



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
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# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Necropoleis Research Network

Athens 12/10/2022

**Professor Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos**

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**Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

*Dear Colleagues, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,*

I am pleased to welcome you to the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Necropoleis Research Network** that this year is being hosted by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in its long – nearly a hundred and eighty five years – history has always had a leading role **in the establishment, management and support of international collaborations, research networks**

**and multilingual educational programmes (such as CIVIS and ERASMUS+).**

**Thus, it is not surprising that our University has been the first in Greece to launch an English undergraduate programme exclusively for international students in the Archaeology, History and Literature of ancient Greece while similar programs in other scientific disciplines are already on the way, such as the new BA in Medicine which is now in full swing.**

With such strategic moves the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens has been ranked high as one of the most prominent research and educational institutions in the study of the Arts and Humanities, a research area that has unfairly been criticized lately.

In particular the scientific fields of Archaeology, Art History and Classics facilitate deeper intercultural understanding and sensitivity and lay the groundwork for a civically and socially engaged life. They also prepare people to think critically, act creatively, and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

As the Rector of our University, but also as a Doctor and a scholar in Health and Life Sciences that work towards reversing the inevitable fact of death, and which provide scientific ways of exploring the world, just like Archaeology does, I accepted with great pleasure the kind invitation of the organizers to address a

welcome speech in the **5<sup>th</sup> Necropoleis Research Network  
Annual Meeting.**

*Dear Distinguished guests,*

*Dear colleagues,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

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

At the same time, we remain committed to work towards the advancement of critical human capacities and contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion.

From my part I would like to congratulate my colleagues from the Faculty of History and Archaeology, **Assistant Professor Nikolas Dimakis and Associate Professor Eurydice Kefalidou,** for their initiative to host the **NRN2022** here in Athens and our University, as well as the meeting's organizing committee, chairs, speakers, and poster presenters, and all the people involved in the process, and to wish you all a fruitful and rewarding conference.