



PROMOTING regional SOLUTIONS WITH global PERSPECTIVES

Announcement

Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation 2023

International Simulation Conference

Youth Leadership Program

University Edition – October 18-22, 2023, Rhodes, Greece

High School Edition – November 09-12, 2023, Rhodes, Greece

Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation or **RhodesMRC** is presenting its 13th version with two conferences for university students and graduates and for high school students respectively.

Being academically innovative, RhodesMRC has brought for the first time in its region simulations of the Union of the Mediterranean, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the League of Arab States, the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation or the Organization of American States, along with simulations of the EuroAtlantic Partnership Council or the North Atlantic Council of NATO and the Council of Europe. Before the pandemic, RhodesMRC was one of the largest youth leadership events in the world, targeting high school students, university undergraduates and graduates, young scientists and professionals, for the most satisfying conference experience, assuming the role of diplomats and simulating the proceedings of some of the most important regional International Governmental Organizations, in multiple fields like democracy and human rights, peace building, security, sustainable development, financial and economic cooperation, a.o.

The 13th RhodesMRC 2023 will take place in **Rhodes, Greece, October 18-22, 2023**, for the university edition – open to both students and graduates -, and **November 09-12, 2023**, for the high school level.

Organised by



Students, young scientists of law, political science or international relations and diplomats, or just international relations “fans”, gather together in Rhodes every year to simulate the works of the organs and committees of a series regional international organizations, gaining valuable experience on negotiations and resolution making, while specializing to demanding topics focused on specific regions of the planet.

For its academic innovation and unique nature, RhodesMRC has received various recognitions:

- the **auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, for 2023;**
- the **auspices and support of NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division, for 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023;**
- the **auspices of the National Commission for Human Rights of the Hellenic Republic, for 2023;**
- the **auspices of HAH, the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I, in 2019;**
- the **patronage of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Co-operation** and the Secretary General of its PERMIS, Ambassador Michael B. Christides, for 2018 and 2019;
- the **patronage of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, for 2015, 2016 and 2017;**
- the **official support of 18 Embassies and Foreign Missions in Athens** for 2017, under the initiative RhodesMRC Embassy Program; **8 Embassies have renewed their support** in 2018;
- the **official support of the United Nations Regional Information Center** for Western Europe, for 2017;
- its inclusion to the official calendar of **2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development**, as celebrated by the World Tourism Organization, being a fine example of academic tourism and an incubator of young travelers that learn to cherish diversity and respect cultural heritage;
- its inclusion to the official calendar of the **European Year of Youth 2022;**
- distinction as one of the **top projects for European Youth** in 2013 by the Nantes Creative Generations program in France;
- being the cornerstone of the House of Europe in Rhodes **award by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean**, in 2012.

Our core values are working “*towards effective peacebuilding and sustainable development on a regional level*” and to “*promote regional solutions with global perspectives*”. The organizations picked to be simulated and the topics selected to be discussed are always inspired by this central directive, and, from 2017 onwards, RhodesMRC honors and has committed itself to the accomplishment of the **Sustainable Development Goals**, as set by the **United Nations**, making the conference indeed relatable with modern challenges while focusing in the various regions, where regional co-operation is indeed a tangible reality.

Organizers, Affiliations and Partners

RhodesMRC 2023 is being organized by the House of Europe in Rhodes.

The Region of South Aegean, the City of Rhodes, the Chamber of Industry & Commerce of Dodecanese, the Dept. of Mediterranean Studies of the University of the Aegean, and the Europe Direct South Aegean, serve as organizing partners.

RhodesMRC 2023 is organized in cooperation with the European Network for Education and Training, e.V. – EUNET and the Greek Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

The **International Center for Black Sea Studies**, the **Center of International and European Studies** of Kadir-Has University, the **Institute of European Integration and Policy**, the **Institute of International Relations** and the **Institute of International Economic Relations** in Athens serve as academic partners, while RhodesMRC is strongly affiliated with similar conferences in Greece and abroad, like ThessISMUN, and the EUSYP Project.

