

NEWSUOC

Periodical Edition of the University of Crete - Issue
11- June - July 2024 - www.uoc.gr

INTERNATIONAL

Picasso exhibition: The Joy of Life



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC

EDITORIAL TEAM

Director:
Georgios Kossioris

Edition Coordinator:
Tonia Tzanaki

Editorial team:
Georgios Kossioris
Antonia Konstandeli
Agapi Vathianaki
Stella Melina Vasilaki
Evgenia Skountaki

Graphic editing – illustration:
Anna Arkoulaki



Cover photo:
Pablo Picasso, "Head of Faun", exhibited
at the Museum of Eleutherna

The English Newsletter is partly based
on the [Greek Newsletter of UoC](#)

more info



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 The University of Crete participates in EURAXESS Biennial Conference 2024
- 4 A delegation from Beijing Foreign Studies University visits the University of Crete
- 5 Picasso exhibition in Eleutherna: The joy of life
- 8 Environment Festival in Finokalia
- 11 Digitalization of Greek Natural History Collections
- 13 INGENIUM Students and Staff for a more interconnected European Education Area
- 15 UoC Students participate in the Annual Summer School of the European Investment Bank
- 18 UoC Summer Schools: an unforgettable experience
- 24 Avery Hurst's Fulbright Journey: Bridging Cultures and Advancing Science
- 26 The exhibition Levante by Lucio Schiavon at the UoC School of Medicine
- 28 Distinctions
- 30 News

The University of Crete participates in EURAXESS Biennial Conference 2024



EURAXESS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2024

The University of Crete participated in the EURAXESS Biennial Conference 2024, held from June 10 to 12 at the Silesian Museum in Katowice, Poland. This prestigious event gathered leading researchers and innovation experts from across Europe to discuss advancements in career development, research mobility, and collaborative projects within the European Research Area.

The [Welcome Office of the University of Crete \(UoC\)](#), represented by Mrs Evgenia Skountaki, actively participated, presenting their services and initiatives to support incoming researchers and students. This participation highlighted the university's commitment to scientific excellence and international collaboration.

For more details on the conference, visit the [official Euraxess page](#).

A delegation from Beijing Foreign Studies University

visits the University of Crete



On July 3, 2024, the academic authorities of the University of Crete welcomed a six-member delegation from Beijing Foreign Studies University, led by Professor Wang Dinghua, Chairman of the Board of Governors, at Gallos University Campus in Rethymnon. The meeting concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) is one of China's two universities specializing in teaching foreign languages and cultures. BFSU promotes the teaching of 101 foreign languages, including Greek, and focuses on the fields of humanities, law, economics, management, and education.

The new collaboration will be supported by Erasmus+ programs, student and teaching staff exchanges, and

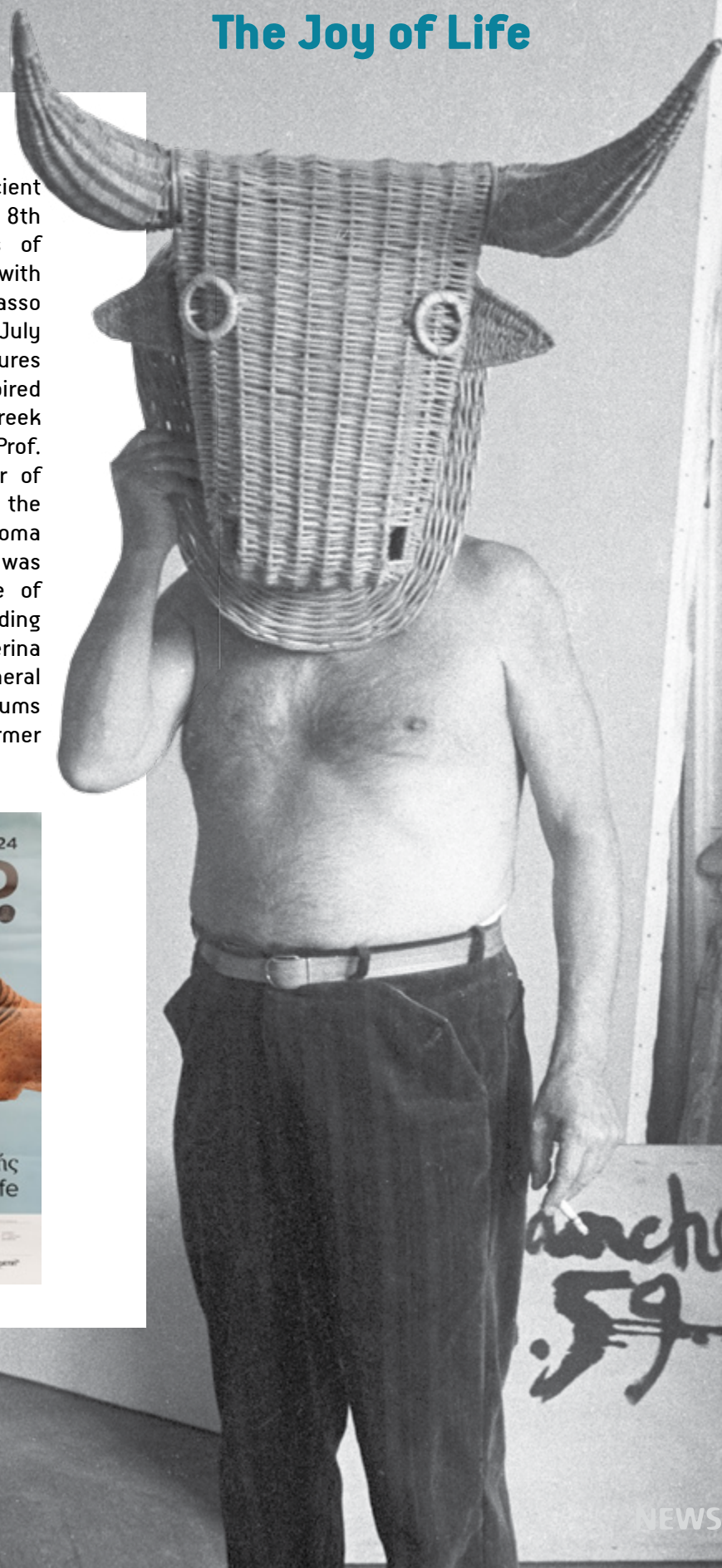
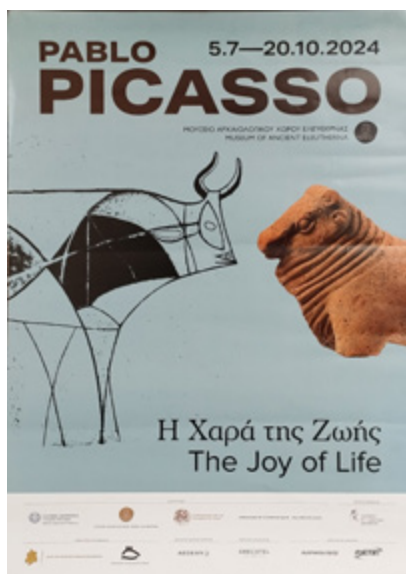
joint research projects between the BFSU and the University of Crete. Sharing experience in teaching Greek as a foreign language is expected to benefit both academic institutions. The holistic approach of the BFSU curriculum is not limited to language teaching but also embraces the language's broader historical, social, and cultural context.

