

In the framework of the co-funded by the IPA Cross Border Programme project  
“LIVING HISTORY, LIVING NATURE II” or “Lhi-Lna II” ,

**MUNICIPALITY OF ALMOPIA** organizes a

# **SUMMER WORKSHOP**

with 14 students of Architecture Schools  
(undergraduate & postgraduate)

and 2 tutors **IN ALMOPIA**

from **03** to **09** of **JULY** (ARRIVAL ON JULY 2ND)

## **THIS IS THE OPEN CALL**

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← VISIT THESE WEBSITES FOR THE APPLICATION FORM

**SUBMISSION PERIOD:**  
10/04-10/06

# 2016



## INTRODUCTION

The 7-day Workshop in the Municipality of Almopia is an effort of involving Contemporary Architecture in the Greek border area.

It is one of many actions of the project "Living history, Living nature II" which is co-funded by the IPA Cross Border Programme "Greece - the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2007-2013". The project is being implemented by two partners; Municipality of Almopia and Municipality of Novaci work together for the protection and promotion of their historical and natural heritage.

Thus, the summer of 2016, nine -9- architecture school students from Greece and five -5- from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will study and propose ways of revitalizing selected sites of Almopia with small scale interventions. Two guest tutors will be hosted for the mentoring of the students. The 7-day workshop will also add value in the sites through crowd sourcing, as it will be fully covered by social media.

The expected result of the workshop is the development of fourteen distinct proposals for revitalizing the selected sites in Almopia.

### WHY IN ALMOPIA?

Almopia is an example of a Greek Municipality with great potential in the development of its cultural and natural heritage. The combination of the two constitutes the core idea of the project "Living history, Living nature II" which intends to promote their co-existence and reveal their significance as a key factor for the local development. Natural areas protected by the European legislation, forests, waterfalls and rivers coexist with ancient ruins, old churches, monasteries and museums offering a variety of destinations and creating a vivid environment; this is Almopia.

### WHY ARCHITECTURE?

As a cultural action, Architecture is directly connected to the historical heritage. It is not only the field of restoration that indicates this connection. One of the great questions in architectural creation is the character of a new architectural proposal in an historical environment and the dialogue that present and past develop. Additionally, Architecture is in constant interaction with nature which has always been one of the greater influences in architectural design. Architecture not only uses the natural elements to create spatial narrations but it also reforms the nature itself, setting critical questions such as the main strategy approach and the grade of intervention.

*Nikos Tsimas, Architect*



Castle in Chri





Mount Pinovo

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## I. THE PROJECT “LIVING HISTORY, LIVING NATURE II”

The two border Municipalities of Almopia and Novaci have decided to use their rich landscapes and the variety of cultural and historical monuments as a key driver for the socio-economic development of the whole area. The project “Living history, Living nature II” is following the successful project “Living history, Living nature” with the acronym “Lhi-Lna”, which has been implemented by the two Municipalities.

“Lhi-Lna” had been based on three axis;

1. documentation through field researches and data bases
  2. artistic research through an Art Residency in each Municipality; in Almopia, it took place in August, 2014, with the participation of nineteen artists from both countries \*
  3. touristic development through the proposal of three new thematic routes; “Roads of Living History”, “Roads of Living Nature” and the “Crossroads of History and Nature”, including their mapping, their signing and tourist guides that present them to the public.
- “Lhi-Lna” has already offered sufficient documentation of the selected sites of interest which will be used by the local authorities as a tool for planning new and intergrated means of tourist attraction, supporting the new thematic routes that unify the sites.

The decision of continuing the project “Lhi-Lna” indicates the will of the local authorities to use the results of the approved project and explore the increased interest in eco-tourism in both countries as a key to local economic development. Thus, both Municipalities will be able to offer innovative tourism products and services, attracting tourists while protecting their own heritage.

The project “Living history, Living nature II” with the acronym “Lhi-Lna II” includes plenty of actions that share the same objectives:

- To support the idea of the creation of the three thematic routes as a new tourism product, enhancing the fame of the involved areas as attractive destinations of alternative tourism by introducing landscape design and restorations of historical monuments.
- To reveal the dynamics of selected places of both areas as valuable attraction sites and address the need for coordinated actions that will valorise them.
- To use innovative ways of promotion introducing inbound marketing strategies in the cross border area.
- To enhance cross boarder cooperation with emphasis on issues of protection.
- To continue the involvement of original creativity in the cross border area.

