

EXPLORING A “PHYSICAL LABORATORY”: THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

RCMNS 15th Congress
Athens, Greece
3-6 September 2017



REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN NEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY

15th RCMNS Congress

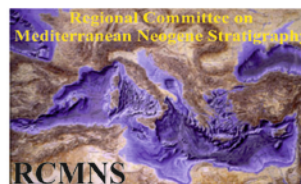
*Exploring a “physical laboratory”: the
Mediterranean Basin*

Athens, 3rd – 6th September, 2017

2nd Circular



National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens



Regional Committee on Mediterranean
Neogene Stratigraphy



Geological Society
of Greece



Hellenic Committee of
Palaeontology-Stratigraphy



Hellenic Sedimentological
Association



Geotechnical Chamber
of Greece

15th Congress RCMNS

Exploring a “physical laboratory”: the Mediterranean Basin

3rd -6th September 2017

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SECOND CIRCULAR

Dear Colleagues,

This is the second circular for the 15th RCMNS Congress “Exploring a “physical laboratory”: the Mediterranean Basin”, to be held in Athens, Greece, at Crowne Plaza Hotel, September 3-6, 2017. The main topic of the Congress is the Mediterranean Sea and includes all the cognitive fields connected with geo-sciences/earth sciences, physical processes, human activities as well as the burgeoning environmental changes. The prime target of the Conference is to present and disseminate knowledge, to develop the “know-how” in methodology and presentation of research results in this specific scientific field which will be addressed.

Please check the RCMNS 2017 web site (<http://www.rcmns2017.com>) for the most recent information.

ORGANIZATION

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Geological Society of Greece

Hellenic Committee of Palaeontology-Stratigraphy

Hellenic Sedimentological Association

Geotechnical Chamber of Greece



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Hara Drinia, Chair email: cntrinia@geol.uoa.gr
 Michael Dermitzakis, Honorary Chair email: mdermi@geol.uoa.gr
 Assimina Antonarakou, Secretary email: aantonar@geol.uoa.gr

Members:

Vassileios Karakitsios	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
George Anastasakis	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Fotini Pomoni-Papaioannou	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Efterpi Koskeridou	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Nikolaos Voulgaris	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Spyros Pavlides	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Avraam Zelilidis	University of Patras
Dimitris Kostopoulos	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Theodora Tsourou	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
George Kontakiotis	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Markella-Asimina Louvari	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

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SECRETARIAT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Assimina Antonarakou aantonar@geol.uoa.gr

15th RCMNS Congress
 National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
 Department of Geology and Geoenvironment
 Panepistimiopolis 15784
 Athens, GREECE



LOCATION

Located at the crossroads of three continents, the capital of Greece – Athens - with an overall population of close to four million has often been the hub of many cultures.



Characterized by a culture and people that are welcoming and hospitable, every visitor just feels at home. Athens is an ideal congress destination, combining state-of-the-art infrastructure, excellent conference facilities and easy access from all over the world with world-class cultural attractions, modern amenities, diverse entertainment and natural beauty.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will take place in Crowne Plaza Hotel in Athens. Built on the banks of the ancient Ilissos River, once mentioned in Plato's writings and still flowing secretly beneath the property's main road, the Crowne Plaza Athens City Center is an ultra-modern tribute to Athens' rich past and the city's millennia of fascinating history.



The award-winning hotel lies strategically in the central Athens suburb of Ilissia, named after its hidden historic river, only a 20-minute leisurely walk from the happening heart of the capital, Syntagma Square.

For more information on the Crowne Plaza Hotel please visit <http://www.cpathens.com/>

ACCOMMODATION

Athens is a major tourist destination, so there is a great range of accommodation. Congress participants are kindly invited to arrange by themselves the accommodation. A list of convenient Hotels nearby the congress venue are posted in the website (<http://www.rcmns2017.com/accommodation>), as well as relative websites and maps.