The University of Crete has already established strong ties with Chinese Higher Education Institutions through a number of agreements, summerschools and student and teaching staff exchanges. The meeting with Beijing Foreign Studies University executives is a step forward, enriching the ongoing exchange between Greece and China and the University of Crete's commitment to extend its international network in academic research and exchange.

Picasso exhibition: The Joy of Life



The Museum of Ancient Eleutherna celebrates its 8th anniversary and 80 years of excavation works in the site with the inauguration of the Picasso exhibition "The Joy of Life" on July 5, 2024. The exhibition features 62 original Picasso works inspired by the Mediterranean and Greek mythology, curated by Prof. Nikos Stampolidis, excavator of Eleutherna and Director of the Acropolis Museum, and Paloma Picasso. The inauguration was honored with the presence of many special guests, including the Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, the general director of the Vatican Museums Barbara Jatta and the former Queen of Spain, Sofia.





Paloma Picasso dedicated the exhibition to her late brother Claude, who passed away in 2023. In her address, she spoke about the love of her brother for Crete and the Aegean, where his ashes were scattered, and “the joy of life” they both experienced as children growing up in the French riviera, surrounded by the Mediterranean light, color, and warmth. The exhibition aspires to revive this feeling, presenting selected Picasso works on nature, animals and the magical

world of Greek mythology. At the same time, the exhibition aims to link Picasso works to the Museum’s permanent artifacts, transcending time and space to create a new and unique experience for visitors.



Picasso and the Minotaur

The Minotaur is a recurring theme in Picasso’s work, linked to his exploration of inner conflict and the primal instincts of the human psyche. A creature of the Cretan mythology, the Minotaur has the body of a man and the head of a bull, representing a powerful, dualistic figure that embodies both human and animalistic qualities. This duality allowed Picasso to further explore themes of power, ambiguity, and desire, which were often linked to his own personality and artistic identity. By invoking this myth, Picasso not only connects his work to the ancient cultural heritage of the Mediterranean but also uses it to address universal themes that transcend time and place. The Minotaur, as depicted by Picasso, becomes a timeless symbol of the human condition, rooted in the mythological past but resonating with contemporary existential questions.



The Museum & Excavation of Ancient Eleutherna

The Museum of ancient Eleutherna – Homer in Crete is the first archaeological site museum in Crete. Archaeological evidence suggests that Eleutherna was one of Crete's most important ancient cities, a capital city in the Geometric and Archaic periods, whose life spans until the Early Byzantine periods. In 1985, Eleutherna was integrated into the study program of the UoC Department of History and Archaeology as an educational excavation. Since then, it has been used for the on-site training of students in excavation techniques and cutting-edge technologies in Archaeology.

In 2009, the American periodical *Archaeology* listed the Orphi Petra cemetery of Eleutherna as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries worldwide. It is the first and only excavation in Greece to receive such honorary reference.

[more info](#)



Environment Festival at Finokalia Hub



The University of Crete celebrated World Environment Day 2024 on June 28-29 with a festival set amidst the breathtaking landscape of eastern Crete. All activities were dedicated to raising awareness about the effects of global warming on human society, inspiring action and fostering a deeper connection with nature. Participants explored sustainable practices and learned about scientific methods to monitor and preserve our ecosystem for future generations.

On June 28, [Finokalia Station](#) was presented to the public during the open-door festivities, in a continuous dissemination effort to improve our understanding of atmospheric composition and climate change in the Eastern Mediterranean. The festivities continued with an open public event on “climate change impacts on agriculture in Greece” that took place in the town of Agios Nikolaos, co-organized by the University of Crete and the Academy of Athens as a dissemination activity of CLIMPACT, the Greek flagship on Climate Change and its impacts in Greece. The CLIMPACT event brought together regional and local authorities, the productive agricultural sector, and scientists to discuss current and future climate changes and their main threats to Greek farming activities and food security, both experienced and predicted.

On June 29, activities took place at the Research and Innovation Dissemination Hub of Finokalia, which consists of the [environmental station of the University of Crete at Finokalia](#) and the nearby old

school of Nofalia. The day started with a visit to the station and a briefing on its research activities. In the afternoon, experiments of climate-relevant processes and educational activities for children and adults were presented at the School of Nofalia by seven teams from the University of Crete, the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), the Hellenic Center for Marine Research, the Natural History Museum of Crete and the 2nd Experimental Center of Natural Sciences of Heraklion. The experiments fascinated kids and grownups alike and demonstrated that science can and must be fun!

The festival concluded in the evening with stargazing and live traditional music with groups from the University of Crete and local artists.

The celebrations at the Finokalia station aimed to increase public environmental awareness and remind people that teamwork, collaborative effort, close ties with the local community, and hard labor have contributed to scientific excellence and continuity.

