



Equal Day 2026

Under the auspices of the University of Crete, the IAU Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE), and the OAE Center Italy

Program of events organised

by the Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete

Wednesday, March 20, 2026

- **2:30–3:20 p.m.** As part of the SEM219 Seminar: “The Star of the Day”: Lecture and live broadcast of observations of the Sun’s photosphere from the school observatory of Nikiforos High School in Drama, by Michael Dogramatzidis, NAEC, MSc, Secondary School Physics Teacher and member of the Drama Amateur Astronomy Association “Pegasus.” The lecture will be held via live online streaming.
- **4:00 PM - 5:00 PM** Artemis II Mission: Lecture by Panagiotis Pantzekos, Msc, Secondary school physics teacher and president of the Friends of Astronomy Association of Crete. The lecture will be held via live online streaming.
- **7:30–8:30 p.m.** (weather permitting and as part of the EPA331 course), in the courtyard of the DIESTAP Laboratory: stargazing with telescopes provided by the Friends of Astronomy Association of Crete. Coordinated by Ioannis Papadakis (postgraduate student in the Department of Physics and Engineering) and Panagiotis Pantzekos (Professor of Physics, MSc, PE04). Participants include Andreas Meladakis, Nikolaos Manolakakis, and Nikitas Nikitakis (amateur astronomers, members of the Cretan Astronomy Friends Association).

Thursday, March 19, 2026

- In the morning: With the support of the Pedagogical Department of Preschool Education, kindergartens in Greece will connect with kindergartens abroad. During this connection, the kindergarten children will present astronomy activities, sing songs, and exchange greetings and wishes for peace. The following kindergartens are participating:

From Greece:

- 7th Kindergarten of Rethymno
- 10th Kindergarten of Rethymno
- Kindergarten of Gonia, Rethymno
- Kindergarten of Asopos, Laconia
- Kindergarten of Taxiarchis, Chalkidiki

From abroad:

- o The “Šypsėnėlė” nursery-kindergarten in Velžys, Panevėžys District, and the “Smalsutis” nursery-kindergarten in Dembava, Panevėžys District, from Panevėžys, Lithuania (with the support of the Panevėžio rajono švietimo centras Training Center)
- o The 13th and 16th Kindergartens of the city of Târgoviște in Romania (with the support of Valahia University of Târgoviște)
- o Ataşehir Campus – Doga School – Istanbul;
- o Acarkent Campus – Doga School – Istanbul;
- o TEV TÜRKAN SEDEFOĞLU PRIMARY SCHOOL, ÇENGELKÖY, ÜSKÜDAR – Istanbul

At the Gallos Campus:

- **2:30–3:45 p.m.**, Room D7 (as part of the courses EPA303 & EPA602): Live stream and presentations: Greta Metaxa (Ph.D., Astrophysicist, NOC team Greece, IAU-OAO), Konstantinos Christidis & Maria Ampartzaki: Light and Astronomical Phenomena in Our Solar System – The enLIGHTen Program
 - **3:45 – 4:00 PM** Live stream from Beirut, Lebanon, and presentation: Jean-Pierre Sahbini (NAEC team Lebanon) – A Psychogram of the Equal Day Concept
 - **5:45–8:00 PM** (as part of the EPA103 course) – Room D1-A and online, open to the entire educational community:
 - o **5:45–6:30 PM** Aysegul Teker Yelkenci, Istanbul Kültür University: ASTRO-EDU: Empowering Teachers as STEAM Communicators in Astronomy Education; Online talk in English.
 - o **6:30–7:00 PM** Maria Ampartzaki (Associate Professor, NAEC Greece): Teaching and learning Astronomy through Art.
 - o **7:00 – 7:15 PM** Maria Ampartzaki (Associate Professor, NAEC team Greece), Michael Dogramatzidis (Secondary School Physics Teacher, MSc, NAEC team Greece): The preparation of ASTRO-EDU in the Greek language.
 - o **7:15 PM – 8:00 PM** Michael Dogramatzidis (Secondary School Physics Teacher, MSc, NAEC team Greece): “The Star of the Day and Observation of the Night Sky”: Lecture and live broadcast of a night sky observation from the school observatory of Nikiforos Drama High School.
- To watch this evening event, please click on the link: <https://uoc-gr.zoom.us/j/83585632257?pwd=DLdbNdLobHIDFbUkbp9WdVXaDvr14a.1>

Monday, March 23, 2026

- **2:00 PM & 7:00 PM:** Online – The University of Crete’s participation in the Equal Day online event.

Event Coordinators: Maria Ampartzaki, Associate Professor, Pedagogical Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete, NAEC Team Greece; Theodoros Eleftherakis, Professor, Chair of the Pedagogical Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete; Maria Kypriotaki, Associate Professor, Pedagogical Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete; Michalis Linardakis, Associate Professor, Pedagogical Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete; Konstantinos Christidis, EEP Art Education, PTDE, UoC; Aysegul Teker Yelkenci, Istanbul Kültür University (IAU-OAE, NAEC team Turkey); Camelia Delia Voicu, University of Valahia, Târgoviște; Renata Jankevičienė, Panevėžio rajono švietimo centras. Zuhail Yilmaz Dogan, Project Coordinator, Doga Schools, Istanbul.

Technical support: Ioannis Marentakis, ETEP, PTDE, UoC; Fr. Konstantinos Niktaris, ETEP, PTPE, UoC.

The sky belongs to all of us!

Everyone is welcome to attend our events!