TOPICS AND SESSIONS

The Scientific Committee proposes the following topics and sessions. Sessions can be modified, combined or a new session could be opened, depending on the range and the scientific focus of the submitted abstracts. In brackets, find the name of the chairman/coordinator of each section:

T1: Messinian Salinity Crisis

S.1: Towards a new understanding of the MSC
(Francisco Javier Sierro Sánchez, Marco Roveri)

S.2: The effect of the Messinian Salinity Crisis on the Mediterranean fish fauna
(Konstantina Agiadi, Giorgio Carnevale)

T2: Mediterranean Paleoceanography

S.3: Advances in Mediterranean Paleoceanography
(Agata Di Stefano, Assimina Antonarakou)

T3: Mediterranean Paleoclimatology

S.4: Mediterranean climate changes over the Quaternary
(Isabel Cacho, Katerina Kouli, Fabrizio Lirer)

T4: Neogene Mammalian successions and dispersals

S.5: Tortonian-Messinian transition on land: Environment, stratigraphy, mammals and vegetation of the classical Pikermi and post-Pikermian sites
(Nikolai Spassov, Madelaine Böhme)

S.6: Mammals (and not only) at the eastern corner
(Dimitris Kostopoulos, George Konidaris)

S.7: A Revolution in European Biochronology: 40 Years of MN Zones
(Isaac Casanovas-Vilar, Lars W. Van den Hoek Ostende)

T5: Mediterranean tectonics – geodynamics

S.8: Inherited Tectonics and Neogene-Quaternary rejuvenation of Faults
(Spyridon Pavlides, Ibrahim Çemen)

S.9: Miocene to present deformation in the Aegean: extension vs. transtension and strike slip tectonics
(Dimitris Sakellariou)

S.10: Active orogenic arcs and extensional collapse in the Mediterranean
(Dimitris Papanikolaou)



T6: Physical Geography, Sedimentology

S.11: Integrated approaches to study coastal geomorphology and geoarchaeology
(Niki Evelpidou, Stefano Furlani, Emanuele Forte)

T7: Marine Geology

S.13: Marine geology of Mediterranean continental margins
(David Piper, George Kontakiotis, George Anastasakis)

T8: Environmental Geosciences

S.14: Benthic microfauna as a tool for documenting dynamics in marginal marine environments
(Theodora Tsourou, Efterpi Koskeridou, Hara Drinia)

T9: Mediterranean and Paratethys

S.15: New integrated stratigraphic results from the Neogene of Paratethys
(Mathias Harzhauser, Sergey Popov)

S.16: Paratethys-Mediterranean interactions during the Neogene
(Oleg Mandic, Wout Krijgsman)

T10: Neogene Mediterranean Paleogeography

S.17: Restriction of Late Miocene Mediterranean marine gateways
(Luis Gibert, Francesco Dela Pierre)

S.18: Mediterranean Neogene shallow water systems: Local patterns and global controls
(Fotini Pomoni, Markus Reuter, Thomas Brachert)

T11: Mediterranean Geochemistry

S.19: Hot and cold seeps on the Mediterranean seafloor
(Pavlos Megalovasilis, George Papatheodorou)

T12: Sedimentation in the Aegean Volcanic Arc

S.20: Volcaniclastic sedimentation and tephra records in the Eastern Mediterranean
(Namic Cagatay, Georgia Pe-Piper, George Anastasakis)



FIELD-TRIPS/EXCURSIONS

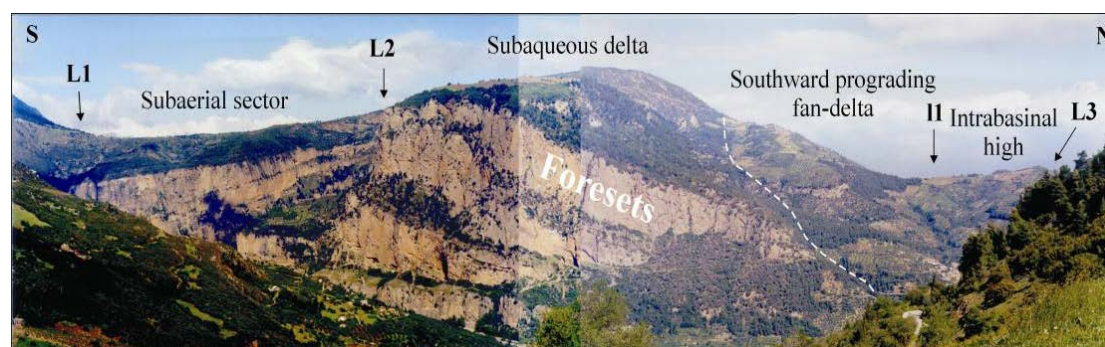
Three pre-Conference and five post-Conference fieldtrips will be organized depending on the number of participants. To allow proper logistic arrangements to be completed, the participants are invited to select the trip(s) of interest and pay relative fee before June 1, 2017 (please note that it is not possible to pay field trip fees on site). Please be aware that excursions will take place only if the number of participants is at least 25 and no more than 50. The field trip registration fees include transportation, accommodation and breakfast. The indicative costs can be changed depending on the number of the participants. In case of a fieldtrip cancellation the registration fees are going to be refunded. Further information and the programme of the field-trips will be available at the Conference web site (<http://www.rcmns2017.com/fieldtrips-excursions>).

