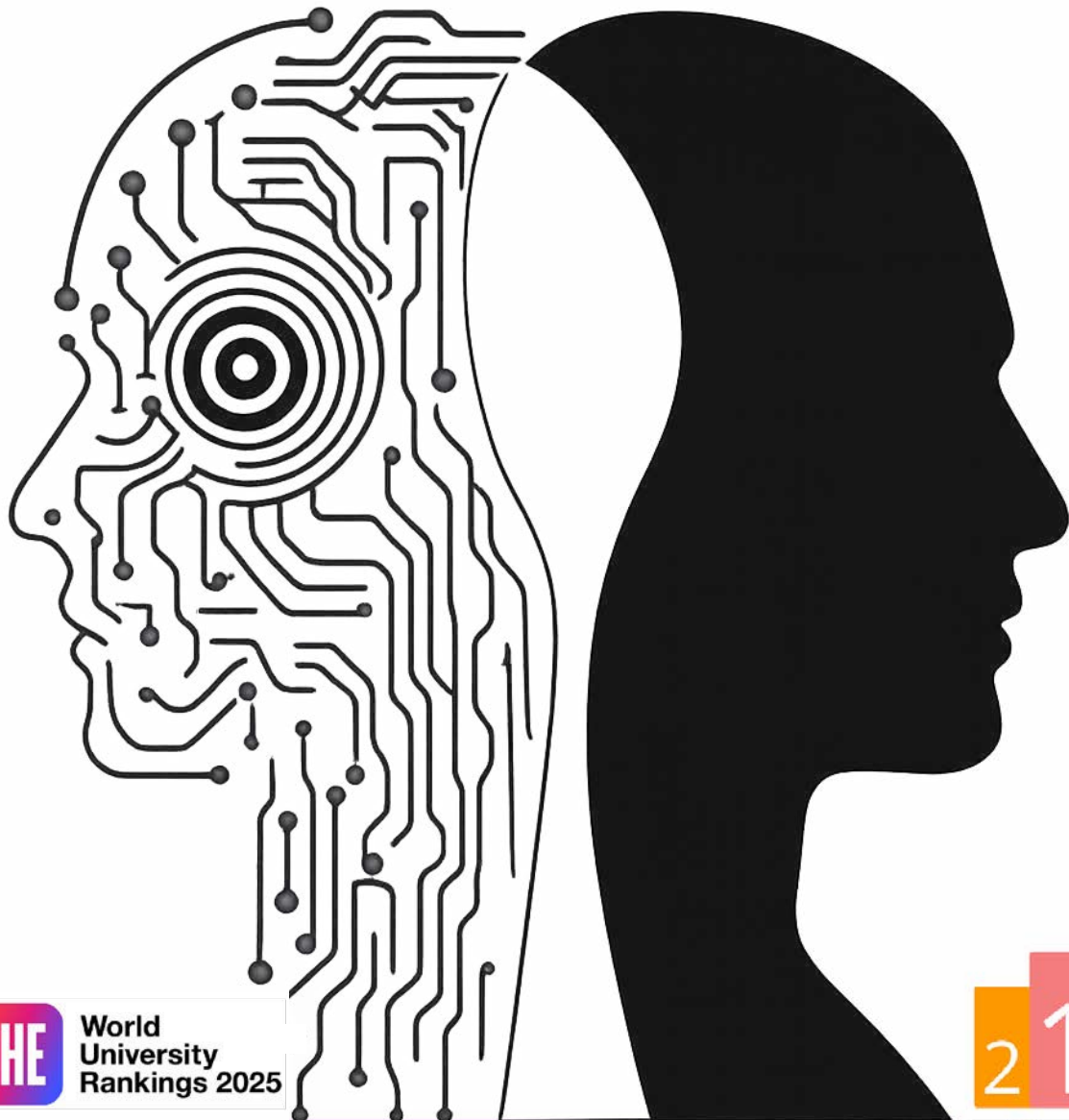


# NEWSUOC

Periodical Edition of the University of Crete - Issue 14  
January- February 2025 - [www.uoc.gr](http://www.uoc.gr)

INTERNATIONAL



**UoC Computer Science Department**  
**Ranked #1 in Greece**



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

## NEWSUOC

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*more info*



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# UoC Excellence Awards



**C**ommitted to fostering academic excellence and innovation, the University of Crete honored its outstanding scientists and researchers at the UoC Excellence Awards Ceremony for their academic achievements in the years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

The ceremony took place on February 20, 2025, in Rethymnon with the participation of UoC and local authorities and members of the University community. During the ceremony, distinguished scientists and researchers of the UoC were honored for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the academic community and society at large.

The ceremony opened with a musical tribute by the University of Crete Chorus (Schools of Rethymnon), conducted by Mariella Vitorou, with piano accompaniment by Giannis Kagiadakis.

The program included addresses by Prof. Georgios M. Kontakis, Rector of the University of Crete; Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, Regional Governor of Crete;

Mr. Nektarios Papadogiannis, Deputy Mayor for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning of the Municipality of Rethymnon; and Mr. Nikolaos Kontarakis, Special Advisor for Academic and Research Relations.

In his address, the Rector of the University of Crete congratulated all the awardees for their work and dedication to academic and scientific excellence. He highlighted the university's unwavering commitment to academic quality, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, emphasizing its role as a center for the advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge. As he stated, "The University of Crete will always support and promote academic and research excellence, shaping the future of science and society."