\* Visit the digital art exhibition at <http://www.lhilna.gr/digitalexhibition>



Loutra Canyon



The most important actions that are included in the project "Living history, Living nature II" and will take place in Almopia are:

- Development of the centre of the traditional village Aetochori which has already been the starting point of many mountain trails. The architectural desing of this recast reforms the public space of a village of stone.
- Funding the studies for the restoration of the Castle of Chrisi which is the most important Byzantine monument in Almopia.
- Funding the studies for the Cave in Loutra in order to open again to the public.
- A mobile application for digital mapping of the mountain trails of Almopia.
- Two familiar trips for travel journalists and bloggers in Almopia for the introduction of the "Roads of History", the "Roads of Nature" and "the Crossroads of History & Nature".
- A workshop with architecture students from both countries. This call refers only to the action of the workshop.

All these actions share a common approach that sets the crowd sourcing in the centre. Social media will be vividly involved and the opinions and ideas of the participants in each one of the actions will constitute a think tank that will offer new perspective in the thematic routes and the sites of interest.

The sites that constitute the three thematic routes in Almopia are following.\*

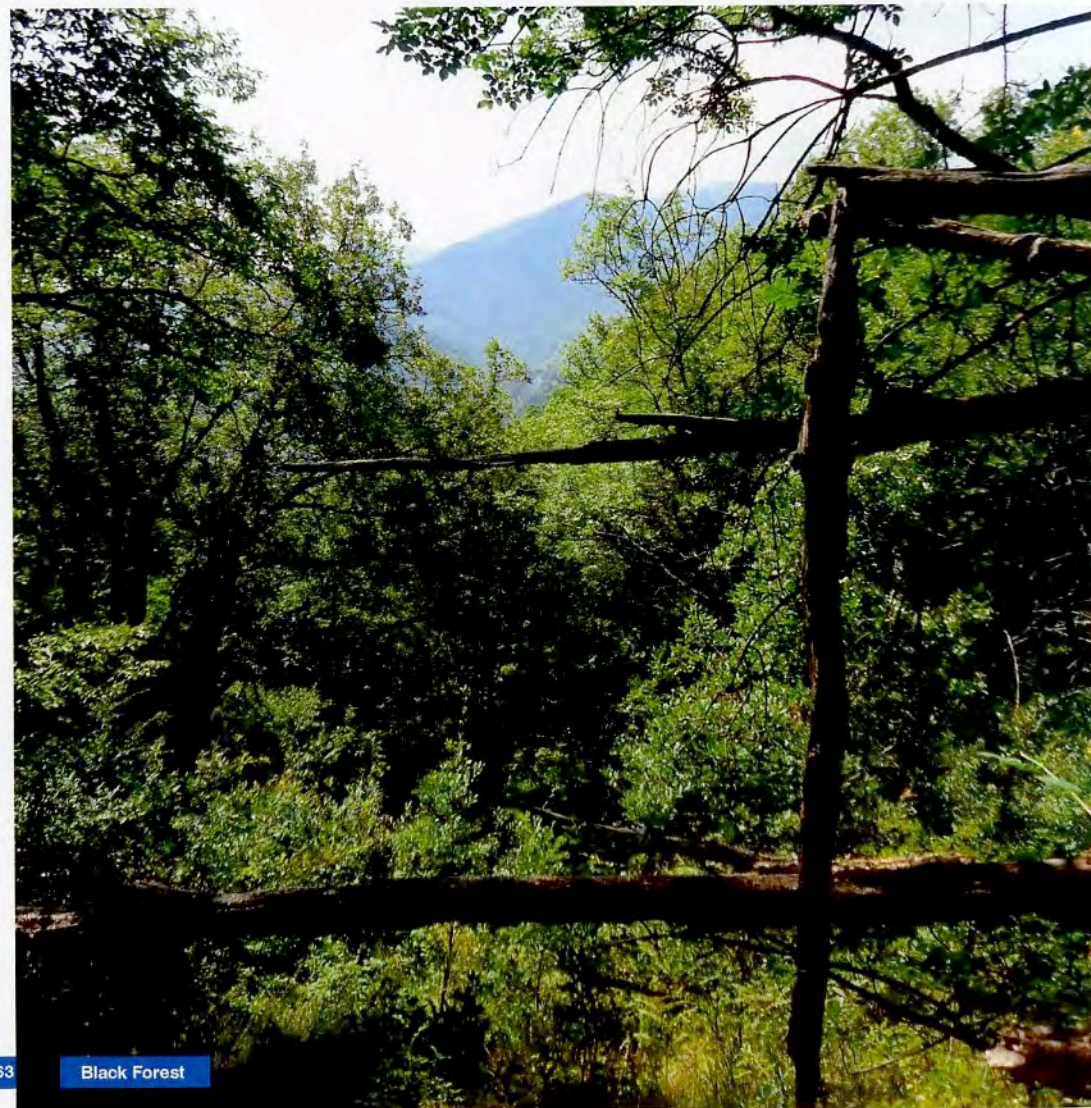
#### Natural Sites:

