

Spotlight on Dr Eva Loukogeorgaki

For the final interview within in our series, we would like to introduce you to **Eva Loukogeorgaki** – award-winning Associate Professor of Marine Structures in Department of Civil Engineering of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece.

Dr Loukogeorgaki holds a Diploma in Civil Engineering (2002) and a PhD (2007), both from AUTH, and has more than 18 years of research experience in the field of marine structures. Her main research interests are ocean engineering, fluid-structure interaction, design and analysis of offshore structures, hydrodynamic and hydroelastic analysis of floating structures, mooring systems, marine structures for renewable energy exploitation (offshore wind energy – offshore wind turbines, wave energy – wave energy converters) and spatial planning of offshore renewable energy technologies.



She has participated in 15 research projects funded by national and international sources and to have published more than 75 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals. She is a member of various scientific committees in her field of research, and has received international awards and honours. Since June 2019, she has been serving as the Chair of the *International Renewable Energy and Environment Committee of the International Society of Offshore and Polar Engineers (ISOPE)*, after having served as ISOPE President for the period 2020-2022.

Since 2018, Eva has been the Grant Holder Scientific representative of the COST Action [A pan-European Network for Marine Renewable Energy \(WECANet\)](#).



WECANet General Assembly Thessaloniki 11-12 Feb 2019

The COST Action WECANet focused on marine renewable energy resources, and formed the first pan-European network in this field, addressing issues such as wave energy that can be harnessed by wave energy converter (WEC) arrays.

COST: How would you compare your management experience as a Grant Holder Manager before and after taking on the role? Do you feel that this experience has enhanced your professional profile? If so, how?

"Going back to the beginning of our Cost Action, when I attended the first GH seminar I felt like a first year "undergraduate". New words, new definitions, lots of acronyms, new procedures/guidelines to learn and apply, and new tools to get used to and use. But afterwards, as our action progressed, it all came together so naturally. It was a challenge for me to efficiently manage all the financial aspects for our action network, which was very large. Proactive and adaptive planning, timely information to participants, prompt payments and efficient reporting were always necessary. However, the foreseen opportunities for researchers through our Action and working with great people in leadership positions, such as our Action Chair, Vicky, motivated me to do my best to accomplish all the tasks required. I learned to be more flexible and adaptable to new conditions/rules, especially considering the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a balance between budgetary constraints and the realisation of high quality networking activities open to researchers was also a key takeaway from this experience.

At the same time, I developed further my teamwork skills by communicating and collaborating with researchers from different countries, while having the pleasure of meeting new people and visiting many countries through our events. This experience has certainly enhanced my professional profile, as it has given me the opportunity to develop and maintain professional relationships, initiate new research collaborations and facilitate my access to the relevant research community. In short, it was a challenging, demanding, but unforgettable experience with a great added-value for my university position as a faculty member.

COST: What personal story can you tell?

I would like to share a motto that has accompanied me all these years: ‘There will always be exceptional cases, but there is always a solution to deal with them.’

COST: What advice can you give to newly appointed GHMs to help them be successful in their role?

I believe that active collaboration and continuous communication with your Action Chair and event organisers is essential. I would also advise a newly appointed GHM to inform all participants of the reimbursement rules in a timely and continuous manner, to read and follow the Annotated Rules carefully, and not to hesitate to ask for help from your Administrative Officer, who is indeed always there for you.

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