Prof. Nikitas A. Assimakopoulos
Dimitrios S. Varsos

Department of Informatics, University of Piraeus
Piraeus, Greece
Email: assinik@unipi.gr, dvarsos@msi.gr

Relevant Conference Theme: associations and networks
The Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)

The HSSS is a scientific non-profit society whose main goals are:

- to advance and promote Systemic Studies with the development of theoretical systemic approaches that are applicable to more than one of the traditional fields of knowledge through the use but also through the development of internationally accepted methodologies - multimethodologies, and

- to establish the discipline of the Systemic Analyst in Greece, in academia as well as organizations and enterprises in the public and private sectors.
The Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)

The HSSS realizes its goals through the following means:

- **collaboration** with national and international scientific societies that seek similar aims

- **lectures, discussions, seminars** and organization of **conferences** and other **scientific activities** [http://www.2013.hsss.eu/1_2/HomePage](http://www.2013.hsss.eu/1_2/HomePage)


- Finally, The HSSS in collaboration with the University of Piraeus and the Research Center of the University of Piraeus have organized and oversee the Professional Post-Graduate-level **Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP)** Program [http://www.csap.gr/](http://www.csap.gr/)
The Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP) Program

The CSAP Program is designed to bridge the gap between the advanced study found in most graduate curriculums and the applied requirements of a demanding industry, while enhancing the specialized skills of professionals in all relevant fields.

The CSAP Program is designed to complement the existing knowledge and competencies of motivated individuals in any professional environment, with an emphasis on managing today’s dynamic complexity.

Through the CSAP Program, participants are given the opportunity to use specialized tools and methodologies, which cultivate a systems thinking approach that allows them to challenge existing paradigms and arms them with the practical ammunition required to turn every-day obstacles into realistic opportunities in their area of concentration.
The Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP) Program

The two concentrations offered to CSAP Program participants are:

Certified Systemic Analyst e-Business Professional (CSAEBP)

and

Certified Systemic Analyst Project Management Professional (CSAPMP)

The program of study balances a number of common core courses with appropriately designed concentration courses, with the following objectives:

- To focus on the role of the Systemic Analyst as a key function in a modern organization, who seeks value-adding solutions through the study of opportunities and challenges in order to determine appropriate methodologies, tools and practices that will proactively resolve issues and achieve significant benefits for the business or organization.

- To provide training on managing and handling complexity by studying and identifying similarities between technological, human and natural systems.
The Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP) Program

The **CSAP** Program has an 18 month duration commencing in October of each academic year, with lectures held in the University of Piraeus, for the first 9 months.

The lectures are broadcasted through a **Live Broadcasting and Video Conferencing tool**, hence class attendance for individuals who participate in the program from a distance is not required.

Following the first 9 months of lectures, Program participants engage in the completion of a **Certification Project**, supervised by a three member Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee members are accessible through electronic communication as well as face-to-face meetings.

The two concentrations are organized and operate independently. Each is comprised of 360 lecture hours at the University of Piraeus, 400 hours of practical application of acquired knowledge required for the completion of a **Certification Project** and 250 hours of preparation and participation in the annual conference.
The Live Broadcasting and Video Conferencing tool
The Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP) Program

**Professional Systemics** is the practical application of systems thinking into everyday situations. It is a means through which to handle complexity in a manner which has achievable, measurable and realistic results.

**Professional Systemics**, which is at the core of the **CSAP** program is a disciplined approach which rests on three main elements: **Education**, **Empowerment** and **Training**.
The Certified Systemic Analyst Professional (CSAP) Program

In this context, **Education** can be expressed as the formal instruction given to the practitioner designed to develop the skills and techniques which are important to cultivate the power of reasoning and judgment required for a particular job or activity. Education is delivered through class-room instruction (lectures) and/or guided self-study.

**Empowerment** can be expressed as the result of human resource development and training. **Human resource development** is the framework for encouraging the practitioner to develop his personal organizational skills and core competencies considered important in applying the theoretical knowledge required for a particular job or activity. **Training** is the structured hands-on application of the theoretical knowledge aimed at improving the practitioner’s performance which will assist him to attain a required level of competence or skill.

Finally, **experience**, is gained through the continued execution of the job or activity which elevates the educated, empowered individual from being a practitioner to becoming a master of his trait.
In order to maximize value-added, the HSSS:

- has developed, implemented and maintains strict operating procedures consistent with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024:2012, an International Standard which sets out criteria for an organization’s certification program for individual persons.

- has developed and implements a Quality Management System which has been registered to the International Standard ISO 9001:2008.

- continuously monitors current scientific and market developments and continuously improves the services provided by the CSAP Program. Formulates quantifiable quality objectives at all academic and administrative levels.

- provides the required resources and scientific tools (infrastructure, know-how, human resources with the appropriate scientific and administrative competence,) for the uninterrupted effective operation of each activity.

- invests in research activities in relevant fields and ensures the continual competence of personnel performing work affecting service quality.
Essential Background to the HSSS

The traditional organization today is designed along a **hierarchical structure** in which activities are organized along common areas of responsibility.

Key processes are defined and controlled within **strict functional boundaries**, with minimum attention given to **systemic interaction**.

Decisions are derived through **analytical methods** which involve the determination of the meaning and significance of what is managed in the context of a **reductionist approach**: reducing the whole into its constituent elements, understand each element separately and aggregating understanding of the isolated elements into an understanding of the whole.
The effectiveness of a reductionist approach however needs to be questioned when considering that the essential features of the whole may be embedded not in the isolated parts, but in the manner in which the parts actually relate to and interact with one another (their interconnectedness).

Given the dynamic complexity of the today’s business environment and the continual exchange of its constituent elements, application of the reductionist method typically results in the loss of the essential properties of both the system studied as well as of its parts.

Hence, decisions lack cohesion, and decision makers, the ability to align activities to effectively achieve the Organization’s long-term goals.
Essential Background to the HSSS

A systemic approach is the process of understanding how things influence one another within a defined whole, rather than in isolation.

Systems thinking focuses on the understanding of the interaction of the constituent elements of the system, which work together and with other systems to produce a behavior rather than that the study of the parts of the system taken separately.

Systems thinking is the application of systems theory within a framework for the purpose of understanding and solving real-life every day problems. It is a specialized language which conveys structured meanings to interrelated concepts. Finally, systems thinking is a set of powerful tools that can be applied to a variety of situations for the purpose of handling the most stubborn of today’s problems.
Contacts:

Prof. Nikitas A. Assimakopoulos
Department of Informatics, University of Piraeus
Piraeus, Greece
Email: assinik@unipi.gr

Dimitrios S. Varsos
Department of Informatics, University of Piraeus
Piraeus, Greece
mobile +30 6937 299 333
e-mail dvarsos@msi.gr

CSAP http://www.csap.gr/
HSSS http://www.hsss.eu

Thank you

First Global Conference on Research Integration and Implementation http://www.i2sconference.org/