

SECOVE 3rd Transnational Congress

Ancient Olive Grove Campus, University of West Attica

Petrou Ralli & Thivon Str., 250, 12244, Aigaleo, Athens, Greece

Friday, May 22nd 2026

Travel Information

Discovering Athens: The Cradle of Western Civilisation

Athens seamlessly merges its monumental ancient past with the energetic pulse of a modern European capital. Recognised as one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, its history spans over 3,000 years. The city reached its cultural and political zenith during the 5th century BC under the leadership of Pericles. During this Golden Age, Athens flourished as the undisputed cradle of Western civilisation, pioneering the world's first democratic system and fostering the birth of Western philosophy, drama, and classical art through foundational figures like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Although it subsequently endured centuries of foreign rule—passing through Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman control—and eventually declined into a modest provincial town, its historical legacy never faded. Following the Greek War of Independence, Athens was officially designated as the capital of the modern Greek state in 1834, transforming into the vibrant, cosmopolitan metropolis it is today.

The Ancient Olive Grove of Plato in Aigaleo It is particularly fitting that our SECOVE Congress is hosted at the UNIWA Ancient Olive Grove campus in Aigaleo. This area is deeply intertwined with Athenian history, situated along the ancient Sacred Way (Iera Odos) that connected Athens to Eleusis. In antiquity, a vast, sacred olive grove stretched across this region. It was right on the edges of this very grove that Plato established his famous Academy. Today, as delegates gather in Aigaleo to innovate and discuss the future of sustainable energy, they do so in the same historical landscape where classical philosophers once walked, debated, and shaped the foundations of Western thought.

Must-See Attractions in the City Centre

- **The Acropolis and Parthenon:** Perched on a dramatic rocky clifftop, this UNESCO World Heritage site is Greece's most important landmark. The Parthenon, a masterpiece of Doric

architecture completed in 438 BC, was dedicated to the goddess Athena and remains the most striking symbol of ancient Greek glory.

- **The Acropolis Museum:** Located at the base of the Acropolis, this ultra-modern facility houses original statues and artefacts from the Parthenon. Visiting the museum after exploring the hill provides essential context for the ancient ruins.
- **Plaka and Anafiotika:** Known as the city's oldest residential district, Plaka is a picturesque maze of car-free, bougainvillea-draped alleyways and neoclassical mansions nestled under the Acropolis. Just above it, the tiny Anafiotika neighbourhood offers a hidden, island-style village atmosphere right beneath the towering cliffs.
- **Ancient Agora:** Once the vibrant social, political, and commercial heart of ancient Athens, this sprawling archaeological site features the remarkably preserved Temple of Hephaestus.
- **National Archaeological Museum:** This institution holds the single most important collection of Greek antiquities globally, including the renowned gold Mask of Agamemnon and the intricate Antikythera Mechanism.
- **Syntagma Square & Panathenaic Stadium:** Syntagma Square is home to the Greek Parliament, where visitors can witness the hourly changing of the elite Evzones guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A short distance away lies the Panathenaic Stadium (Kallimarmaro), the world's only stadium built entirely of marble and the historic host site of the first modern Olympics in 1896.

SECOVE Congress Location

The SECOVE Transnational Congress will be held on **Friday, 22nd of May 2026, 08:45 - 15:15 local time.**

The meetings and presentations will take place at the Conference Centre of the University of West Attica (UNIWA).

- **Campus:** Ancient Olive Grove
- **Address:** 250 Thivon Ave., Egaleo
- **Location Map:** [Google Maps](#)



Get to Athens

The most efficient way to reach Athens is by aeroplane. The city is excellently connected to major European and global destinations via the Athens International Airport (ATH) "Eleftherios Venizelos". As

a central hub for European mobility, the airport ensures seamless and frequent connectivity for all our transnational project partners and delegates arriving for the Congress.

Below you will find detailed resources to assist with your travel arrangements:

- Here you can explore the destinations of domestic and international flights: [Athens Airport Direct Flights](#).
- Here you can find a comprehensive list of the main flight carriers operating scheduled connections from Athens Airport: [Athens Airport Airline Companies](#).

From the Airport to the Centre of Athens

Depending on your hotel's location, you have several efficient transportation options to reach central hubs like Syntagma Square and Omonia Square from Athens International Airport (ATH).

To Syntagma Square

- **By Metro:** Utilise Line 3 (Blue Line) and exit at Syntagma Station. This is a direct 40-minute route. The Airport Metro fare is €9.00.
- **By Express Bus:** The X95 Express Bus operates a 24-hour service from the Arrivals level, terminating at Syntagma Square. The fare is €5.50, and you can board at Arrivals Exit 4 & 5.

To Omonia Square

- **By Metro:** Take Line 3 (Blue Line) to Syntagma Station, then transfer to Line 2 (Red Line) in the direction of Anthoupoli. Omonia is the second stop after Syntagma. Alternatively, you may transfer at Monastiraki to Line 1 (Green Line) heading towards Kifissia, which is the first stop after Monastiraki.

