

## **International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites**

### ***“Dive in Blue Growth”***

**Museum of Acropolis Auditorium, Athens  
16-18 October 2019**

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

BLUEMED project with the support of the Med Sustainable Tourism Community are organizing the International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites, **“Dive in Blue Growth”**, under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos.

Coastal areas and islands of the Mediterranean are tourism-based economies with key underwater assets that are vulnerable to extreme climatic conditions. They face common challenges: a) lack of coordinated policies, methods and tools to support sustainable economic development, b) ineffective protection of underwater heritage and inability to use it for sustainable tourism development, c) insufficient measures to tackle impacts of extreme climatic conditions.

BLUEMED aims to protect and preserve in a unified manner the underwater natural and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean, to help coastal and island economies prosper through a sustainable blue model for tourism development, and to protect our marine ecosystem. BLUEMED is part of Interreg MED 2014-20 Programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Within sustainable tourism in Med area, the Conference is an opportunity for underwater archaeologists, public organizations, local governments, universities, marine researchers, NGOs, tourist organizations, diving park/dry dive managers, and underwater industry players to exchange views on problems and solutions for underwater natural and cultural heritage.

Roberto Petriaggi, Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR) consultant for Restoring Underwater Project, Dimitris A. Pados, Charles E. Schmidt Eminent Chair Professor of Engineering and Computer Science in the Florida Atlantic University and Christos Economou, Head of the Unit Sea basin strategies in DG MARE, specialist Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security will be Keynote Speakers in the International Conference.

The Conference topics are:

- a) Management and protection of accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) sites and UCH diving parks
- b) Initiatives for sustainable Blue tourism through accessible UCH sites and diving parks
- c) Technologies for offering dry dive experiences to non-divers

The Conference will take place at the Amphitheater of Acropolis Museum on 16-18 October.

Attendance to the International Conference “Dive in Blue Growth” is free by registering on the conference website (<https://blumed.interreg-med.eu/index.php?id=9639>).

For more information on the BLUEMED Project and the International Conference, visit: [blumed.interreg-med.eu](http://blumed.interreg-med.eu)