

# NEWSUOC

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INTERNATIONAL



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

# NEWSUOC

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# New "200+" Telescope Inaugurated at Skinakas Observatory



*From left: the Mayor of Anogeia, Mr. Sokratis Kefalogiannis; the President of FORTH and Professor at the University of Crete, Vassilis Charmandaris; the Minister of Digital Governance, Mr. Dimitrios Papastergiou; the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr. Stavros Armaoutakis; Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki; the Rector of the University of Crete, Professor Georgios M. Kontakis; the Archbishop of Crete, His Eminence Eugenios; and the Metropolitan of Rethymno and Avlopotamos, His Eminence Prodromos.*

In a landmark event held at the Skinakas Observatory on July 23, the official naming ceremony of the new state-of-the-art telescope took place. The telescope, now officially named "200+," marks a significant milestone for Greek astronomy and research infrastructure.

The ceremony was jointly organized by the University of Crete and the Foundation for Research and Technology–Hellas (FORTH), with Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki, President of the "Greece 2021" Committee, as the guest of honor.

Funded through a €410,000 grant from the "Greece 2021" Committee, the new telescope is expected to make a substantial contribution to advancing research, education, and innovation, both in Crete and across Greece.

Opening the ceremony, Professor Vassilis Charman-

daris, President of FORTH and faculty member of the University of Crete, welcomed attendees and highlighted the unique importance of the Skinakas summit and the Observatory for the international scientific community and for local residents, noting that these converging interests led the investment in such a pivotal project by the "Greece 2021" Committee.

The Rector of the University of Crete, Professor Georgios M. Kontakis, described the naming of the telescope as a "symbol of national commitment to research and innovation," and extended the University's heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Angelopoulou-Daskalaki for her decisive contribution to bringing the project to fruition.

Mrs. Angelopoulou-Daskalaki stated:

*"I could not imagine a greater leap toward the future than the possibilities offered to Crete by this new*



*telescope. That is why the 'Greece 2021' Committee supported its acquisition. The Skinakas Observatory stands as living proof of the remarkable outcomes that emerge from collaboration among institutions and society."*

Minister of Digital Governance Mr. Dimitrios Papastergiou described the "200+" as "an investment in knowledge and innovation made reality through the support of the 'Greece 2021' Committee and its President, in partnership with FORTH, the University of Crete, local authorities, and the wider community." He added that, through the General Secretariat for the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission and the Hellenic Space Center, the Ministry is implementing the GreekObs20GS program, an €8 million national initiative upgrading the observatories of Skinakas, Helmos, and Cholomontas into Optical Ground Stations for secure laser communications with low-orbit satellites.

The Regional Governor of Crete, Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, emphasized that the installation of the new telescope enhances Crete's innovation ecosystem, a regional research and development network that strengthens the island's economy and society. He also expressed deep appreciation to Mrs. Angelopoulou-Daskalaki for her continued support and selfless contributions to Crete.

The Mayor of Anogia, Mr. Sokratis Kefalogiannis, underlined his community's vision and generosity in donating the land for the establishment of the Observatory nearly four decades ago. He also thanked Mrs. Angelopoulou-Daskalaki for her role in acquiring the new telescope and supporting the establishment of the new "AstroSchool" at Skinakas.

Professor Vasso Pavlidou, Director of the Skinakas Observatory and faculty member of the University of Crete, reflected on the telescope's symbolic and scientific importance:

*"This project fulfills a vision that began decades ago, when Professor Yiannis Papamastorakis chose the*

*summit of Skinakas in Mount Psiloritis for its unparalleled conditions for astronomical observation in mainland Europe. His foresight, together with the continued commitment of Anogia's leaders and citizens, has made Skinakas the most productive astronomical research facility in Greece today."*

Professor Pavlidou added that the "200+" telescope doubles the Observatory's research capacity, "opening new horizons in education and service to society." She described Mrs. Angelopoulou-Daskalaki as "a true visionary who believed, along with the 'Greece 2021' Committee, that Greece can lead on the global stage."







## Skinakas Observatory

Located on the summit of Mount Ida (Psiloritis), the Skinakas Observatory is a joint research facility of the University of Crete and FORTH, two institutions with internationally recognized academic and scientific excellence. Established in 1986 through a 15-acre land donation from the Municipality of Anogia, the Observatory stands as a testament to long-term vision, strategic collaboration, and sustained community support.

Nearly four decades later, with total investments exceeding €10.5 million, the Skinakas Observatory has been recognized as the leading educational and research observatory in Greece, a model of how scientific ambition and collective commitment can advance both knowledge and society.





## Workshop on the Implementation of the European Charter for Researchers and the HRS4R Logo at the University of Crete



On July 4, 2025, a workshop on the implementation of the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, as well as the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R), was held at the University of Crete (UoC). The event took place in the context of the University's re-certification by the European Commission and the continued maintenance of the "HR Excellence in Research" award, with the active participation of researchers from all career stages across the UoC.

**T**he discussion was coordinated by Professor Maria Vamvakaki, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Lifelong Learning, and Research Policy, together with Professor Dimitris Anglos, Coordinator of the HRS4R at UoC and faculty member of the Department of Chemistry.