The awards honored exceptional doctoral research, young researchers, groundbreaking scientific advancements, and significant social contributions. The recipients, spanning various disciplines, have shown notable dedication and attainment in their fields.

“Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation” Award	“Young Researcher” Award	“Research” Award	“Social Contribution” Award
<p>The award was presented by the Vice-Rector for Administrative Affairs and Student Welfare, Prof. Sofia Schiza.</p> <p>Awardees:</p> <p><b>Year 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Emmanouil Sofiadis</b>, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Max-Planck Institute für Kohlenforschung, Mólheim, Germany</p> <p><b>Year 2024:</b></p> <p><b>Emmanouil Nikoloudakis</b>, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH)</p> <p><b>Anna Kampanarou</b>, Postdoctoral Researcher in Linguistics at Humboldt University of Berlin</p>	<p>The award was presented by the Vice-Rector for Finance and Infrastructure, Associate Professor Georgios Stamatopoulos</p> <p>Awardees:</p> <p><b>Year 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Stamatios Papadakis</b>, Assistant Professor at the Department of Preschool Education, University of Cretes</p> <p><b>Year 2023:</b></p> <p><b>Vasileios Nikolaou</b>, Marie Curie Fellow at the CEISAM Institute, CNRS, Nantes, France</p> <p><b>Year 2024:</b></p> <p><b>Nikolaos Angelopoulos</b>, Researcher at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)</p>	<p>The award was presented by the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, Prof. Maria Vamvakaki</p> <p>Awardees:</p> <p><b>Year 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Katerina Antoniou</b>, Professor at the School of Medicine, University of Crete</p> <p><b>Year 2023:</b></p> <p><b>Ilias Kyritsis</b>, Professor at the Department of Physics, University of Crete</p> <p><b>Year 2024:</b></p> <p><b>Georgios Garinis</b>, Professor at the Department of Biology, University of Crete</p>	<p>The award was presented by the Vice-Rector for Development, International Relations, and Outreach, Professor Melina Tamiolaki</p> <p>Awardees:</p> <p><b>Year 2022:</b></p> <p><b>Christos Lionis</b>, Emeritus Professor of General Medicine and Primary Health Care at the School of Medicine, University of Crete, &amp; Student Ombudsman of the University of Crete</p> <p><b>Year 2023:</b></p> <p><b>Vasileios Charmandaris</b>, Professor at the Department of Physics, University of Crete, Director of the Skinakas Observatory &amp; Director of the Institute of Astrophysics, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH)</p> <p><b>Year 2024:</b></p> <p><b>Sofia Triliva</b>, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Crete</p>





# Leading the Way:

213

**UoC Computer Science Department**  
**Ranked #1 in Greece**



**World  
University  
Rankings 2025**

The Computer Science Department (CSD) of the University of Crete has achieved the top ranking among all Greek universities, solidifying its position as a leader in computer science education and research. With a strong academic tradition, cutting-edge research, and deep industry connections, CSD is shaping the future of technology in Greece and beyond.

**F**ounded in the early 1980s, CSD is the second computer science department established in Greece. In February 1985, CSD offered its graduate (M.Sc.) program, the first such program in the country. Today, the Department has 22 Professors, 4 Professors Emeriti, 11 special teaching, laboratory, and administrative personnel, and regularly hosts university scholars and researchers as visiting professors. CSD has also been a pioneer and played an important role in the arrival of the Internet in Greece, being one of the first two Internet nodes in the country in 1984. CSD continues to set the standard for excellence, attracting top faculty and students while producing groundbreaking research.

## **Excellence in Education**

In its 40 years of operation, the Department of Computer Science of the University of Crete has continuously maintained a modern curriculum. Its significant contribution to higher education in computer science and technology in Greece is widely recognized with educational work at undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels, with more than 2600, 900 and 120 graduates respectively



today. CSD alumni are employed as faculty in top universities worldwide, as industrial researchers and in positions in IT enterprises, services, banking, education, consulting, and startups, in Greece and worldwide.

## **Cutting-Edge Research & Industry Impact**

CSD has had a strong research orientation since its creation and is currently at the center of a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem. Since its inception, it has collaborated closely with the Institute of Computer Science (ICS) of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH).

This collaboration, which continues to this day, creates an excellent environment for research and education, providing CSD students with access to research laboratories, equipment, and scholarships for undergraduate (30 per year), masters (50 per year) and doctoral (20 per year) students. Furthermore, about 15 FORTH-ICS researchers are involved in teaching activities in CSD courses as visiting faculty each year.

CSD students are also regularly undertaking practical training internships in many startups at the nearby Science and Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C) and in technology companies that are in contact with

the Department, through the annual CSD Career Fair and other outreach activities. CSD faculty regularly participate in international research projects, including 4 European Research Council (ERC) grants in recent years. There are also several high-tech companies with CSD faculty among their founding members, such as CodeBGP (acquired by Cisco in 2023), OramaVR (having received the "Social Contribution" award by the Latsis Foundation), JADBio (honored with the 1st prize in the category "Spin-off of the Year" in 2021), SceneOpsis, and

others. CSD faculty, in collaboration with FORTH-ICS, have contributed significantly to the development of the European RISC-V Processor in recent years.