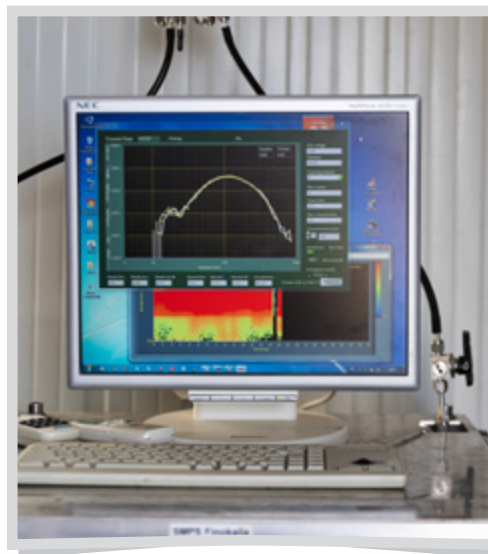


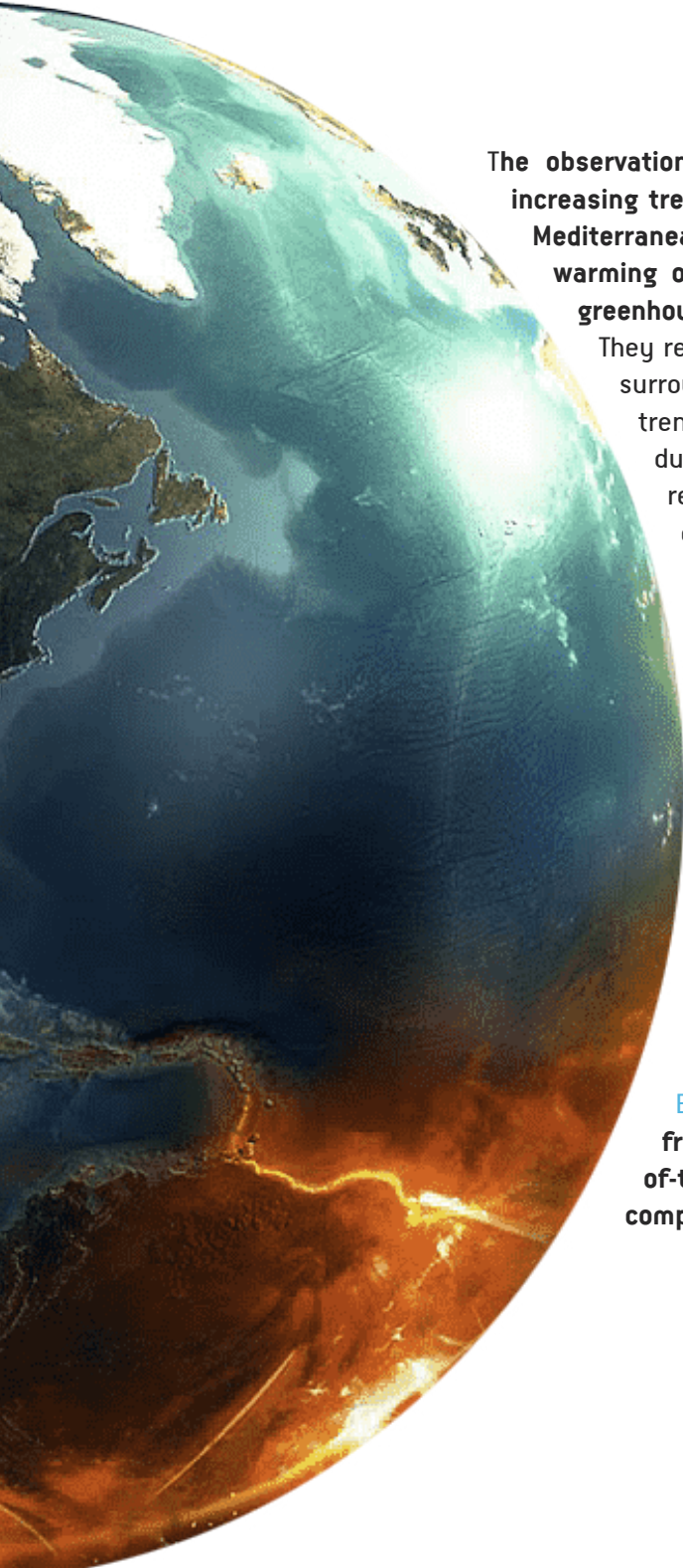
Finokalia Station and climate change research

Presented by Prof. Maria Kanakidou

Since 1993, the Environmental Chemical Processes Laboratory (ECPL) of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Crete (UOC) operates the [Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Finokalia](#), which celebrated thirty years of operation last year. The station at Finokalia, situated near the northern coastline of Crete on top of a small hill at 250 meters above sea level, far from any significant human activity, is subject to transported pollution from long distances and has been documented as representative of the background Eastern Mediterranean atmosphere. Located at the crossroad of air masses originating from different pollution sources from surrounding areas, the station is affected by urban centers of Central Europe and Balkans from the North, Sahara African desert from the South and the Asia continent from the East, depending on the wind direction. The entire Mediterranean is affected by several intensive wildfires during the summer season that increase atmospheric pollutants levels that can be observed by satellites, as well as at Finokalia, depending on the air mass trajectories.

Finokalia station provides invaluable information on the evolution of the atmospheric environment in the region with unique long-term data on a continuous basis, such as surface ozone data starting in 1998 and particulate matter data since 2004 and greenhouse gases, notably carbon dioxide and methane, absorbing aerosol and extinction of solar radiation since 2002, thus systematically observing both warming and cooling constituents of the atmosphere. Therefore, it attracts intense scientific interest, hosts innovative field experiments and provides access to researchers from abroad to carry out targeted experiments. The station participates in the most important international research infrastructures and networks of environmental research stations like the ICOS for the greenhouse gases, the ACTRIS for the aerosol-cloud observations, the eLTER for ecosystem observations and the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).





The observations at Finokalia station document the continuation of the increasing trends of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) in the East Mediterranean, major greenhouse gases (Figure 1) contributing to the warming of our planet. These data consist of the longest record of greenhouse gases observations in the East Mediterranean region.

They reflect the existence of oil, natural gas and landfill CH₄ sources surrounding the region. Finokalia observations show decreasing trends in human driven aerosol like sulfates, and in carbon monoxide due to implementation of clean air policy in the 90s. These long records together with satellite observations and meteorological data revealed the key role of pollution aerosols in partially masking the warming effect of greenhouse gases.

In recent years, the station has increased its efforts to share its results with the general public, placing particular emphasis on reaching students. Through the [Edu4Clima programme](#) supported by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, Finokalia station provides secondary school students the opportunity to learn and experiment on air pollution and climate change through out of school experience. In addition, secondary education students and in-service teachers find support and networking on how to teach climate change through the [ERASMUS + Teacher's Academy on climate change \(CLIMADEMY\)](#) where Finokalia station and its surrounding facilities support the Greek hub of the Academy. Finally, in the frame of the EU collaboration project [EDU4CLIMATE](#), Finokalia hub is offering new PhD theses and from next year on will host specialized summer schools on state-of-the-art technologies in observing and modeling atmospheric composition and climate change for young researchers.

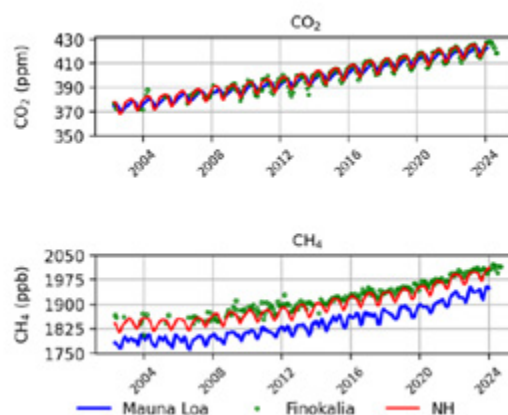


Figure 1. (top) CO₂ increased by 2.4 ppm·yr⁻¹ at Finokalia between 2002 and 2023, following the average rate of increase of CO₂ in the north hemisphere. (bottom) CH₄ levels also show an increasing trend in Greece, with 8.6 ppb·yr⁻¹ at Finokalia since 2002 but at an accelerated rate since 2018 (13.1 ppb·yr⁻¹)



CLIMADEMY

CLIMAtE change teachers' acaDEMY

Digitalization of Greek Natural History Collections

The University of Crete coordinates the digitalization of a large portion of the Greek Natural History Collections, as well as the establishment of a digital hub to host them, with the collaboration of eight different institutions from across Greece: the [Natural History Museum of Crete](#) of the University of Crete, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Patras, the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Goulandris Natural History Museum, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, the Natural History Museum of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos and the University of the Aegean.