The HR Excellence in Research award will remain in effect at the University of Crete for the next three years, until 2027, when the institution will undergo its next remote evaluation. It is noteworthy that the University of Crete is the only university in Greece to hold this prestigious European distinction and has maintained it continuously since 2012.

As an active member of the EURAXESS network, the University of Crete actively promotes researcher mobility, career development, and equal opportunities for researchers across Europe and beyond. The EURAXESS initiative plays a pivotal role in connecting the University's research community with international talent, thereby enhancing its global visibility and strengthening its human capital in research and innovation.

Displaying the HRS4R logo underscores the University's enduring commitment to ethical recruitment, professional development, and the creation of an open and dynamic European Research Area.



# Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Program **FLOURISH-Resilience in Educational Contexts**

2nd Semester Successfully Completed at the University of Crete Greece

Bridging Folk Poetry, National Identity, and European Ideas



**T**he second semester of the 2nd cohort of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Programme *FLOURISH: Resilience in Educational Contexts* has just been successfully completed at the University of Crete (Rethymno Campus). The orientation day and the start of the Spring Semester was on February 14, 2025, and classes ended at the end of May.

This Joint International Masters degree has started on 2023 and is the only Erasmus Mundus at the University of Crete focused on Psychology & Education with emphasis on Prevention. This important collaboration has added to

the University's international recognition as a point of reference in the field of Resilience Research and Applied Prevention Programmes in educational contexts.

This unique programme is jointly delivered by four partner institutions: the University of Malta (Coordinator), the University of Crete, Greece, the University of Lisbon, Portugal and Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava (Romania). Held on the scenic Rethymno campus, this semester brought together 20 students from around the world to explore resilience in education through four in-depth courses.



- Research Methods in Resilience in Education
- Contextual Processes in Resilience Enhancement: Classroom and School Climates
- Working with Parents and Professionals in Enhancing Resilience
- Selected Topics in Resilience and Applications in Education

The learning experience was enriched by contributions from both Greek faculty and internationally renowned experts such as:

Prof. Linda Theron (University of Pretoria, South Africa). Prof. Michael Ungar (Dalhousie University, Canada)

Other invited speakers of Semester 2 program were:

Prof. Sevgi Bayram-Özdemir (Örebro University, Sweden) Prof. Celeste Simões & Dr. Anabela Caetano Santos (University of Lisbon, Portugal).

Under the academic leadership of Prof. Anastassios Matsopoulos, Scientific Director of the FLOURISH programme and with the expertise of faculty and staff, students not only developed key theoretical and practical skills but also participated in meaningful exchanges on the power of resilience in education. Notably, this semester received very positive evaluations from students, who praised both the academic quality and the supportive, dynamic learning environment of the University of Crete.

As one student noted, *"The strong points of the course included engaging content, knowledgeable instructors, interactive activities, and practical applications that enhanced learning."*

Another graduate student highlighted that *"Class discussions were very useful and insightful, and the professors were always open, respectful, and supportive."*

Another comment was *"The study unit effectively bridged resilience theory with real-world application, offering numerous practical strategies for implementing resilience-building interventions,"* shared one student.

Another commented, *"The professors were very well-prepared and organized, always available to guide us even after class hours."*

Beyond academic growth, students also enjoyed vibrant cultural experiences and created lasting memories while

living on the island of Crete. Besides the coursework, the 20 students visited the 4th Junior High School in Missiria and connected with faculty and students. Outside the University and during a day-trip, the group visited the Monastery of Preveli and the Plakias area which made a significant impression to the students showcasing the island's breathtaking beauty. As they prepare for the next leg of their journey, the second cohort carries forward the spirit of FLOURISH: collaboration, growth, and a commitment to fostering resilience in schools and communities across the world.

*"It was great to have guest speakers and learn about real-life scenarios," one participant said, while another added, "The lessons were super engaging — the professors valued our voices, and the resources used were up to date and very helpful."*

We are very excited to welcome our 3rd cohort of students at the University of Crete on February 2026. Applications for new students in the Joint Masters Erasmus Mundus program (Resilience in Educational Contexts) will open in October

15, 2025 and close by December 15th 2025.

More information about this international Master's program can be found at the Department of Preschool education website ([ptpe.edc.uoc.gr-Erasmus Mundus](http://ptpe.edc.uoc.gr-Erasmus%20Mundus)) and at the University of Malta website ([flourishproject.mt](http://flourishproject.mt)). The program has been administratively supported by Mrs Isavella Theodosiou and runs as an innovative program under the auspices of the School Psychology Research Unit of the Research in Psychology Lab of the Department of Preschool Education.

The next scholarship call for applications for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree "Resilience in Educational Contexts" for the 4th cohort will open on the 15th October 2025 until the 15th December 2025. For information on the requirements please check here: <https://flourishproject.mt/applications/entry-requirements/>

“The strong points of the course included engaging content, knowledgeable instructors, interactive activities, and practical applications that enhanced learning”

# University of Crete students at the EIB Summer School 2025



**T**he University of Crete is pleased to announce the participation of two of its graduate students—Elisavet Kapetanou (Biomedical Engineering) and Dimitra Tsantiraki (Political Science)—in the prestigious EIB Summer School 2025. Selected from a competitive pool of 80 students across Europe, Elisavet and Dimitra attended the program organized by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg.

