



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC
e - Newsletter

Periodical Edition of the University of Crete - Issue 5 - May - June 2023 - www.uoc.gr/

▶▶ UoC AND ASTROPHYSICS



Build & Launch Your Startup

June 7, Pitching event,
Voutes Campus,
Heraklion



The business value
of sustainability
June 8, H2B HUB,
Heraklion

NEWSUOC

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The English Newsletter is partly based
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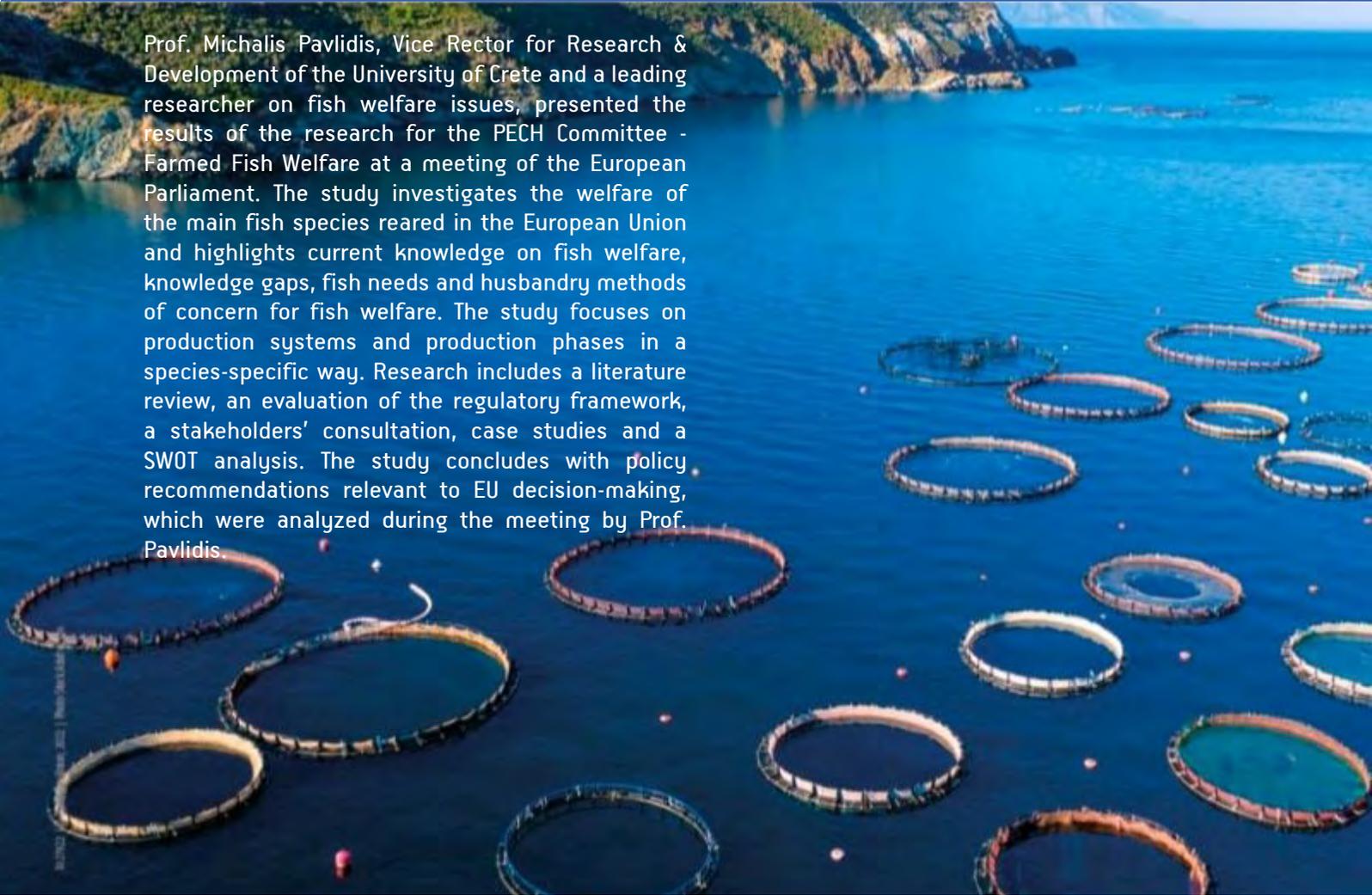
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PRESENTATION

UoC Vice Rector Michail Pavlidis presents at a meeting of the European Parliament



Prof. Michailis Pavlidis, Vice Rector for Research & Development of the University of Crete and a leading researcher on fish welfare issues, presented the results of the research for the PECH Committee - Farmed Fish Welfare at a meeting of the European Parliament. The study investigates the welfare of the main fish species reared in the European Union and highlights current knowledge on fish welfare, knowledge gaps, fish needs and husbandry methods of concern for fish welfare. The study focuses on production systems and production phases in a species-specific way. Research includes a literature review, an evaluation of the regulatory framework, a stakeholders' consultation, case studies and a SWOT analysis. The study concludes with policy recommendations relevant to EU decision-making, which were analyzed during the meeting by Prof. Pavlidis.



Video: <https://lnkd.in/dcv4mGx2>

Study report: <https://lnkd.in/df2pMqHE>



Artemisia Pantelaki from the Association of Teachers of Greek Sign Language, whose mother tongue is sign language, guided us to her world through movement, raising awareness of people's efforts to speak... silently



«Valpurgian Night» dance performance by The Dancers of the North



TEDxUniversityofCrete started in 2017 and is organized by an independent group of UoC students, aiming to familiarize the community of Heraklion with the TEDx experience.

The 2023 theme of TEDxUniversityofCrete was "Kinesis" (Movement) and included 10 presentations by distinguished, inspiring and highly motivated speakers, who talked to us about "movement" and its diverse expressions, covering a wide spectrum of subjects. From the experience of having sign language as a mother tongue to the powerful potential of energy "movement" in engineering applications and live dance performances, this TEDxUniversityofCrete was truly exceptional and embraced with love by the public. The program also included workshops and performances.

Presenter of TEDxUniversityofCrete 2023: Sarantis Simakis, founder of the volunteering group "ATAXTOI" and co-founder of Backpackbrothers.,.

Curator: Agapi Kavvadia, MSc Protein Biotechnology student at the University of Crete

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or fewer) delivered by today's leading thinkers and doers. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event.

UoC students participate in the European Investment Bank (EIB) Summer School 2023



The EIB Summer School is organized every year in June/July in Luxembourg by the [European Investment Bank Institute](#), featuring two weeks of lectures and seminars taught by EIB Group staff members. The EIB Summer School offers young graduates from the finest Master's programs an intensive two-week immersion into the EIB Group (EIB, EIF, EIB Global, EIB Institute). The Summer School also includes social activities and high-level visits to other EU institutions (ESM, Court of Justice and Court of Auditors).

This year, the EIB Summer School took place from June 27 to July 7 with the participation of 80 students from 22 European universities, including 3 students from the University of Crete: Maria Grinieziaki, Eleni Kalogeraki and Konstantina Lyroni*.