RhodesMRC 2023 is also locally supported by the Museum of Modern Greek Art, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Dodecanese, Development Company of Dodecanese – ANDO, Rhodes Municipal Organization on Culture-Sports DOPAR, Municipal Businesses of Rhodes SA – Kallithea Springs, the Stamatiou Foundation, a.o..

RhodesMRC 2023 is under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, NATO's Public Diplomacy Division and the National Commission for Human Rights of the Hellenic Republic.

RhodesMRC 2023 is dedicated to / supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and supports the MUN Refugee Challenge of the UNHCR.

The Organizing Committee

A highly-experienced Organizing Committee oversees all aspects of running such a demanding task, securing that the overall experience of the RhodesMRC participants will be the best possible, combining a fine academic exercise with the various cultural and historical offerings of Rhodes, including its Medieval City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The conference takes place inside historical buildings and venues in Rhodes historical center, ensuring the participants take favor of the local experience while the city itself is being revitalized with the hundreds of aspiring young diplomats conquering every corner. An experience already enjoyed by more than 6000 people from 30 countries.

The Organizing Committee is comprised of:

- Michael G. Kavuklis – Head of the Organizing Committee, Co-Head of the Executive Team and Founder of RhodesMRC, President of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Miltos Sarigiannidis – Head of the Scientific Committee of RhodesMRC
- Dimitrios Lolitsas – Secretary General of the University Edition of RhodesMRC 2023
- Michaela Fournarakou – Secretary General of the High School Edition of RhodesMRC 2023
- Magdelene Tsourdiou – Deputy Head of the Organizing Committee, Secretary of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Erato Fessatidou – Deputy Head of the Organizing Committee – Co-Head of the Executive Team
- Stavros Chrysochos – Treasurer of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Christos Mpardos – Vice Governor of South Aegean
- Athanasios Virinis – Rhodes City Council Member on International Relations
- Ioannis Pappou – President of the Chamber of Commerce
- Sotirios Dalis – Chairperson of the Dept. of Mediterranean Studies
- Filia Papasavva – Europe Direct South Aegean
- Maria Eliza Theodorou – Member of the Board of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Lina Filippaki – Member of the Board of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Nikolaos-Rafail Kavouras – Member of the Board of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Anna Charitou – Honorary President of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Marilena Sokianou – Honorary President of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Stefanos Katsoulis – Head of the Scientific Committee of the House of Europe in Rhodes

The Scientific Committee

A Scientific Committee of 25 professors and experts from 15 universities and institutions from 3 countries are supervising the simulation preparation that will be run by a skilled Board of young scientists, students and professionals.

- Miltos Sarigiannidis – Head of the Scientific Committee, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Paroula Naskou-Perraki – Honorary Head of the Scientific Committee, Former Chief Academic Officer of ThessISMUN, Retired Professor, Department of International & European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Despina (Ino) Afentouli, Executive Director of the Institute of International Relations, Athens
- Zefi Dimadama, PhD, Department of International, European and Regional Studies, Panteion University
- Sotirios Dalis, Associate Professor, Chairperson of the Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean.

- Emmanouela Doussis, Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Director of the Institute of European Integration and Policy, University of Athens
- Maria Gavouneli, Professor, Department of Law, University of Athens | Chair of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights
- Vassilios Grammatikas, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Democritus University of Thrace
- Eleni Karantzola, Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
- Theodosios Karvounarakis, Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Chief Academic Office of ThessISMUN 2022, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Stefanos Katsoulis, PhDcand. at the Department of International & European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, Head of the Scientific Committee of the House of Europe in Rhodes
- Andreas Kotelis, Lecturer, Institute of European Studies, University of Malta
- Georgios Maris, Associate Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
- Konstantinos Magliveras, Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
- Panagiota Manoli, Assistant Professor, Department of Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Peloponnese
- Georgios Mitrakos, Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)
- Ioannis Papageorgiou, Associate Professor - ECTS Coordinator, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Ioannis Seimenis, Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, Dean of the School of Humanities, University of the Aegean
- Sotirios Serbos, Associate Professor, Department of Social Administration & Political Science, Democritus University of Thrace
- Ioannis Stribis, Assistant Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
- Richard Stock, General Manager of the European Centre Robert Schuman – President of EUNET (European Network for Education and Training, e.V.) – Secretary General of the Robert Schuman Institute for Europe
- Spyros Syropoulos, Professor, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean
- Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Professor, Department of International Relations, Panteion University
- Charalampos Tsardanidis, r. Professor, Director of the Institute of International Economic Relations, Athens
- Stefanos Vallianatos, PhD, Head of the Department of International Relations of the Hellenic Culture Foundation – Head of the Greek Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation

