



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
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Summer School

“Inclusive approaches to the Medical Humanities”

Professor Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos

Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dear Distinguished guests,

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, a research University that builds on foundations, which were laid over 185 years ago. The tradition of our University reminds us of how successfully our colleagues have overcome turbulent situations and

socioeconomic challenges; but at the same time it is a great responsibility for all members of our academic community to safeguard its leading role as a source of intellectual wealth for our country.

We are gathered here for the implementation of the **first CIVIS European Summer School on Medical Humanities, a strong beginning towards a quality for care centered medicine.**

Keeping in mind the CIVIS mission, the Summer School “*Inclusive approaches to the Medical Humanities*” highlights the main goals which encompass inclusiveness and union by bringing into awareness the medical and health humanities and their major objectives across all universities.

The long-term goals of the the Summer School are conceptual:

- focus on enhancing the doctor-patient relationship and peer-to-peer interaction and diminishing the burnout syndrome among medical students and medical caregivers by deepening the understanding of the current most challenging problems),

and academic:

- the possibility of developing a multidisciplinary learning pathway.

Ladies and gentlemen

The important role played by Universities internationally, is reflected in the ***Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020***, the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. **The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, for instance, has been highly ranked in individual goals of economic and social development, confirming the significant impact it has as a University on improving social welfare, economic development, tackling social inequalities, education and health.**

Most lately, also, the Shanghai Ranking ranked the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens among the top 1,3% best Universities in the world.

I am also very proud to mention that we have been **the first Greek university to launch an English undergraduate program, the "BA Program in the Archaeology, History and Literature of Ancient Greece"**, the first undergraduate program in a Greek University that is especially designed for international students and all its courses are taught in English. From the next academic year 2022-23 a ***Medical Degree program in English*** will be also offered, exclusively addressed to foreign nationals.

In recent years, our University has grown significantly as far as new structures and infrastructures. Three major Core

Facilities are already developed with high-end instrumentation which can be used for cutting edge research.

We are, also, let me mention, motivated about the European Universities Initiative.

The previous week we had the great honor and the unique opportunity to welcome here in Athens at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the oldest Public University in our Country and in the whole area of the Balkans and the East Mediterranean more than 300 delegates for the GLOBAL CIVIS DAYS, a unique event for our outstanding coalition!

CIVIS's objectives for the next four years are in line with the European Strategy for Universities. The CIVIS alliance joins forces and invests in transnational cooperation to educate a new generation of European citizens on key contemporary challenges.

CIVIS, a European civic university, is committed to addressing the greatest societal challenges of our time. At this year's Global CIVIS Days in Athens, our open activity focused on the power of physical activity to support social inclusion and peace – both within the CIVIS Alliance and across society.

We want to build an active university!

We believe that universities are about knowledge, innovation, as well as the **pursuit of excellence**. We are

committed to work towards the advancement of critical human capacities and contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion.

I would like once again to welcome you all at this unique Summer School.

Thank you.