During two weeks participants followed interactive lectures and seminars by EIB Group (EIB and EIF) staff on how the EIB is transforming itself into the EU's climate bank by implementing its [Climate Bank Roadmap](#) to support €1 trillion of investments in climate action and environmental sustainability in the critical decade from 2021 to 2030; dedicate 50% of its financing to climate action and environmental sustainability operations in 2025 - a goal already reached in 2022 and 2023- and to align all its financing activities with the principles and goals of the Paris agreement.

"Attending the EIB Summer School of 2023 helped us learn more about EU's climate bank and gain a deeper understanding on EIB's values, goals and operations, but most importantly, its role in promoting sustainable growth and driving positive change. Through this remarkable program, not only did we gain knowledge and invaluable insights, but we also interacted with people from diverse backgrounds, which offered each of us fresh, unique perspectives and helped us expand our views." -- Maria Grinieziaki, student in the [TIME-MBE Master's program](#)



"The EIB Summer School proved life-changing, centered on sustainable financing and fostering an inspiring global network of inspiring peers. Engaging discussions with remarkable speakers enriched understanding, while an inclusive environment nurtured lasting friendships and unforgettable memories" -- Eleni Kalogeraki, [Master's program in Environmental Science and Engineering – Department of Chemistry](#)



"The EIB Summer School was an amazing opportunity to gain insights into the functioning mechanism of the bank, not only in its funding process, but also in the selection of projects that have a beneficial environmental impact. At the same time, via the EIB summer school we were able to visit and learn about other European Institutions that play a significant role in the everyday life of European citizens such as the Court of Justice" -- Konstantina Lyroni, [Master's program in Materials Science & Technology](#)



**The travel expenses of the students were covered by the UoC Financial Management of Project Grants (ELKE)*

more info



1st Summer School in International Economics
by the Journal of International Economics
June 14-16, 2023

Department of Economics, University of Crete

The UoC Department of Economics was selected by the Journal of International Economics (JIE) to host the 1st Summer School in International Economics from June 14 to June 16, 2023.

Approximately 100 PhD students attended a series of lectures by leading faculty in international economics, including [Arnaud Costinot](#) (MIT), [Jonathan Eaton](#) (Penn State), [Veronica Rappoport](#) (London School of Economics), [Luca Fornaro](#) (CREI), [Sebnen Kalemli-Ozcan](#) (University of Maryland) and [Enrique Mendoza](#) (University of Pennsylvania).

The participants were selected among 200 candidates by the Scientific Committee of the School consisting of [Costas Arkolakis](#) (Yale University, JIE editor), [Javier Bianchi](#) (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), [Natalia Ramondo](#) (Boston University) and [Martin Uribe](#) (Columbia University, JIE editor) and represented esteemed institutions such as Princeton, University of Chicago, NYU, UCLA, Cornell, Northwestern University, University of Minnesota, University of Maryland, University of California-San Diego, University of Florida, Oxford, LSE, Warwick, ETH Zurich, University of Bonn, University of Munich, Stockholm School of Economics, University of Rome, University of Milan, Trinity College Dublin, European University Institute, University of Bern, etc.





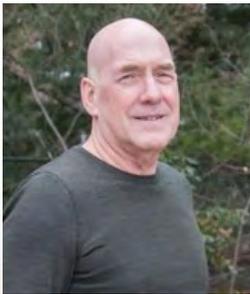
*Costas Arkolakis,
Professor of
Economics, Yale
University,
Editor, Journal
of International
Economics*



*Martin Uribe,
Professor of
Economics,
Columbia
University,
Editor, Journal
of International
Economics*

Professors [Arkolakis](#) and [Uribe](#), the Editors of JIE, pointed out the following:

"The Editorial Board at the Journal of International Economics is excited to start what we think is a much-needed Summer School for PhD students in International Economics with the long-term goal of expanding the community of dedicated researchers in International Economics and contributing to the field's progress. This and future summer schools will also help Ph.D. students focusing on International Economics to meet their future colleagues and be exposed to cutting-edge research in the field by leading faculty from across the world. What we value of most importance is the interactions of students and faculty working in different subfields of International Economics and especially the interactions between International Macroeconomists and International Trade economists. The students also have a chance to receive feedback for their ongoing research ideas. The organization of the University of Crete and the local faculty made this a fantastic experience and set the highest standards for the future iterations of this endeavor."



*Jonathan Eaton,
Distinguished
Professor of
Economics, Penn
State*

Professor [Eaton](#) made the following remarks:

"Teaching at the 1st Summer School in International Economics was a highlight of my career. It gave me the opportunity to talk with nearly 100 PhD students from around the world with a common interest in international economics. The students were highly engaged, asking great questions during the lectures and over breaks. It gave the students an opportunity to forge international connections, which are very important in the field, early in their academic careers. The students also seemed to be having a terrific time."





Enrique G. Mendoza,
Professor of Economics,
University of Pennsylvania

Professor [Mendoza](#) added:

"I greatly enjoyed being part of the JIE's 1st Summer School in International Economics that was hosted by the Department of Economics of the University of Crete. This was a truly exceptional program for which the editors of the JIE, the organizers of the academic program, the local organizers, and the University of Crete deserve recognition and high praise. It was a remarkably innovative idea to gather a large group of graduate students from all over the world working in the field of International Economics, from both the trade and macro sides, to attend three days of lectures by prominent faculty, make poster presentations of their own research, and interact and exchange ideas with each other and with the faculty present. The location at the University of Crete's Rethymnon campus was ideal and the logistic arrangements were flawless. It was a fantastic start for what is sure to become a very prestigious and highly-valued summer program in International Economics!"



Giorgios Stamatopoulos,
Professor of Economics & Head
of the Department of Economics,
University of Crete

Prof. Stamatopoulos and Asst. Prof. Skartados, members of the Local Organizing Committee, both expressed their great pleasure to host the 1st Summer School in International Economics in Crete. "The stature of JIE, the presence of so many leading faculty in International Economics, the participation of almost 100 PhD students from all over the world, the inspired lectures and poster sessions, the academic atmosphere of Crete, made it a unique academic event", Prof. Stamatopoulos, Head of the UoC Department of economics, stated.



Panagiotis Skartados Assistant
Professor,
Department of Economics,
University of Crete.

[more info](#)



SKINAKAS OBSERVATORY

In the mythical Mount Ida (aka Psiloritis), the highest mountain of Crete, and just a few kilometers away from the cave where, according to mythology, infant Zeus was raised, Skinakas Observatory stands as a “monument” of the history of astrophysics in Crete. Apart from being a distinguished scientific center, Skinakas Observatory is also part of the local community. The operation of the Skinakas Observatory is largely supported by the people and the Municipality of the historical village Anogeia. Skinakas Observatory also organizes an astrophysics school for high school students and various educational events, including the popular **open days** for the public every summer, inviting everyone to witness the wonders of the Universe.



It is worth mentioning that in addition to its 35-year leading role in astronomy education and research in Greece, since 2021, Skinakas Observatory is officially included in the “fibre in the sky” Scylight program of the European Space Agency and it has been validated to participate in the Space Security and Tracking program of the European Commission. These two new directions of the Observatory provide new opportunities for synergies within the academic ecosystem of the University of Crete and FORTH and create possibilities for public and private stakeholders to use the infrastructure of Skinakas in the areas of secure laser communication and space traffic management.

