Press release
Athens, 19/07/2019

**2019-International Summer University on “Integrated Management, Sustainable Tourism and Promotion of Biosphere Reserves” takes place in the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve, Bulgaria**

For one week, from 21 to 28 July the Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve (BR) of Bulgaria will be the home for more than 30 young experts, PhD students, and staff of BRs from 15 countries, chosen from 125 applications, from all over the world.

This year’s Summer University is actually the fifth one in the series that was established and co-organized by MIO-ECSDE and the UNESCO Venice Office, supported every time by a different BR or candidate BR. The previous ones were held in Amfissa, Greece (2014), Samothraki Greece (2016), Sardinia, Italy (2017), and Parnon, Greece (2018), focusing on topics of designation and functioning of Biosphere Reserves within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme of UNESCO.

This year, the Summer University is co-organised with the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation. The national and local hosts and supporters include the Ministry of Environment and Water, the National MAB Committee of Bulgaria, the Directory of “Central Balkan” National Park, the Karlovo Municipality, the Troyan Municipality, the National Bulgarian Commission for UNESCO, the Chateau Copsa, Rozino Organic Farm, the National Exhibition of Artistic Crafts and Arts, the village Oreshak, the Hotel Caza Art, and the project “Unity”.

This will be an intensive, multidisciplinary and experiential training aiming to develop the understanding and competences of the participants on the management of Biosphere Reserves as "laboratories" and "catalysts" for Sustainable Development. During the week, in a program combining theoretical sessions, practical work and many visits, the participants will be introduced and discuss the future of Biosphere Reserves with the help of Bulgarian and international lectors from Greece, Italy and Spain.

Read more: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SummerUniversityBulgaria/>

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The 2019 Summer University is co-organized and supported by:

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|  | Central Balkan Biosphere Reserve and Central Balkan National Park<https://visitcentralbalkan.net/> |
|  | UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe[www.unesco.org/new/en/venice](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice)  |
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| updatedMIOlogo_2014.jpgmedies-logo(no words).jpglife-eu.jpg | Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development ([www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)) through its education initiative MEdIES ([www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net)).  |
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