1. The thermal baths "Loutra Pozar" and the canyon of Loutra that extends for kilometres, reaching up to the Waterfall Kounoupista.
2. The Black Forest in the Mount Voras.
3. The Mountains Jena and Pinovo with avi-fauna protected by European legislation and a lot of hidden attractions.
4. The plateau Kali Pediada with rare flora and a violent history during the 1st World War.

#### Historical / Cultural Sites:

1. The Museum of Natural History in Aridea
2. The Folk Museum in Loutra
3. The Ancient Cemetery in Konstantia
4. The Ancient Settlement in Apsalos
5. The Ancient Settlement in Aloro
6. The St.Dimitrios Church in Xifiani
7. The St.Dimitrios Church in Aetochori
8. Analipseos Church in Theodoraki
9. Ag.Ioannis Church in Ano Loutraki
10. Mills in Sosandra
11. Archaggelos Michael Monastery
12. St.Hilarion Monastery
13. Castle of Chrisi
14. The Cave in Loutra
15. The Bridge in Aloro.

\* Find the map of the thematic routes at <http://www.lhlna.eu/?p=23663>



Black Forest



## II. THEME OF THE 7-DAY WORKSHOP

The Municipality of Almopia extends in an area of about 985 km<sup>2</sup> and its morphology can be described as a half-circle of mountains that surrounds a fertile plain. It hosts evidence of the human action from thousands of years ago; from paleontological findings to prehistoric tombs and from archaeological sites to Byzantines churches and castles, Almopia has a rich history. It also has a rich landscape; the largest part of its mountains is protected by the legislation of Natura2000 and has been characterized as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The environmental significance of this part of Almopia is combined with the historic one, as indications from the World Wars battles can still be found in the forests; impressive waterfalls are behind soldiers' graves and steep cliffs hide remainings of Byzantines castles. The constitution of the three new thematic routes for History and Nature of Almopia (Roads of Living History, Roads of Living Nature and Crossroads of History and Nature) unified the sites of the greatest potential of attracting interest and created new touristic products that are added into the open market of eco-tourism. Architecture has the capacity of defining spaces and it has proved to have a strong influence on human perceptions; the workshop is a great opportunity for exploring