The operation of Skinakas Observatory is supported by personnel of the UoC Department of Physics and the Institute of Astrophysics - FORTH. Prof. Vassilis Charmandaris serves as Director of Skinakas Observatory since 2019.

This summer, Skinakas Observatory opens its doors to the public on **Sunday June 4, Monday July 3, Tuesday August 1** and **Thursday August 31**, from 18:00 to 23:00.

more info



A SHORT HISTORY OF SKINAKAS...

The idea to create a site of astronomical research at Skinakas was first conceived in 1984 and soon after, thanks to a generous donation of a 15,000 square meters land by the municipality of Anogeia to the University of Crete, the construction of a road to the mountain peak where the observatory was to be located, commenced. The [University of Crete](#), the [Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas](#) (FORTH) and the [Max-Planck-Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik](#) (MPE, Germany) agreed to build and operate together a telescope with the purpose of providing modern education in Astronomy to University students and to support astronomical observations with emphasis on the research of extended sky objects like comets and gaseous nebulae. Prof. [Ioannis Papamastorakis](#) and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Haerendel, then Director of MPE, played a critical role in the creation of the observatory.

The expected arrival of [comet Halley](#) in the spring of 1986, after 76 years of wandering through the solar system, set the time schedule for the installation of a [Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope](#), which having a wide field of view, and equipped with a highly sensitive electronic camera was especially suited for the observation of the comet. Indeed, after the construction of the road on the rocky mountain and the completion of the first stone-made observatory, hundreds of people from all over Greece came to Skinakas on April 12, 1986, to participate in the inauguration of the Observatory and to observe Halley's comet. In 1988 the construction of the guesthouse was completed and immediately hosted the first school of Observational Astrophysics in Greece.

The successful installation and operation of the first small, 0.3m diameter telescope confirmed the excellent weather conditions at the top of Skinakas for high quality astronomical observations in the Mediterranean region. As a result, the partner institutions decided to further develop the Observatory by installing a larger and more modern [Ritchey-Chretien type](#) telescope with a primary



January 1986, The installation of the first scope-dome of the Observatory in Skinakas.

Archive of the Institute of Astrophysics, FORTH

mirror diameter of 1.3 meters. The telescope, which commenced operations in the fall of 1995, was placed in a metal building to minimize local thermal disturbances ([atmospheric turbulence](#)). The 1.3m telescope was built using high standards of sharpness and a wide field of vision. These properties ensure excellent imagery and study of extended objects such as galaxies, star clusters and gaseous nebulae. To further improve the observation of extended objects, a focal reducer had been developed which nearly doubles the field of view while offering the possibility of spectroscopy.

In 2006, in collaboration with the University of Tuebingen, a third 0.6m telescope was installed at Skinakas Observatory. This [Cassegrain telescope](#), called "Ganymede" is fully robotic and web-driven and has a 20' x 20' field of view. In May 2022, a new building and 5.3m dome was constructed and is hosting the 0.6m telescope. Moreover, in June 2022, thanks to a generous donation by the Committee "Greece 2021" an order for a new 1.0m robotic telescope was placed and it is expected to start operating in the summer of 2024.

Finally in May 2023, the construction of the "Astroschool", a multi-purpose 350m² building with another 5.3m dome commenced. The new building, which will cost nearly 1million Euros and will be ready at the end of 2024, is constructed by the municipality of Anogeia and it will support educational activities as well as the promotion of thematic tourism & cultural activities in the Psiloritis region. It is expected that it will greatly enhance the collaboration between the municipality of Anogeia, the University of Crete and FORTH.

3rd School of Astrophysics

for high school students

The **School of Astrophysics** is organized by the **Institute of Astrophysics of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH)**, in collaboration with the **Department of Physics of the University of Crete** and the **Physicists Association of Crete**.

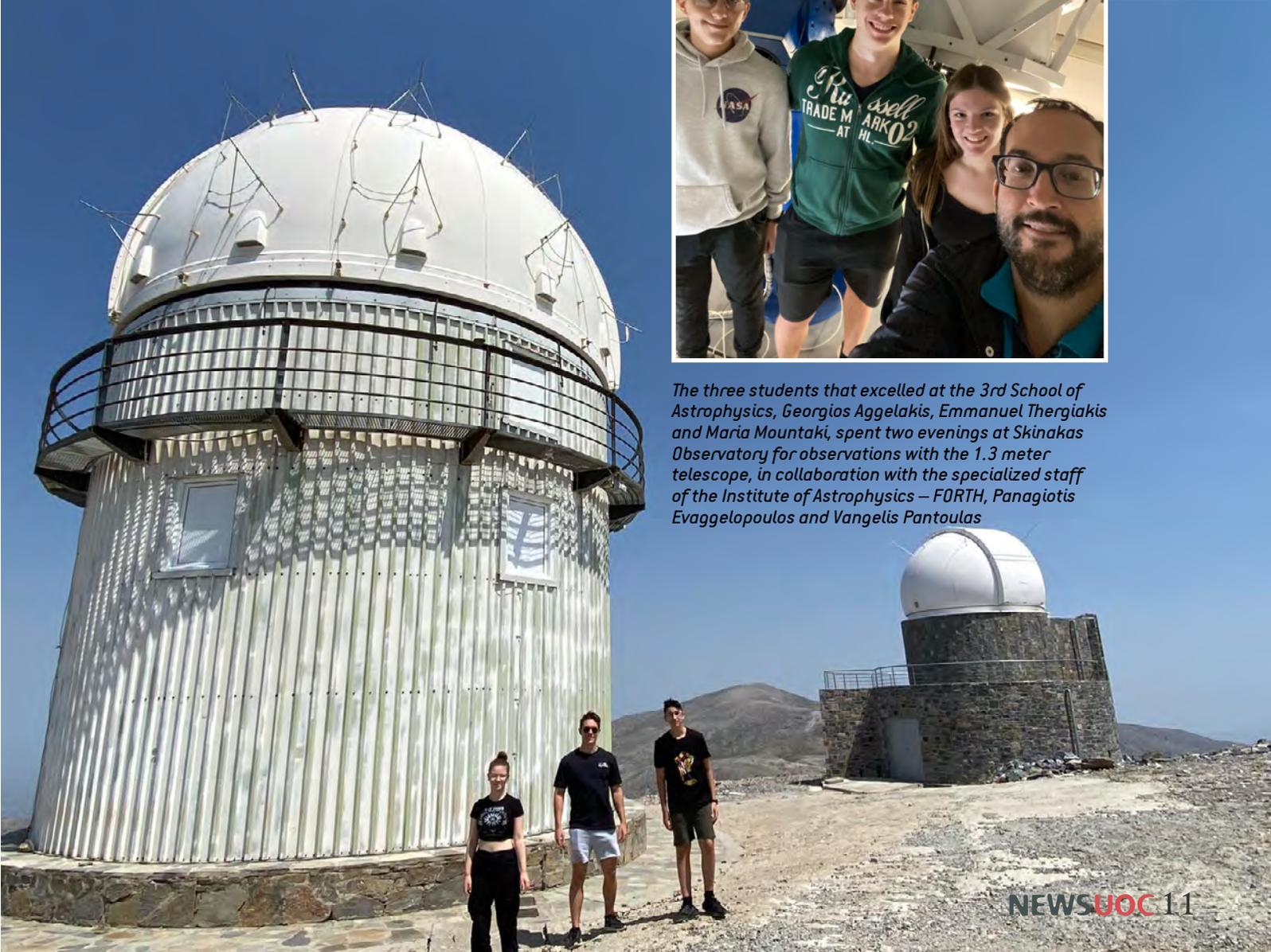
The 3rd School of Astrophysics took place from **March to May 2023**.