This ambitious project is particularly important because, in addition to being part of the national cultural heritage, the Greek Natural History Collections provide invaluable national infrastructure for the study and assessment of biodiversity, as well as the basis for monitoring the effects of environmental change over time.

Upon completion of the project, the digitized natural history collections of the aforementioned institutions will be made available to a wide range of users, serving as the foundation for delivering the knowledge required to address major environmental and societal challenges.



The University of Crete is involved in the project through the Natural History Museum of Crete (NHMC), which possesses the most extensive natural history collections in Greece, with over 3 million specimens from the Eastern Mediterranean region, with a focus on Greece and the Aegean. NHMC is Greece's sole natural history museum that is an active member of the Consortium of [European Taxonomic Facilities \(CETAF\)](#) and has been designated as the national representative in the European DiSSCo consortium. The digitalization of the NHMC collections marks a new era for the University of Crete, as it contributes to world knowledge as a partner of Europe's important collections.



INGENIUM Students and Staff for a more interconnected European Education Area

European Universities Alliances create a new scene in the European Education Area as they offer opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, enhance interinstitutional collaborations and promote academic excellence. Students are at the heart of these alliances and their active participation develops a global perspective and fosters a spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding.

The University of Oviedo welcomed 50 students and staff members from partner universities across the [INGENIUM Alliance](#) in Mieres Campus from the 24th to the 28th of June 2024 to explore the way students' engagement can lead towards a more interconnected European Education Area and staff's contribution to explore the barriers and enablers of such engagement.

The student-centered initiative, titled "Fostering Student Participation for a More Interconnected European Education Area," was designed to empower students with the essential skills and knowledge to make meaningful contributions to INGENIUM's success. This program attracted a wide range of participants, including student representatives and individuals unaffiliated with student associations, all of whom shared a common interest in INGENIUM. Throughout the program, participants explored the

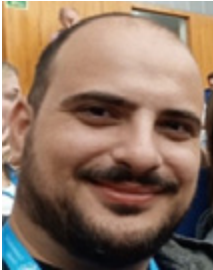
alliance's key objectives, priorities, and activities, gaining a thorough understanding of its mission. They assessed the current state of student involvement across partner universities and worked together to devise strategies aimed at increasing participation. Ultimately, they established a foundation for a collaborative student engagement strategy that promises to benefit the entire INGENIUM community.

Along with students, a diverse group of professionals and staff from INGENIUM partners collaborated towards: "Creating Comprehensive Engagement Strategies for the European Universities Initiative: The INGENIUM Example". Scholars, policymakers, technical experts, and administrative staff united to exchange ideas and craft practical proposals for the future of the alliance. The program prompted participants to identify the obstacles and facilitators of engagement, assess current participation rates within their universities, and investigate effective collaboration methods with partner organizations and external stakeholders. Through this process, they formulated inventive proposals for joint initiatives and designed new programs aimed at involving both students and staff.

Participants in the program had the opportunity to dive deep into the local culture of Asturias, Spain. Beyond the structured sessions, they immersed themselves in various aspects of the region, including urban, rural, and mining areas of Mieres. They also took a closer look at the history and architecture of Oviedo, a city renowned for its historic landmarks.

They visited the Gijón Campus, a unique educational institution that offers a diverse range of programs and had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Mieres, Mr. Manuel Angel Alvarez.

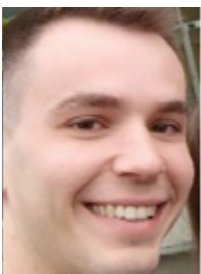
Three UoC students participated in INGENIUM activities contributing to the common efforts to enhance the global reach of European Universities Alliances:



Minas Achladianakis, UoC representative in INGENIUM Student Advisory Board: "Participating in the Blended Intensive Program (BIP) at Oviedo University was an enriching experience that extended beyond academic learning. It allowed me to forge meaningful connections with peers from across Europe, exchange best practices and immerse myself in the vibrant culture of Northern Spain. The collaborative environment fostered by INGENIUM not only broadened my perspective on university structures and procedures but also highlighted the importance of student involvement in shaping the future of our institutions. This experience reaffirmed my belief that when students are given a voice, we can contribute significantly to the evolution of higher education across Europe."



Georgia Panagou, UoC representative in INGENIUM Sustainability Committee: "Participating in the Blended Intensive Program (BIP), hosted by the University of Oviedo, was an enriching experience that underscored the importance of having clear objectives and structured collaborative work sessions within a European alliance. The program not only facilitated a welcoming environment but also fostered a strong culture of open communication and mutual respect, enabling both students and staff to exchange ideas freely. This inclusive atmosphere allowed us to actively contribute to the goals of INGENIUM, aligning our efforts with the alliance's vision of enhanced cooperation and innovation across all 10 member institutions. I am excited to see more of such impactful initiatives from the INGENIUM alliance in the future, as they are essential in driving the collective success and unity of our European educational community."



Evangellos Stergiou, participant in the INGENIUM Winter Senior School 2024: The "Blended Intensive Program at the University of Oviedo, in the beautiful city of Mieres, highlighted the value of collaboration and open communication within the INGENIUM alliance. It offered students the opportunity to exchange ideas and offer suggestions to staff members, emphasizing the importance of clear objectives and collaborative teamwork. The program also encouraged an atmosphere where different perspectives were welcomed. This experience built stronger connections in the alliance and inspired us to work together on future projects that will make European education more accessible and effective."

INGENIUM University Alliance

INGENIUM is an alliance of ten institutions of higher education from ten European countries, including the University of Crete. INGENIUM embodies the heterogeneity of European higher education, diverse in geography, cultural background, organization and activities.

[more info](#)





UoC Students Participate in the ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

We are pleased to share the experiences of three UoC postgraduate students who participated in the annual Summer School of the European Investment Bank (EIB). This prestigious event took place online in June 24-28 and with an in-person session from June 29 to July 6, 2024, in Luxembourg. UoC students had the unique opportunity to gain insights into the EIB's pivotal role in Europe, particularly in the field of sustainable development, while collaborating with peers from various European universities.

Konstantinos Paitakis' experience

"I had an amazing experience participating in the Summer School of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg. During the program, I gained an understanding of the EIB's objectives and its crucial role in Europe, particularly in the field of sustainable development.

The EIB, one of the most significant institutions, is one of the world's main multilateral lenders and borrowers, raising funds from international capital markets to offer favorable lending conditions to its clients.

Through this experience, I acquired valuable knowledge about the EIB's activities, such as its environmental leadership and its pioneering approach with green bonds. I also understood how it supports small and medium-sized enterprises across Europe through various financial instruments.

This unique experience enhanced my understanding of critical issues and encouraged me to continue contributing research in the field of sustainable development and economic progress. Equally unique was the collaboration with other students from various European universities, as we exchanged knowledge and ideas on various current topics.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the European Investment Bank and the University of Crete for this unique experience, and I look forward to sharing this knowledge with the academic community".

Konstantinos Paitakis is a postgraduate student in the Department of Economics at the University of Crete.