University Edition

RhodesMRC 2023 will be the 13th University Edition of the Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation and will include the simulations of:

- **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** (crisis)
- **NATO's North Atlantic Council (NATO)** (crisis)
- **Council of Europe (CoE)**
- **African Union (AU)**
- **Council of the European Union (EU)**
- **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**
- **League of Arab States (LAS)** (crisis)
- **Organization of American States (OAS)**
- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
- **Rhodes Judicial Conference on Human Rights (RJCHR)**

With three of its committees running in crisis mode, the real challenge during RhodesMRC 2023 is to remain realistic; the crisis scenarios are inspired by real-life incidents, with realistic timetables and details that are within the limits of possibility. The overall goal of each committee is to achieve a peaceful solution to every challenge thrown at them, while fostering interconnection among committees, with new digital tools.

Fees

The fees are set to 90,00€ per person and include: the Participant's Kit, the Certificate, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, incl. their receptions, all lunches and coffee breaks offered during sessions, as described in the official program. All fees are offered, on a fully prepaid, non-refundable basis.

Types of participation

- All adults, age 18-35, with advanced language skills in English are welcome to apply as delegates, staff members or observers.
- A delegate is assigned to a country and represents the country during the sessions.
- A staff member serves as an usher during sessions and is involved in the overall preparation of the conference. Staff members receive a full-fees waiver.
- An observer is an individual that can attend the proceedings, without any right to intervene in the procedure or interact with the board and delegates.
- Applicants younger than 18 or older than 35 may apply as observers or staff members.

Accommodation

The Organizing Committee of RhodesMRC partners with hotels within walking distance off the conference venues in order to secure low-cost quality accommodation for as low as 48 euros per double room per night, incl. breakfast, free Wi-Fi and all taxes.

Since 01/01/2018, an extra overnight tax is applied to all stays, which varies depending on the classification of the hotel. The extra overnight tax is not included at the hotel bill and room price and is charged and collected separately.

Official Program

Wednesday, October 18th, 2023

13:00-16:00 – Registration | Venue TBC

20:00 – Welcome Reception | Venue TBC

21:00 – Opening Ceremony | Venue TBC

Thursday, October 19th, 2023

09:00-17:00 – Sessions (including a Coffee Break and a Lunch Break) | Venues TBC

Friday, October 20th, 2023

09:00-17:00 – Sessions (including a Coffee Break and a Lunch Break) | Venues TBC

19:00-20:30 – Panel of Experts | Venue TBC

Saturday, October 21st, 2023

09:00-14:00 – Sessions (including a Coffee Break)

20:00 – Closing Ceremony followed by the Farewell Reception | Venue TBC

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023

Excursion to Kallithea Springs and Lindos (not included to the fees)

The program is subject to changes. Venues and the social program will be announced in due time.

Side Events

Friday, October 20th, 2023

19:00 – Round Table on the Future of Europe and its Neighborhood

With the participation of International Experts, attending the conference.

Various social events will be organized on each day of the conference: dinners, parties, cultural activities.

Important dates for the University Edition

23/04 – 07/07/2023: Early Bird Registration Period – Fees at 80€

08/07 – 09/09/2023: Normal Registration – Fees at 90€

01/07/2023: Topics Announcement

16/09/2023: Countries/committees allocation

11/10/2023: Position Papers submission Deadline

More information on the University Edition, at our dedicated website: www.rhodesmrc.org/2023/

Contact information

The official website of Rhodes Model Regional Co-operation is www.rhodesmrc.org

For general inquiries, you may reach us at contact@rhodesmrc.org

For applications, you may reach us at applications@rhodesmrc.org

Organised by

