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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Memorandum of Understanding between Aristotle University and Pfizer at the Aristotle Innovation Forum to strengthen the connection between the academic community, entrepreneurship, and innovation**

Thessaloniki, 18/5/2026

Aristotle University and Pfizer signed a Memorandum of Understanding today, Monday, May 18, 2026, at the “Emilios Riadis” Hall of the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Center, within the framework of the Aristotle Innovation Forum, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening the connection between the academic community, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, Rector of Aristotle University, and Dr. Ioannis Pandis, Head of Pfizer in Thessaloniki and Head of the Digital Innovation Center, signed the Memorandum.

**Collaboration for innovation, education, entrepreneurship, and outward orientation**

The agreement aims to develop joint initiatives and actions that will strengthen the connection between the academic and business communities, promote research, technology, innovation, and outward orientation, while placing particular emphasis on education, training, and facilitating young people’s access to the labor market.

Through this collaboration, the two parties seek to cultivate entrepreneurial and innovative thinking among Aristotle University students and graduates, while also creating a meaningful connection between academic education and the modern professional environment. At the same time, the collaboration will leverage the expertise of the business community and integrate it into the educational process, with the goal of creating new opportunities for growth and cooperation.

Within the framework of the Memorandum, the two parties will collaborate on organizing scientific and business conferences, workshops, seminars, and educational activities. They will also develop mentoring and coaching initiatives aimed at strengthening outward orientation and entrepreneurship within the University. In addition, the collaboration places particular emphasis on developing joint research and innovation initiatives, designing specialized training programs that respond to labor market needs, and providing internship and research experience opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The collaboration also includes the joint development of educational material and studies, as well as the implementation of any additional initiative that may contribute to strengthening cooperation between the University and the business community, while simultaneously highlighting the scientific and innovation potential of Thessaloniki and the wider region.

*“The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Pfizer Hellas marks another important step in Aristotle University’s effort to strengthen its connection with innovation, research, and the productive economy. Our goal is to create more opportunities for our students and young researchers, strengthen the University’s outward orientation, and actively contribute to shaping a modern ecosystem of knowledge and entrepreneurship in Thessaloniki and across the country,”* stated Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, Rector of Aristotle University.

Dr. Ioannis Pandis, Head of Pfizer in Thessaloniki and Head of the Digital Innovation Center, stated: *“The Memorandum of Understanding with Aristotle University reflects Pfizer’s longstanding commitment to promoting knowledge, innovation, and the connection between the academic community and entrepreneurship. In a rapidly evolving environment, synergies between universities and businesses constitute a key pillar for talent development and strengthening outward orientation. Through our joint initiatives, we aim to share our expertise with the educational community while also creating a dynamic ecosystem that empowers young scientists by combining academic knowledge with professional experience. In this way, we will contribute to advancing innovation not only in Thessaloniki, but also across Greece and internationally.”*

The Memorandum of Understanding seals and expands the existing collaboration between Aristotle University and Pfizer in Thessaloniki, which began with the launch of Pfizer’s investment in the city and now extends to all global organizations currently operating under Pfizer in Thessaloniki: the Digital Innovation Center, the Finance & Global Business Services Center (F&GBS), the Safety Surveillance & Risk Management department focused on pharmacovigilance, and the Research & Development (R&D) division supporting Pfizer’s global clinical studies.

Photographs are attached.

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

