



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
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Civis micro programme

Τμήμα Γερμανικής Γλώσσας

"Cross-linguistic and Intercultural Mediation - German as a Lingua Franca"

Professor Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos

Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

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Dear esteemed guests and colleagues

It is a great honor for me and a unique opportunity to welcome you today on behalf of 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 and as a President of an outstanding coalition, the CIVIS University!

The EU initiative for the implementation of major European universities is really an important and crucial decision. This action achieves the escalation of the numerous existing collaborations among universities participating in an association, such as CIVIS, into a structural integrated program that goes beyond the usual collaborations among universities.

CIVIS is a European Civic University formed by the alliance of 10 leading research higher education institutions across Europe.

CIVIS University systematically seeks, inter alia, to cooperate with associated partners, both local and European, who will support its actions and participate in the implementation of new initiatives.

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. These challenges are reflected in its five interdisciplinary Hubs:

- (1) *Climate, Environment, & Energy;*
- (2) *Society, Culture, & Heritage;*
- (3) *Health;*
- (4) *Cities, Territories & Mobilities;*
- (5) *Digital & Technological Transformation.*

CIVIS hubs are cross and interdisciplinary thematic research and education areas which will structure our European University. Our goal is to create innovative study and research programmes focused on global societal challenges.

The 2-day online workshop *"Cross-linguistic and Intercultural Mediation - German as a Lingua Franca"* organized by the Department of German Language and Literature of the NKUA is a highly intercultural activity.

Within the framework of CIVIS, remarkable professors and students from the partner universities of Germany, Italy, Spain and Romania will help to shed light on the topic of mediation with focus on German. In this innovative new micro-programme, students apply academic theory into practice in a community context, exchanging perspectives on mediation. The most important goal of mediation is the understanding of communication partners who come from different or similar cultures and speak different mother tongues, so that interaction takes place both interlingually and interpersonally. Seize this fantastic opportunity and add a multi-faceted international dimension to your study profile by receiving an official certificate for this workshop.

Dear esteemed guests and colleagues

We would like to thank the CIVIS universities and their members for organizing this project and I am convinced that such a strong team will continue to offer similar opportunities to its students in the future.

We are delighted to be an active member of such a dynamic European University in a path that will produce many opportunities to all participants.

Thank you.