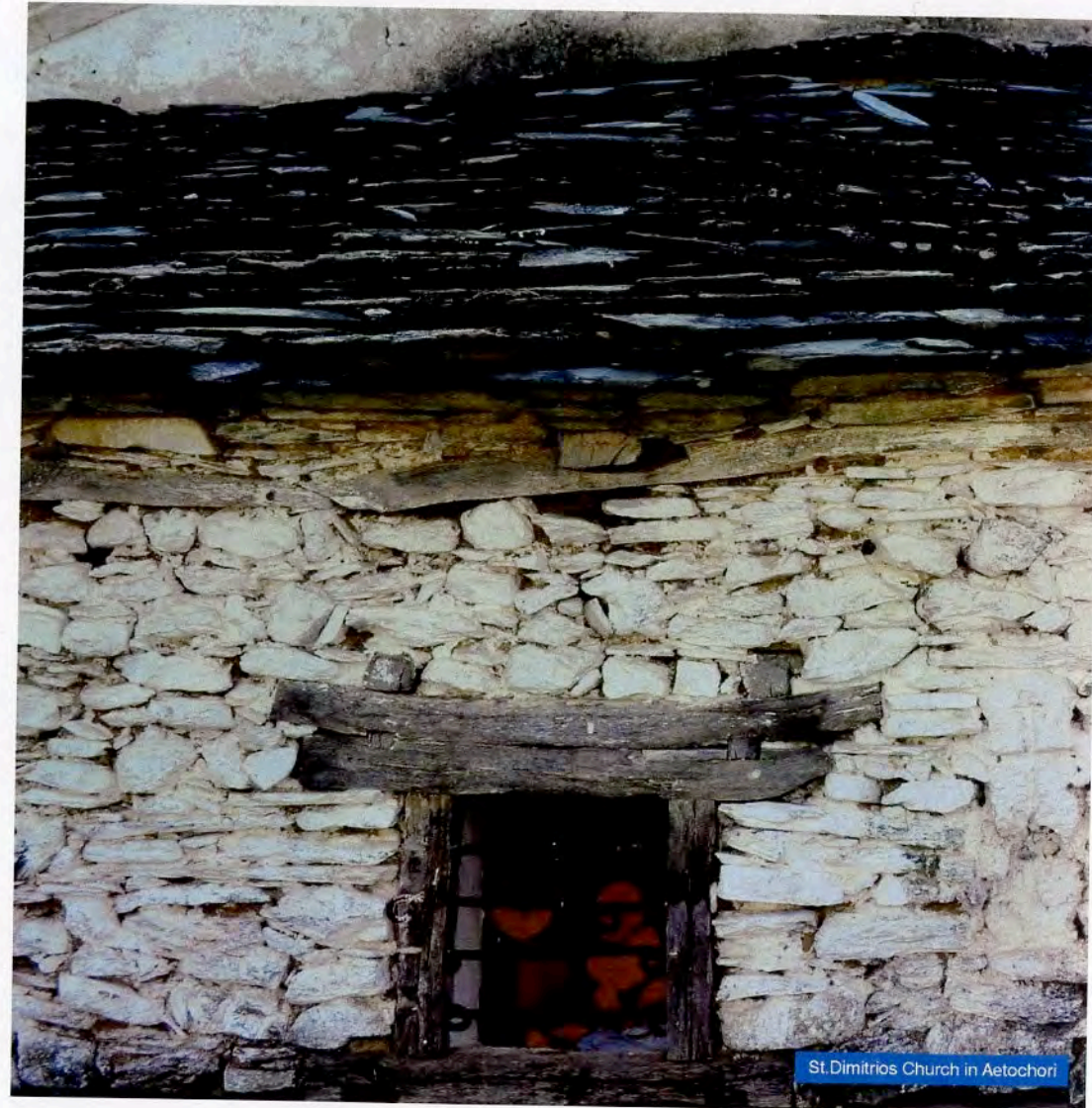
the opportunities that arise from the sites, their definition as poles of attraction and the materiality that these opportunities might gain.

At the same time, the project "Living history, Living nature II" emerges a double approach to the local heritage. The title itself is indicative; we are *living history*, we are *living nature*, but at the same time, history and nature are *living* as distinct entities open to interpretation. So, the project proposes the co-existence of:

- A. interventions for the visitors who choose to approach the sites and experience them as tourists (and especially as eco-tourists), and
- B. actions for the interpretation of the sites as important sites of history and nature.

This double approach is the ground that the workshop will be based on. The participants will be invited to experience and explore the genius loci of Almopia, using online platforms in the social media for sharing their experience and using the standard tools for space analysis (like sketch, photographs, collages) at the same time. This means that they are invited to visit the thematic routes playing the double role of a tourist and a space analyst.

