



John S. Latsis  
Public Benefit Foundation

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Mediterranean Marine Ecosystems are the Focus of the Latsis Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> International Summer School with the Scientific Collaboration of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

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The Latsis Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> **International Summer School** has begun with the participation of **28 students from 12 countries**. They will attend the presentations of **26 internationally recognized instructors** specializing in Mediterranean marine ecosystems from **16 Greek and foreign research and academic institutions**. The course is organized by the **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)**.

The topic of the programme is “**Mediterranean Marine Ecosystems: Functioning and Evolution**”; its objective is to collect and communicate the most recent scientific advances to the Greek and foreign students and researchers attending, thus contributing to the creation of a new generation of scientists who will concentrate on the future and the protection of the Mediterranean.

The lectures are taking place July 1–15, 2010, at the Pallas Athena Building, the Foundation’s headquarters in Kifissia; participating free of charge are postgraduate and doctoral students, as well as postdoctoral researchers specializing in the field of marine sciences with an interest in the Mediterranean Sea. **The participants were selected from 124 candidates responding to a public call issued by the organizing committee to all the widely known marine research institutions in Europe and the Mediterranean.** In the course of 2 weeks, the students have the opportunity to attend lectures given by distinguished speakers and to participate in an exchange of views during various workshops, while in the very first week of the educational programme they had the chance to acquire practical experience on sampling on board the HCMR’s oceanographic research vessel AEGAEO.

Additionally, to further disseminate scientific knowledge, **six of the lectures of the Summer School covering the most important environmental challenges in the Mediterranean are open to a number of scientists, NGO representatives, and other public agencies concerned with marine sciences and the environment in general.**

Dr. Elizabeth Lipiatou, the head of the Environment and Climate Change Unit, Directorate General Research, European Commission, gave the first open lecture on Friday, July 2, 2010.

HCMR Deputy Director and Summer School Organizing Committee Chairman Evangelos Papathanassiou stated: “At HCMR we believe each initiative that relates to education gives great impetus to research, in particular to marine research, a field in which we believe Greece plays an important role in the Mediterranean. Our main objective is to impart the new scientific knowledge we have acquired to a group of young scientists who in the days to come will be able to work to protect the Mediterranean basin and to understand the principal processes.” Referring to this educational initiative, John S.



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Latsis Public Benefit Foundation Executive Board Secretary Dimitris Afendoulis noted: “Organizing educational programmes that advance the standing of the Greek scientific and research community constitutes a central priority for us, while, at the same time, environmental issues remain permanently at the centre of the concerns of the Foundation.”

Additional information regarding the Latsis Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> International Summer School, the open lecture schedule, and the presentations of the invited speakers, is available on the website: [www.hcmr.gr/www.summerschool2010.gr](http://www.hcmr.gr/www.summerschool2010.gr).

In 2008, the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation embarked on an initiative to advance scientific research, establishing and exclusively financing a series of International Summer Schools focusing on various fields, beginning with the environment. These sessions are organized by Greek universities and research centres; their main objective is to enable each year Greek and foreign postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers to attend free of charge lectures given by Greek and foreign invited speakers. The subject of the Latsis Foundation 1<sup>st</sup> International Summer School was “Climate—Climate Change—Impacts”. It was organized by the Department of Meteorology-Climatology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUT) in association with the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) and was held on the Foundation’s premises on July 8–15, 2009.

Detailed Programme of the Summer School open lectures:

Wednesday, 7/7/2010, 17:30–8:30

**Biodiversity Including Non-Indigenous Species**

Speaker: Dr Argyro Zenetos, Marine Biologist, Research Director, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Thursday, 8/7/2010, 17:30–18:30

**Medusae: Trophic Role, Link to Microbial Food Web and Impact on Humans**

Speaker: Dr Alenka Malej, Head, Marine Biology Station, National Institute of Biology, Slovenia & Director, International Ocean Institute Operational Centre, Slovenia

Friday, 9/7/2010, 17:30–18:30

**Extreme and Deep Environments**

Speaker: Professor Imants (Monty) G. Priede DSc FRSE, Director, Oceanlab, University of Aberdeen, UK

Tuesday, 12/7/2010, 17:30–18:30

**Impacts of Climate Change on the Ecosystems**

Speaker: Professor Philip (Chris) Reid, Professor of Oceanography, Marine Institute, University of Plymouth, Senior Research Fellow, Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, Honorary Fellow, Marine Biological Association, UK



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Wednesday, 14/7/2010, 17:30–18:30

**Socioeconomic Scenarios**

Speaker: Professor Michalis S. Skourtos, Director of Postgraduate Studies, Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy, Department of Environmental Studies, University of the Aegean, Greece