The summer school offered an in-depth exploration of the EIB's role in shaping Europe's future through financing, sustainability, and innovation. Through interactive lectures, workshops, and case studies, participants engaged directly with Bank experts and delved into key topics such as the energy transition, digital transformation, and sustainable development.

Elisavet Kapetanou took part in the "Governance and Policy" module and was selected as a speaker in the "Youth Talk Session on Innovation" panel. Dimitra Tsantiraki participated in the "Development & Social Growth" module, where she contributed to a simulated evaluation of an investment project. Both students emphasized the value of connecting academic knowledge with institutional practice.

Their achievement highlights the academic excellence of University of Crete students and the institution's commitment to fostering international learning opportunities.





## University of Crete Students Participate in YES Program at Leading Chinese Universities

Students from various departments of the University of Crete took part in the Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) Program, gaining the unique opportunity to visit several prestigious universities across China.

Through a dynamic mix of academic sessions and cultural experiences, participants deepened their understanding of China's educational landscape while building lasting intercultural and academic connections between Greece and China.

University of Crete student Elena Tsotsi was among those who participated in the prestigious YES summer program in China, supported by Chinese scholarships. Her journey took her from Beijing's Central University of Finance and Economics, where she explored Entrepreneurship in the Digital Era, to Wuhan University, where she studied Traditional Chinese Arts and Culture. Through intensive courses, teamwork,

and immersive cultural experiences -from climbing the Great Wall and attending lectures on strategic entrepreneurship to practicing calligraphy and ceramics- Elena gained a profound appreciation of China's dynamic balance between tradition and innovation. "The program transformed my understanding of global connectivity and cross-cultural collaboration," she reflected, noting how lessons in entrepreneurship and intercultural communication deepened both her academic and personal growth.

Emmanouil Georgios Kaloudis:

With certainty, I can say that this trip was one of the most interesting experiences I have had so far. The hospitality and overall organization of the program exceeded my expectations. We gained a truly holistic experience of China, as we visited numerous landmarks, museums, and companies. Every day we tried new flavors and local dishes, and we had the opportu-



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nity to meet local people and, in turn, better understand their culture.

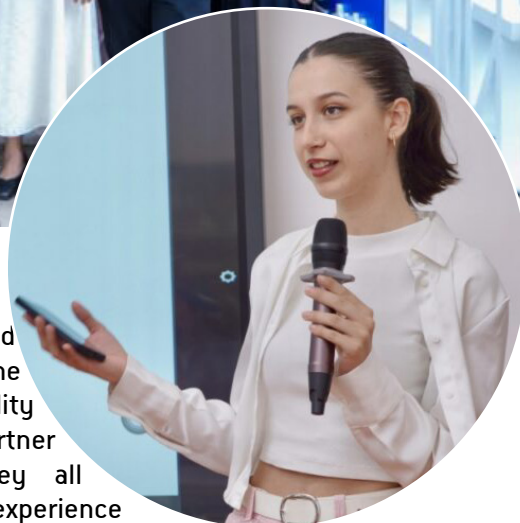
I wholeheartedly recommend this program to everyone, and I will definitely try to live similar experiences again through the YES Program.

Haris Annet Benjamin:

My participation in the "Splendid Jiangsu 2025" program at Nanjing Medical University was an experience that will undoubtedly remain indelibly etched in my memory. The journey exceeded every expectation – it was marked by a unique blend of contrasts, where innovation and tradition co-existed harmoniously, and the balance between the old and the new was evident in every aspect of Chinese daily life.

Other University of Crete students who joined the YES Summer Programs in Beijing, Nanjing, and Wuhan shared similarly transformative impressions. They highlighted China's commitment to innovation,

efficiency, and education, and the warm hospitality extended by partner universities. They all described the experience as an inspiring blend of academic challenge, cultural discovery, and friendship-building across borders. Whether studying aeronautics at NUAA in Nanjing or engaging in cultural workshops and technology seminars, participants returned with broadened horizons and strengthened global perspectives, reaffirming the University of Crete's dedication to fostering international mobility and meaningful intercultural exchange.



# Study in Crete:

## Discover the Origins of European Civilization

### Study Abroad Program at the University of Crete



#### WHY CHOOSE SiC?

- International experience at one of Greece's top universities
- Deep understanding of Greek history and archaeology
- Networking with leading researchers & global academic community
- Unique opportunities for educational trips to archaeological sites
- Enhancing academic & professional profiles



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

**T**he Study in Crete (SiC) program invites international students to embark on an exciting academic and cultural journey into the heart of ancient Greece and ancient Crete, in particular. Offered by the University of Crete, this semester or year-long study abroad program focuses on the History, Archaeology, Literature, and Philosophy of Ancient Greece, with a particular emphasis on the unique heritage of ancient Crete.

