

Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)

University of West Attica, Department of Accounting and Finance (UWA)

18th. of the HSSS National & International On-Line Conference

In collaboration with the UWA

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Theme of the On-Line Conference:

The Value of Systemic Thinking in Our VUCA World

VUCA (Volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity)

15 - 17 December, Athens, Greece

Opening Address on 15th. December 2022

Professor Nikitas Assimakopoulos

President of HSSS and EUS

Honorary Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear colleagues and friends,
On behalf of the Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS), I welcome you to the 18th HSSS on-line National & International Conference in collaboration with the Department of Accounting and Finance, University of West Attica here in Greece.

The theme of this year's Conference is

The Value of Systemic Thinking in Our VUCA World

The acronym VUCA has become a popular concept that is formed from the initial letters of the words, volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. **Volatility** refers to the nature and dynamics of change, including the nature and speed of change forces and change catalysts. **Uncertainty** refers to situations involving imperfect or unknown information, making it difficult to predict how they will unfold. **Complexity** refers to the behavior of a system whose components interact in multiple ways and follow local rules, leading to nonlinearity, randomness, collective dynamics, hierarchy, and emergence. Finally, **ambiguity** describes a situation in which something has more than one possible meaning and may therefore cause confusion.

The objective of this conference is to address the ways and means through which a **Systems Approach** can be applied by Public and Private organizations, for the purpose of creating the structures and functions that can cope with the difficulties of a **VUCA world**.

A few words about the Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS) and its work.

The HSSS is a scientific non-profit society, whose main goal is to disseminate and enhance the Systems Approach, through the advancement of knowledge and tools that can be applied in both the private and the public sectors.

This goal is pursued by employing a multidisciplinary body of knowledge, and the development of innovative systemic methodologies and multi-methodologies, which can be implemented in an array of settings, to address complex problems.

Moreover, it is the goal of the HSSS to establish and disseminate the role of the **Professional Systemic Analyst** in academia and the structures and functions of organizations in both the Public and Industry sectors.

The HSSS carries out its scientific activities through the following means:

- Collaboration with national and international scientific societies that seek similar aims.
- Lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences and other scientific events.
- The International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies (IJASS), which is published by INDERSCIENCE Publishers.
- Academic papers, information bulletins, and other scholarly literature.

The HSSS in collaboration with the University of Piraeus and the University's Research Center have organized and oversee the Professional Post-Graduate-level **Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP)** Program.

The Professional Certification that is awarded to individuals who successfully complete the **CSAP Mastering Program** is internationally unique in professional education and Certification.

The CSAP Program has been certified by the Greek National Committee for program Certifications of the Ministry for Governance, and offers extra Public Credits to graduates, which are instrumental in their professional advancement.

Those who successfully complete the CSAP Program have the possibility to obtain a license to practice the profession of Consultant of Businesses and Organizations from the Administrative Chamber of Greece.

The HSSS is currently a full member of the European Union for Systemics (EUS) and the International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR). Finally, the HSSS has been evaluated for its scientific activities and impact by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and has been awarded the status of **Business Member**.

I would like to mention here that the Speaker was elected President of the European Union for Systemics four years ago. I, together with the members of the HSSS, shall do our best to promote research and its practical application for the European Societies, Institutions and scientists in the area of Systemics.

During these last four years we have successfully completed a number of important projects, including the development of the European Digital Library for Systemics, which has been organized based on the framework of the MIT DSpace software.

Professor Damien Claeys, from the University of Louvain in Brussels, and the General Secretary of the EUS, will deliver a salutation during this Opening Ceremony.

In closing, I, together with the members of the HSSS Council wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to Professor Miltiadis Chalikias of the University of West Attica for chairing the Scientific Committee and Professor Vasileios Angelis, 1st Vice President of HSSS for chairing and steering the Organizing Committee of this Conference. Many thanks to the colleagues of the Department of Accounting and Finance, University of West Attica, for this Conference's collaboration.

Also, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Rallis Antoniadis for serving as the General Secretariat of the Conference.

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Panagiotis Papaioannou, for his really hard work and dedication in maintaining and supporting the software platform that is used for this Conference.

It is my sincere hope that this conference builds on the legacy of our previous 17 HSSS conferences, and that it provides a fertile ground on which to cultivate our pursuit for knowledge.

Thank you for your attention, and your active participation in this on-line International and National Conference.