covered by the pedagogic team of MEDIES.

ECSDE expect that this material could be used and “tested” for one year by those participants in the workshop interested to further develop their ESD Programmes at their respective BRs and other PAs. Their comments and evaluations (based on detailed questionnaires) would then be collected and discussed in a second workshop to be organized by the end of 2010, so that a final version of the educational material could be edited and published for its wider dissemination in the region.

### LINKS TO ON-GOING INITIATIVES

Biosphere Reserves (BRs) are sites recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which should innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development (SD), having three inter-connected functions:

- Conservation: landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- Development: adapted to human and cultural needs and the overall economy of the region;
- Management/Running support: research, monitoring, environmental education and training.

The training material as well as the workshop refer to BRs in this context, aiming to highlight their potential to generate meaningful knowledge, experience, recreation, economic development, to a wide target audience (youth, students, researchers, managers, etc.).

The overall approach of both the training material & the workshop is based on the principles of “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) and is in line with the scope and philosophy of the Decade for ESD (2005-2014), as well as the UNECE Strategy for ESD. They strive to bear the following quality characteristics:

- Interdisciplinary and holistic approach: linking to the whole curriculum.
- Value-driven: sharing the values of SD; addressing equally environmental, societal and economic issues;
- Multi-method: Exploring a variety of pedagogies;
- Locally relevant: addressing local as well as global issues.

### PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

The training workshop is targeting practitioners of ESD from the SE European and the Mediterranean Region that apply programmes “in the field”, and are open to value a territorial approach with school students, adult visitors, etc.

Therefore, depending on the specialities of each country, the training is open to a mixed stakeholders group, including the following target groups:

- Staff of MAB BR sites working on educational or awareness raising projects;
- Staff of Centres for Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development, or other similar bodies;
- Staff of Administration Bodies of Protected Areas, working on educational or awareness projects;
- NGOs engaged with educational projects around MAB BRs or other PAs.
- Greek representatives from CEEs and Heads of EE departments of Attica region will be also invited.

International participants will be selected by the organisers, seeking the best balance.

Participation of up to 20 international participants and up to 10 Greek participants is foreseen.

### EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP

The whole workshop is structured around the new publication “*ESD in MAB BRs and other Specially Designated Areas*”. Therefore the expected results of the workshop are the following:

1. The preliminary “testing” of the educational material “ESD in MAB BRs and other specially designated areas” by the participants and collection of their views and comments for further elaboration of the text;
2. The mutual learning and training of participants on the new concepts and methods of ESD, that are presented in the educational material “ESD in MAB BRs and other specially designated areas”.
3. The creation of the necessary ownership and stimulus to the participants in order to become fully engaged in actually applying and “putting to the test” the material in their work within a MAB BR or other form of PA.

## STRUCTURE / AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

### 22 June 2009

Arrival of participants (& transport from Athens airport to Lavrion), Welcome dinner

### 23 June 2009

09.00 – 11.00 **Theoretical part, presentations on ESD and MAB BRs** etc.; Presentation of the new educational material “ESD in MAB BRs and other Specially Designated Areas”

11.00 – 14.00 **Field Activities** = Break the ice activities & field work (at the forest)

*Lunch, free time*

17.30 – 19.00: **Workshop I:** Preparation of a video based on the morning filed work

19.00 – 20.30: **Workshop II:** On selected ESD methodologies of the kit

### 24 June 2009

09.00 – 11.00: **Field activities** = field work (at the Lavrion archaeological site)

11.00 – 12.30: **Workshop III:** Activities based on the field visit at the archaeological site

12.30 – 13.30: **Plenary:** How participant-experts can make use of the new educational material in their fields of work. Potentialities & obstacles, the way forward

13.30 – 14.00 **Evaluation & closure** of the experts' meeting

*Lunch, free time, departures to Athens airport*

## LOCATION

Lavrion area is situated 45 km far from Athens city-centre, and a few kilometres away from the heart of the Sounion Protected Area.

The Centre of Environmental Education, that will host the meeting, is in itself located within the Technological and Cultural Park of Lavrio, a series of mine buildings of unique industrial design. The place has been renovated and is currently hosting educational, cultural, scientific and high tech innovative activities.

## LANGUAGE

All training sessions will be conducted in English (no translation facilities will be available).

All official documentation and training materials will be available in English language.

## FEE

No fee is required.

Travel and accommodation expenditure for up to 20 international experts as well as meals and local transports for all participants will be covered by the organisers.

The participants will be selected on the basis of their expertise on the field of ESD, MAB BRs and PAs, seeking the best balance.

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

Interested participants are requested to send a half page CV, indicating their professional experience to the aim and scope of the meeting.

Particularly, the relevancy of their occupation to Education for Sustainable Development, MAB Biosphere Reserves and/or other forms of designated Protected Areas should be explained.

CVs should be sent to [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org)

Registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Please submit registrations to:

**Ms Iro Alampei / Ms Vicky Malotidi**

[info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org)

MIO-ECSDE, 12, Kyrristou str, 105 56, Athens, GR  
tel. +30 210 3247490, fax. +30 210 3317127