#### An Immersive Academic Experience

The program consists of classroom learning and hands-on exploration. Students attend lectures and seminars led by distinguished faculty, while field visits to world-renowned archaeological sites and museums bring ancient history vividly to life.

The program's curriculum combines academic rigor with experiential learning, allowing participants to develop critical thinking, research, and interpretative skills as they engage directly with Greece's tangible and intangible heritage.

Melina Tamiolaki, Vice-Rector of International Affairs and Co-ordinator of the SiC Program, states the following: "The University of Crete is an ideal place to study Classical studies: contrary to some universities in the world, in which Classical studies may be shrinking or lack academic staff, the University of Crete has a vibrant community of distinguished academics, teaching at the Departments of Philology, History and Archaeology, and Philosophy, who offer a variety of courses on ancient civilization from prehistoric times till Late Antiquity. Furthermore, studying in Crete, a place with a rich and diverse culture and a plethora of archaeological sites, constitutes an immersive experience. Finally, the University of Crete provides valuable facilities to its students, which guarantees a pleasant and productive

period of study. These include help with practicalities of everyday life through our Welcome Office, Gym facilities through our Sport Center, psychological support through our Counseling and Support Center and continuous support and guidance on academic matters. We look forward to welcoming students to the SiC Program".

#### Learning Beyond the Classroom

Field trips take students to iconic sites on the island — Knossos, Phaistos, Agia Triada, Kommos, Malia, Gortyn, and Eleutherna — as well as visits to the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, one of the most significant museums in Europe.

#### A Modern Greek Perspective





# STUDY IN CRETE (SiC)

History, Archaeology, Literature and  
Philosophy in Ancient Greece

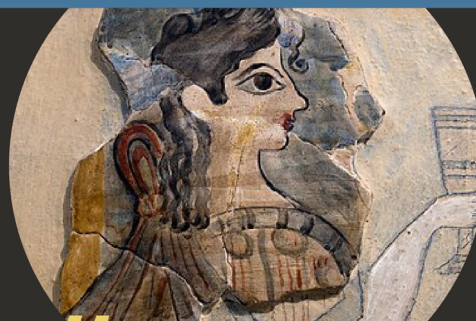
Study Abroad Program at the  
University of Crete, Greece

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 [studyincrete@uoc.gr](mailto:studyincrete@uoc.gr)

 <https://www.uoc.gr/sic/>



“The “Study in Crete” study abroad program offers students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves with the civilization of ancient Greece and ancient Crete, in particular”



While the program focuses on ancient Greece, Study in Crete also provides a gateway into modern Greek culture and society. Participants may choose elective courses in Modern Greek Language or explore additional English-taught courses in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities. This interdisciplinary approach ensures that students gain a comprehensive understanding of both Greece's past and present.

### Who Can Apply

The Study in Crete program welcomes students of all majors who are passionate about Humanities, Cultural Studies, or Classical Studies. Whether pursuing an academic interest or seeking personal enrichment, participants will find this program a transformative experience.

Students can apply for one or two academic semesters, choosing between the winter, summer, or full-year program.

### Why Choose Crete

Studying in Crete is more than an academic opportunity — it is a life experience. The island, often

called the cradle of European civilization, offers a landscape where history, mythology, and modern life coexist in harmony. Its welcoming community, vibrant traditions, and breathtaking scenery make it an inspiring environment for study and reflection.

Crete's rich historical layers — from the Minoan civilization to Byzantine and Venetian heritage — provide students with a living classroom unlike any other. Combined with the University of Crete's commitment to academic excellence and international collaboration, the Study in Crete program stands as a premier choice for students seeking depth, discovery, and cultural connection.

**Applications for the academic year 2026–2027 are now OPEN!**

Discover more and take your first step toward an unforgettable academic adventure in the heart of the Mediterranean.

University of Crete — Study in Crete Program

[studyincrete@uoc.gr](mailto:studyincrete@uoc.gr)

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## Summer School in Classics Crete Past and Present



**T**he Summer School in Classics: Crete Past and Present, organized for the second time by the Division of Classical Studies of the UoC Department of Philology, successfully concluded its week-long program in Rethymno on June 21. The Summer School welcomed 16 students from all levels of study and from universities across Europe (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Southampton, Warwick, Kent, Sorbonne, Prague), the United States (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), China (Yan'an University, Renmin University), and Australia (University of Sydney).

This year's theme, "Crete on Stage," explored ancient theater in Crete and depictions of Crete in ancient drama. The program offered a rich blend of academic learning and hands-on experience, using an interdisciplinary approach that combines the study of texts, inscriptions, and the island's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Students engaged deeply with Crete's cultural legacy both in the classroom and through guided site visits.



Courses took place at the XENIA Student Cultural Center in Rethymno, with educational excursions to archaeological sites and museums in Rethymno and Heraklion, including Aptera, Lyttos, Knossos, and the Archaeological Museums of Chania and Heraklion.

