

Newsletter



Research

Research activities at NEO are being enriched with new projects, and new collaborations. The **Stelkens Lab** at SU is interested in the evolutionary genomics of wild yeast in the genus *Saccharomyces* and in late February Associate Professor Rike Stelkens conducted a 1st sampling campaign.

Additionally, the **Zoology Department** at SU has set up a bumblebee experiment, investigating the use of polarized light in navigation. In general, the experiment consisted of recording and comparing the bees' travels (foraging and homing) in different sky conditions (clear sky and overcast sky, as well as day vs. twilight).

Moreover, Dr. Björn Gunnarson, researcher at the **Physical Geography Department** at SU has installed 4 dendrometers in olive trees at our soil erosion experiment. The aim is to record trunk size during the year and specially to understand how surface runoff could affect tree growth in hilly terrains.



Education

Since the beginning of the year three course visits took place at NEO. Students following the **Physical Geography** course from Stockholm University, were introduced to different landscapes and processes (e.g. calcareous bedrock landscapes in the Taygetos mountains with canyons, soils, terraces, erosion from ravines in flysh that forms badlands to very active coastal erosion by the sea, slope processes, dendrochronology, evidence of wildfires and Greek forestry) and worked in groups to develop project work.

The **Atmospheric Physics** course from Patra's University, focused their work around NEO research the atmospheric station at Methoni, and conducted field measurements of PM2.5 concentrations and the zenith sky temperature.

The **CULTECH** program from University of the Peloponnese combined intense course lessons at NEO lecture room with visits at Gialova Lagoon wetland.

EU PROJECT

SALAM-MED project is ongoing and until now the 2 experiments (irrigation and soil erosion) are running smoothly. The first results have been discussed and evaluated by local stakeholders during the 2nd Living Lab workshop which took place at Eliopoulos Museum in Filiatra, Messinia.

NEO researchers attended the project meeting in Egypt and presented activities and updates focusing particularly on the co-design approach, stakeholder engagement, learning, and innovation processes.

For more about SALAM-MED project: <https://www.facebook.com/Salamm edUniss>



Outreach

We are pleased to announce that **café-NEO** is officially back! In February we had the opportunity to host Dr. Evangelos Gerasopoulos and discuss about climate change at cafe IANOS in Athens.