Pre-symposium field-trips

FT1 - Fan deltas in Northern Peloponnesus (September 1st-2nd)

Guided by/organizer: Prof. Avraam Zeligidis

The Corinth graben is a late Pliocene WNW-trending continental rift zone formed in response to back-arc extension behind the Hellenic trench. It is separated into two WNW-trending rifted segments. The southern segment, which occupies the coastal areas of the northern Peloponnesus, has been elevated about 1000 m above the present sea-level. In this uplifted segment, exposed sediments consist of late Pliocene to early Pleistocene fluvial and lacustrine–lagoonal deposits up to 600 m thick; these are unconformably overlain by up to 500 m of alluvial-fan and fan-delta deposits and marine terraces up to 30 m thick. During this field-trip we will study fan-delta sedimentary processes and architecture from the Egio and Evrostina sub-basins.



Field-trip fee: 130€ (includes a field guide, accommodation for 1 night in a single room with breakfast and bus transportation).



FT2 - Aegina: Geocultural itinerary (September 2nd)

Guided by/organizers: Assoc. Prof. Efterpi Koskeridou, Prof. Michael Stamatakis

Aegina is a small island situated in Saronic Gulf just 27km away from Athens. It is a very popular touristic destination and famous for its cultural heritage. This field-trip aims to travel the participants through the geological and cultural history of the island as the itinerary includes Souvala quarries (Upper Messinian brackish sediments), Mesagros-Alones (clay/diatomite, porcelanite alternations), the temple of Afaia Athena, Byzantine Palaiohóra with the volcanic rocks above, etc.



Field-trip fee: 60€ (includes a field guide, ticket to the temple of Athena Aphaia, ferry boat Piraeus - Aegina – Piraeus and bus transportation).

FT3 - Tectonics and Sedimentation at the central and eastern Gulf of Corinth Rift (September 2nd)

Guided by/organizer: Dr. Haralambos Kranis

The Corinth Rift, one of Europe's most seismically active areas, is the result of active extension, which was initiated ca 5 Ma. Initial Pliocene basinal deposition (preserved onshore) was continental, varying from alluvial fans in the west to lakes in the east ("Lower Group"). Increased subsidence rates, depocenter deepening and linkage followed, with large marginal fan deltas (locally >800m thickness) now uplifted and exposed onshore ("Middle Group"). At ca 0.6 Ma, fault activity stepped northward and the rift narrowed, establishing the modern rift asymmetry with southern boundary N-dipping faults dominating subsidence and with fan deltas developing along the southern Gulf margin. The active rift is a ca 100 x 30-40 km band experiencing intense N-S extension; the entire rift is approx. 70-80 km wide. Current extension rates reach 10-16 mm/yr, some of the highest in the world.

This field-trip includes Canal Crossing (boarding on a ship at the eastern end of the canal, disembarkation at its western end, Posidonia). Furthermore, several stops in the broader area will offer spectacular panoramic view and the opportunity to get familiar with the



tectonics and sedimentation of the Rift, e.g. a stop at the Canal Central Horst, the road that winds up from Kamari to Mt Koutsa takes us through the Xylokaastro fault block.



Field-trip fee: 80€ (includes a field guide, canal crossing by ship and bus transportation).

Post-symposium field-trips

FT4 - Three days in Mesohellenic basin (September 7th -9th)

Guided by/organizer: Prof. Avraam Zeligidis

The Mesohellenic basin is a thrust top basin located at the contact between the Apulian Platform to the west and the Pelagonian Microplate to the east. The basement of the basin consists of ophiolitic rocks which correspond to the upper (oceanic) unit which was emplaced over the leading edge of the Apulian Platform during compression.

