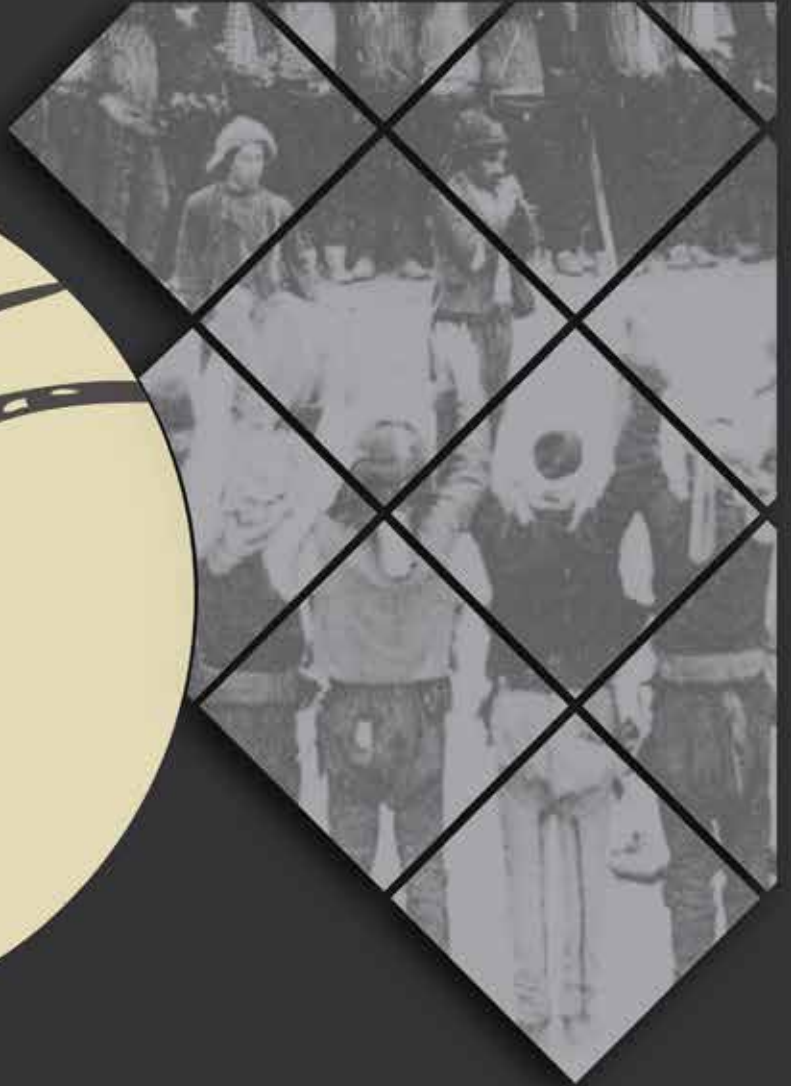




ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΠΟΝΤΙΩΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΗ  
FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF PONTIAN GREEKS IN EUROPE



# HISTORY

« through history, at the present and to the future »

[www.osepe.de](http://www.osepe.de)



## Background of the Federation of Associations of Pontian Greeks in Europe (abbr.: OSEPE)

«through history, at the present and to the future»

### About us

Our federation, OSEPE, was established in Germany in 1981 as the Federation of Pontian Greek Associations of Germany.

The first conference took place in Ludwigshafen on 12-13 December 1981. 26 representatives of five associations located in Ludwigshafen, Hannover, Nuremberg, Hamburg and Munich attended the conference in which the first executive board was elected.

From 1994, when associations located in Switzerland and Belgium joined OSEPE as member associations, the federation was renamed in Federation of Associations of Pontian Greeks in Europe, and kept that name until today. In 2004 a new member joined us, an association from Sweden, growing our federation bigger and expanding in more European countries. Earlier this year, 2017, associations from two more countries, Great Britain and Austria, became members of our federation.

The federation is directed by a board of 7 counselors, who are elected through Ordinary Congresses, which take place every two years.

OSEPE is counting now 48 members all over European countries, among them Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden and Switzerland.

### Our goals

Federation's main goals are to represent the interests of its member associations and to organize multiple kinds of events, such as the annual Festival of Greek Pontian Youth. Through these activities, OSEPE grows a functional network between Pontian Greeks around Europe, serving this way its purpose of existence and responding to the expectations of its members.

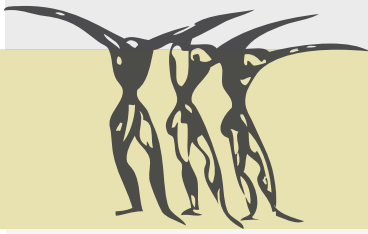
OSEPE's concern is to preserve, cultivate and promote the cultural heritage of the Greeks of Pontus, to pass the legacy into the younger Pontian generations, and to familiarize the local community with the Pontian culture, in order to grow the conscious of the universal dimension of the Pontian Hellenism.

Growing the network of the Pontian Greeks in Europe, coordinating and implementing activities in cooperation with the associations, unites Greek Emigrants and presents the rich and multifaceted culture of the Greeks of the Pontus to other European citizens.