The program brought together the University of Crete's faculty and international experts. Professor Kostas Panayotakis (University of Glasgow) offered lectures on Roman theater and led a workshop on related material culture. Professor Antonis Kotsonas (New York University) welcomed students to the active excavation at ancient Lyttos, offering an on-site tour and archaeological insights.





## Summer School: Crete at a Crossroads of Civilizations

Titled “Crete at a Crossroads of Civilizations,” the third Summer School organized by the Center for Ancient Greek and Chinese Civilizations (KELKIP), in collaboration with the School of Philosophy at the University of Crete, brought together students from Chinese universities for an immersive academic and cultural experience



Participants explored emblematic archaeological sites and museums in Athens, Heraklion, Rethymno, and Chania, engaging with the layered histories of civilizations that converged on Crete—from the Minoan world to the modern era.

These guided visits were integrated with lectures and educational workshops that introduced students to the structure and function of the Linear B script. Comparative study with the Phoenician alphabet offered insights into the significance of writing technologies in shaping early legal systems. Through focused analyses of ancient Cretan inscriptions, such as those from Dreros and Gortyn, the program

illuminated the central role of law in ancient Greek political life, with emphasis on democratic governance and philosophical perspectives—including Plato’s vision of Crete as the ideal site for his imagined colony.

The academic program was designed by Professor Chloe Balla (Department of Philosophy), in collaboration with Assistant Professor Artemis Karnava (Department of History and Archaeology). Contributing faculty included Assistant Professor Thanasis Mailis, Dr. Ioanna Venieri (Epigraphic Museum, Hellenic Ministry of Culture), Associate Professor Antonis Anastasopoulos, Associate Professor Giannis Kokkinakis, Dr. Eleni Kovaio





(University of Crete Library), and Assistant Professor Sofia Trouli (Department of Preschool Education).

The Municipality of Sfakia hosted the students for three days in the guesthouses and primary school of Anopoli, with overall coordination provided by the University of Crete's Welcome Office. During their stay, students and local residents attended a screening of "The Answer to Forever" (Zheng Yunchang, China 2024), a parallel event of the Cinephil101 Festival ([www.cinephil101.com](http://www.cinephil101.com)), introduced by Professor Aris Tsantiroupoulos (Department of Sociology).

At the Anopoli Primary School, children took part in the educational workshop From Ideogram to Letter and a session on Chinese calligraphy. The summer school also included an excursion to the traditional village of Aradena and the restored Church of Archangel Michael. There, participants explored the architectural integrity of an untouched historic settlement and studied the iconographic and structural elements of a 14th-century domed church, gaining a deeper understanding of how architecture, painting, and liturgy converged in medieval Cretan ecclesiastical design.



# 1st Forensic Anthropology Fieldschool

The 1st Forensic Anthropology Fieldschool was held from July 14 to 19 at the Medical School of the University of Crete, under the scientific coordination of Assoc. Prof. Elena Kranioti.

Designed for students and graduates from disciplines such as Medicine, Biology, Physical and Forensic Anthropology, Archaeology, and Osteoarchaeology, the Fieldschool offered participants a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in skeletal analysis and forensic anthropology applications using the renowned Cretan Osteological Collection.

A total of 28 participants from 12 countries, representing a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds, took part in an intensive program combining practical training and theoretical learning. Through direct work with human skeletal remains and a series of expert-led lectures on Human Osteology, Forensic Anthropology Methods, Skeletal Pathology, and Trauma Analysis, participants deepened their understanding of how anthropology and medicine intersect in the study of the human skeleton.

The Fieldschool marked a significant step toward fostering international collaboration and advancing forensic anthropology education in Crete.



## 4th Summer School "Mathematical Escapes 2025"

The Study Room of Theoretical Mathematics of the UoC Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics organized the 4th Summer School of Mathematics "Mathematical Escapes 2025."

The Summer School took place from July 8 to 11 in Voutes Campus (Heraklion) and featured two parallel programs:

**Mathematical Escapes 2025 – Fun with Mathematics:** directed to students completing the 6th grade of primary school. The program focused on mathematical games, puzzles, brainteasers, and three-dimensional constructions. Participants also engaged with "impossible situations" in mathematics and explored mathematical concepts through hands-on activities.

**Mathematical Escapes 2025 – The Art of Mathematics at the Heart of Science and Technology:** directed to students completing the 9th grade of junior high school. The program emphasized the exploration of contemporary mathematical knowledge and its pivotal connection with other sciences and technology.

Through this initiative, the University of Crete strengthened its ties with society by offering young pupils the opportunity to experience mathematics in creative and engaging ways. The Summer School actively promoted STEM education, aiming to inspire the next generation of scientists, innovators, and critical thinkers.



# 28th annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness in Heraklion, Crete



A surge of global interest in the science of consciousness brought hundreds of scholars to Crete in July 2025 for the 28th Annual ASSC Conference, an event that broke attendance records and cemented the island's reputation as a hub for interdisciplinary research.

**T**his year's conference achieved a record turnout, welcoming 777 participants, surpassing even the landmark New York meeting of 2023. The unprecedented attendance underscores the accelerating global interest in consciousness research and the interdisciplinary collaborations shaping its future.

