



Supported by

Call for participation in the “1st Green Balkan Summer Camp: Energy Transition and Mega-Projects in the Balkans” in Halkidiki, Greece 12-19 July 2015.

We are organising the “*1st Green Balkan Summer Camp: Energy Transition and Mega-Projects in the Balkans*” from the 12th to the 19th of July 2015 in the town of Ierissos in Halkidiki, Greece. The project is co-financed by the Green Institute, the Green European Foundation and the European Green Party.

The town of [Ierissos](#) (ancient *Akanthos*) is the oldest and largest village of the [Municipality of Aristotelis](#), which is an area of natural beauty and archeological sites. The Municipality took the name of the great philosopher Aristotle who was born in the *ancient Stagira*.

Aims of the Project:

The *Green Balkan Summer Camp* will focus on Energy Transition and Mega-Projects (Pharaonic Projects) in the Balkans. It aims to highlight issues related to energy policy (nuclear projects, gas pipelines, oil extraction, mining of lignite and alternative trends in renewable energy sources) and pharaonic projects in the Balkans, i.e. gold mining, dam construction, construction of third bridge and canal in the Bosphorus, etc, in order to enhance networking and the exchange of good practices among Greens in the Balkans, help participants expand their knowledge, highlight the role of local movements and the role citizens (eg. gold mining) and sensitize public opinion.

Representatives of Green parties in Europe will be also invited to act as links for the respective green growth policies applied across Europe. We encourage MEPs who are working in the above mentioned areas to join us.

During *the Green Balkan Summer Camp* and in the frame of the upcoming 11th edition of Green European Journal titled “Connecting the Struggles”, the Green European Foundation will organise a special session focusing on the European protest movements with an emphasis on environmental issues surrounding Mega Projects in the Balkans.

A one day field trip to Skouries has been arranged to take place. This is the area where gold mining operations by Hellenic Gold - a subsidiary of Canadian firm Eldorado Gold - are taking place. This project has deeply divided the local

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communities of the Halkidiki peninsula. It is a hotly contested issue and has been met by high resistance from local people for the last three years¹.



**The provisional program is attached. The final program will be available in June.*

Participants:

The Project is expected to involve up to 30 participants from the Balkan countries and interested participants from other European regions. All participants will be actively involved in the Green movement and will be expected to actively participate in the workshops, delivering presentations and engaging in discussion thereby contributing to the success of the 8 day summer camp. A gender balanced representation is expected.

Participants are expected to cover the travel expenses to and from the camp and contribute with the additional participation fee of 50€ each to be paid upon final selection in June.

Meals, accommodation, workshops and local transport will be fully covered.

Accommodation:

The *Green Balkan Summer Camp* will take place at the Municipal Camp “Axtada” of the town of Ierissos (pop. 3500 inhabitants) which is located in Halkidiki, in the northern part of Greece, 124 kms from the city of Thessaloniki.

The camp is near a “blue flag” beach. In order to receive a [Blue Flag](#) eco-label, a beach must not only be found to have an excellent quality of bathing water, it must also comply with several criteria concerning cleanliness, environmental management and organisation, environmental education and information, visitor safety and services, as well as protection of nature, the coast and the coastal area.



Further information about the municipal camp is available at the following website: http://www.axtada.gr/en/pages/activities/ierissos_camping

Workshops:

The daily workshops will take place at the [Cultural Center “3D Theater”](#) in Ierissos, a fully equipped, air-conditioned facility.

Meals:

¹ http://antigoldgr.org/en/?CSRF_TOKEN=eada8ddae14c26ce04a4f2d48eb2a4dbc83634a1

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Breakfast, a lunch-break sandwich and an evening meal will be provided to the participants in nearby restaurants (300 meters away). Vegetarian and vegan meals will be available.

Practical needs:

Participants are expected to bring their own tents, sleeping bags, towels, etc. The camp itself is equipped with toilets, showers, hot water, electricity supply, etc. Participants will be able to rent bicycles if they so wish (appr. 1€ per day).

A multitude of shops, restaurants, supermarkets, banks, playground and public service offices are easily accessible within walking distance. There are two pharmacies and private doctors' offices nearby.

Directions to Ierissos town in Halkidiki:

Participants can reach the town of Ierissos by private car or bus either through the national road 16 (Thessaloniki-Ierissos) or via the Egnatia national road and going out on exit no 25 (Redina) or on exit no 26 (Asprovalta). Ierissos is a 2¼ hrs away from Thessaloniki.

There is regular bus service from Thessaloniki approximately every two hours, departing from Halkidiki Bus Station, which is 7 km from Thessaloniki center (tel. 2310316555). The ticket to Ierissos costs 12 € approximately.

You can get to the Halkidiki Bus Station in Thessaloniki:

from the Train Station, bus no 31 and then transfer to bus no 36

from Macedonia Bus Station, bus no 45

from Macedonia Airport, bus no 79a

Working language:

Very good command of the English language is necessary (all sessions will be in English). Participants will be asked to send in their presentations or papers which will be edited and included in an electronic journal to be uploaded in the [Greek Green Institute](#) website.

Expression of interest:

Please fill out the attached form and sent it to info@greeninstitute.gr

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Additional information:

- For those who wish, there will be a possibility to rent rooms nearby, provided an early notice is sent to the organizing committee. In this case, the organizers could partially fund the cost of the room according to the provisional budget and participants will pay the difference.

- If there is available space in the camp, participants are welcome to bring members of their family and friends. Guests are expected to cover their own expenses.

- The participation fee of 50€ will be paid in advance. Further details about the process will be sent to you as soon as the participants' list is finalized.

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