## Our visions

- Preserving the cultural identity of the Pontian Greeks
- Promoting the collaboration between federation's associations and their members to achieve their smooth social inclusion into the European family
- Informing federation's members on cultural and contemporary events
- Promoting events for young people, especially in relation to social inclusion and education
- Networking the members of the federation and promoting brainstorming and communication
- Promoting the cooperation with other organizations / associations: immigrants, anti-racism, charity, educational, etc.
- Informing society abroad about our culture / history, in order to better integrate our members into a multicultural society
- Informing European society about the history and the culture of Pontian Greeks in order to enrich Europe's cultural heritage



## Our activities

Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress  
Ordinary and Extraordinary Youth Congress  
Youth Symposium of Pontian Greeks in Europe  
Youth Festival of Pontian Greeks in Europe  
Youth Workshops of Pontian Greeks in Europe  
Historical and Cultural Seminars  
Memorial Event of the Genocide of the Pontian Greeks  
Seminar of Pontian music  
Seminar of Pontian dances  
Painting and history contests

## in numbers

40 congresses  
30 youth congresses  
22 symposiums  
36 festivals  
60 workshops  
36 seminars  
50 main events  
25 seminars  
30 seminars  
10 contests

## Awards

**Our Federation was awarded with the Athens Academy Award for our activity on 29th of December 1998.**

The main goal of the Athens Academy is the cultivation and promotion of science, literature, art and scientific research.

To achieve this goal, the Academy supports scientific research, participates in international scientific organizations, grants scholarships, releases publications, gives awards and honorary awards.



## Our Youngsters

«Si strata ti patridas» (This is a Pontian Idiom that means «on the way to our homeland»)

OSEPE's priority is to encourage young people's initiative and creativity. We strongly believe that youngsters should participate in all kinds of organized activities by the Pontian community, in order to build meaningful future.

In 1995, OSEPE created a Youth Steering Committee (YSC), the first Youth Steering Committee in a Pontian Federation globally. YSC primary aim is coordinating, organizing and promoting events related to youngsters or not.

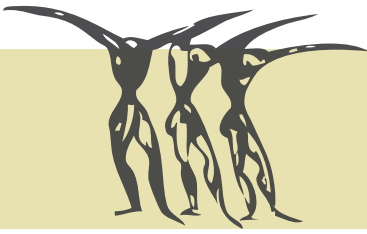
The Youth Steering Committee of the Federation is directed by a board of 7 young counselors, who are elected through Ordinary Congresses by the young representatives of the member associations.

YSC is part of the Federation's hierarchy, cooperates with OSEPE's board of counselors, but at the same time Youth Steering Committee works independently, organizing their own activities:

- In the first three months of every year, YSC is organizing, for Pontian Youngsters from around Europe, a two-day annual conference, which includes seminars, theatrical performances and lectures by speakers and specialists in the Pontian tradition and culture
- Organizing annual youth festivals at different locations during autumn
- Cooperating with Greek and Pontian associations around the world in order to network the young generation of Pontians

**The Annual Youth Festival for the Dances of Pontus.** This is the most important annual event of Pontian Hellenism, a magnificent sight, with more than 2,000 young dancers promoting the culture of the Greeks of Pontus. The performance of this annual festival highlights OSEPE's voluntary and social work, the dynamics of the Pontian associations and especially the power that lies on the new generation. For the past 36 years, more than 3,500 people each year watched the festival as audience, and in many of these years the audience reached 5,500 viewers.





## Committee for the International Recognition of the Genocide of the Greeks of Pontus

Understanding the importance of the existence of special committees, which are dealing with specific issues, in September of 2006, OSEPE has set up a special permanent committee, which is working for the recognition of the Genocide of the Greeks of the Pontus.


Our historical debt is to raise awareness of Europe's citizens, intellectuals, the media, politicians, the leadership of states, parliaments and international human rights organizations, via organizing events and actions for this end.

The genocide of the Greeks of Pontus, and of the region of Asia Minor, of East Thrace, of other Christian populations located in the East and of other nationalities must be recognized both by the international community and above all by the Turkish State.

Recognition of the Genocide will undoubtedly become a solid basis for the building of mutual trust, peace and sincere friendship between the descendants of those who had been genocided and modern Turkey.

In 2010, OSEPE appreciating the important work of the Committee, proceeded in readjusting the composition of the Committee and in the establishment of a network of collaborators representing all Pontian associations, in order to support and strengthen the Committee's actions.





OSEPE is honored by the presence in different events by the following personalities

His Eminence Metropolitan Avgoustinos of Germany

#### **Academics**

Kostas Fotiadis, **historian** - Professor at the University of Western Macedonia, Greece

Vlassis Agtzidis - Doctor of Contemporary History at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Theodosia Kyriakidis, **Theologian** - Doctor of History

Kiriakos Chatzikyriakidis - Doctor of Modern History at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Odyseas Lampsidis - Historian

Theodoros Sakelaropoulos - Lecturer of Sociology at Panteion University, Greece

Ioannis Tarnanidis - President of the Hellenic Association of Slavists - Professor Emerita of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

#### **Authors**

Panagiotis Tsatsanidis

Efstathios Efstathiadis

Elsa Galanidou-Balfousia

Michalis Charalampidis

Thea Halo

Kostas Fotiadis

#### **Olympic athletes**

Voula Patoulidou

Ioannis Melissanidis

#### **Former ministers**

Nikos Akritidis

Stelios Papatthemelis

Konstantinos Simeoforidis

Ioannis Anthopoulos

Grigoris Niotis

Stavros Labrianidis

Savvas Tsitouridis

Dimitris Dollis

Ioannis Magriotis

#### **Personalities**

Mimis Plessas - music composer

Ioannis Markopoulou - music composer

Lefteris Papadopoulos - lyrics composer

Giorgos Dalaras - singer

Manolis Glezos - journalist, politician



## Our Members

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Vienna  
Association of Pontian Greeks „Xeniteas“ Vienna

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FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF PONTIAN GREEKS IN EUROPE

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