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/economy/1172256/greek-institute-pioneers-cutting-edge-eu-technology/>

<https://www.european-processor-initiative.eu/european-processor-initiative-announces-the-successful-bring-up-of-the-epac1-5-acceleration-chip/>

## COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT - UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

### STRONG CONNECTIONS WITHIN R&I ECOSYSTEM

#### PRACTICAL TRAINING & CAREERS AFTER GRADUATION

##### TECH COMPANIES IN CONTACT WITH CSD



# CSD



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE



GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS (~50/YEAR)  
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS (~30/YEAR)  
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS (~50/YEAR),  
DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (~20/YEAR)

RESEARCH COLLABORATION  
& TEACHING MOBILITY  
(~15 VISITING FACULTY/YEAR)

##### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK (STEP-C)



5th Career Fair  
Meet the Companies  
Friday Nov 26, 2024



## International Recognition

CSD is consistently ranked highly in international evaluations. In 2025, CSD was ranked 1st among Greek CS departments by Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject Computer Science. This comprehensive assessment ranks 1,122 institutions from 83 countries and territories and is based on 18 rigorous performance indicators, which have been calibrated to assess university performance in computing and digital technologies. THE World University Rankings by Subject reflect excellence in research and education worldwide.

Link: [https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2025/subject-ranking/computer-science#!/length/25/locations/GRC/sort\\_by/rank/sort\\_order/asc/cols/scores](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2025/subject-ranking/computer-science#!/length/25/locations/GRC/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/scores)

## In addition

- 9 out of CSD's 22 faculty members are in the list of 100 Greek scientists included among the leading Computer Science scientists in the world based on bibliographic indicators (research.com), and
- 8 out of 22 faculty are included in the top 2% of researchers worldwide (Stanford list) for 2025.



## English - taught Programs

CSD offers an English-speaking M.Sc. Program in Computer Science and Engineering, admitting students twice a year with application deadlines on March 31 for Fall admission, and October 31 for Spring admission. It is a two-year (120 ECTS) tuition-free, research-oriented M.Sc. program, through which students leverage the opportunities offered by CSD's vibrant research ecosystem.

For more information about the M.Sc. Program in Computer Science and Engineering: <https://www.csd.uoc.gr/CSD/index.jsp?content=moc&openmenu=demoAcc4&lang=en>.

CSD also participates in three additional English-speaking inter-departmental M.Sc. programs:

- Brain and Mind <https://brain-mind.med.uoc.gr/>
- Data Analysis and Machine-Statistical Learning <https://mscs.uoc.gr/dams/>
- Biomedical engineering <https://mscs.uoc.gr/bme-crete/>

CSD undergraduate courses are normally delivered in Greek. However, advanced undergraduate courses (such as 4th-year electives) may be offered in English when Erasmus+ or other international students are in attendance. You may check whether a specific course can be offered in English by contacting either the instructor or the CSD Erasmus+ program coordinators (email: [kosma@csd.uoc.gr](mailto:kosma@csd.uoc.gr), [erasmus@csd.uoc.gr](mailto:erasmus@csd.uoc.gr)).

For additional information for prospective Erasmus+ students: [https://www.csd.uoc.gr/CSD/index.jsp?custom=erasmus\\_mobility&lang=en](https://www.csd.uoc.gr/CSD/index.jsp?custom=erasmus_mobility&lang=en)





## Distinguished students

Team "Daedalus" (0xdeada1u5) comprising CSD students G. Goupos, E. Golanda, T. Kokkinelis, E. Patronakis, and Y. Pegeioudi **won first place in the 2024 "Hellenic University Hack" competition of the Hellenic Universities** (<https://unihack.ctflib.eu/>). The "Hellenic University Hack" competition is a nationwide Capture The Flag (CTF) competition that invites students to explore the world of cybersecurity and connect with fellow students to develop their digital skills collectively. The competition is organized by the Hellenic Cybersecurity Team in collaboration with university teams from all over Greece.



A team of CSD undergraduates comprising N. Arvanitakis, E. Patronakis, and E. Nikiforos **won first place in the 2024 Panhellenic University Programming Competition (GRPCP)**, an annual programming competition that constitutes the qualifying phase in Greece for the International University Programming Competition (ICPC). The students will represent the University of Crete in the next phase of the competition to be held in Romania.

CSD undergraduates Th. Kokkinelis, and O. Hatzipanagiotis, and CSD graduate Iasonas Konstantinos Manthos were selected for the Greek National Cybersecurity Team (2023)



CSD student Konstantinos Anemozalis, emerged **first in Greece and 18th in the world among twelve thousand participants** in the first phase of the "Meta Hacker Cup" competition of Meta (formerly Facebook) in 2022 <https://studyingreece.edu.gr/konstantinos-anemozalis/>







## Recent Best Paper Awards

**Best Education Paper Award** at SIGGRAPH Asia 2024, the leading conference in the field of computer graphics, for CSD postdoctoral researcher Manos Kamarianakis, CSD graduate Yannis Petropoulos, and CSD faculty George Papagiannakis for the paper titled "pyGANDALF - An open-source, Geometric, ANimation, Directed, Algorithmic, Learning Framework for Computer Graphics" (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3680533.3697057>). pyGANDALF is an educational framework that aims to make learning computer graphics more accessible and engaging, integrating both established (OpenGL) and new (WebGPU) graphics APIs.

**Best Paper Award** at the European Interdisciplinary Cybersecurity Conference (EICC) 2024 for CSD faculty Nikos Komodakis and an inter-organizational team for their paper titled "SFTC: Machine Unlearning via Selective Fine-Tuning and Targeted Confusion" (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3655693.3655697>). This award is a significant recognition of the team's contributions towards improving data security and privacy through Machine Unlearning, a burgeoning area in artificial intelligence and data science that aims to remove specific data points from trained models without degrading their performance and without requiring complete retraining. The research team recently received recognition at the international scientific competition "NeuIPS 2023 - Machine Unlearning," sponsored by Google, achieving 6th place among 1188 teams from universities, research centers and organizations from 72 countries.