Michael Lionakis' experience

"Last Friday marked the end of an exceptional and unique experience we had the opportunity to be part of. The two-week Summer School of the European Investment Bank (EIB) concluded, offering valuable knowledge and experiences to 80 postgraduate



UoC postgraduate students at the European Investment Bank EIB in Luxembourg

students from 24 different universities across Europe.

The first week of the program was conducted online. During this week, we had the opportunity to attend a series of classes and seminars that prepared us for the intensive week that would follow in Luxembourg. These lectures covered a wide range of topics related

to the operations of the European Investment Bank and provided us with the necessary foundations for the upcoming activities.

In the second week, all participants gathered in Luxembourg, where we attended a large series of seminars within the European Investment Bank. There, we had the chance to study the internal

operations of the Bank, analyze real-life cases, and discuss with specialized executives.

One of the most notable experiences was our visits to the European Court of Justice and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). These visits not only enriched our knowledge but also gave us an insider's view of the functioning of these important European Union institutions.

Furthermore, we had the honor of meeting with the President of the European Investment Bank, Nadia Calvipo. The discussion with her was particularly enlightening and allowed us to better understand the challenges and strategies of the Bank on a global level. Meetings with other prominent figures of the Bank helped enhance our understanding of crucial topics such as financing and investment management.

The Summer School of the European Investment Bank was an experience that opened new horizons and provided valuable knowledge and skills. The lectures, seminars, visits, and meetings with top executives contributed to deepening our understanding of the functions of European institutions in general.

Participating in this program was not only an educational experience but also an opportunity for networking and exchanging views with students from all over Europe. The knowledge and experiences gained from the Summer School will be a valuable asset for my future career and professional development".

Michail Lionakis, is a postgraduate student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Crete.

Vasileios Tsampallas' experience

"I am excited to share my enriching experience from the EIB Summer School, a two-week journey that brought together 80 students from 23 European universities. As a Materials Science and Technology student currently pursuing my Master's in Materials Science and Engineering, I was thrilled to be part of this prestigious program. The first week was conducted online, followed by an immersive on-site week at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg.

A highlight of the program was the visit from the EIB President, Nadia Calvipo, on the first day. Her introduction to the bank's mission and her approachable nature made the session truly memorable, as she answered our questions with enthusiasm and insight. We also had the privilege of visiting the European Stability Mechanism (ESM).

I chose to participate in the project group, where I engaged in interactive sessions and case studies that broadened my perspective on project management and development. This hands-on experience was invaluable, providing a deep dive into the practical aspects of my field.

I am deeply grateful to Shiva Dustdar, Head and Director of the EIB Institute, for her visionary leadership. Special thanks to Silja Bellinger, Ana Maria Stanescu, and Anna Canato, PhD, whose meticulous organization ensured the program ran smoothly. Their hard work allowed us to return home with lifelong memories and invaluable knowledge.

I also want to thank the wonderful trainees and my fellow students, whose support and camaraderie made this journey unforgettable. The diverse perspectives and shared experiences have enriched my understanding and forged lasting friendships.

Being part of this program reinforced the idea that taking risks is worthwhile and that nothing is impossible. The last week was eventful and intense, and our team never had a dull moment. The experiences, knowledge gained, and new friendships are truly priceless".

Vasileios Tsampallas is a postgraduate student in the Department of Material Sciences and Engineering at the University of Crete .

UOC SUMMER SCHOOLS: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

SUMMER SCHOOL

hATTR

Amyloidosis: from Bench to Bedside



The “hATTR Amyloidosis: from Bench to Bedside” summer school was held in June 10-14, organized by Assoc. Prof. Ioannis Zaganas, the Scientific Academic Coordinator. The program brought together 6 distinguished physicians from abroad to address the challenges of early detection and management of hereditary transthyretin amyloidosis (hATTR).

This intensive program provided a blend of clinical practice, hands-on laboratory experience, and expert lectures. Participants engaged in interdisciplinary training, with hands-on laboratory experiences and clinical practice conducted at various departments of the University Hospital of Heraklion (PAGNI) and the Cardiology Department of Venizelio Hospital. Daily expert-led courses complemented the practical sessions.

Additionally, participants had the opportunity to visit the Museum of the Medical School of the University of Crete, the Histopathology Laboratory of the Medical School, and the island of Spinalonga. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Manousos Pediaditis, Deputy Mayor of Culture-Tourism and Ms Aggeliki Poulidou from the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos for facilitating the visit to Spinalonga.

Assoc. Prof. Ioannis Zaganas, the Scientific Coordinator, stated, “The summer school fostered a collaborative learning environment essential for advancing the early detection and management of hATTR. It was an excellent occasion to showcase the multifaceted approach employed at the University of Crete for this disease and to enhance international relations between us and colleagues abroad”

[more info](#)



SUMMER COURSE ON ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY

EEG2024

This hybrid (in-person and via zoom) course reviewed the basics of electroencephalography (EEG) across the age spectrum, in collaboration with 10 academic institutions in the United States. It included the fundamental tenets of signal generation, technical considerations of signal acquisition, types of EEG recordings and reporting standards. Normal EEG examples and their variants across various age groups were presented and contrasted with artifacts. Both non epileptiform and epileptiform abnormalities were demonstrated and their relationship with underlying neurologic disorders was discussed. The applications of EEG in the epilepsy monitoring unit (EMU), intensive care unit (ICU), intracranial monitoring service (ICM) and operative room (OR) were reviewed. The course featured hands-on workshops by registered EEG technicians on the application of EEG electrodes and hands-on review session of EEG cases to complement the formal lectures. Students also rotated through the EEG laboratory of the University Hospital of Heraklion. The cultural program included a welcome dinner on June 25 and an excursion to the island of Spinalonga on June 29.



ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY COURSE



24-29 JUNE 2024

<https://welcome.uoc.gr/2024/03/14/basic-electroencephalography-course/>

Scientific coordinator:

Ioannis Karakis, MD, PhD, MSc

Coordinating Department / Laboratory: Neurology
ioannis.karakis@uoc.gr

Institutions:

University of Crete, in collaboration with:

Yale University
Northwestern University
Rush University
Emory University
Washington University
St. Louis University
George Washington University
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Florida
Neurotech Foundation

In collaboration with 10 academic institutions in the United States, this hybrid (in-person and via zoom) course will review the basics in electroencephalography (EEG) across the age spectrum. It will include the fundamental tenets of signal generation, technical considerations of signal acquisition, types of EEG recordings and reporting standards. Normal EEG examples and their variants across various age groups will be presented and contrasted with artifacts. Both non epileptiform and epileptiform abnormalities will be demonstrated and their relationship with underlying neurologic disorders will be discussed. The applications of EEG in the epilepsy monitoring unit (EMU), intensive care unit (ICU), intracranial monitoring service (ICM) and operative room (OR) will be reviewed. The course will include hands-on workshop by registered EEG technicians on the application of EEG electrodes and hands-on review session of EEG cases to complement the formal lectures. Students will also rotate through the EEG laboratory of the University Hospital of Heraklion. There will be an optional welcome dinner on Tues 25 June evening and an optional excursion to the island of Spinalonga on Sat 29 June morning.