A tool for the implementation of the workshop will be the introduction of a notion that will





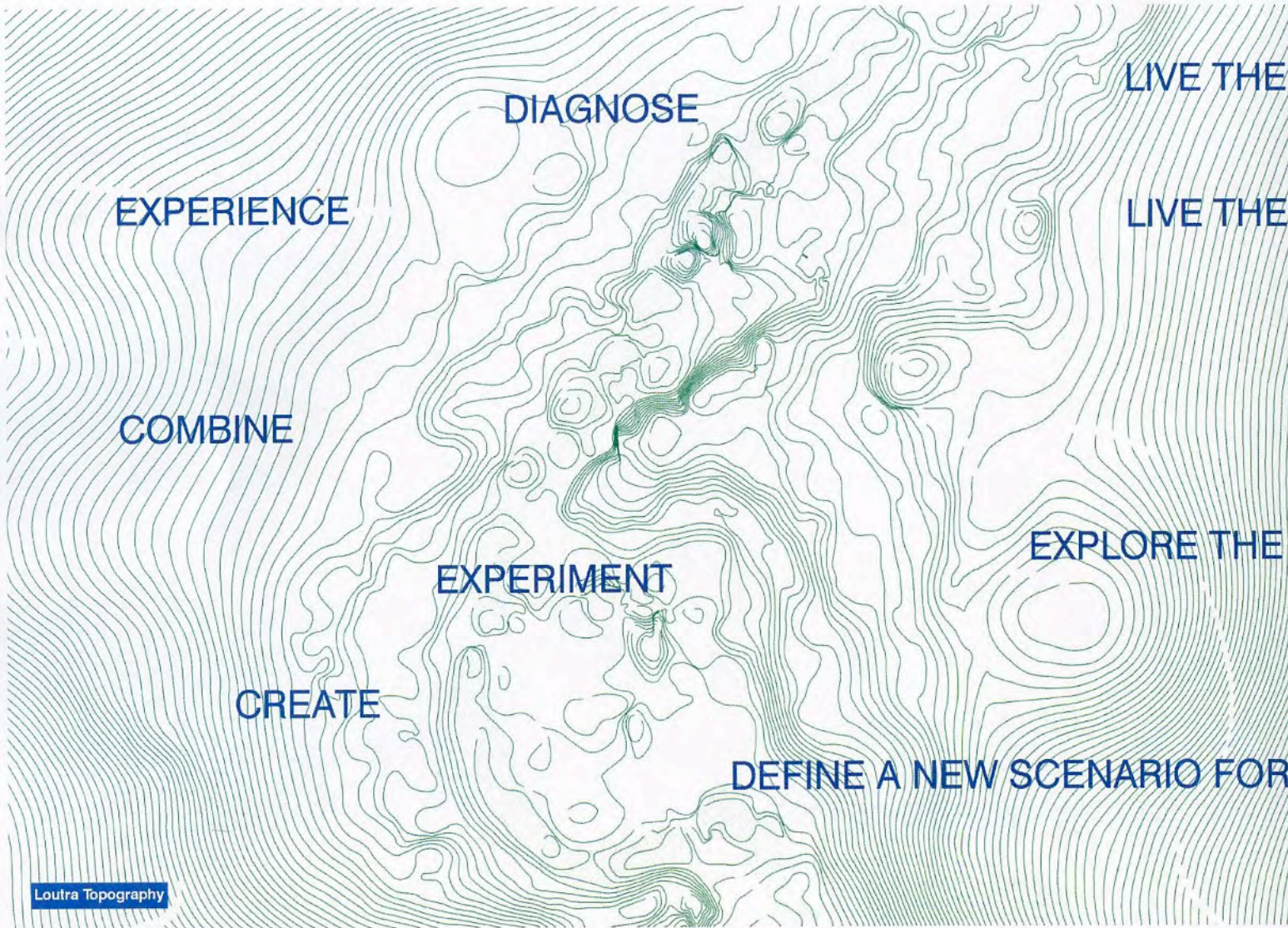
unify the process; this is proposed to be the emergence of "enjoyment" in the selected places. "Enjoyment" might be a characteristic of the public space opposed to "consumption". If "consumption" means the destruction of the object used through metabolism, and hence the destruction of its use value, "enjoyment" means the enhancement of the use value of what is used again and again, introducing the core aspect of sustainability. Centuries of usage come to the so-called present condition of the sites which the participants will explore researching their use value, setting their own questions on subjects as locality, heritage and pleasure.