**Best Paper Award** at the 38th Int. Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC 2024), an international forum on the theory, design, analysis, implementation and application of distributed systems and networks, for CSD faculty Panagiota Fatourou for the paper titled "Lock-Free Augmented Trees" (<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2405.10506>).

**Best Technical Paper Award** at International Conference on Pervasive Technologies Related to Assistive Environments (PETRA 2023) for CSD graduate Drosakis Drosakis and CSD faculty Antonis Argyros for the paper titled "3D Hand Shape and Pose Estimation based on 2D Hand Keypoints" (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3594806.3594838>).

**Best Paper Award** at the ACM SIGCOMM 2021 conference for CSD graduate Petros Gigis and CSD faculty Xenofontas Dimitropoulos for the paper titled "Seven years in the life of Hypergiants' off-nets" (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3452296.3472928>).

CONNECT | SHARE | LEARN  
Across Europe

# The University of Crete Welcomes Prof. Jesús Daniel Santos

**Professor Daniel Santos**

**Rector Delegate for International alliances at the University of Oviedo**



The University of Crete had the honor of welcoming **Prof. Jesús Daniel Santos, Rector's Delegate for International Alliances** at the **University of Oviedo**, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen academic and research collaborations within the **INGENIUM University alliance**.

During his visit, Prof. Santos met with **Prof. Georgios Kontakis, Rector of the University of Crete**, to discuss opportunities for expanding cooperation between the two institutions. He also held meetings with faculty members from the **Departments of Physics, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, and Materials Science and Engineering** to explore the development of joint educational programs.

Additionally, Prof. Santos met with **Prof. Vassilis Charmandaris, Chairman of FORTH**, to examine ways in which the INGENIUM alliance could foster deeper research collaborations and interdisciplinary synergies.

His visit marked a significant step toward strengthening international partnerships and advancing shared academic and scientific goals.

Watch an exclusive interview with Prof. Santos, filmed in the studio of the University of Crete:

<https://video.ict.uoc.gr/asset/detail/f2YT9dWcYhqfkWKkCOBqUHeb/d1PRLXRWILXUHTVpTjczyAH>





## The University of Crete at the “10 Days of INGENIUM”



The South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences – Xamk and the University of Oviedo hosted the **10 Days of INGENIUM events** in February 2025. Students, researchers, academic and administrative staff gathered in the two European cities to participate in workshops, hands-on activities, lectures, and presentations.

**South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences – Xamk** welcomed undergraduate students and mentors from **February 10 to 14** at the **INGENIUM Winter Junior School**, titled *“From Idea to Disruption: Transforming Visions into Innovations”*,

in Mikkeli, Finland. Participants explored the importance of entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and interdisciplinarity in addressing contemporary challenges.

At the same time, the consortium members of the **INGENIUM Staff Academy** presented innovative pedagogical approaches adopted in their institutions. The University of Crete was represented by **Ms. Maria Fouskaki** (Laboratory Teaching Staff - LTS) and **Dr. Ioannis Metaxas** (postdoctoral researcher from the Department of Chemistry). Their interactive presentation, *“Chemistry Outreach Group (COG):*



*Building Reflective and Inclusive Educational Outreach Activities in Science Education*", focused on the student-centered approach to science applied by the Chemistry Outreach Group of the University of Crete.

Postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, and researchers participated in the **INGENIUM Winter Senior School**, titled *"Creativity and Communication in Research"*, hosted by the **University of Oviedo** from **February 17 to 21**. Focusing on effective communication in both academic and public spaces, participants explored traditional and modern approaches, the importance of data protection, and the challenges of scientific misinformation in fields such as health and climate change.

At Oviedo, the **Rectors and Vice-Rectors** of the 10 European INGENIUM institutions met and discussed strategic issues, taking key decisions regarding the consortium's next steps. The University of Crete was represented by **Prof. Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy**, who participated in discussions on future initiatives of the INGENIUM partners.

**The University of Crete** will host the next **10 Days of INGENIUM** event from **May 19 to 23** at **Voutes Campus in Heraklion** and will organize the next **INGENIUM Senior School and Staff Academy**.

Stay connected - follow INGENIUM for the latest updates: [INGENIUM Newsletter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#) | [Youtube](#)



## Launching the Higher Education Interoperability Framework in Europe



**T**he European Digital Education Hub (EDEH) launched the **Higher Education Interoperability Framework in Brussels on January 15th, 2025**, marking a milestone for education in Europe. Georgios Chalkiadakis, Deputy Director of the UoC Digital Governance Unit and WP3-Digital INGENIUM leader, represented the University of Crete in the EDEH initiative.

The HEI Framework aims to create a cooperative and inventive higher education environment, where students and faculty access a wide range of learning tools and materials. Interoperability allows seamless exchange of data and resources that comply with EU standards and promote an efficient and effective learning experience for the overall university community.

The University of Crete has undertaken the challenging task to develop and provide digital tools that promote and support INGENIUM's educational, research, and outreach targets. The INGENIUM European University, committed to the creation of a European Campus that is inclusive and accessible to all, has created the [INGENIUM Education Platform](#) that hosts open and micro-credential courses while it has successfully established common protocols for the authentication of all INGENIUM students and staff.