Nature and Culture in Crete, from Antiquity to the Present



Student testimonial

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience when I find myself in a village on Crete Island and singing with music lovers from different countries. Where words leave off, music begins. While on-site interpretation can supplement background information, first-hand experience can have a long-lasting magic in the heart".

Tina Li, participant in the UoC summer school "Nature and Culture in Crete, from Antiquity to the Present."

One year after its inaugural educational event at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi, the KELKIP (Center of Greek and Chinese Ancient Civilizations) is relocating its summer school program to Crete!

The summer school "Nature and Culture in Crete, from Antiquity to the Present" hosted two groups of fifty-three students from universities in China. The program took place in Athens, Rethymnon, Anogia, Heraklion, and Chania from July 10th to 31st, aiming to introduce participants to the rich history and contemporary culture of Crete, as well as to the philosophical tradition that connects Plato's utopian Laws with the island's iconic archaeological sites.

The summer school was organized by the School of Philosophy at the University of Crete, in collaboration with the Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH, with support from the staff of the Schools of Social Sciences and Education, as well as the Archaeological Museums of Heraklion and Rethymnon, and the Historical Museum of Crete.

[more info](#)



July School
Nature and Culture in Crete,
from Antiquity to the Present

GROUP I:
10-23 JULY

GROUP II:
18-31 JULY
Rethymnon - Heraklion

Organizing Committee:
• China Ball, University of Crete
• Athens Karama, University of Crete
• Ana Tsanoglou, University of Crete
• Wang Yim, Southwest University, China

Organizing Institutions:
• University of Crete, School of Philosophy
• Center of Greek & Chinese Ancient Civilizations
• University of Crete Research Center
• Institute for Mediterranean Studies

This initiative is part of a broader collaboration aimed at deepening academic and cultural exchanges between Greece and China, emphasizing the study of ancient civilizations and their contemporary relevance. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of Cretan culture across various historical periods, enriched by direct interaction with the island's natural and cultural landscapes.

Confucious in Crete:

Activity of the UoC Faculty of Philosophy on Mt. Psiloritis

As part of the Summer School "Nature and Culture in Crete, from Antiquity to the Present," a theatrical performance titled **"The Great Confucianist Zhang Zai"** was hosted under the July full moon at the "Shepherd's Place" amphitheater in the village of Anogia.

The performance, directed and performed by students of the Summer School from Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, introduced the audience of Crete to the philosophy of Zhang Zai (1020-1077), a disciple of Confucius and founder of the Guanxue School.

Members of the Academic Community of the University of Crete, residents, and representatives

of local Authorities and Cultural Organizations attended the performance. They delivered greetings, exchanged wishes for similar future actions, and gifts with the Chinese Delegation.

The Municipality of Anogia supported the action by providing the venue for the performance, and the local cultural association Androidus Project Tank facilitated the preparation of the performance and hosted the participants.

The Laboratory "Visual Anthropology: Image, Music, Text" of the Center for Research and Studies of the University of Crete contributed to the video recording/photography and Greek subtitling of the performance.



SUMMER SCHOOL IN CLASSICS

Crete Past and Present

The Division of Classics of the Department of Philology (University of Crete) organized a summer school titled: "Crete Past and Present" in the first week of July 2024. The summer school lasted 8 days (30/06/24 to 07/07/24) and hosted 30 students of all levels of study from all over the world and from major universities in Europe (Oxford, Edinburgh, Southampton, Reading, Lincoln, Siena, Utrecht, Brussels, Athens, Patras) and in America (Penn State, New York University, University of Southern California, UFMG, Brazil). The courses were held in English.

The summer school aimed at familiarizing students with the past and present of Crete by offering a mixture of both experimental learning and academic in-class teaching. The school's approach was interdisciplinary, combining the study of literary texts with the examination of the material culture of Crete. The participants had the opportunity to immerse into the cultural heritage of Crete through an in-class study of texts and inscriptions, as well as through visits to museums and important sites of the island (Knossos, Phaistos, Gortyna, Archaeological Museums of Rethymnon, Heraklion, Messara).

The Division of Classics collaborated with colleagues from the Division of Byzantine and Modern Greek Philology of the University of Crete, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion and the Hellenic Mediterranean University, as well as with professors from the Department of Physics



of the University of Crete and the Department of Philology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The students' experience was highly positive, with enthusiastic feedback highlighting engaging lessons, supportive professors, rich student interaction, and memorable academic and cultural activities in Crete.

Student testimonials

"The lessons were very interesting, and the professors were nice and knowledgeable, always ready to answer any question. The other students were friendly and nice to talk to, and I was able to make friends in a small period of time."

"I liked more the fact that we had the opportunity to interact with students from different universities and backgrounds."

"Thank you for the kind hosting, epic sea-view accommodation, important sites, and just so legendary Crete that you shared with us. I loved the Crete-Magnesia and Linear A lecture! A part of my heart stays in Crete and Crete stays with me in the corner of my heart".





6TH SUMMER SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

CreteLing2024



The 6th Summer School of Linguistics at the University of Crete (CreteLing2024) was organized by the Linguistics section of the Department of Philology at the University of Crete, under the leadership of Prof. Vina Tsakali (University of Crete) and Prof. Sabine Iatridou (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), the event is taking place at the Gallos Campus in Rethymno in July 13 - 26, 2024. CreteLing2024 offered 21 diverse courses and seminars in theoretical linguistics and interdisciplinary fields such as computational linguistics, neurolinguistics, and psycholinguistics.

The summer school aims to create an interactive learning and collaborative environment for students and researchers from various scientific domains, promoting interdisciplinary research and the exchange of ideas. CreteLing has established itself as a significant international academic event, attracting distinguished professors and researchers from leading universities worldwide.

Participation is free for University of Crete students, and scholarships are available for students from other universities.



[more info](#)



Avery Hurst's Fulbright Journey: Bridging Cultures and Advancing Science

We are pleased to share the inspiring story of Avery Hurst, a 2023-2024 Fulbright Research Fellow, who conducted groundbreaking research in Christos Tsatsanis' Lab in the Department of Medicine at the University of Crete (UoC). Avery's research focused on the pivotal role nutrition plays in inflammation, specifically analyzing the impact of nutritional supplements derived from algae and plants on the inflammatory response. She delved into the mechanisms behind the anti-inflammatory actions of macrophages and explored the role of epigenetics in regulating macrophage function.



During her fellowship, Avery acquired new laboratory techniques and deepened her understanding of inflammation, the immune system, and macrophage responses in the progression of inflammatory diseases. Her dedication and hard work culminated in a significant contribution to the field and an enriching personal and academic journey.


