

## **Introductory Speech of Professor Efthimios Zervas, Chair of the Conference**

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you for your participation to the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Environmental Design.

This Conference is a dream coming from the past; since several years, every year we were planning to organize it; and every year something more urgent passed first. The decision was taken an evening of February, when, between two glasses of wine, a very close friend asked me: what about this Conference? And, suddenly, I realized that quite a lot of years passed since the first thoughts about this Conference. My answer was simple: the Conference will be organized this year.

We started to ask, to learn how to organize a Conference. We started the first administrative actions: demand for the authorization, demand for the rooms, etc. And, some days later, Greece, as almost all countries in Europe, faced a sudden lockdown. Until that day, COVID-19 was only in China, very far from us. We couldn't realize the dramatic situation of the Chinese people until this pandemics come to us. After that day, everything changed. Our personal, family and professional life was deeply affected.

And, as expected, this Conference was forgotten. Other priorities and urgencies come first again. Until this summer. Where the question was: now or like the past: next year and then again next year, etc. The decision was taken. We had only some weeks of preparation and a very uncommon and unknown situation to face.

Finally, this Conference starts now. Virtually, and not in Athens, as initially planned. We hope that COVID-19 will be very soon only a bad memory and that we could meet again face to face.

For this first year we have four plenary lectures of young scientists, as one of the duty of we, older professors, have, is to prepare our successors. We also have two parallel virtual rooms with sixteen sessions containing 66 presentations. Moreover, 23 works are presented as posters. You can follow the presentations and ask your questions to the presenters. Also, you can download the posters from the Conference web site and contact the authors by email. We thank all authors for trusting us submitting their work to this Conference.

Last but not least, we apologize for every error, which is entirely ours. However, we are sure that this first experience will also take place next year, and again in two and three and four and even more years in the future. And, of course, better and better and better than today.

I thank you again and I hope that this Conference will fill your expectations!

The scope of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Environmental Design is to bring closer all scientific fields related to Environmental Design.

I would like now to show you our approach to Environmental Design.