The school targets selected high school students throughout Crete who are interested in gaining further knowledge on the most important topics of astrophysics, as well as on the basic principles of physics that determine the way the Universe works. The School of Astrophysics is free of charge.

During the 3rd School of Astrophysics students followed a series of **8 online lectures** and were introduced to the basic topics of modern astrophysics, building on the high school physics knowledge that students already have. The goal of the school is to provide an incentive for students to discover the joy of understanding the world around us, to appreciate the crucial role of technology in data collection and analysis and to apply the methodology of solving astronomical questions to other fields of physics and life itself.



The three students that excelled at the 3rd School of Astrophysics, Georgios Aggelakis, Emmanuel Thergiakis and Maria Mountaki, spent two evenings at Skinakas Observatory for observations with the 1.3 meter telescope, in collaboration with the specialized staff of the Institute of Astrophysics – FORTH, Panagiotis Evaggelopoulos and Vangelis Pantoulas





UoC Summer School for AstroStatistics in Crete

19-23 June, Department of Physics, University of Crete, Heraklion

The Summer School for Astrostatistics aims to guide advanced undergraduate & graduate students and early postdocs in the use of the most common statistical tools for the analysis of a wide variety of data. Each topic includes an introductory part followed by a workshop (hands-on analysis of astronomical data) and puts particular emphasis on the development of coding abilities, which serves as a quick reference for everyday work.

This is the third iteration of a school hosted by the astronomy group of the Department of Physics of the University of Crete (see the previous events, held in [2019](#) and [2022](#)). The Department provides the computational facilities required by the classes. While some background in Python is helpful, the school is designed for interested students regardless of their programming experience.



The UoC Astronomy Group

The UoC Astronomy Group was founded in 2003 by UoC students who shared a common passion and love for Astronomy. The purpose of the group is to share knowledge about the fascinating field of astronomy within the academic & wider community.



The Group holds weekly meetings, including presentations on astronomical topics, observations with telescopes, visits and collaborations with schools, museums and various other institutions and groups. Their community actions include open events, presentations, treasure hunts, workshops, writing and publishing articles and videos of scientific and educational content and participation in the "Make a Wish" organization, for children who love the stars! Finally, the group organizes

observation excursions to the most public places (for the purpose of public contact) and to the most remote places of Crete (in search for the cleanest, least light-polluted skies).

* 20-year anniversary!*

The UoC Astronomy Group celebrated its 20-year anniversary on May 23, 2023, at the UoC Department of Physics in Heraklion!

The event opened with 4 speeches on topics related to astronomy, presenting professional options in the field of astronomy and important astronomical discoveries of the past 20 years. The invited speakers were Prof. Andreas Zezas, UoC Department of Physics, Nikos Mandarakas, PhD student & researcher, Panagiotis Evangelopoulos, Public Outreach of Astronomy Officer of the Institute of Astrophysics of FORTH and Panagiotis Pantzekos, President of the Association of Friends of Astronomy of Crete. Activities included astronomical games (board games, quizzes and bingo), painting for little astronomers, solar observation and a presentation about astrophotography. The event concluded with a demonstration of the team's astronomical equipment and observation with the telescopes of the Group.

[more info](#)



The University of Crete supports entrepreneurship and sustainable business practices through a variety of initiatives to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of its students and researchers. Emphasizing the integration of sustainable practices in business and providing opportunities for the development and promotion of innovative ideas, the University has created an environment where students and researchers can turn their business ideas into successful ventures. Through these initiatives, the University of Crete materializes its commitment to develop the next generation of entrepreneurs who will contribute to economic & social development as well as to the creation of a sustainable future.

A new UoC program to support Innovation & StartUps



The University of Crete actively supports Entrepreneurship, Innovation and the Exploitation of Research with a new program

In October 2022, the University of Crete launched a new program, featuring a series of activities, courses and services targeting UoC students and researchers. The program aims to support entrepreneurship and innovation, promote research results by presenting commercial exploitation prospects and strengthen the competences of the human potential within the university community.

The program **“Support Actions for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Growth for the Exploitation of Research Activity and New Products and Services developed at the University of Crete”** (KA 10990), is co-funded by national and European funds under the NSRF 2014-2020 Operational program and is implemented by the [UoC Career & Liaison Office](#) in collaboration with the [UoC Knowledge Transfer Office](#).



In the framework of the program, the University of Crete uses its long experience in the field of business education to run a new pilot research project to identify and assess the needs and trends in the field of entrepreneurial skills of human resources and establishes **new undergraduate and postgraduate courses**, as well as other innovative actions for young scientists and researchers. Under this scope, the creation of an **Innovation Hub** at the University of Crete is foreseen, in order to offer young researchers a meeting place and a suitable environment for the implementation of educational, training and skills development activities.

The new courses introduced at the curricula at undergraduate level will enrich the possibilities and choices of UoC students of all departments and focus on subjects such as "Management of Start-ups", "Business Strategy", "Social Entrepreneurship", "Entrepreneurial Exploitation of Research Results" and "Intellectual Property", among others. Emphasis is placed on the cultivation of entrepreneurial competencies, the development & empowerment of new ventures and the promotion and exploitation of innovative ideas that offer economic or social or environmental value, in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition, new postgraduate courses have been added to the [UoC TIME-MBE Postgraduate Program](#) that familiarize postgraduate students with the latest trends and developments in innovative entrepreneurship. By hosting lectures by expert scientists, academics and senior professionals of high and international standing, these courses will be taught in English and will focus on Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer, Decision Making for Innovative Ventures, New Technology Ventures, and Use of Innovation and Knowledge in R&D Intensive Firms.

Finally, in the framework of the program a series of alternative educational - experiential activities are organized that directly motivate, sensitize and involve the scientific community in the development of entrepreneurial thinking. Intensive workshops, specialized seminars and business games will offer a short but informative tour on the basic principles, tools, stages and objectives of entrepreneurship, including the first annual entrepreneurship competition of the University of Crete, "**Inno-storming**", which will take place for the first time in 2023.



The UoC Knowledge Transfer Office at BEYOND 2023 Exhibition in Thessaloniki May 24 – 26

The UoC Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) participated in the BEYOND 2023 exhibition, which took place in Thessaloniki during May 23-24, 2023. The exhibition provided an excellent opportunity for leading companies, innovation agencies and public stakeholders to discuss the latest developments and trends in various fields of innovation. During the exhibition, the UoC Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) presented its important role in bridging the gap between academic and business communities, supporting UoC researchers and innovative ideas. KTO is a dynamic hub for knowledge transfer and collaboration, organizing a variety of networking activities and actions that connect academic achievements with the industry and society. The participation of KTO in BEYOND 2023 exhibition further contributed to meaningful networking with industry leaders, potential partners and investors and was warmly embraced by other participants in the exhibition.

The University of Crete would like to thank the Innovative Entrepreneurship Observatory of the Region of Crete for the invitation to participate in its exhibition booth and for its efforts to support a sustainable innovation ecosystem on the island.