Each year, the Fulbright Program honors its US students who complete their fellowships in Greece and Greek students preparing to embark on their Fulbright programs in the US. At this year's ceremony, Avery was invited by the Fulbright Greece staff to share her experience and the profound impact the program had on her academic development. She joined Andreas Vavvos, a recent PhD graduate in Social Anthropology/Energy Studies of the University of Crete, who completed his Fulbright program at Rice University in Texas.

Avery's speech highlighted the exceptional academic performance she witnessed at UoC and the strong connections she forged with fellow students and postgraduates. Inspired by her experiences, she has decided to continue her education at UoC, pursuing a master's in molecular biology.

At the ceremony, Avery and her fellow Fulbrighters were honored for their acceptance and completion of the program. Avery was one of only six students selected by the Board of Directors to receive support for completing her proposed research project.

We congratulate Avery Hurst on her remarkable achievements and are delighted to see her continue her academic journey with us at the University of Crete. Her story is a testament to the enriching experience the Fulbright Program provides and the strong international academic collaborations it fosters.





The exhibition Levante

BY LUCIO SCHIAVON AT THE UOC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

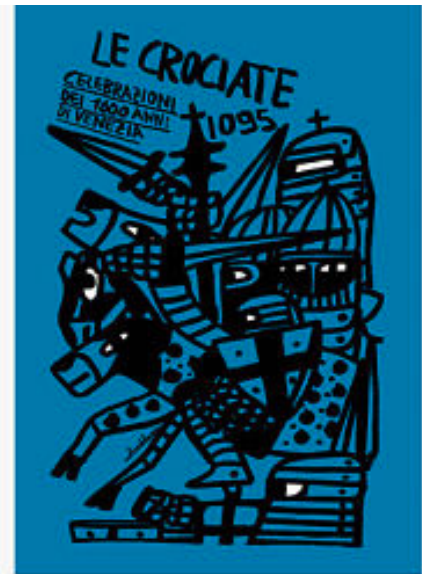
An exhibition of works by the award-winning Venetian artist Lucio Schiavon opens at the University of Crete Medical School on July 26, 2024

The exhibition consists of artistic posters by the Venetian **Lucio Schiavon**, one of the most popular Italian illustrators and graphic designers. Lucio Schiavon has collaborated with Venice Biennale, Swatch, UNICEF, and genzia Armando Testa, among others. He illustrates books for leading Italian publishers such as Einaudi, Topipittori, and Nuages and has exhibited his work at Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa Venice. He won the International Motion Art Award in New York and the Interfilm Festival Short Movie in Berlin 2015.

Through the Tempo Forte program, the **Italian**

Cultural Institute and the **Italian Embassy** in Athens collaborated to execute the exhibition concession organized by Myth Euromed.

The collection was made in conjunction with the Linea 1 and Venezia1600 municipal projects to commemorate the city of Venice's 1600th anniversary of founding. The exhibition traveled around Greece, taking place in Corfu, Rovies, Chalkida and Heraklion, Crete. Following the planning and execution of an exhibit in the Manos Hadjidakis Garden Theatre in July 2023, the artist personally donated the exhibition to the University of Crete's Medical School.



Using a modern creative viewpoint like Schiavon's, the Levante exhibition hopes to illuminate the shared cultural history between Greece and Venice during its route through the country. Famous and lesser-known historical people of Venice from its founding to the present are shaped by his early works, which feature iconic characters from the Republic of Venice (La Serenissima) period.

The exhibition is a unique cultural event held at the School of Medicine, one of the events honoring the institution's 40th anniversary. The public can visit the exhibition during the School's working hours.



Distinctions



Professor Panagiota Fatourou was elected Chair of the Steering Committee of the ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC)

Panagiota Fatourou, Professor at the UoC Department of Computer Science, has been elected Chair of the Steering Committee of the prestigious conference [ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing \(PODC\)](#). The ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing is an international forum for the theory, design, analysis, implementation, and application of distributed systems and networks. It is categorized as an A* conference (according to all known international classifications) and attracts the most renowned and significant scientists in the

research field of distributed and parallel computing.

In 2024, the 43rd edition of the conference took place in Nantes, from June 17 to June 21, 2024. The conference jointly funds (with the EATCS Symposium on Distributed Computing – DISC) the Edsger W. Dijkstra Prize in Distributed Computing, named after the leading scientist in the field of distributed computing, Edsger Wybe Dijkstra (1930-2002). This prize is awarded for outstanding research papers whose significance and impact on the field have been evident for at least a decade.

Congratulations to Prof. Panagiota Fatourou for this significant distinction.

University of Crete Students awarded in the “Nikos Analyst” Student Competition for Corporate Social Responsibility

Three undergraduate students from the University of Crete (Dimitrios-Christoforos Karagiannis, Department of Biology; Konstantinos Mountakis, Department of Physics; Emmanouil Papadogiannis, Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics) were awarded as one of the three winning teams in the 8th Student Competition for Corporate Social Responsibility “Nikos Analyst”, at the event held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the University of Piraeus.

The title of their paper was “Corporate Social Responsibility – The role of businesses in addressing environmental pollution from microplastics”.

Twenty-three teams participated in the competition, and each team had to choose to work on one of the following topics: Employment/Working Conditions, Poverty/Human Rights, Climate Change, Production/Consumption. The students were asked to:

- Document how businesses affect or are affected by this issue.
- Propose feasible solutions for businesses to

contribute to the prevention or/and addressing of the issue.

- Suggest how businesses can collaborate with each other and with other stakeholders for the best possible outcome.

The prizes for this year’s competition are:

- Paid internship for at least one month at a CSR HELLAS member company.
- Educational trip to Brussels & visits to the European Parliament.
- Laptops.

The students from the University of Crete were awarded by Ms. Alexandra Palli-Yiannakopoulou, President of the Board of Directors of CSR HELLAS, Mr. Alexandros Katsiampoulas, Vice President of the Board of Directors of CSR HELLAS, and Professor Odysseas Ioannis Zoras, Secretary General of Higher Education.

Congratulations to our students and best wishes for their future endeavors!



The University of Crete announces the awarding of the “Professor Zoe Dimitriadis Excellence Awards” for the academic year 2022-2023

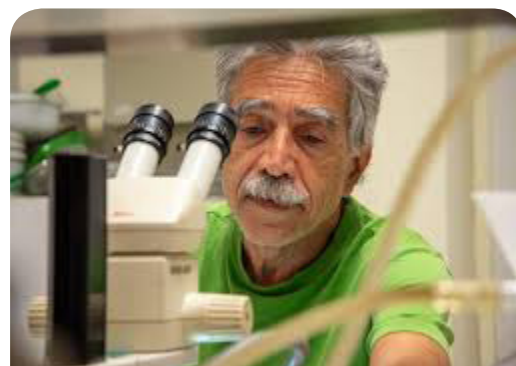
The award is funded by the donation of Prof. Zoe Dimitriadis and is granted to postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, and/or postdoctoral researchers of the University of Crete for publications as first co-authors in top-tier international scientific journals during the previous academic year of the award.