The successful launch of the Higher Education Interoperability Framework signifies a major advancement in transforming the landscape of higher education in Europe. It promotes collaboration among member states and addresses the current challenges and barriers in the development of a harmonized digital education landscape.



# INGENIUM OPEN CALLS

## INGENIUM European University

A Global alliance of 10 European universities and countries devoted and united in offering higher education. Embracing diversity as a strength, INGENIUM relies on collaborative work to drive excellence in education, research, innovation, and social engagement while addressing local and global challenges.

**Are you an  
INGENIUM  
Student  
and have an  
Idea Worth  
Funding?**

## INGENIUM STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS



Do you want to contribute your knowledge and skills to bring a group project to life?

The INGENIUM Student Partnerships initiative is providing financial support to students and student associations that want to implement innovative, co-creative, and collaborative projects across the Alliance.

Turn your idea into a meaningful project, explore Europe, and make a real impact on your community. Do not miss your chance!

**Applicants can receive up to 10.000 euros per project!**

Visit our dedicated website page to find out more about the application process and express your interest by **April 14, 2025!**

Join our **1st Info Webinar on March 26** to learn more about the initiative, find potential partners, and get answers to all your questions on how you can implement a successful funded project.

Want to get in contact with students across the Alliance?

Join our INGENIUM Student Network group on LinkedIn and be part of a growing community: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10070178/>

**Call for Joint  
Academic  
Offers**



## INGENIUM ACADEMIC OFFERS

The INGENIUM European University launches a call for the development of joint academic offers, inviting faculty from partner institutions to collaborate on innovative programs that enhance student mobility and interdisciplinary learning.

**Pathway Programs** – Develop flexible curricula that integrate seamlessly across INGENIUM institutions, allowing students to customize their learning journeys.

**Flagship Programs** – Create joint or multiple degree programs that leverage the strengths of INGENIUM partners and provide a truly European education.

**Get involved!** Submit your proposal and help shape the future of European higher education.

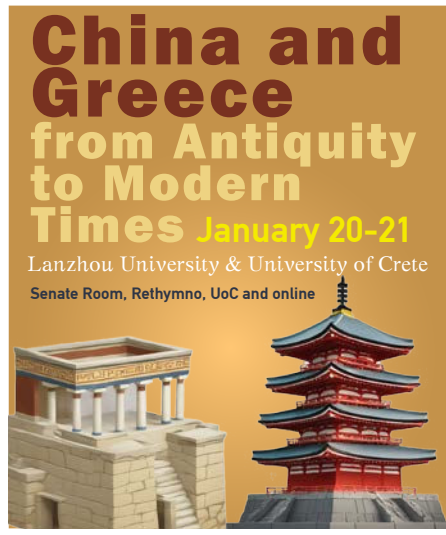
The alliance offers support throughout the process, including assistance in finding collaborators.

Learn more and apply by May 4, 2025: <https://ingenium-university.eu/launch-call-for-the-development-of-joint-academic-offers/>





ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE



# Symposium

## «China and Greece from Antiquity to Modern Times»



A two-day symposium titled “China and Greece from Antiquity to Modern Times,” was held on January 20–21, 2025, in Gallos Campus, Rethymnon. The Symposium was jointly organized by the University of Crete and Lanzhou University in China and brought together scholars and students from both Universities for an engaging exchange of ideas.

Lectures and discussions focused on comparative studies between Greek and Chinese cultures from antiquity to modern times. Faculty members and researchers from both institutions explored similarities and differences between the two cultures through literature, the study of international relations, and global history. Participants also shared perspectives on strategies for addressing cultural, economic, and social challenges.

The event opened with welcome addresses from Prof. Melina Tamiolaki, Vice Rector for Development,

International Relations, and Outreach; Prof. Angela Kastrinaki, Dean of the School of Philosophy; and Prof. Nikos Vafeas, Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

The program included presentations by faculty members of the Departments of Political Science, Primary Education, Philosophy, and History-Archaeology of the University of Crete as well as by UoC students and doctoral candidates from Lanzhou University specializing in Modern History and Comparative Political Science.

The symposium highlighted the significance of intercultural collaboration and the value of academic exchange between two nations with rich histories and cultural heritage.

For more details on the symposium’s program, please visit the University of Crete’s official website: [University of Crete Symposium Page](#).

# Tsinghua University

## Delegation Visits the University of Crete



清华大学  
Tsinghua University



On February 10, 2025, the University of Crete hosted a delegation of students from Dushi College, Tsinghua University, at Voutes Campus in Heraklion.

The students were welcomed by the [UoC Welcome Office](#), which organized the visit. Prof. Melina Tamiolaki, Vice-Rector for Development, International Relations, and Outreach, delivered a speech titled *"University of Crete and China: A Growing Connection,"* highlighting the university's collaborations with Chinese institutions.

Dr. Giorgos Moraitis and Prof. Ilias Georgantas, Chair of the Department of Political Science, provided historical insights in a discussion titled *"Maritime Silk Roads: Sino-Greek Connections in the Context of Late Modernity."*

The student delegation also attended presentations by Vice-Rectors and faculty members. Prof. Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, and Prof. Sofia Schiza,

Vice-Rector for Administrative Affairs and Student Welfare, introduced the university's structure and academic framework.