The exploration of the relationship between *Architecture and Enjoyment* will emphasize on the human senses that are the most important ways of perceiving the environment. The general note of Enjoyment should be enlightened withing the framework of the project "Living history, Living nature" which is the basis for the further development of the sites and runs through all the actions of the project. Thus, after lectures and frequent updates, the participants will propose ways of intervention in the sites, that will act not only as poles of attraction but also as factors that reveal the core character of the area.



The plateau Kali Padiada





HISTORY  
NATURE  
GENIUS LOCI  
THEMATIC ROUTES  
ALMOPIA  
ARCHITECTURE  
ENJOYMENT



### III. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS

The submission period ends on June 10th.  
All applicants should use the official file of the Application Form, that can be found at:  
[www.lhilna.eu](http://www.lhilna.eu)  
[www.facebook.com/lhilna.almopia](https://www.facebook.com/lhilna.almopia)  
[www.dimosalmopias.gov.gr](http://www.dimosalmopias.gov.gr) (only in Greek).

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

The application form must be completed digitally, printed, signed by the applicant and then scanned in color format.

Attached to the application form, undergraduate / postgraduate students should submit in color:

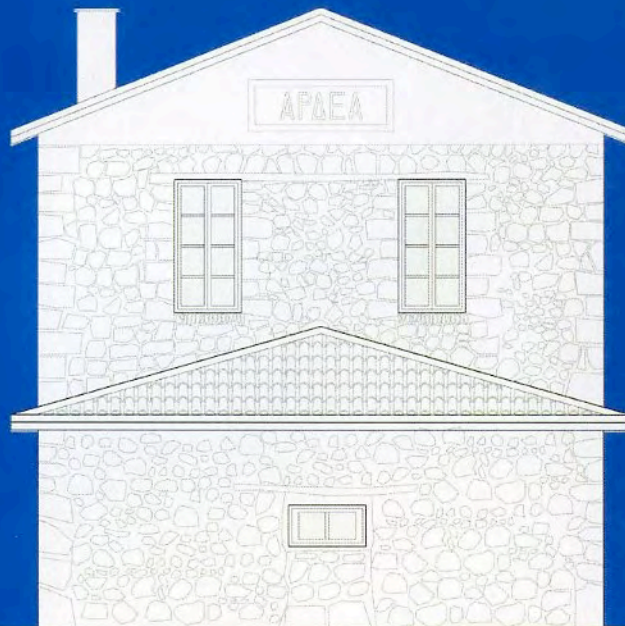
1. A Portfolio (maximum 8 A4 pages) in English. It must be formatted for on-screen viewing.
2. A detailed CV in A4 format in English
3. A short motivation letter of maximum 400 words in Greek or English (maximum 3 pages).
4. A document from his/her Faculty that certifies that he/she is a student during the semester of applying. It must be scanned in color. It can be in the original language of the country of the Faculty.

All files must be sent to the following e-mail: [tsimas@gmail.com](mailto:tsimas@gmail.com) till 10 June 2016 (midnight/Greek time).