ASSC 2025 presented a diverse and intellectually rich program featuring keynote addresses, workshops, symposia, and tutorials, with contributions from scholars across Psychology, Medicine, Neuroscience, Computer Science, Philosophy, Biology, and Mathematics. Attendees





engaged in high-level discussions and cross-disciplinary dialogue within a vibrant, collaborative atmosphere that positioned Crete as a global nexus for consciousness studies.

Among the highlights were pioneering sessions exploring predictive coding, the role of psychedelics in psychiatry, and the application of information theory to brain processes. Distinguished professors from leading institutions contributed to the event's success, while the island's unique cultural and natural backdrop infused the conference with a distinctive creative energy.

A notable aspect of the event was the enthusiastic involvement of student volunteers, whose dedication and professionalism were instrumental in the seamless organization. Students from the University of Crete, representing the Departments of Primary Education, Psychology, Medicine, and Biology, worked alongside peers from the University of Ioannina, Democritus University of Thrace, and international volunteers from the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, and institutions in Germany.

Volunteers also operated the "Child Corner", an innovative space that engaged the children of delegates through creative activities, allowing parents to participate fully in conference sessions.

Each morning began with a 7:30 a.m. yoga class, setting a tone of balance and mindfulness for the day's proceedings. The event culminated in a celebratory beach party, symbolizing both the close of a fruitful meeting and the handover of the ASSC torch to Santiago, Chile, which will host ASSC 2026.

In a gesture of solidarity, surplus food and water were delivered to a refugee camp in Heraklion, reflecting the organizers' commitment to social responsibility and community care.

For further information, visit [www.assc2025.gr](http://www.assc2025.gr)





*Dr. Emmanuel A. Stamatakis  
(University of Cambridge)*



*Dr. Athena Demertzi (University  
of Liège)*



*Prof. Eleni Vasilaki Local Host  
(University of Crete)*



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

## Co-Hosted by the University of Crete



**SPECIAL SESSIONS**

- Computer Algebra in Education
- Computer Algebra Software in the Life Sciences (CASinLife)
- 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
- Reliable numerical computing and differential equations
- Solving Matrix and Tensor Equations
- Combinatorial and Geometrical Methods in Contemporary Coding Theory
- Noncommutative Symbolic Computation

**Invited Speakers**

**General Chair:**  
Gianira Nicoletta Alfaro  
(Grenoble University, France)

**Local Committee:**  
Theodoros Ganiotakis  
(University of Crete, Greece)

**Program Chairs:**  
Giorgos Kapetanakis  
(University of Thessaly, Greece)

**ACA WG co-chairs:**  
Ilias Kotiares  
(Wilfrid Laurier University & CAADG/Life, Canada)

**Scientific Committee:**  
ACA Working Group

**Sponsors:**  
Maplesoft, CARGO, etc.

<https://aca2025.github.io/>

The 30th International Conference on Applications of Computer Algebra (ACA 2025) was held in Heraklion, Crete, from July 14 to 18, 2025. Marking three decades of global academic presence, ACA is among the most prominent conferences in its field. This year's meeting achieved a milestone by welcoming the largest number of participants in its history, bringing together distinguished scholars from more than 30 countries.

The conference was co-organized by faculty members of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Crete, in collaboration with their counterparts at the University of Thessaly, the University of Athens, and the "Society for Research and Practice." Participants presented original research papers spanning a wide range of topics in the applications of computer algebra.

The active engagement of students was a highlight of the event, as they contributed both to the scientific program and to the organizational support of the conference.

Visit the official website for more information: <https://aca2025.github.io/>



# 5th SHARE Congress – Science in Heraklion: Awareness in Respiratory and Sleep Evolution

Heraklion, 03 -06 July 2025



**T**he University of Crete co-organized the 5th SHARE Congress, held in Heraklion, Crete, from July 3–6, 2025, under the auspices of the Respiratory Research Society of the University of Crete. The congress was coordinated by Professor Sofia Schiza, President of the Society and Head of the University's Sleep Disorders Center.

The meeting addressed key topics in respiratory and sleep medicine, including interstitial lung diseases, pulmonary hypertension, and patient-centered care. It combined keynote lectures, interactive workshops, and hybrid participation formats designed to

enhance professional training and cross-disciplinary exchange. The 2nd Greek–Turkish Workshop on Interstitial Lung Diseases, held in conjunction with the congress, further advanced regional scientific cooperation. The Congress was hosted at the IBIS Styles Heraklion Central Hotel, bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals, and policy experts from across Europe to exchange insights on key issues such as aging, public health, respiratory diseases, and cross-border scientific collaboration.



## Scientific Symposium in honor of Professor **E. N. Economou**



**O**n June 30, 2025, a scientific symposium was held under the auspices of the University of Crete and the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), at the premises of FORTH in Heraklion, to honor Professor Eleftherios N. Economou on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Professor Economou is internationally acclaimed for his pioneering work in condensed matter physics, particularly in disordered systems, electronic transport, and wave propagation in complex media. He is the author of the widely respected textbook *Green's Functions in Quantum Physics* and has had a profound impact on the development of theoretical physics both in Greece and abroad.