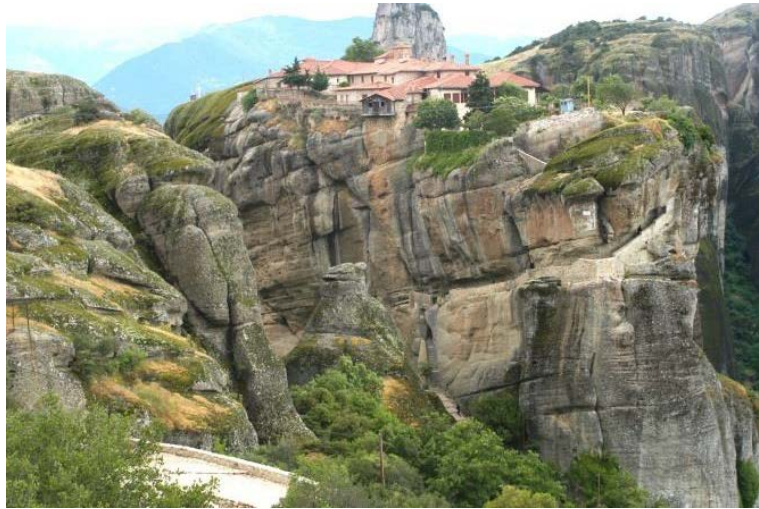
During this field trip we will observe a complete sequence from early Oligocene to early Miocene submarine fans with inner and outer fans.

During the first day we will visit the margins of the basin (inner fan deposits with slump channels and interchannel deposits, outer fan lobes, characteristic Bouma intervals), late Eocene deltaic deposits, early to late Oligocene sediment outcrops with submarine fans and shelf deposits of upper Oligocene.

During the second day, we will see the contact between ophiolitic complex basements with early Oligocene submarine fans, channels of late Oligocene submarine fans over early Oligocene interchannel deposits and Pliocene deltaic deposits.



Finally, in the third day, we will observe the canyons in the northern end of a shelf environment and the transition to the submarine fans.



Field-trip fee: 220€ (includes a field guide, accommodation for 2 nights in a single room with breakfast and bus transportation).

FT5 - Milos: geological, archaeological and mineralogical heritage (September 7th -9th)

Guided by/organizer: Prof. Michael Stamatakis

Milos Island belongs to Cyclades island complex and it is located at the northern part of the Aegean Sea. The intense geological processes that formed the island created spectacular sceneries and established Milos one of the most important areas of mining activity since antiquity. Main goal of this field trip is to study on site the geological history of the island and grope its unique archaeological and mineralogical heritage.



This three day excursion includes, among others, stops at Sarakiniko Bay where we will have the opportunity to study diatomite/pumice tuff/ marly limestones on the shore, the huge bentonite quarries close to Aggeria, the archaeological findings in trenches in Koufi area, Provatas beach where Upper Miocene sedimentary rocks are exposed, Xylokeratia TITAN quarry (alternation of Plio-Pleistocene diatomite and pumice tuff, intense faulting, volcanic lava intrusions). Furthermore we will visit the ancient Theater of Milos, the catacombs, the archaeological museum and the mining museum.

Field-trip fee: 400€ (includes a field guide, accommodation for 2 nights in a single room with breakfast, ship Piraeus – Milos - Piraeus and bus transportation).

FT6 - Messinian evaporites of Zakynthos Island (Ionian Sea, Eastern Mediterranean) (September 7th -8th)

Guided by/organizer: Prof. Vassilios Karakitsios

Zakynthos Island is located at the Ionian Sea (western Greece). We will cover by bus the distance to Killini port and then we will travel by ferry to Zakynthos. Main goal of this field trip is to study the evaporitic sequences of the island that formed during the Messinian. Therefore, our area of interest is focused on the broader area of Lagana beach, including Kalamaki section where Pliocene sediments (Trubi formation) overlain an excellent Messinian evaporitic sequence and Keri lake.



Field-trip fee: 175€ (includes a field guide, accommodation for 1 night in a single room with breakfast, ferry tickets and bus transportation).