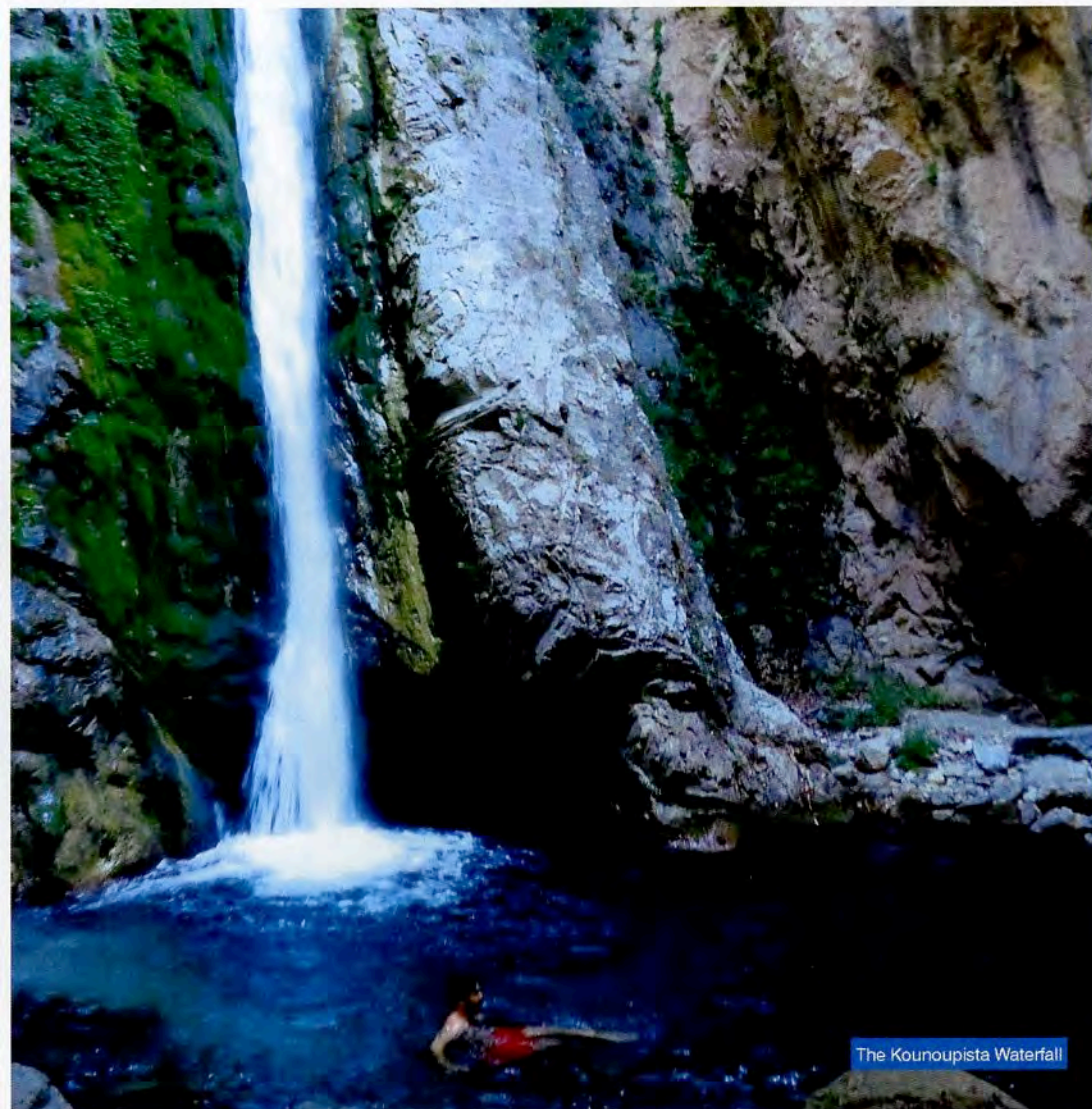
The application forms received later than this date will not be examined.

Please, also note that:

- Every submission will be answered with a confirmation mail. If you do not receive one within two days, please contact us in another way (see: V. Contact Details).
- Along with the shortlist of the participants, another list with the announced including the runner-ups.
- Selected participants will be notified before 20 June 2016 by e-mail and a phone call. In case of delay, an announcement will be published at [www.lhilna.eu](http://www.lhilna.eu)
- Upon their selection, all applicants should provide an originally signed document that certifies their student status, a copy of a document that certifies their citizenship (i.d. card, passport) and anything else that might be needed. In case they do not, they will be disqualified.
- All successful participants will receive a certificate on the last day.
- Four models of the proposals (or parts of them) will be made in scale 1:1 after the appropriate adjustments. They will also be included in the communication material of the project along with the c.v. of the creators. The selected proposals will be announced on the last day of the workshop, after the public presentation of the results.
- For more info, please send an e-mail at: [tsimas@gmail.com](mailto:tsimas@gmail.com)







The Kounoupista Waterfall

#### LANGUAGE OF THE WORKSHOP

The official language of the workshop is English. A translator will attend the workshop for the support of the participants with no English language skills, so the English language excellence is not essential.