Taxis & Ride-Hailing Services

- **Official Taxis:** Official taxis are available at the airport outside Arrivals Exit 3. There is a Daytime Flat Fare (05:00 – 24:00) of €40 to the Athens City Center (Syntagma Square). The Nighttime Flat Fare (00:00 – 05:00) is €55.
- **Mobile Applications:** For scheduled or immediate bookings with transparent pricing, you may use the Freenow or Uber apps. Both services operate with licensed professional taxis in Athens.

Payment & Validation

- **Contactless Payment:** Commuters may use a physical or digital bank card (contactless) directly at the validation readers on all buses and metro gates.
- **Paper Tickets:** Traditional paper "Ath.ena" tickets can be purchased at automated vending machines.
- **Validation:** Please ensure your ticket or card is validated at the electronic readers upon boarding or entering the station gates to avoid administrative fines.

Suggested Hotels

May is typically the beginning of the high tourist season in Athens, so it is highly recommended that delegates book their accommodation as early as possible. We suggest selecting a hotel near the historic centre, specifically around Syntagma Square or Monastiraki. These areas serve as excellent logistical hubs, offering immediate access to Metro Line 3 (Blue Line) for a direct route to the UNIWA campus in Egaleo, while also keeping you within walking distance of major sightseeing landmarks and restaurants.

Below is a list of recommended hotels with easy access to the Congress venue:

Hotel Name	Stars	Distance from City Centre	Average Price / Night (May)	Official Website
Astor Hotel	4 stars	200 meters	~ €140	astorhotel.gr
Central Hotel	3 stars	200 meters	~ €135	centralhotel.gr
Hermes Hotel	3 stars	200 meters	~ €145	hermeshotel.gr
Arethusa Hotel	3 stars	230 meters	~ €130	arethusahotel.gr
Amazon Hotel	3 stars	300 meters	~ €135	amazonhotel.gr
Amalia Hotel	3 stars	400 meters	~ €215	amaliahotels.com/athens
Plaka Hotel	3 stars	550 meters	~ €100	plakahotel.gr
Titania Hotel	4 stars	600 meters	~ €160	hhotels.gr/titania
Attalos Hotel	3 stars	800 meters	~ €100	attaloshotel.com
The Stanley	4 stars	2.2 km	~ €105	thestanley.gr
President Hotel	4 stars	3.5 km	~ €130	president.gr

How to reach UNIWA Conference Centre

The SECOVE Transnational Congress will be held at the University of West Attica (UNIWA), specifically at the Ancient Olive Grove Campus. The campus is located at 250 Thivon Ave. in Egaleo. Below is a comprehensive guide on how to reach the venue using the Athens Mass Transit System.

1. From the City Centre (Syntagma Square) to UNIWA

Metro Service: At Syntagma Station, board the Metro Line 3 (Blue Line) heading in the direction of Dimotiko Theatro.

Arrival: You will need to exit the train at Egaleo Station, which is the 4th stop from Syntagma.

Final Leg (Bus Transfer): Once you arrive at Egaleo Station, you have two bus options to reach the campus:

- **Option A:** Use Bus Line 829. You can board this circular service at the "Estavromenos" bus stop, which is located on Iera Odos Ave. & "Papanastasiou Str." exit of the station.
- **Option B:** Walk approximately 8 minutes to the "Egaleo" bus stop located on Thivon Ave. From there, you can take Bus Lines 703, 845, 852, or 803. You must disembark at the "Ladopoulou" stop, which is situated right next to the University entrance at 250 Thivon Ave.

2. From Athens International Airport (ATH) to UNIWA

Metro Service: Upon arriving at the airport, proceed to the Airport Metro Station. Board the Metro Line 3 (Blue Line) in the direction towards Dimotiko Theatro.

Disembarkation: Exit the train at Egaleo Station. The total metro journey time from the airport to Egaleo is approximately 40 minutes.

Local Transfer (Bus): From Egaleo Square, located just outside the station, you can reach the campus using the same bus transfer options mentioned above. You can either take the circular Bus Line 829 from the "Estavromenos" stop, or walk to Thivon Ave. to catch Bus Lines 703, 845, 852, or 803 and exit at the "Ladopoulou" stop.

Essential Transportation & Fare Information

Standard Tickets: A standard integrated ticket, valid for 90 minutes on the transit system, costs €1.20.

Airport Fares: The Airport Metro fare is €9.00. Alternatively, the Airport Express Bus fare is €5.50, and you can catch it at Arrivals Exit 4 & 5.

Payment Methods: Commuters can use a physical or digital bank card for contactless payment directly at the electronic validation readers on metro gates and buses. Traditional paper "Ath.ena" tickets are also available for purchase at automated vending machines.

Validation: It is critical to ensure that your ticket or card is validated at the electronic readers when boarding a bus or entering a station gate to avoid administrative fines.

Taxis: Official taxis are available throughout the city and at the airport's Arrivals Exit 3. The daytime flat fare (05:00 – 24:00) from the airport to the city centre is €40, while the nighttime flat fare (00:00 – 05:00) is €55. An estimated taxi fare from Egaleo Metro Station directly to the UNIWA campus is between €4.00 and €7.00. Ride-hailing apps like Freenow and Uber also operate in Athens using licensed professional taxis.