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PRESS RELEASE

Aristotle University Opens Up New Pathways in Education

Thessaloniki, 30/10/2026

A significant initiative bringing the university community closer to school education is being launched for the first time in Greece, with Aristotle University (AUTH) taking a leading role in creating new educational opportunities for the younger generation. This initiative was formalised today, Friday, 30 October 2026, with the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between Aristotle University and the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, in the Senate Hall.

The Memorandum was signed by AUTH Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, and the Regional Director of Education of Central Macedonia, Alexandros Koptsis.

Through this agreement, Aristotle University strengthens its role as an open and outward-looking public university that goes beyond generating and disseminating knowledge to actively contribute to shaping the educational experience from the earliest school years. By establishing structured links between the school and university communities, it creates channels of communication with school students, introducing them to science, research, innovation and the opportunities available through higher education.

Aristotle University Takes the Lead in Connecting Schools with Higher Education

The cornerstone of this cooperation is the educational initiative “Discovering the Future at Aristotle University”, developed by AUTH in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia. The initiative was officially presented in January 2026 and launched on a pilot basis during the spring term of the 2025–2026 school year.

As part of the University's initiative, schools from all seven Regional Units of Central Macedonia can organise visits to AUTH's Schools, Departments, Laboratories, Museums, Libraries and other academic and research facilities. This gives school students the opportunity to experience the university environment first-hand, explore different scientific fields and gain a comprehensive understanding of their educational and career options.

Since October 2026, the initiative has become a two-way programme, further expanding its reach. In addition to school visits to Aristotle University, members of the academic community can now visit schools upon request from the respective school units.

The entire process is coordinated automatically, without administrative intervention, through a dedicated platform developed by Aristotle University. More specifically, through the visit-auth.sch.gr service, school principals across the Region of Central Macedonia can easily and quickly submit online requests for school visits to AUTH Departments or Units, as well as requests for members of the University's academic community to visit their schools.

Through scientific presentations, delivered either in person or online, hands-on workshops, educational activities and career guidance initiatives, the University brings knowledge into the classroom, giving students direct exposure to contemporary scientific, technological and social issues.

A New Approach to Connecting School and University Education

The cooperation extends beyond visits and educational activities. It also includes the joint organisation of conferences, seminars, training programmes, student and scientific events, the development of social and educational inclusion initiatives, and research activities related to education.

At the same time, the agreement provides for the use of digital infrastructure to inform schools about available activities, submit participation requests and facilitate more effective planning of joint initiatives.

Aristotle University encourages the participation of its academic units by facilitating the scheduling of visits and educational activities, while the Regional Directorate of Education undertakes to inform and mobilise schools through the 16 Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education across Central Macedonia. The three-year Memorandum establishes the foundations for systematic, long-term cooperation.

Improving Education Begins by Connecting Its Different Levels

AUTH Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, stated: *"At Aristotle University, we approach education as a unified ecosystem in which each level is inextricably linked to the next. The quality of university education cannot be separated from the quality of school education, since strengthening each educational level requires continuous*

improvement of the preceding ones. This is why we consider the systematic connection between the University and schools to be of strategic importance—not only to introduce students to the world of science, research and innovation, but also to create more and better educational opportunities together.

Through this initiative, Aristotle University is opening its doors to the school community while also bringing knowledge to the place where every young person's educational journey begins: the school.

Through our cooperation with the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, we aim to build a lasting bridge between schools and the University, based on continuity, reciprocity and meaningful impact. Investment in education does not begin at university. It begins much earlier and represents a shared responsibility towards the younger generation and the future of our society.”

Regional Director of Education of Central Macedonia, Alexandros Koptsis, stated:
“This Memorandum is more than an institutional agreement. It marks the beginning of meaningful cooperation between the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia and Aristotle University, guided by a shared vision of improving the educational experience and promoting scientific knowledge, research and innovation. Knowledge gains a new dimension when it becomes an experience—when students do not simply hear about science but encounter it first-hand.

At the same time, the Memorandum establishes a broader framework for initiatives involving teacher training, the organisation of educational and scientific events, and the development of activities in the field of education.

Today, education is called upon to prepare young people not merely to meet the demands of a changing world, but also to play an active role in shaping it.

Achieving this goal requires partnerships. We need institutions that communicate, exchange expertise and coordinate their efforts for the benefit of society.

Today's Memorandum does exactly that: it builds a bridge between school education and university knowledge, between the opportunities of today and the prospects of tomorrow.”

Photographs are attached.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.