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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Aristotle University Strengthens Greek Language Education for the
Greek Diaspora in the United States Through an Innovative
Professional Development Program**

Thessaloniki, 15 July 2026

Aristotle University has implemented an innovative professional development program that equips teachers of the Greek diaspora in the United States with contemporary pedagogical tools by integrating children's literature, music, and dance into the teaching of the Greek language. Through this initiative, the University further strengthens its international outreach and reinforces its role in promoting the Greek language and culture worldwide.

The program, entitled "Children's Literature, Song and Dance: Innovative Teaching Approaches for Greek Language Instruction," was implemented from March to June 2026. It is the result of a collaboration between the School of Early Childhood Education of Aristotle University and the Department of Greek Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, based in New York.

Innovative Approaches to Greek Language Teaching

The primary objective of the program was to highlight children's literature as a vehicle of Greek cultural heritage and as a bridge between language and culture through its creative integration with music, song, and dance.

By combining theoretical training with practical application, the program provides educators with contemporary teaching tools and innovative methodologies that strengthen the teaching of Greek as a heritage language and foster students' meaningful engagement with both the Greek language and Greek culture.

Language as a Vehicle of Culture and Identity

The program approaches the Greek language not merely as a linguistic system, but as a living medium of communication, culture, and social formation. By drawing on literary texts, songs, musical traditions, and elements of Greece's cultural heritage, participating educators acquired contemporary pedagogical practices that connect language with collective memory, cultural identity, and experiential learning.

The program places particular emphasis on multisensory teaching, recognizing that rhythm, music, and storytelling strengthen students' emotional connection to the language, foster learning communities, and serve as powerful incentives for preserving and transmitting Greece's linguistic and cultural heritage.

Contributing to the Preservation of the Greek Language Among Younger Generations Abroad

Through this program, Aristotle University transfers contemporary scientific knowledge and educational innovation to the Greek diaspora, making a substantial contribution to preserving the Greek language among younger generations of Greeks living abroad.

The initiative highlights the University's international orientation and its role as an institution that produces knowledge with direct social impact. At the same time, it strengthens the ties between the academic community and the Greek diaspora while supporting the dissemination of the Greek language as an integral component of cultural identity.

The scientific coordinator and principal investigator of the project is Assistant Professor Rozi-Triantafyllia Angelaki of the School of Early Childhood Education at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The program was co-organized with Protopresbyter Fr. Grigorios Stamkopoulos, Director of the Department of Greek Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Associate Professor at the School of Theology of Aristotle University.

The initiative forms part of the institutional cooperation between Aristotle University and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, established through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. It is held under the auspices of Maira Myrogianni, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

More information: <https://www.hellenicdailynewsny.com/en-us/diaspora/milestone-for-greek-education-in-the-usa-partnership-between-goarch-and-aristotle-university-of-thessaloniki-for-educator-professional-development>

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