Department heads provided an overview of the structure and key characteristics of their respective disciplines:

Prof. Andreas Zezas, Chair of the Department of Physics

Assoc. Prof. Panagiotis Chatzipandelidis, Vice-Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics

Prof. Konstantinos Magoutis, Chair of the Computer Science Department (CSD)

Assoc. Prof. Grigoris Emvalomatis, Department of Economics

Prof. Gerasimos Armatas, Department of Materials Science and Engineering





# Public Events on Ancient Greek and Chinese Culture



Center of Greek & Chinese Ancient Civilisations

A series of public events is organized by the **Center for Ancient Greek and Chinese Civilizations (KELKIP)** in collaboration with the Laboratory of Paleography of the University of Crete Research Center (UCRC) and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH). The series of events aim to foster a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural interactions between Greece and China, shedding light on their shared intellectual heritage and the enduring influence of their civilizations on global history.

## Exploring Sino-Greek Connections: Unveiling a 17th-Century Diplomatic Account of China

The first event took place on February 18, 2025, at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Rethymnon. The guest speaker, **Mr. Agamemnon Tselikas**, a distinguished palaeographer and former Director of the Palaeographic Archive of the Cultural Foundation of the National Bank of Greece, delivered a lecture titled *"China: Through the Eyes of Russian Diplomatic Envoy Nikolai Spathari (1675)."*

His talk focused on a previously unpublished text by Nikolai Spathari-Milescu, a diplomat in the court of Tsar Alexei I. In this text, Spathari describes his impressions following his journey to



Snapshot from Mr. Agamemnon Tselikas' lecture in the lecture hall of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Rethymno



Qing Dynasty China. Originally written in Russian in 1675, the text was later translated into Greek at the request of Patriarch Dositheos Notaras of Jerusalem (1669–1707), who had been Spathari's teacher in Constantinople.

Among the attendees was Ms. Ying Wang, Educational Attache of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Athens, who expressed her enthusiasm for the prospects of further developing the initiatives of the Center for Ancient Greek and Chinese Culture.



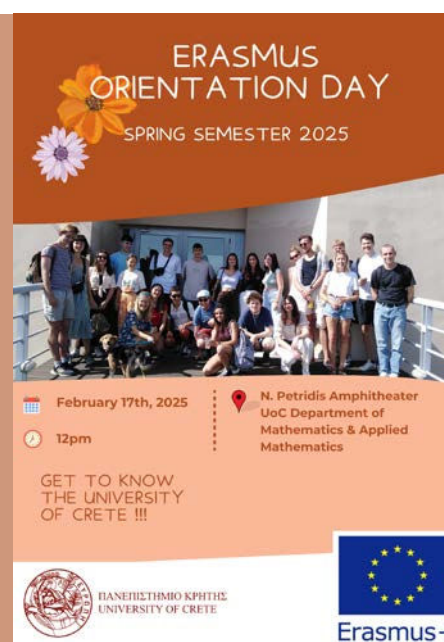
## Spring semester orientation day for Erasmus students

The University of Crete welcomes new Erasmus students!

Every year, the University of Crete welcomes a diverse group of Erasmus students, eager to embrace new academic challenges and immerse themselves in the rich cultural life of the island. As part of its commitment to providing an unforgettable international experience, UoC ensures that its Erasmus students feel at home from day one. The Spring Semester Erasmus Orientation Day is the perfect introduction to life at UoC, offering students a warm welcome and an exciting start to their journey in Crete.

### Monday February 10, Gallos Campus (Rethymnon)

The International Relations Department welcomed the incoming Erasmus students who will complete an Erasmus program in the Schools of Philosophy, Social Sciences and Education. The orientation day held in Gallos Campus introduced students to the activities and services offered at the University of Crete. Representatives of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) of the University of Crete, the cultural group Psychorama and the volunteer group "We care/We act" attended the event and informed the students about their activities.



### Monday February 17, Voutes Campus (Heraklion)

The International & Public Relations Department of the UoC invited Erasmus students who will complete an Erasmus program at the Medical School and the School of Sciences and Engineering to the spring semester Orientation Day, introducing them to the University of Crete and Voutes Campus. The program included a welcome address by the Vice Rector Prof. Eleni Tamiolaki, presentations by the UoC Library, Sports Center, Welcome Office, Student Counseling Center and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), a welcome brunch and a campus tour by the members of the ESN.

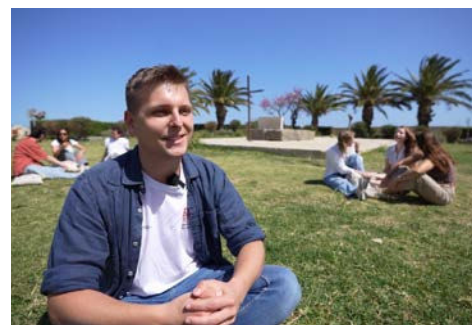




## Erasmus experiences in Crete

The Erasmus students studying at the University of Crete bring with them a unique perspective and a keen eye for discovery. As they immerse themselves in the island's vibrant culture, breathtaking landscapes, and everyday campus life, many students capture their experiences, offering a heartfelt visual diary of their time here.

Karel Mikulčák from Charles University of Crete talks about his experience as an Erasmus student in the University of Crete in front of his favorite spot in the city - Nikos Kazantzakis tomb at the Venetian Walls of Heraklion. "I think Erasmus really broadens one's horizons and helps you to see how the system works in other countries. You appreciate what it working in your country and you also see what could work better or differently. I think everyone should go abroad with Erasmus".



Amalie came to Crete from Denmark as an Erasmus student with her family. Together with her partner and their 9-month-old son they explored the island and left with experiences they will never forget. "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".

