



Rethymno, 20-10-2026

Press release

The **Inter-Institutional Master's Programme in Bioethics**, offered by the Department of Philosophy of the University of Crete, successfully hosted an international Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) Summer School entitled "**Bioethics in Context XIII: The Natural and the Artificial. Bioethical Reflections**", which took place in the University of Crete at Rethymno, from 13 to 18 September 2026.

At the opening, Vice-Rector Professor Melina Tamiolaki delivered a welcome address on behalf of the University. Throughout an intensive week, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the complex and constantly evolving relationship between the natural and the artificial, and debated its implications for human agency and social life. Particular emphasis was placed on contemporary developments in the biosciences and the emerging digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, and on how such developments are transforming our understanding of what is considered “natural” and what “artificial”, as the artificial is increasingly becoming integrated into the very processes of life, including human life.

In addition to the high-quality lectures and seminars delivered by distinguished scholars from the participating Universities, the contribution made by the participating postgraduate students and early-career researchers was particularly dynamic. They presented diverse research topics and laid the foundations for fruitful reflection and dialogue on how to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. The Programme concluded with an online meeting on 2 October, which aimed to draw together the overall conclusions and establish a framework for future initiatives.

Through their active interaction, dynamic engagement and shared experiences, participants fostered a strong sense of community and forged bonds of friendship and collaboration, the potential of which extends well beyond the timeframe of the Programme itself.

Congratulations and sincere thanks are also due to the staff of the University of Crete's International Relations Office, who ensured the Programme's smooth and exemplary organisation.