#### ELIGIBILITY

The only two qualifications of any applicant are to be a citizen of one of the two participatory countries and to be studying in a Faculty of Architecture in his/her country or abroad, in undergraduate or postgraduate level. There is no other restriction.

#### PARTICIPATION FEE

There is NO participation fee. The costs for transportation, accommodation, full board (3 meals), design supplies and one day tour in Almopia are fully covered by the IPA-Cross Border Cooperation Programme.

#### ACCOMMODATION / MEALS

The fourteen students and the two tutors will be hosted in a 3\* hotel in Almopia (breakfast included). Their lunch and dinner will also be a responsibility of the host.

#### EQUIPMENT

There will be a projector/laptop for the presentations of the tutors and the participants will be able to use it. However, they are requested to bring their own laptop and software.

#### VENUE

The workshop will take place in a appropriately furnished studio.

#### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Information about the transportation of the participants (students and tutors) will be available after the implementation of the selection process. The participants will travel from Thessaloniki/Skopje to Almopia and vice versa with no cost.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The workshop will be open to the local community and the participants will present their work to the public in the last day. The 7-day-workshop will be fully covered by social media adding value in the sites through crowd sourcing.

#### MINIMUM REQUESTS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

Each one of the participants should deliver a concrete proposal for the site of Almopia that he/she will work for. The site analysis (sketches, photos, notes, collages etc) and the proposal itself must be presented in minimum two A0 panels (841X1188 mm, 300 dpi, CMYK) which will be sent in digital form in the e-mail [almopia.workshop@gmail.com](mailto:almopia.workshop@gmail.com) the last day. The panel should include 3d viewings or photographs of at least one draft model. Due to the short period of time, the fluency in using software, will be a plus.





Bridge in Aloro

## IV. PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

### SATURDAY, JULY 2ND

16:00-19:00 Arrival, accommodation

19:00 First Lecture:

Introduction to Almopia and the project  
"Living history, Living nature II"

19:30 Second lecture: Introduction  
to the theme of the workshop

20:00 Welcome dinner

### SUNDAY, JULY 3RD

08:30-14:00 Sites visits

12:30-14:00 Hotel / Lunch

14:00-18:00 Sites visits

18:00-21:00 Open discussion

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### MONDAY, JULY 4TH

10:00-14:00 Individual Work

14:00-15:00 Lunch

14:00-20:00 Individual Work/Discussion

20:00-21:00 Third lecture (1st tutor)

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### TUESDAY, JULY 5TH

10:00-14:00 Individual Work

14:00-15:00 Lunch

14:00-20:00 Individual Work/Discussion

20:00-21:00 Fourth lecture (2nd tutor)

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 6TH

10:00-14:00 Individual Work

14:00-15:00 Lunch

14:00-20:00 Individual Work

20:00-21:00 Group Project Briefing

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### THURSDAY, JULY 7TH

10:00-14:00 Individual Work /

Site Visits for selected participants.

14:00-15:00 Lunch

14:00-21:00 Individual Work /

Site Visits for selected participants

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### FRIDAY, JULY 8TH

10:00-14:00 Individual Work /

Reproduction of the presentation

14:00-15:00 Lunch

14:00-19:00 Group Discussion /

Reproduction of the presentation  
material

19:00-21:00 Closed circle presentation

21:00-22:00 Dinner

### SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

10:00-14:00 Public Presentation

14:00 Farewell lunch

16:00 Departure to Thessaloniki and Skopje





Loutra

## V. CONTACT

For any questions,  
you can contact us via e-mail at:  
[tsimas@gmail.com](mailto:tsimas@gmail.com)  
or via our facebook page for the workshop:  
[www.facebook.com/lhilna.almopia](https://www.facebook.com/lhilna.almopia)

It will be our pleasure to answer  
all your questions.

LIVING HISTORY, LIVING NATURE II

Official website: [www.lhilna.eu](http://www.lhilna.eu)



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*History and nature live together*



The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority.

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