Nora from Spain and Annika from Austria conquer the highest peak of Crete (2.456m) in Psiloritis Mountain. "This was our first hike on Crete. It is totally worth it and it makes a good hike for experienced hikers. Necessary to bring suncream, a hat and also a jacket for the summit – it is getting cold up there".



New Erasmus students start their adventure at the spring semester orientation day 2025 in Gallos Campus, Rethymnon. We are waiting for their feedback and new photos!



# Distinctions



## Professor Vassilis Charmandaris Appointed to the ESA's Highest Advisory Committee on Space Science



Vassilis Charmandaris, Professor of Astrophysics at the UoC Department of Physics and Director of the Institute of Astrophysics of FORTH and [Skinakas Observatory](#), has been appointed member of the European Space Agency's (ESA) highest Advisory Committee on Space Science. His three-year term on the committee began in January 2025.

The Advisory Committee on Space Science is the primary advisory body to ESA's Director of Science. Its role is crucial for the European scientific community, serving as the main link between scientific needs and space programs. Specifically, the committee represents the views of the scientific community on participation in space experiments and the utilization of data from ESA's mandatory scientific programs.

Prof. Charmandaris' appointment to this prestigious committee is a significant distinction for himself and for the University of Crete and Greece, as he is the first Greek scientist to be appointed to this position. Greece has been a member of ESA for 20 years.

In addition to this honor, Prof. Charmandaris was recently elected as **President of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH)**. His election is a recognition of his outstanding academic and research contributions, as well as his dedication to science and technology. The University of Crete takes great pride in seeing a distinguished faculty member take on the leadership of one of the country's and Europe's top research institutions.

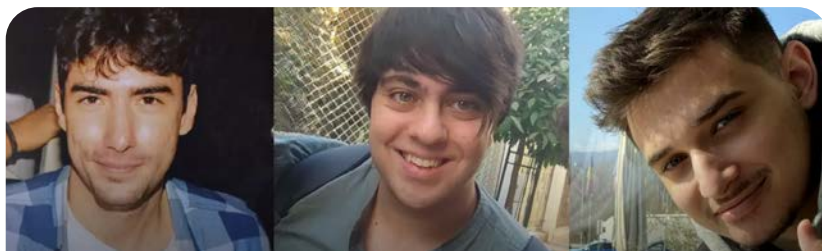
With his extensive research experience, knowledge, and dedication, Prof. Charmandaris is expected to play a pivotal role in maintaining FORTH's leadership in research and innovation, further enhancing its global reach and commitment to scientific excellence.



### **Prof. Nektarios Tavernarakis elected President of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC)**

Nektarios Tavernarakis, Professor at the University of Crete's Medical School and President of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), has been elected **President of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC)**. The EMBC is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 31 member states, dedicated to funding the programs of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), which support outstanding scientists in the life sciences. Professor Tavernarakis has also served as Greece's scientific representative to the EMBC since 2022, contributing to the connection of Greece to the EMBO Installation Grants that fund young scientists relocating to the country.

The University of Crete warmly congratulates Professor Tavernarakis on this significant distinction and wishes him every success in his efforts to promote scientific excellence and strengthen international collaborations within the global scientific community.



### **CSD students win 1st place in the Panhellenic University Programming Contest (GRCPC)**

The Department of Computer Science congratulates its undergraduate students **Nikolaos Arvanitakis, Emmanouil Patronakis, and Evangelos Nikiforos**, for securing first place in the Panhellenic University Programming Contest. The Panhellenic University Programming Contest is an annual competition serving as the Greek qualifying round for the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). The students will represent the University of Crete in the next phase of the competition in Romania.



**Astronomy  
&  
Astrophysics**

### **ERC Synergy Grant Awarded to University of Crete Prof. Vasiliki Pavlidou**

The ambitious **mw-atlas project** has been awarded a €10 million ERC Synergy Grant from the European Research Council. This prestigious grant supports **Vasiliki Pavlidou**, Professor at the UoC Department of Physics and Deputy Director of the Institute of Astrophysics at the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), and her collaborators Torsten Ensslin from the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany, and Philipp Mertsch from RWTH Aachen University, Germany to continue their groundbreaking work. The mw-atlas project aims to revolutionize galactic mapping by creating the first comprehensive 3D atlas of all the Milky Way's components, transforming our understanding of the Galaxy and beyond.





## Upcoming News

### ACTIVE CALLS

#### Explore the 2025 Summer Schools at the University of Crete

The University of Crete invites students to explore its [2025 Summer Schools](#), offering a diverse range of courses across multiple disciplines. Don't miss a unique opportunity to expand your knowledge and experience the vibrant culture of Crete at the same time!

Find out more and apply now:

<https://welcome.uoc.gr/summer-schools/>

#### Discover the English-Taught Master's Programs of the University of Crete

Looking to advance your studies in a dynamic, international academic environment? The University of Crete invites prospective students to explore its [English-taught Master's programs](#), designed to equip you with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in a wide range of disciplines.

Apply today: <https://welcome.uoc.gr/master-programmes/>

#### TEDxUniversityofCrete 2025

# TEDx

On April 5, 2025, the **University of Crete** is hosting TEDxUniversityofCrete at **Voutes Campus, Heraklion** - a day filled with **inspiring ideas and powerful storytelling**.