FT7 - Visit to the classical Late Miocene locality of Pikermi (September 7th)

Guided by/organizers: Emer. Prof. George Theodorou, Assist. Prof. Sokratis Roussiakis

The fossiliferous locality of Pikermi (Attica, Greece) is one of the oldest known and most famous Eurasian localities. The richness of the fossils discovered has marked out Pikermi as a reference locality for the European continental Upper Miocene. The first fossils in Pikermi were discovered in 1836. Subsequently, several excavations were carried out. In 2008 the University of Athens started new research in Pikermi which resulted in the discovery of the new site "Pikermi Valley-I" (PVI). This locality is about 500 m east-southeast of the classical Pikermi site and the fossils occur at the bottom of the ravine of the Megalo Rema stream. In the framework of this excursion we will visit the site "Chomateri" where Prof. Symeonides excavated and the new "Pikermi Valley-I" (PVI) site. The itinerary of this field-trip includes a visit at the paleontological exhibition in Pikermi village which opened in 2010.



Field-trip fee: 30€ (includes a field guide and bus transportation).

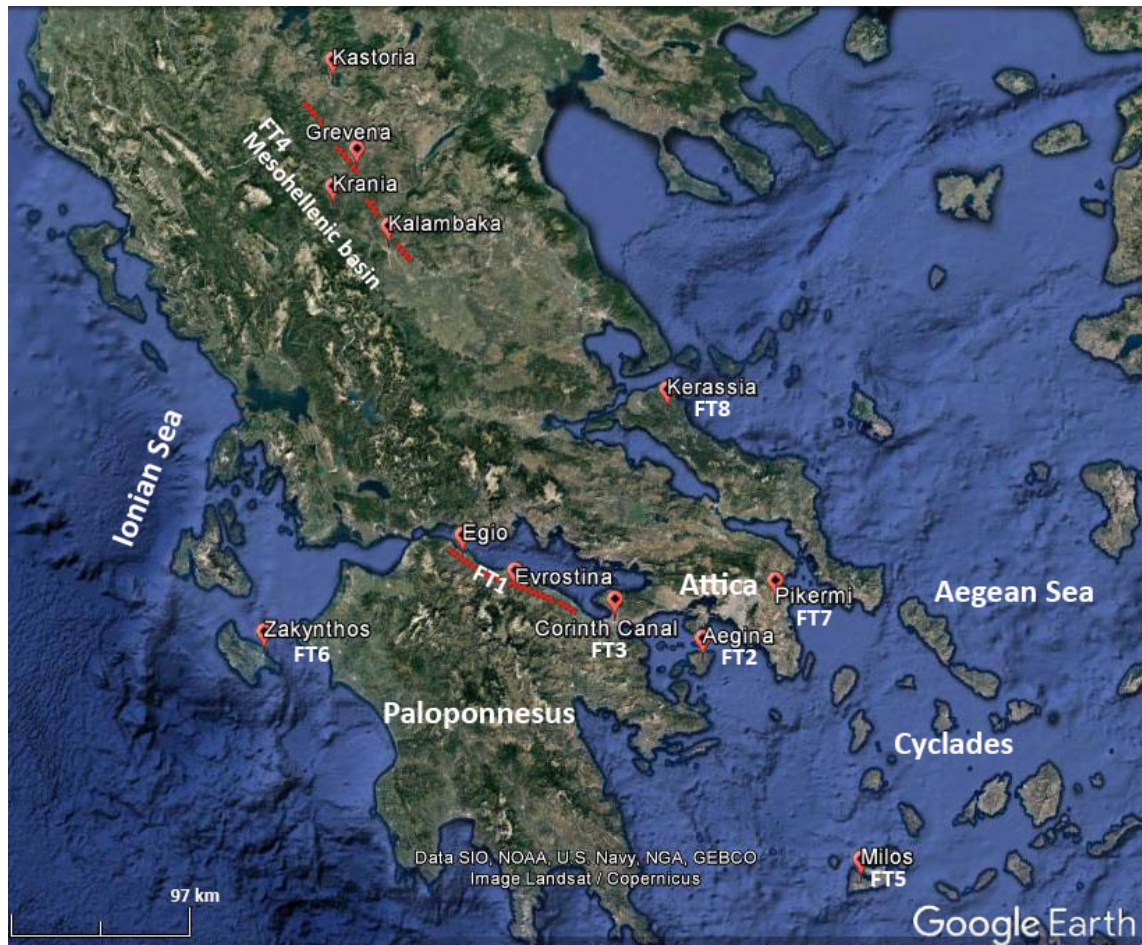
FT8 - Visit to the Late Miocene palaeontological excavation in Kerassia (Evia, Greece) (September 8th)

Guided by/organizers: Assist. Prof. Sokratis Roussiakis, Emer. Prof. George Theodorou

The fossiliferous locality of Kerassia is located at the northern part of Evia Island. We will visit the excavation area and the local paleontological exhibition at the village where significant findings, that have been unearthed since 1992, are presented.