The “Professor Zoe Dimitriadis Excellence Award” is accompanied by a monetary prize of two thousand euros (€2,000.00) for each awardee.

The recipients of the award for the academic year 2022-23 are Dr. Emmanouil Nikoloudakis and Ms. Konstantina Biza.

Dr. Emmanouil Nikoloudakis completed his undergraduate studies in the UoC Department of Chemistry, conducted his postgraduate studies in the Laboratory of Bioinorganic Chemistry, and completed his doctoral dissertation in 2022. During his doctoral research, he visited the University of Nantes in France, working in the laboratory of Dr. Odobel. His research led to the publication “Nikoloudakis E., Pati P. B., Charalambidis G., Budkina D. S., Diring S., Planchat A., Jacquemin D., Vauthey E., Coutsolelos A.G., Odobel F., “Dye-Sensitized Photoelectrosynthesis Cells for Benzyl Alcohol Oxidation Using a Zinc Porphyrin Sensitizer and TEMPO Catalyst”, ACS Catal. 2021, 11, 19, 12075-12086. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acscatal.1c02609>”, for which he was awarded the “Professor Zoe Dimitriadis Excellence Award.”

Konstantina Biza is a Doctoral Candidate in the UoC Department of Computer Science. Her dissertation focuses on the discovery and study of causal relationships. She holds a degree in Biology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Master’s degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Crete. Her work, titled “Out-of-sample Tuning for Causal Discovery,” involves selecting the best algorithm for discovering causal relationships from a dataset. The proposed method applies a series of causal discovery algorithms and selects the best one based on machine learning techniques. Co-authors and supervisors of the work are Professor Ioannis Tsamardinou of the Department of Computer Science and Assistant Professor Sofia Triantafyllou of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Crete.



Professor Christos Delidakis is a new member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)

Christos Delidakis, Professor at the UoC Department of Biology and Research Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), was elected new member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

His election is an international distinction and an important recognition of his outstanding contribution to life sciences, highlighting the high level of scientific research conducted at the University of Crete.



University News

Cisco Systems Grants 10 CCNA Certification Scholarships to Computer Science Department Students at the University of Crete

The Computer Science Department of the University of Crete announce that Cisco Systems is sponsoring 10 scholarships for students of the Computer Science Department of the University of Crete to obtain the CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) [certification](#). The CCNA certification is a popular certification provided by Cisco Systems, aiming to recognize the knowledge and skills of IT professionals in the field of networks. The “University of Crete CCNA Scholarships” program covers the cost of the exam and provides access to the Cisco U. eLearning platform for CCNA certification preparation.

It should be noted that Cisco Systems, a prominent global provider of IT and networking solutions, has recently established a presence at the Science and Technology Park of Crete (STEPC) and has already hired graduates from the University of Crete’s Computer Science Department.

The General Assembly of the Department decided to allocate six scholarships to undergraduate students and four to graduate students, based on their performance in related courses. The committee overseeing the process includes Professors Xenofontas Dimitropoulos, Maria Papadopouli, and Polyvios Pratikakis.

17-22/6

Workshop: “Modern Trends in Gravity and Black Holes”

The workshop aims to bring together Mathematicians and Physicists who work on theories of gravity to discuss modern trends in classical and quantum gravity and black hole physics. The meeting will take place at the University of Crete in Heraklion, Greece.

Location: UoC Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics.

For more details please visit this [link](#).

17-21/6

SynCRETism 2024 | Particle physicists dining with Astrophysicists

The meeting aims to bring together particle physicists, cosmologists, and astrophysicists, to syncretise different approaches on topics of common interest.

Where: [Neratzes Mosque, Rethymno, Crete, Greece](#)

Scientific Organising Committee:

- Carolina Casadio – Institute of Astrophysics, FORTH, Greece
- Eva Ntormousi – Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy
- Vasiliki Pavlidou – University of Crete, Greece
- Kallia Petraki – ENS and Sorbonne University, France (chair)

Local Organising Committee:

- Carolina Casadio – Institute of Astrophysics, FORTH, Greece
- Konstantinos Christidis – University of Crete, Greece
- Eva Ntormousi – Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy
- Vasiliki Pavlidou – University of Crete, Greece
- Kallia Petraki – ENS and Sorbonne University, France
- Raphael Skalidis – Caltech, U.S.A.
- Kostas Tassis – University of Crete, Greece

Contact: syncretism.physics@gmail.com.

For more information please visit this [link](#).

Download the [poster](#).

Conference | Greek HEIs and European Alliances: Opportunities and Challenges

Greek HEIs and European Alliances: Opportunities and Challenges.

June 18, 2024 | Co-organized by NTUA – NKUA

Event Hall, Administration Building, NTUA, Zografou Campus.

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

As part of the effort to enhance dialogue about the institution of European University Alliances in Greece, the NTUA co-organized with NKUA the conference titled “Greek HEIs and European Alliances: Opportunities and Challenges” on June 18, 2024, in the Event Hall of the Administration Building at NTUA, Zografou Campus. The goal of the conference was to foster discussion among the 10 Greek Universities participating in European University Alliances from 2019 to the present, focusing on the opportunities and challenges they face, and to exchange views with the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, YPAITHA, and the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, ETHAAE, on addressing these issues and ensuring the sustainability of these European Universities.

The conference was honored by the presence of the General Secretary of Higher Education YPAITHA, Prof. Emeritus Odysseas-Ioannis Zoras, the General Director of ETHAAE, Dr. Christina Besta, the administration of the General Directorate of Higher Education of YPAITHA, and specifically the members of the newly established Department E for Liaison with European Higher Education Policy, emphasizing the significant importance the Greek State places on the strategic institution of the European University.

Attendees included rectors and representatives from 9 out of the 10 Greek HEIs involved in European University Alliances, specifically:

- The Rector, Prof. Ioannis Chatzigeorgiou, Vice-Rector, Assoc. Prof. Athanasios Zisis, and representatives of the National Technical University of Athens, partner of EULiST | NTUA
- The Rector, Prof. Michail Zervakis, Vice-Rector, Prof. Konstantinos-Alketas Ouggrinis, and representatives of the Technical University of Crete, EURECA-PRO | TUC
- The Vice-Rector, Prof. Sofia Papaioannou, and representatives of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, CIVIS | NKUA

- The Vice-Rector, Prof. Georgios Tzetzis, and representatives of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, EPICUR | AUTH
- The Vice-Rector of the University of Crete, Prof. Georgios Kosioris, INGENIUM | UOC
- The Vice-Rector, Prof. Spyros Karamanos, and representatives of the University of Thessaly, INVEST | UTH
- The Vice-Rector of the Hellenic Mediterranean University, Assoc. Prof. Konstantinos Petridis, ATHENA | HMU
- Representatives of the Agricultural University of Athens, EU-CONEXUS | AUA
- Representatives of the University of the Peloponnese, EUNICE | UOP



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

NEWSUOC

Periodical Edition of the University of Crete - Issue
10 - June - July 2024 - www.uoc.gr

INTERNATIONAL