[more info](#)

[www](#)



From the left: Emmanouil Vergetakis, KTO, Chrisoula Daskalaki, Head of the Department of Development at the Region of Crete, Anna Doxastaki, KTO, Michail Mavlidis, Vice-Rector for Research & Development



Build & Launch Your

STARTUP

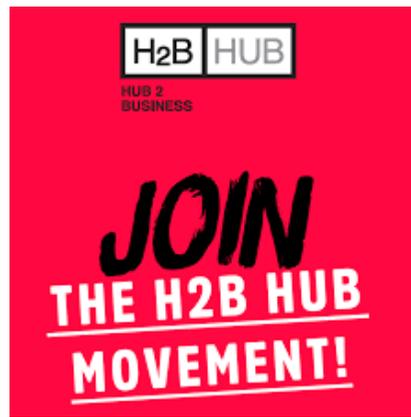
June 7, Pitching event, Voutes Campus, Heraklion

The program **“Build & Launch your Startup”** offers thematic workshops and guidance for business development and is implemented in the winter and spring semester of the academic year 2022-2023. The program invites UoC undergraduate and graduate students to design and develop viable business ideas for start-ups. During the spring semester, the program focused on sustainable development challenges: How to design the business model of a start-up that simultaneously (a) achieves profits, (b) creates positive social and/or environmental impact, addressing real-life problems related to sustainable development.

The presentation of the resulting innovative business ideas for start-ups (pitch decks) was held with great success at an event on June 7. The event was attended by entrepreneurs and business executives who shared their experience with the participating groups.

The **“Build & Launch Your Startup”** Game event is organized by the UoC Career and Liaison Office and is funded by the ESF and NSRF 2014-2020 Program.





The business value of sustainability

June 8, H2B HUB, Heraklion

The University of Crete and the Bizrupt non-profit organization organize an event titled “The business value of sustainability”. The event aims to raise awareness and provide information for the integration of sustainable development practices in entrepreneurship and is held on June 8 at the H2B HUB of the Chamber of Heraklion. Focusing on the increasing urgency of global environmental challenges and the growing demand for responsible business practices, entrepreneurs shall comprehend the importance of sustainability in shaping the future of their business.

The event assists start-ups to:

- take advantage of opportunities by identifying innovative solutions
- minimize risks
- meet the evolving expectations of consumers and stakeholders
- contribute to the collective effort to build a more sustainable and resilient global economy



Erasmus+News

May 29 – June 2

Visit of Gordon College staff to the University of Crete

The University of Crete hosted for the second time administrative and research staff from Gordon College (Haifa, Israel), continuing a fruitful collaboration that started in 2020 within the framework of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility programme (KA107, 2020-2023). The delegation of 6-members from Gordon College was welcomed in both University campuses by the Vice Rector of Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, International Relations and Outlook Prof. Georgios Kossioris, the Vice Rector for Planning, Administrative Affairs and Student Affairs, Professor Dimitrios Mylonakis and Head of the General Directorate of Administrative & Financial Services, E. Kapsalaki. The aim of the visit was to share expertise on innovative teaching methods and new digital, pedagogical tools, know-how and good practices with regard to the development of cooperation in various fields, mainly in the field of educational technology.

June 7-13

Staff Training Week at the Library of the University of Crete

The librarians Sheyla Piccotti from the Library of the Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy, and Anne de Maupeou from the Library of the L' Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, France, visited the Library of the University of Crete in Heraklion and Rethymnon within the framework of the ERASMUS + mobility programme for staff training.

The two librarians were trained in the services of the Library of the University of Crete, exchanged views and ideas with their colleagues and presented the services of their University Libraries. As part of the visit, a guided tour to the [Museum of Medicine](#) of the University of Crete was planned.

The UoC Library staff received positive feedback for the high-quality services it provides to the academic community.

Erasmus+ Experience

"Hey I'm Amalie. I'm a Danish medical student who just completed an internship at the University General Hospital of Heraklion. I came in February 2023 with my 9 months old son and his father who is on parental leave.

I really enjoyed my stay at the hospital. The doctors were supernice, and even though they were on a tight schedule, they (or the Greek students) translated the essentials. I was a bit surprised that the staff were arguing more loudly than I'm used to, but they were also more loving towards each other – they called it the "Mediterranean temper". Especially the use of

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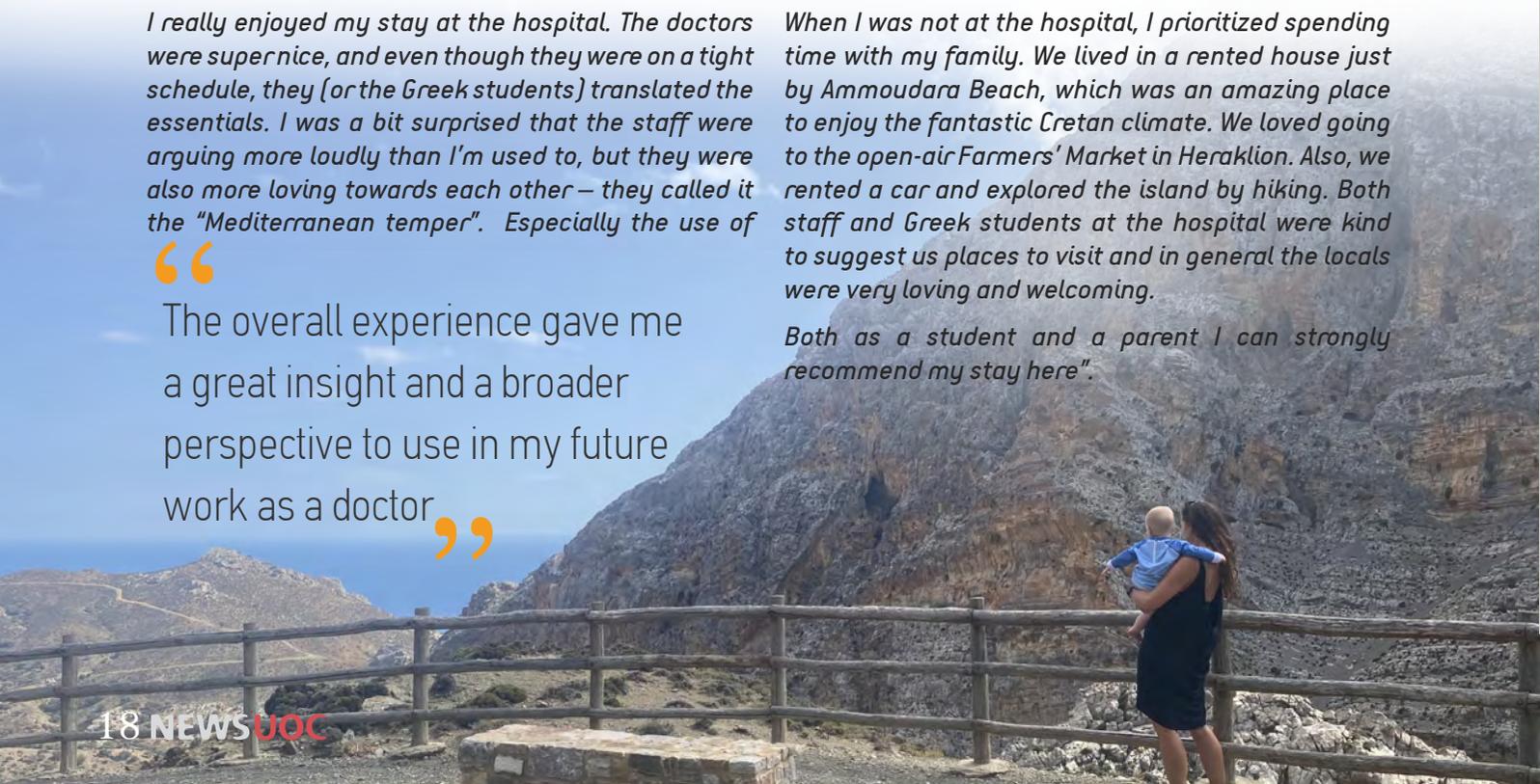
The overall experience gave me a great insight and a broader perspective to use in my future work as a doctor”

