

SUMMARY**1-DAY CONFERENCE ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP 'GENIUS DESIGN FOR PUBLIC GOOD'**

Through and new exciting collaboration ECOWEEK with 92Y and local partners is organizing a 1-day lecture and workshop events to be held in cities around Europe, within the 92Y event in New York called 'SEVEN DAYS OF GENIUS' (<https://www.92y.org/genius>).

At SEVEN DAYS OF GENIUS the ECOWEEK events explored the idea of genius and how it manifests itself through innovation, science, technology and design. One of the issues we will focused was the design for the common good - DESIGN FOR PUBLIC GOOD. How can an innovative and ingenious idea respond to the challenges we face today and those we will face in the future? How these ideas can have a positive and lasting impact? How can these ideas develop and be implemented?

The ECOWEEK GENIUS events invited architects, designers, inventors, entrepreneurs, engineers and scientists in nanotechnology and ICT who have implemented their ideas. It also targeted young people who have brilliant ideas and wish to share them and learn more skills how to realize them.

At the ECOWEEK GENIUS events new and established ideas were presented and through workshops, discussed and supported. One idea was chosen at each location – except for Bucharest – as the best and most promising young project for the event. The winning ideas received a modest money prize, provided by ECOWEEK, and will be promoted through the GENIUS media, and will have the opportunity to SKYPE with a venture capitalist through 92Y.

THE ECOWEEK GENIUS EVENTS:

ECOWEEK organized 5 events in 4 countries. Language of events is English. Admission was free. The events were communicated through the ECOWEEK GENIUS website: <http://ecowekorg.wix.com/ecowekgenius2016>

1. ECOWEEK GENIUS ATHENS, GREECE

The event took place at AKTO College for Art and Design on Evelpidon str. in Athens on Saturday 5 March at 10:00-17:00 in cooperation with LoveGreece.gr, Mamidakis Foundation, Design Lobby, ArchiSearch and the ECOWEEK GREENHOUSE. The event was moderated by ECOWEEK Associate Dimitris Nanos. Link to event program: <http://ecowekorg.wix.com/ecowekgenius2016#!athens/c236w>

Following a short introduction on ECOWEEK, 3 established projects were presented: 'Design Initiatives in Public Space' (Thomas Doxiadis), 'One Planet Living by Bioregional' (Benjamin Gill), and 'Materialize it!' on nanotechnology (Konstantinos Giannakopoulos). At the second part of the event 4 young projects were presented, introducing a diversity of ideas: 'Refugee Hospitality Center' (Spiros Koulias), 'Instant Urbanity' an urban intervention in the center of Athens to enhance the sense of community (Evi Saflagioura), 'Sustainable Solution for Floods' (Astrit Rraci, Kosovo), 'Prototype design for kindergarten' (Argyris Amerikanos), and 'Designing a Better World' by GloVo – global volunteer platform – initiative (Nikos Foros). Link to speakers: <http://ecowekorg.wix.com/ecowekgenius2016#!speakers/c14tz>

The project of Astrit Rraci from Kosovo, offering a sustainable solution for floods using new materials and exploiting the water flow to recycle water and produce energy, was voted by the participants as the genius idea of the event. Link to project: <http://astritrraci.wix.com/sustainableidea>

2. ECOWEEK GENIUS THESSALONIKI, GREECE

The event took place at TECHNOPOLIS Hub in Pylea Thessaloniki, on Monday 7 March at 10:00-17:00, co-organized with Nanotypos, and in cooperation with AKTO School of Arts and Design and the ECOWEEK GREENHOUSE. The event was moderated by ECOWEEK Associate Despoina Kouinoglou. The event was livestreamed. Link to event program: <http://ecowweekorg.wix.com/ecowweekgenius2016#!thessaloniki/c18rs>

Following a short introduction on ECOWEEK, 5 experts shared innovative projects: 'EU funding opportunities' (Giannis Tsitsopoulos), 'Innovative projects at the International University' (Ioanna Simeonidou), 'Smart Eco-solutions for innovative applications' (Electra Papadopoulou), 'Innovative uses of polymer materials' (Prof. Dimitrios Bikiaris), and 'Dangerous digital habits' (Dr. Alexis Papadimitriou). At the second part of the event, 4 young projects were presented, 'Sustainable Solution for Floods' (Astrit Rraci, Kosovo), 'SenseLAB' touching upon issues of handicap understanding of space (Ena Hadzic and Maja Ibrahimasic, Bosnia & Herzegovina), 'Homelessness: a design challenge' (Christina Petsiou and ECOWEEK workshop team W7), and 'Garden of Fairy Tales' on open public space (Lina Kapeta). Link to speakers:

<http://ecowweekorg.wix.com/ecowweekgenius2016#!speakers/c14tz>

The project of Astrit Rraci from Kosovo, offering a sustainable solution for floods using new materials and exploiting the water flow to recycle water and produce energy, was voted by the participants as the genius idea of the event. Link to project: <http://astritrraci.wix.com/sustainableidea>

3. ECOWEEK GENIUS JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

The event took place at the American Center on Keren Hayesod 19 in Jerusalem on Tuesday 8 March at 10:00-17:00, co-organized with the American Embassy, JEST Hub and the ECOWEEK GREENHOUSE. The event took place on the International Womens Day and was dedicated to women designers and social entrepreneurs. The event was moderated by ECOWEEK Founding Chairman Elias Messinas. Link to event program:

<http://ecowweekorg.wix.com/ecowweekgenius2016#!jerusalem/cx9e>

Following a short introduction on ECOWEEK, 5 experts shared innovative projects in design hubs in the periphery (Braha Kunda and Dana Schneorsan), public involvement in the re-design of the Wohl Rose garden in Jerusalem (Yael Hamermann Solar), corporate involvement in design for the community (Galia Hanoch Roe), and on urban sustainability and the sharing economy (Valerie Brachya).