A key figure in the early development of the University of Crete, Professor Economou joined the Department

of Physics in 1981 and served as a full professor until 2007. He is now Professor Emeritus and remains deeply connected to the university's academic life. He was also a founding member and former Director of FORTH, playing a pivotal role in its development into one of Greece's leading research institutions

The symposium featured presentations by leading researchers from around the world, highlighting recent advances in fields influenced by Professor Economou's work.



## **ICM Project 171/2022:**

### **A Journey of Resilience and Connection**

By the International Relations Department, University of Crete



When the International Credit Mobility Project 171/2022 began in 2022, no one could have predicted how turbulent the coming years would be. Political uncertainty, travel restrictions, and global instability swept across the partner regions – Russia, Israel, and Palestine – challenging even the most carefully designed plans.

There were moments when the project seemed impossible to complete. Flights were cancelled, seminars postponed, and collaborations put on hold. Yet, through persistence, patience, and an unshakable belief in the value of academic exchange, the University of Crete and its partners refused to give up.

What followed was not just a project – it was a lesson in endurance and the quiet strength of international cooperation.



## Palestine – Learning Through Dialogue

At Birzeit University, collaboration came to life through open lectures and engagement with the academic community. Students and professors came together for teaching and training, focusing on quality, inclusion, and equal opportunities. It was a chance to exchange not only ideas and stories about science and education, but also reflections on life, resilience, and hope.

These encounters went far beyond the classroom. They became moments of genuine scientific and human connection — where learning was shared, cultures met, and new partnerships for the future began to take shape.

## Israel – Science as Common Ground

In the southern desert of Israel, collaboration with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev took a different shape. The focus was on rheological techniques — complex and precise — yet the spirit behind them was simple: sharing knowledge, learning from one another, and building trust.

From joint experiments to informal discussions, the partnership grew into something deeper — a reminder that scientific cooperation can flourish even when the world beyond the lab is uncertain.

Palestine

## Russia – Research Across Distance

Thousands of kilometers away at Novosibirsk State University, a University of Crete professor continued the journey of collaboration, joining seminars, contributing to publications, and exploring opportunities for future student exchanges.

In a moment when borders felt heavier than ever, research became a bridge — connecting minds, ideas, and cultures across continents. The collaboration demonstrated that intellectual curiosity knows no limits, and that science speaks a language understood universally.

## Novosibirsk, Russia

Negev, Israel





he exchange laid the foundation for future collaborations and reaffirmed that true partnerships grow through dialogue and mutual respect.

### What Remains

By 2025, as the project drew to a close, it had achieved far more than the exchange of students or staff. It had strengthened institutional ties, expanded research horizons, and deepened understanding between cultures.

Most importantly, it had shown what international collaboration truly means — not just mobility and agreements, but the courage to stay connected when it matters most.

### Moving Forward

**For the University of Crete, the ICM 171/2022 project was more than a milestone — it was a story of adaptability, humanity, and the power of shared purpose.**

In alignment with the University's Erasmus Policy Statement, the experience reaffirmed a simple truth: that education, dialogue, and cooperation can overcome distance, uncertainty, and difference.

Even in challenging times, the bridges built through Erasmus+ continue to stand — connecting people, institutions, and dreams across the world.



### South Africa, Pretoria – Where Ideas Take Root

At the University of Pretoria, the University of Crete team discovered a vibrant academic environment shaped by diversity and innovation. Workshops and discussions on teaching, sustainability, and internationalisation unfolded in an atmosphere of openness and curiosity.

Beyond formal meetings, genuine connections formed — through shared laughter, ideas, and perspectives. As one participant said, “You arrive as a visitor, but you leave as part of a community.”

The exchange laid the foundation for future collaborations and reaffirmed that true partnerships grow through dialogue and mutual respect.



# INGENIUM Approves Legal Framework and Launches Joint Scholarship Scheme

Representatives of the INGENIUM Alliance Council, chaired by its President and Rector of the University of Oviedo, Professor Ignacio Villaverde, gathered in Brussels to define the alliance's long-term strategy.



**D**uring their stay in Brussels, members of the Alliance Council held meetings with officials from the European Commission and representatives of the European University Association (EUA).

The ten INGENIUM partner universities approved in Brussels the founding documents for the establishment of the alliance's legal entity—a decisive step that strengthens INGENIUM's status as a true European university. The meeting of the INGENIUM Alliance Council, chaired by Professor Villaverde, marks a turning point in the institutional development of this transnational higher education initiative.

The forthcoming European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) of INGENIUM will be the first of its kind among the 65 European university alliances currently operating, placing INGENIUM at the forefront of the European Higher Education Area. This new structure will provide partner universities with a shared, stable, and operational legal framework,

enhancing their ability to deliver joint programs and share resources beyond the limits of existing European funding schemes.

During the meeting, the rectors also advanced the creation of the INGENIUM Scholarship System, which, according to the initial plans now under development, will allocate more than one million euros to promote student mobility and participation in joint bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and micro-credential programs to be launched in the coming years. This joint grant scheme will strengthen inclusion and equal opportunities while increasing the appeal of the alliance's academic offer.