”

antibiotics was very different from what I'm used to, and so was the handwritten journals and the overall organization in the Hospital. The overall experience gave me a great insight and a broader perspective to use in my future work as a doctor.

When I was not at the hospital, I prioritized spending time with my family. We lived in a rented house just by Ammoudara Beach, which was an amazing place to enjoy the fantastic Cretan climate. We loved going to the open-air Farmers' Market in Heraklion. Also, we rented a car and explored the island by hiking. Both staff and Greek students at the hospital were kind to suggest us places to visit and in general the locals were very loving and welcoming.

Both as a student and a parent I can strongly recommend my stay here”.



Erasmus+ Projects



WITEA-ID

(Weeks of International Teaching – Inclusive and Digital)

WITEA-ID (Weeks of International Teaching – Inclusive and Digital) is a training research project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission, Agreement No 2020-1-CZ01-KA226-HE-094464 aiming to bring an innovative approach to internationalization in higher education in the digital environment.

WITEA-ID is a transnational project that draws on existing and emerging digital and international mobility competencies and skills needs in higher education, translating them into an approach of short term events with highly relevant inputs and reflecting critical cybersecurity issues.

The purpose of the WITEA-ID events is to facilitate a scientific cooperation mobility program that brings together students from local universities and selected students from partner universities. Additionally, other partner institutions from the program and partner countries will have the opportunity to participate either in person or online. The program for international participants consists of lectures, workshops, and social and cultural events. The objective of the events is to allow participants to explore international possibilities and exchange best practices with colleagues. The training courses offered during the Weeks of International Teaching events are specifically designed for teaching professionals at all levels of higher education who are interested in various practices within an international environment, particularly in the realm of digital teaching practices.

Follow "WITEA-ID" actions via the project website <https://witea-id.eu/> and the social networks [Facebook](#)

Scientific Responsible: **Michail Kalogiannakis**, Associate Professor, Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete.



Care Project

(Enhancing Early Childhood Education and Care in Palestine)

CARE is a training research project funded by the European Union (Erasmus+, Agreement No KA2-618061-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP) Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education.

CARE project aims to ensure sustainable delivery of early childhood services through government commitment and strengthened partnership with universities, families and relevant institutions locally, regionally and internationally.

Partners from both Palestine and the European Union have come together to work on this innovative and exciting project. Care project focuses on placing the rights of the Palestinian child as a priority issue for both government and the Palestinian people to ensure the highest level of equality and justice in obtaining non-compulsory education. CARE project targets areas where children do not have the opportunity to avail of kindergarten supports, as well areas where children are already enrolled in a kindergarten. CARE project adapts best practices from far and wide to provide advice and support for nursery and kindergarten teachers and parents and all others who interact with them at this critical period of a child's development.

Follow "CARE" actions via the project website <https://care.edu.ps/> and the social networks [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Linkedin](#).

Scientific Responsible: **Michail Kalogiannakis**, Associate Professor, Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete.

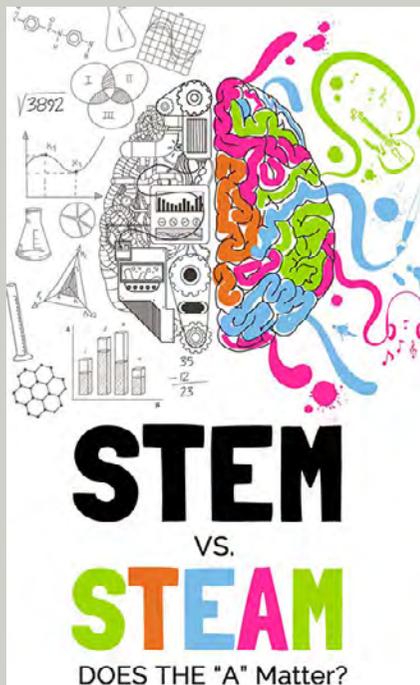


NGSS Project (Next Generation Science Standards through STEAM)

NGSS is a training research project funded by the European Union (Erasmus+, Agreement No 2020-1-TR01-KA201-094463 2020) whose main objective is the promotion of STEM and Arts (STEAM) in preschool education. Drawing its principles from a range of innovative and interactive approaches (e.g. drama, gamification and physical education) it focuses on students' social and emotional learning (SEL) including social, emotional and cognitive skills. The integration of Art in STEM contributes to the development of students' communicative and cooperative skills, critical thinking and creativity. This novel approach targets to promote an inclusive and non-stereotyping science education in preschool settings, raising the participation of girls or disadvantaged children in STEM lessons and professions. Through teachers' training it aims to increase their awareness on equal participation of all children in STEM lessons and to abolish any kind of discriminative attitudes they may encounter. The project also aims to raise teachers' readiness and confidence to include STEAM in their everyday practices.

A number of 100 teachers coming from different European countries, 300 students and 55 school settings are expected to participate in the project's pilot implementation. Finally, the project focuses on the contribution of 18 women and STEM professionals, 30 educational institutions, 220 participants in its training or dissemination events focusing on more than 300 educational organizations.

Scientific Responsible: **Maria Ampartzaki**, Associate Professor, Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete, Greece.



Scientific Responsible of WITEA-ID & CARE projects: Michail Kalogiannakis, Associate Professor at the Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete.



Scientific Responsible of NGSS Project: Maria Ampartzaki, Associate Professor at the Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete.

TRIGGER Project

Solutions for Mitigating climate-induced health threats (2022-2027)

TRIGGER project (Solutions for Mitigating climate-induced health threats) aims to investigate the complex linkage between climate change, human health, and ecosystems and develop useful tools for climate action and policy making. To address this challenge, TRIGGER commits an interdisciplinary consortium of 22 partners from 15 different countries with exceeding expertise in the fields of health sciences, climate and environmental science, monitoring technologies and data management to develop an outreaching clinical study based on a multi-dimensional approach.

The engine of this EU HORIZON project is the 5 newly founded **Climate-Health Connection (CHC) Labs** in the 5 European cities of Augsburg (Germany), Bologna (Italy), Geneva (Switzerland), Heraklion (Greece), and Oulu (Finland). The 5 CHC Labs focus on data collection with the active engagement of citizens, practitioners and policymakers, representing a wide variety of climatic, social, economic, and cultural contexts. The TRIGGER consortium is committed to implementing **Open Science practices** and fostering co-creation as an essential methodological component of innovation and research in all project activities.