Field-trip fee: 40€ (includes a field guide and bus transportation).



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Contributions to the wide spectrum of problems related to the Neogene are welcome. A keynote lecture is planned for each day.

Publications of congress will include an abstract volume and excursions' guides.

Preliminary Programme

Take a look at the preliminary programme with daily overviews. Please note: the programme is still subject to change.

	1-2, Sept.	Sunday, 3 Sept.	Monday, 4 Sept.	Tuesday, 5 Sept.	Wednesday, 6 Sept.	7-9, Sept.
09.00-10.30	Fieldtrips 1, 2, 3	Opening Ceremony	Scientific Programme - Sessions			Fieldtrips 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
10.30-11.00			Coffee break and poster walk			
11.00-12.30			Scientific Programme - Sessions			
12.30-14.00			Lunch: poster and exhibition viewing			
14.00-15.30			Scientific Programme - Sessions			
15.30-16.00			Coffee break and poster walk			
16.00-17.30			Scientific Programme - Sessions			
17.30-18.00			Coffee break and poster walk			
18.00-19.30			Key note lectures			
19.30	Welcome reception		Visit to Acropolis Museum	Closing Ceremony		
21.00				Conference Dinner		

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Congress will be English; no translation facilities will be available.



SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be prepared according to the abstract format (<http://www.rcmns2017.com/scientific-program/abstracts>) and will be submitted through the congress website from the 1st of February to 1st of June.

Authors are invited to submit their contributions as oral or poster presentation. The Scientific Committee, if needed, may ask the author(s) to present it either as oral or as poster. The organizing Committee will confirm the authors if their abstract has been accepted by the 15th June as oral or poster presentation.

Please note that individuals will be permitted to deliver only one oral presentation (unless they are a plenary or invited keynote speaker) or poster presentation but they may co-author multiple oral presentations and multiple poster presentations.

REGISTRATION - REGISTRATION FEES

Registration is recorded only upon receipt of payment of the corresponding fees. Upon receipt of your registration form and payment, we will issue a registration confirmation and an invoice.

In cases where full payment has not been received before the conference opening, delegates will be required to pay the outstanding balance upon arrival. Early registration will be available until 1st of June 2017, after which the registration fees will progressively increase.

Registration fees will cover coffee breaks, lunches, welcome ice breaker party and congress materials including a congress program and abstracts.

Registration for the conference will be available online through **conference registration system**

Congress Fees

The Congress fee is mandatory for all attendees including organizers, speakers, presenters, panelists and those chairing or attending a session.

Registration fees in Euro	Early (until 31 May, 2017)	Late (from 1 June, 2017)
Senior	250,00	320,00
Student	100,00	120,00
Accompanying person (*)	50,00	50,00

(*) Allows access only to the Ice Breaker party

For participants fee includes

- Participation to scientific sessions and exhibition
- Symposium Materials
- Snacks & Coffee Breaks



- Welcome Reception

For accompanying persons fee includes

Welcome Reception

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Organizing Committee will hold the Ice Breaker Party on Sunday, September 3, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. On Tuesday, September 5, the Organizing Committee will arrange a social event comprising a guided visit to the Acropolis Museum and a Conference dinner in Plaka area.

Social program fees

Conference dinner: € 50.00

Visit to Acropolis Museum: € 25

Social program for accompanying persons

Please check the website (<http://www.rcmns2017.com/social-events>) where a number of tours is proposed mainly for the accompanying persons.

INDICATIVE FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION FEES (in Euros)

FIELD TRIP	REGISTRATION FEES (in Euros)
FT1 - Northern Peloponnesus	130
FT2 - Aegina	60
FT3 - Gulf of Corinth Rift	80
FT4 – Mesohellenic basin	220
FT5 – Milos	400
FT6 – Zakynthos	175
FT7 – Pikermi	30
FT8 – Kerassia	40

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Please take note of the following important congress planning deadlines:

1 February 2017	Abstract Submission and Early Registration open
1 June 2017	Abstract Submission and Early Registration close. Deadline of payment for all the fees.
15 June 2017	Letter of abstract acceptance.
30 June 2017	Third Circular