At the second part of the event, 4 young projects were presented, including the 'JEST entrepreneurship hub in East Jerusalem' (Rana Qutteineh), 'Edible gardens in Jerusalem' (Eva Lerman Sela), 'Pink Electronics' an electronics company run by women (Abeer Al Natsheh), 'the Design Terminal in Yeruham' (Hadar Momarud), and the 'Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Coalition' (Sophie Schor). Link to speakers:

<http://ecowweekorg.wix.com/ecowweekgenius2016#!speakers/c14tz>

The project of JEST Hub in East Jerusalem, presented by Rana Qutteineh, was voted by the participants as the genius idea of the event. Link to project: <http://www.jesthub.org/>

4. ECOWEEK GENIUS BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

The event took place at Seneca Anticafe on Strada Arhitect Ion Mincu 1 in downtown Bucharest on Thursday 10 March at 16:00-21:00, co-organized with NGO Univercity. The event was moderated by ECOWEEK Associate Radu Negulescu. Link to event program: <http://ecoweeekorg.wix.com/ecoweeekgenius2016#!bucharest/cxch>

Following a short introduction on ECOWEEK, the event included a series of presentations by young entrepreneurs. They presented their ideas ranging from 'Parking People' (Liviu Chelcea and Ioana Iancu), 'Bucharest Green Lakes' (Ioana Tudora), and 'Clay Houses' (Catalin Berescu), to 'Case VII' (Natalia Negru), 'Regaining Green Spaces in your Neighborhood' (Laura Negulescu), and 'Creative Campus' (Alexandru Vasiliu and Andrei Mihail). Link to speakers: <http://ecoweeekorg.wix.com/ecoweeekgenius2016#!speakers/c14tz>

The event did not include a vote for the Genius idea of the event.

5. ECOWEEK GENIUS SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

The event took place at NETWORKS hub on Ulica Skender Pasina 1 in downtown Sarajevo on Friday 11 March at 11:00-17:30, co-organized with NGO LIFT. The event was moderated by the LIFT team headed by Nedim Mutevelic. Link to event program: <http://ecoweeekorg.wix.com/ecoweeekgenius2016#!sarajevo/c1bbn>

Following a short introduction on ECOWEEK by ECOWEEK founding chairman Elias Messinas over SKYPE, 4 established projects were presented: 'Spatial Initiatives in Maria's Yard-Maria's Bench' (Nedim Mutevelic), 'Channeling Ideas through Javorwood Festival' (Mersel Bujak), 'Sociocultural Awareness of Architecture Artistic Projects' (Dr. Seneka Ibrisimbegovic), and 'Reimagining Coworking and Collaboration' (Edin Mehic). The second part included the presentation of 4 young projects: 'Setup Street Workout Visoko' (Adina Sahinovic), 'Dobre Kote – Urban Community Center' (Ifan Salihagic), 'M1-Mobile Museum' (Tea Gastan), and 'ARCIS – Automatic Remote Irrigation System' (Armin Roksa). Link to speakers: <http://ecoweeekorg.wix.com/ecoweeekgenius2016#!speakers/c14tz>

The project ARCIS – Automatic Remote Irrigation System by Armin Roksa was voted by the participants as the genius idea of the event. Link to project: http://media.wix.com/ugd/75109c_f1262fbd141a4307bbc6e826bfe939ab.pdf

ABOUT ECOWEEK

ECOWEEK is an NGO based in Greece and Israel established in 2005 with the mission to raise environmental awareness and to promote the principles of sustainability. ECOWEEK is active in 15 countries and has a network of members in 54 countries. ECOWEEK was created by Yale-graduate Elias Messinas, architect, educator, and social entrepreneur expert in green buildings and Fellow of the Ford Motor Company and 92Y International Fellowship for Community Leadership.

Website ECOWEEK: www.ecoweeek.org
 Website GREENHOUSE ECOWEEK: www.ecoweeekgreenhouse.org
 Contact: genius@ecoweeekideas.org

ECOWEEK GENIUS PHOTOALBUM

Event images have been posted here:

http://ecowee.netfirms.com/ecowee/press_room_photo_album_ecowee_ENG.htm

Image titles:

‘Athens’ = ECOWEEK GENIUS event in Athens, Greece (image ECOWEEK 2016)

‘Thessaloniki’ = The event voted genius Astrit Rraci from Kosovo with ECOWEEK Associate Despoina Kouinoglou (image ECOWEEK 2016)

‘Jerusalem’ = The event voted genius Rana Qutteineh with ECOWEEK founding chairman Elias Messinas (image ECOWEEK 2016)

‘Bucharest’ = ECOWEEK GENIUS event in Bucharest, Romania (image ECOWEEK 2016)

‘Sarajevo’ = ECOWEEK GENIUS event in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (image ECOWEEK 2016)