The **UoC Department of Pediatrics of the School of Medicine** participates in TRIGGER project under the guidance of the Scientific Director and Professor of Pediatrics **Mr. Emmanouil Galanakis**.

The **Heraklion CHC-Lab** has long experience in studying the impact of climate change-related desert dust storms on children's health and has involved local authorities, social partners, and the media in disseminating knowledge and experience related to this topic. The University of Crete School of Medicine has also participated in an EU LIFE+ Programme on the impact of dust pollution on human health, both in adults with arrhythmias (Dept of Cardiology Prof E Simantirakis) and in asthmatic children (Dept of Paediatrics, Prof E Galanakis). Crete is the largest island of Greece and fairly secluded from the mainland. Due to its location in the Mediterranean as the southernmost European land, the island is currently undergoing various changes due to climate change, which results in a multifactorial impact, ranging from the health of inhabitants and visitors to livestock and agriculture. These conditions make Crete an ideal setting for the study of climate change effects in relation to human health and present an opportunity to develop mitigation strategies. The Heraklion CHC-



Lab focuses on studies linking the health of high-risk groups of children and their families to data on atmospheric composition, air quality and climate change provided by the **UoC Finokalia Atmospheric Observatory** and strengthening alliances with the regional authorities of Crete and the local media, two very important actors in applying and disseminating research outcomes, towards a sustainable future and a healthier society.

more info



TRIGGER 2nd Annual Meeting in Heraklion Crete

The 2nd annual meeting of TRIGGER project took place on June 21-23, 2023, in Heraklion at Capsis Astoria Hotel. During the three days of the meetings, the consortium jointly revised the work package progress and organized workshops on the **Climate-Health Connection (CHC) Labs** and project trials, the Climate-Health Cluster, as well as for communication, dissemination, and exploitation aspects. Meeting up helped build trust, enrich collaboration, accelerate the resolution of important aspects of the project and contributed to mutual understanding and fostering communication. For more information about TRIGGER and its ongoing work, follow the project's social media networks and subscribe to the Newsletter.

Honorary Doctorate for Professor Daniel Pauly

from the UoC Department of Biology



The UoC Department of Biology awarded Daniel Pauly, Professor at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada), an honorary doctorate for his remarkable scientific contribution in the field of marine biology on **May 16, 2023**, at Voutes Campus in Heraklion.

Prof. Pauly addressed participants in the ceremony with a speech on **“Some key papers and ideas from a 50-year career in marine biology (1973- 2023)”**.



Professor Daniel Pauly has served at various academic and research institutions, most recently at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada), and is one of the most important scientists in the field of marine research. He has published more than 380 papers and his work has garnered circa 120,000 citations and an h-index of 142 on Google Scholar. Based on these quantitative data,

he is the most recognized scientist in the categories “Marine Ecosystems” and “Fisheries”. Prof. Pauly is the founder of [FISHBASE](#), a global biodiversity information system and the largest online database on fish species, the creator of important mathematical models for aquatic ecosystems and of many important theoretical concepts such as “fishing down the food-web” and “Shifting baselines”. He envisioned and coordinated the [“Sea Around Us project”](#) and developed new and groundbreaking methods for estimating fish populations. His distinguished work has greatly influenced the scientific community and marine resource management policies around the world.

Distinctions



UCRC Excellence Award for Doctoral Candidates

The 2022 –2023 Excellence Award for Doctoral Candidates of the [University of Crete Research Center for the Humanities, the social & Education Sciences](#) was awarded to two PhD candidates who produced a research paper of excellent quality and high impact in their field.

The awardees are Ms. Ekaterini Iliopoulou from the UoC Department of Philology and Ms. Panagiota Karamaouna, from the UoC Department of Psychology. The awarded grant is donated by Gutenberg Publications (C. Dardanos - K. Dardanos).

Ms. Ekaterini Iliopoulou received the award for her paper titled "Consonant substitutions in Greek aphasia: exploring the patterns and seeking the mechanisms". The paper was presented at the conference of the Linguistics Division of the Department of Philology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and explores the phonological patterns that appear in the speech of people with aphasia, i.e. people with an acquired language disorder, as a consequence of brain damage.

Ms Panagiota Karamaouna received the Award for her thesis titled "Logical and emotional cognitive processing between four schizotypal dimensions". The paper was presented at the 8th Scientific Meeting of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology & 2nd Panhellenic Conference on Neuropsychology. The aim of the study is to compare the cold and warm cognitive dimensions in populations with high schizotypal and psychiatric characteristics.

UoC students win the 29th Economia Group Student Competition

Students of the UoC Department of Economic Sciences of the University of Crete won the 1st prize in the 29th Economia Group Student Competition titled «Strategies to enhance sustainability: Environment, Society and Corporate Governance (ESG)». The UoC team presented a paper titled «The value of ESG in entrepreneurship: A comparative study between Europe and Greece». Congratulations to the UoC team, **Sevasti Kavalinaki, Pelagia Zagou, Mikilino Karameta and Evangelia-Stavroula Pavlidi!**



An important distinction for **Mr. George Sourvinos**, Professor of Clinical Virology at the School of Medicine of the University of Crete and Director of the Clinical Virology Laboratory at the University General Hospital of Heraklion, who was **elected to the Advisory Council of the European Society for Virology** during the Society's Congress, held in Gdansk, Poland in May 4-7, 2023. This is the first time Greece is represented in the European Society of Virology and participates in the design of educational, research, monitoring and prevention programs for viral infections.



The proposal of Emeritus Professor of General Medicine and Primary Health Care **Christos Lionis** titled «**European Vaccination Beyond Covid**», submitted under the EU4H-2022- PJ5 EU4Health Programme, was positively evaluated by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency of the EC. The University of Crete is honored for his distinction and the opportunity to coordinate an important European project.



Aristides Tsatsakis, Professor of Toxicology at the UoC School of Medicine and Director of the Laboratory of Forensic Science & Toxicology, was **elected Member of Academia Europaea**. This distinction is an important recognition of Prof. Tsatsakis' work and contribution to research throughout his academic career.



Panagiotis Manousakas, student of the UoC Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences, was distinguished in track and field at the **Panhellenic Athletics Championship** for men & women with disabilities on May 11, 2023, in Thessaloniki. This was his first participation in an official championship, in which he won two medals: the gold medal in the 200 meters dash (T37 category) and the bronze medal in the 100 meters dash. The championship, where national, European and world records were set, was completed with the participation of 46 sports clubs for people with disabilities from all over the country and 440 athletes. Congratulations Panagiotis!



An important distinction for **Elena Anagnostopoulou**, Professor of Linguistics at the UoC Department of Philology, who won the highly competitive ERC Advanced Grant 2022 program that supports the work of outstanding scientists. Elena Anagnostopoulou's project titled "**Phylogenies probing Grammar. Exploring morphosyntax at different scales of language change (PhylProGramm)**" aspires to deliver an innovative contribution to the evaluation of language morphology & syntax features, in relation to the historical information they provide, using quantitative computational phylogenetic methods used in evolutionary biology in combination with qualitative and in-depth linguistic (theoretical, historical, and typological) research. Congratulations!