Discussions also addressed the institutional transformation plans that each university will need to adopt to fully integrate INGENIUM's structures and objectives, as well as the preparations for the next European funding call (2027–2028), through which the alliance aims to consolidate its position as a model of sustainable university cooperation.

The University of Crete was represented at the meeting by Professor Maria Vamvakaki and Professor Georgios Kossioris.

## Upcoming INGENIUM Schools

### Junior Winter School in Skövde, Sweden

The INGENIUM European University is ready to welcome students at the next Junior Winter School 2026, hosted by "Högskolan i Skövde", Sweden, from 2–6 February 2026.

### Senior Winter School in Iași, Romania

The INGENIUM European University is pleased to announce the next Senior Winter School 2026, hosted by "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași, Romania, from 26–30 January 2026.

The theme for this year's Winter Schools is "Sustainability in Action" based on the three pillars of sustainability:

- Ecological sustainability
- Economical sustainability
- Social sustainability.





### **Prof. Nikos Papadakis featured as top speaker at the 34th Economic Forum for Central and Eastern Europe**

Professor Nikos Papadakis, faculty member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Crete, has been invited to participate as a Top Speaker at the 34th Economic Forum for Central and Eastern Europe, to be held in Karpacz, Poland, from 2 to 5 September 2025. This year's central theme is *"Time of Transition – What Future for Europe?"*

The Economic Forum in Karpacz is organized by the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies (Poland), in collaboration with the Lower Silesia Region and the Warsaw School of Economics, with the support of numerous universities, institutes, organizations, and agencies. It is a long-standing institution and the largest conference-forum in Central and Eastern Europe, often referred to as the *"Davos of the East."*

The Top Speakers of the 34th Economic Forum include current and former Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, former Heads of State, Presidents and Vice Presidents of National Parliaments and Political Parties, Members of the European Parliament, national MPs, Senators, Ambassadors, and Mayors, as well as Rectors, Vice Rectors, and Professors from leading universities. Also participating are Directors of Research Institutes, Presidents and Members of National Security Councils and Independent Authorities, senior officials and experts from international organizations (including the UN, NATO, WHO, and the EU), journalists, CEOs, and other high-level representatives from across sectors.

The 34th Forum will host over 6,000 participants, engaging in more than 500 events, with delegates from over 60 countries across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

It is noteworthy that Professor Papadakis is the only Greek scholar invited as a Top Speaker, and he will take part, among other engagements, in the Plenary Session on *"The Future of Europe."*

This distinction for Professor Nikos Papadakis confirms the international recognition of his scholarly work and academic excellence. It also highlights the high quality, scientific reputation, and global impact of the academic staff of the University of Crete.

## **Distinctions**



### **International Distinction – Professor Emeritus Panagiotis Vardas, Faculty of Medicine**

Professor Emeritus Panagiotis Vardas of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, has once again received a prestigious international distinction from the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) at its annual congress, held this year in Madrid, attended by more than 33,000 participants.

Professor Vardas was honored with the President's Award in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contribution to the field of Cardiology and his dedication to improving patient care.

The award also acknowledges his significant contribution to European cardiovascular policy. Over the past twelve years, Professor Vardas founded and directed the European Heart Agency and the ESC Brussels Office, where his leadership was instrumental in the development of the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan. This landmark initiative was adopted by the European Union in 2024, officially designating cardiovascular diseases as a public health priority and securing corresponding EU funding.

Professor Vardas had previously been honored with the ESC Gold Medal. This latest distinction further confirms the international recognition of his scientific work, while highlighting the excellence of Greek cardiologists and the prominent standing of the University of Crete's Faculty of Medicine at the European level.



### **Honorary Distinction – Election of Professor Andreas Fountoulakis as President of the International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies (FIEC)**

The University of Crete is proud to announce that Professor Andreas Fountoulakis, Dean of the School of Education and esteemed member of the academic community, has been elected President of the International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies (Fédération Internationale des Associations d'Études Classiques – FIEC). This highly prestigious distinction honors not only Professor Fountoulakis personally, but also the Department of Preschool Education, the School of Education, and the University as a whole.

FIEC, headquartered in Switzerland, serves as the umbrella organization for national associations of Classical Studies around the world. More information can be found at <https://www.fiecnet.org/board>.

The election took place during the 35th General Assembly of National Representatives, held on July 9, 2025, within the framework of the 17th International Congress of Classical Studies of FIEC, which was hosted in Wrocław, Poland from July 7–11, 2025.

Professor Fountoulakis has previously served on the FIEC Board of Directors, following elections in 2019 (London) and 2022 (Mexico City). His election to the presidency marks a historic milestone: he is the first Greek scholar to hold this position since the Federation's founding in 1948.

On behalf of the Department of Preschool Education, Professor Theodoros Eleftherakis, Chair of the Department, extends heartfelt congratulations to Professor Fountoulakis. The Department joins in celebrating this international recognition and expresses its confidence in Professor Fountoulakis's continued leadership and scholarly contributions in his new role.





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