



The Hellenic Agricultural Organisation “Dimitra” granted the library, the archives, the files, and the supporting equipment of the Corfu Olive Institute to GeoLab, with a view to saving and exploiting this part of the intangible heritage of Corfu and to using the data for the benefit of the olive cultivation and the research on the historic Corfu Olive Grove. The Corfu Olive Grove consists of approx. 4 million olive trees covering 240,000 acres of land. Its role is not only productive, being the main productive activity of Corfu Island, but it also has aesthetic value, as it constitutes the central and most characteristic aspect of the scenery of Corfu island. The large size of the local variety of olive trees (lianoelia) is what shapes the aesthetics of the olive grove, although it hinders the proper cultivation. These issues can be addressed either by pruning part of the olive grove for productive reasons or by the *in situ* standardisation of the olive oil and its byproducts, as well as by linking the Corfu olive grove with the tourist market, marking natural and cultural routes that travel across the olive grove and linking it with the most important natural attractions, cultural monuments, and picturesque villages of the Corfu mainland.



Beyond the research programmes and the efforts for assessing and organising the material, GeoLab, through the Corfu Institute of Olive Tree, has established a series of lectures called “The Olive Lectures”. They are delivered by invited lecturers from Greece and abroad, who are active in olive cultivation or olive production on research, academic or productive level and they focus on the development and capitalisation of the olive grove as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Ionian Islands.



GeoLab has set the goal to promote the olive groves of Corfu and the rest Ionian Islands and capitalise it as a timeless repository of culture and tradition and as a source of wealth and development. With the synergy of the olive oil producing countries of the Adriatic and the Mediterranean Sea, the Olive Grove is an important lever for raising the living standards, enhancing territorial cohesion, and applying common strategies with reference to economic, social, environmental, and cultural actions. This dynamic network serves, *inter alia*, as the interface between the basic traditional products and the cultural heritage management, the entrepreneurship, and the economy, presenting a realistic approach of sustainable development.

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Εργαστήριο Γεωπολιτισμικών Αναλύσεων  
Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses

IONIAN UNIVERSITY | DFLT I



An Introduction



The Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses was founded in 2002 as an independent research centre of the Department of Foreign Languages Translation and Interpreting (Faculty of History & Translation-Interpreting) of the Ionian University in Corfu, Greece. The mission of GeoLab is to meet the educational and research needs in the field of International Relations, Economic Geography, Geopolitics, Political Science, Comparative Law, Diplomatic History, International Economic Relations, European Institutions, Intercultural Studies, Foreign Languages, Countries and Cultures. The interdisciplinary research and academic work of GeoLab, is supported by individual actions and programmes projected through the GeoLab platform. GeoLab is not supported by public funds. It receives funding from intergovernmental and private institutions, associations, companies, and individuals. Other sources of income are European and international funding programmes, scientific services and know-how expertise, while part of the operating cost is covered by the Ionian University. The Laboratory for Geocultural Analyses is geared towards international actions and co-operations. It features publications in various languages, while the Greek books are published in collaboration with the Papazisis Publishing House. Its researchers publish articles, occasional working, briefing papers as well as newsletters. GeoLab takes part in the public debate on national and international issues by participating, hosting or organising conferences, seminars, and roundtables.



**UCEGI** is a research centre operating in the framework of GeoLab, which promotes spatial and comparative studies while maintaining the character of a mainly Greek-Russian European programme. UCEGI focuses mainly on international, political, cultural, and religious relations and synergies, aiming at the research of new and effective methods and practices of governance for addressing the contemporary international issues and global threats.



The **REPPUBLIC** (Religion and Public Policy) Programme focuses on the influence of church and religion on the design and the implementation of public policies, while examining their interrelations with secular governance.



GeoLab is enlisted as a research lab by the Greek Ministry for Environment, Energy, and Climate Change. The research focus of the **ENERSOC** (Energy for Society) Programme is the social-economic viability of the energy systems and networks and the understanding of the prerequisites for an effective economic implementation in the framework of tracing the energy routes of the future.



The term “economic crime” refers to the criminal acts related to the exploitation of special economic, legal, and technical knowledge for illegal and criminal purposes.

Fighting the contemporary aspects of the economic crime is closely related to facing globalised problems, such as protecting the environment and the cultural heritage and fighting poverty.

The MOLCO group collaborates with experts from Greece and abroad, focusing its research on issues such as the legalization of proceeds of criminal activities (money laundering) and the funding of terrorism, extremism, fraud, and corruption.



The aim of the “Yellow Tourism” research Programme is the implication of economic crime in the field of tourism and the cultural heritage management. In that way, the interdisciplinary field of tourism studies is broadened, with the addition of the economic, political, social science, and human studies.