University News

3-5/5 International Conference: "Combating skills mismatch in education"



The International Conference "Combating skills mismatch in education. Exchanging Paradigms and enhancing skills transferability for combating students' skills mismatch in education" takes place in May at Gallos Campus, Rethymnon, in the framework of the Erasmus+ project TASTstrategy ([TeAching Strategies](#)) in collaboration with the UoC Department of Primary Education, under the auspices of the Region of Crete. The TASTstrategy project aims to develop teaching strategies to combat university failure and to tackle skills mismatches. The seven thematic sections of the conference holistically approach issues related to educational strategies & policies, professional development of teachers, evaluation and employability.

[See more.](#)

3-7/5 4th International Conference: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) - eLearning - eCreativity 2023"

The [e-Learning Lab](#) of the UoC Department of Primary Education organizes the 4th International Conference on "Artificial Intelligence - eLearning - eCreativity 2023" in the framework of the master's program "Educational Sciences - Distance Education with the use of ICT", at Gallos Campus Rethymnon, in collaboration with the [NGO "The Smile of the Child"](#) and

the State Scholarship Foundation.

The Conference includes the following activities:

- Student eLearning – eCreativity Festival
- Presentations – Round Tables
- Educational activities in ODYSSEAS Mobile Lab, provided by the NGO "The Smile of the Child"
- Experiential Workshops for Pupils, Parents, Teachers and Students

3&10/5 9th and 10th Online meeting of the Teaching and Learning Centre/TotT

The Teaching and Learning Centre (TotT) of the University of Crete and the Training of the Trainers Committee co-organize the 9th and 10th online meeting for the academic year 2022-23. The 9th online meeting is titled: "Constructively aligned assessment", presented by Dr. Liisa Myyry (University of Helsinki), while the 10th online meeting is titled: "Research based development of teaching" and is presented by Dr Päivi Kinnunen (Aalto University).

9/5 International Workshop on Sustainable Development by the UoC Center for Train- ing and Lifelong Learning (KEDIVIM)

The 1st International Workshop of the [Center for Training and Lifelong Learning \(KEDIVIM\)](#) of the University of Crete, on "[Key determinants and aspects of Sustainability: interdisciplinary approaches](#)" takes place online on May 9 with the participation of distinguished speakers from China, Malaysia, USA, UK and Greece. The Workshop is organized by KEDIVIM in collaboration with the International Cultural Communication Centre Malaysia (ICCCM) and the International Transnational Education Association (ITEA). The Workshop is part of a new large-scale collaboration between the University of Crete and ICCCM for the design of Training Programs in China.

Please read the full program [here](#).

15/5 “Ruling and Teaching in Socrates and Confucius”: Hybrid Workshop | Ancient Greece and China: Comparative Approaches

The [Philosophical Research and Translation Lab](#) of the UoC Department of Philosophy and Social Studies organizes the International Hybrid Workshop “Ruling and Teaching in Socrates and Confucius” in the framework of the University of Crete actions to promote the comparative study of the Greek and Chinese ancient civilization. Speakers: Matt Walker (Yale-NUS College) and Francesca Pentassuglio (“Sapienza” University of Rome), Zhonghe Liang (Sichuan University). For more information: [Program of the Hybrid Workshop](#) Chairperson: Chloe Balla (University of Crete).

for Research & Innovation (H.F.R.I) in the framework of the research project “Feminisms and Politics in the Interwar Balkans (1923- 1939)”. For more information: [Workshop Program](#).



16&17/5 New MITOS #3 | Two-day interactive event on IPR and Open Innovation



The [UoC Knowledge Transfer Office](#) co-organizes in collaboration with Bizrupt, innovation enabler, and Fay Orfanou, trainer, Co-founder Sci-2- biz and Technology Transfer Advisor, a two-day interactive event: “MITOS #3 - IPR & Open Innovation Training”. The event is funded by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) as part of the “EntreUnity” project. The program includes interactive presentations, open discussion and hands-on training through case studies for master students and PhD candidates.

25-27/5 27th International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis and International Finance



The UoC Department of Economic organizes the [27th International Conference on Macroeconomic Analysis and International Finance](#) at Gallus Campus, Rethymnon. Keynote speakers include Academics and Economic Policy Advisors from the USA and Canada: Kevin Hassett (Hoover Institution), Loukas Karabarounis (University of Minnesota), Kai Li (University of British Columbia) and Mark Spiegel (Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco). 175 professors from European, American and worldwide Institutions participate in the conference, including researchers and representatives of international economic associations. The conference program includes

19-20/5 Workshop: Entangled Histories of Feminist Advocacies in the Interwar Balkans and Central Europe (1923-1939)

The UoC Department of History and Archaeology organizes a workshop funded by Hellenic Foundation

162 presentations of research papers, addressing a wide range of topics, such as: Macroeconomic Policy, Macroeconomics of the European Union, Macroeconomics of Developing Countries, Financial and Exchange Rate Crises, Monetary Policy, Economic Growth, Prices and Inflation, Labor Markets, Business Cycles and International Finance.

Conference site: <https://icmaif.soc.uoc.gr/>

30/5 **10th Webinar of the Knowledge Transfer Office**

The [UoC Knowledge Transfer Office](#) in collaboration with the Master's program in Business [Economics TIMEBE](#), organize the 10th webinar for the academic year 2022-2023 titled "Benefit-sharing and the new multilateral mechanism for Digital Sequence Information". Presenter: Margo A. Bagley, Emory University.

31/5 **How can educational action research help academic development**

An online seminar organized in the framework of the [COALITION PROJECT \(Coaching Academics as Learners in Inclusive Optimal Networks\)](#) that explores the potentials of educational action research in Higher Education. Main speakers: Eleni Katsarou (University of Crete) and Elia Maria Fernandez (University of Cantabria)

16-17/6 **CELEBRATING 30 YEARS of Finokalia Environmental Observatory**

[Finokalia Environmental Observatory](#), run by the UoC Department of Chemistry, celebrates its 30th anniversary and invites us to a series of events in June 16-17 in Agios Nikolaos and the beautiful region of Finokalia / Nofalia, Lasithi.

Please read the [full program of events](#).

21/6 **The UoC Choir Celebrates World Music Day**

The UoC Choir of the Schools of Rethymnon celebrated World Music day with an inspiring tribute to famous Greek choral compositions at Gallos Campus and at the old city of Rethymnon. The University community together with the society of Rethymnon and its visitors enjoyed a wonderful trip to Greek choral music in a warm summer evening. The UoC Choir of the Schools of Rethymnon is composed of members of the University community, including students, academic & administrative staff. Direction: Mrs. Mariella Vitorou.

26/6 **International Conference: "Combating Poverty and Deprivation. Social and Spatial Dimensions of Sustainable Development Policies"**

An international conference on "Combating Poverty and Deprivation" is organized by the Regional Observatory for Social Inclusion, in collaboration with the Social Analysis and Applied Social Research Laboratory of the UoC Department of Sociology at the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The aim of the Conference is to develop an integrated approach for combating social exclusion of special and vulnerable social groups in Crete. Priorities of the Strategy include combating extreme poverty, preventing and fighting the exclusion of children, better access to social services and quality social services, promoting active inclusion and work inclusion, and strengthening social policy governance.

See More [information here](#).



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