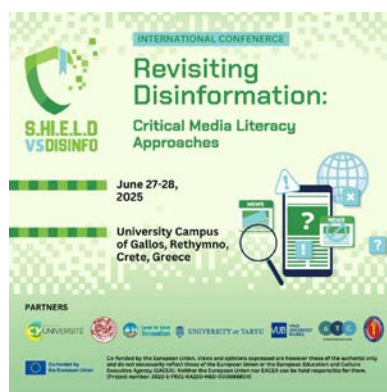
Since its first edition in 2017, TEDxUniversityofCrete has been a beacon of knowledge and creativity, born from the initiative of passionate UoC students and staff who voluntarily took on the challenge of organizing the event annually. Their vision is to create a platform where ideas worth spreading ignite discussions and inspire action.

TEDxUniversityofCrete 2025 is titled **"OPSIS: Opening doors, exploring different perspectives"** and features a rich program with interesting speeches, workshops, film screenings and performances.

Speakers include **Mr. Vassilis Charmandaris**, Professor of Astrophysics at the UoC Department of Physics and Director of the Institute of Astrophysics of FORTH and [Skinakas Observatory](#), and **Mrs. Mary Pachiadaki**, President of the Association of Women's Organizations of Heraklion and activist for women's rights.

For more information, please visit the [official website](#).

#### International Conference "Revisiting Disinformation: Critical Media Literacy Approaches"



#### 27-28 June, UoC Gallos Campus, Rethymnon

The **S.H.I.E.L.D. vs Disinformation** project is pleased to announce the International Conference **"Revisiting Disinformation: Critical Media Literacy Approaches,"** which will take place at the University Campus of Gallos, Rethymnon, Crete, Greece, on **June 27 and June 28, 2025**.

This two-day event will bring together scholars, researchers, educators, professionals and students, to explore the phenomenon of disinformation and its impacts through the lens of critical media literacy. The conference will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations on current research, fostering dialogue and collaboration on this critical issue.

Learn more and submit your paper: <https://shieldvsdisinfo.com/international-conference/>

## ACA 2025 – 30th International Conference on Applications of Computer Algebra



### Special Sessions including (but not limited to)

- Computer Algebra in Education
- Computer Algebra Software in the Life Sciences (CAGSLife)
- Computer algebra in group theory and representation theory
- Computational Differential and Difference Algebra and Their Applications
- Computer algebra modeling in physics, classical and celestial mechanics, and engineering
- Symbolic Linear Algebra and its Applications
- History of Computer Algebra
- D-Finite Functions and Beyond: Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Arithmetic
- Algebraic geometry from an algorithmic point of view
- Algebraic and Algorithmic Aspects of Differential and Integral Operators Session
- Sparse Interpolation and Technology
- Symbolic-Numeric Computation
- Advances in Coding Theory, Algebraic, Combinatorial and Computational Methods
- Finite Fields and Applications

14-18 July, Heraklion (Crete)

The [ACA conference](#) series is devoted to promoting all aspects of computer algebra applications, encouraging the interaction of developers of computer algebra systems with researchers and users (including scientists, engineers, educators, mathematicians and practitioners). Topics include, but are not limited to, computer algebra in the sciences, engineering, medicine, pure and applied mathematics, cryptology, education, and computer science. Traditionally, ACA is organized in scientific sessions covering all foundational aspects and applications of computer algebra.

The ACA conferences are organized as a series of Special Sessions. All interested session organizers can propose a Special Session by sending an e-mail to the [ACA 2025 Organizing Committee](#). Please read here the [guidelines on how to submit a session](#).

All accepted sessions will be announced on the conference website.

### Important Dates

- \* Submission of session proposals: **30 April 2025**
- \* Submission of talks: **30 May 2025**
- \* Camera-ready due: **July 1, 2025**
- \* Conference: **July 14-18, 2025, Heraklion Crete**

### General Chair

[Assistant Professor Eleni Tzanaki](#), University of Crete (Greece)

### Program Committee Chairs

[Assistant Professor Giorgos Kapetanakis](#), University of Thessaly (Greece)

[Assistant Professor Zafeirakis Zafeirakopoulos](#), University of Geneva (Switzerland)

### Local Organization Committee

[Prof. Theodoulos Garefalakis](#), University of Crete (Greece)

### Poster

## 9th International Symposium and Thematic School on Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) theory for metabolic organization

May 26 – June 6, Heraklion Crete

The 9th edition of the [DEB School & Symposium](#) will be hosted by the University of Crete between the 26th of May and the 6th of June 2025. The topic of the 9th edition is "Stress ecology and biodiversity under climate change". The Symposium brings together researchers from various disciplines to discuss recent advancements and applications in **Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) theory**.

DEB theory aims at unifying the common principles of metabolic organization across the entire tree of life, encompassing animals, plants, and bacteria. It is founded on a limited set of assumptions expressed through mathematical formulas, which quantify an individual's growth, development, and reproduction throughout its life cycle in relation to available food and temperature. Additionally, it facilitates modelling the effects of stressors such as contaminants, pathogens, oxygen levels, and pH.

Predicting the effects of global change and the effects of environmental stressors, better understanding the geographical patterns of species, optimizing bio-production, managing exploited resources, invasive species control are all examples of applications for which improved quantitative characterizations of metabolism in diverse biological contexts are important and for which DEB theory can be extremely useful.

For more information visit the webpage <https://deb2025.sciencesconf.org/>.





ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
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# NEWSUOC

Periodical Edition of the University of Crete - Issue 14  
January- February 2025 - [www.uoc.gr](http://www.uoc.gr)

INTERNATIONAL