

Dear colleagues and friends,

The members of the Organizing Committee would like to keep you updated with regards to the conference organization procedures.

The Organizing Committee is monitoring the developing situation regarding *Coronavirus-COVID-19* pandemic outbreak. Whilst it is too early to make accurate predictions about the progression or resolution of the epidemic, the meeting is still planned to proceed as scheduled. We will follow oncoming EU and Greek Ministry of Health recommendations regarding the organization of public events. We are very optimistic about the future situation and we are still looking forward welcoming you in Athens, next September.

### ***Program***

At the moment, all aspects of the programme of the conference have been addressed, including the rather important part of the *keynote lecturers* (details can be found at <http://euroengeo2020.org/elementor-270/>).

The time schedule of all 5 days of the conference, including the Executive Office and Council meetings in the two preceding days, has been decided and it is expected to be finalized in detail as the number of submitted papers increases. The programme outline can be found at <http://euroengeo2020.org/at-a-glance/> and the main topics of the conference at <http://euroengeo2020.org/main-topics/>.

It is also our intent to invite “younger scientists” within the community of Engineering Geology to provide “Invited lectures” but at the moment we would first like to investigate our budget capabilities.

As an aid to the IAEG goals and objectives, the conference programme has been structured in such a way in order to allow for meetings of any interested *IAEG Commissions*. These meetings have been scheduled for the afternoon of the first day of the conference.

On the night of the second day of the conference (Tuesday 22 September) a *banquet dinner* has been scheduled. Details regarding the banquet are expected to be finalised in the following period.

### ***Paper Submission***

The conference is organized with the collection of extensive abstracts, which we are looking forward receiving them up to the 30th of April 2020. The call for abstracts is active and is serviced from the site of the conference (<http://euroengeo2020.org/abstracts/>) via the “Eventora” platform. At the moment, the Organizing Committee is focusing on finalizing the sponsorship packages and proposals for accommodation are posted on the conference website.

The Organizing Committee examines the possibility to publish a special issue in a referred geo-engineering journal, after the conference, with selected papers, by invitation only, from the submissions of the extended abstracts. A contact to our journal -BOEG- was done but unfortunately there is not such a possibility due to the numerous other publications that have already been planned in the journal. If this effort of the committee is successful, an announcement will be made soon.

### ***Registration***

Regarding the registration fees, it has been the goal of the Organizing Committee to keep them at a low level (For registrations up to June 5, 2020: €300) in order to attract as many participants as possible from both the European continent and around the world but especially from countries that did not have the possibility in the past to participate in an IAEG conference.

### ***Field Excursions***

The excursions – field visits have also been finalised and you can find the details regarding cost, sites and programme at <http://euroengeo2020.org/excursions/>. The Organizing Committee paid great attention in ensuring that all the available field trips combine an interesting technical component as well as an appealing tourist element. Four post-conference field trips have been organised. Two of them are day-trips, one 2-day trip (inland of Greece) and one 3-day (Santorini island-two choices of travelling either by airplane or boat). Touristic Visits are also organised, during the conference, for the accompanying persons.

### ***Awards***

The IAEG “**Hans Cloos**” and “**Marcel Arnould**” medals will be awarded, while the next “**Richard Wolters**” Prize (RWP) competition for 2020 will be presented by IAEG at the occasion of the conference.

Finally, awards for the best oral and poster presentation for young engineering geologists (under 40 years old) will be presented and candidates are invited to express their interest in this contest during the submission of their papers (a choice to participate in this contest, during the submission of an abstract is given).

### ***Young Engineering Geologist group***

The Young Engineering Geologists Committee is being supported by the conference in a number of ways. A dedicated Young Engineering Geology session including the main presentation from the 2020 RWP award winner and possibly an invited Young Engineering Geology speaker has been scheduled followed by a party at the end of this technical session. Finally, awards for the best oral and poster presentation for young engineering geologists (under 40 years old) will be presented and candidates are invited to express their interest in this contest during the submission of their papers (a choice to participate in this contest, during the submission of an abstract is given). Finally, the Richard Wolters Prize 2020 award will take place during the conference, as mentioned earlier, and the winner will open the session with his/her talk.

### ***Other information***

The conference has been endorsed by a number of government and significant academic institutions. The process of receiving endorsements is ongoing and is expected to be finalised in the following weeks and all relevant letters will be uploaded on the conference website.

Promotion of the conference is achieved by the IAEG and the Greek NG websites, through the mailing lists of the members of the Greek NG and -on a personal level- by numerous visits of the Greek NG member and former president and current IAEG vice-president for Europe, Vassilis Marinos.

Apart from the main topics and the Executive Office and Council meetings in the two preceding days, the conference may also incorporate some pre-conference workshops (without any fee). More details will be available when these workshops will be finalised.

Kind regards,

Vassilis P. Marinos

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