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PRESS RELEASE

**Aristotle University and the Municipality of Kalamaria Sign
Memorandum of Cooperation: Scientific Knowledge in the Service of
Local Development**

Thessaloniki, 8 July 2026

Aristotle University and the Municipality of Kalamaria signed a Memorandum of Cooperation during a special ceremony held today, Wednesday, 8 July 2026, at the Central Library Hall of the Municipality of Kalamaria, at Remezzo.

The Memorandum was signed by the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, and the Mayor of Kalamaria, Chrysa Arapoglou, launching a broad strategic partnership that aims to connect academic knowledge with the needs of the local community.

The partnership seeks to leverage the scientific expertise and research experience of Aristotle University for the benefit of the Municipality of Kalamaria and its citizens through joint initiatives in the fields of education, research, innovation, the environment, culture, social policy, technology, and sustainable development. It also provides opportunities for student internships and thesis projects, as well as the design and implementation of research projects and European-funded programmes.

Building on the already significant collaboration between the two institutions, the Memorandum introduces new initiatives, including cooperation with the Law School of Aristotle University through the joint organisation of educational and scientific activities, internships for law students within the Municipality's Legal Department, and the joint development of research initiatives for co-funded European projects. The partnership also expands to the University's Forest Botanical Garden in Phoenix, where educational and research programmes will connect the Garden and the Museum of Wildlife of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment with the local community. The partners will establish a municipal nursery under the University's

scientific guidance and strengthen internship opportunities for students. In addition, the two parties will work closely on the management of stray animals by providing scientific support to the municipal programme, expanding sterilisation initiatives, and offering internship placements at the Municipal Veterinary Clinic.

In the field of culture, the Memorandum provides scientific support for the organisation and promotion of the Disinfection Facilities Museum and the Historical Archive of Refugee Hellenism, as well as collaboration on the digitisation and utilisation of historical archival material. Joint initiatives will also be developed with the University's Faculty of Fine Arts, including the School of Film, as well as other academic units, with the aim of strengthening cultural creativity and public engagement.

The partnership also extends to sport through the development of programmes for persons with disabilities, support for sporting events, the promotion of research on physical activity, and internship opportunities for students of the School of Physical Education and Sport Science. Particular emphasis is also placed on improving the Municipality's administrative operations through the use of artificial intelligence technologies, the mapping of administrative procedures, and staff training.

Special emphasis is also placed on education and lifelong learning through support for early childhood education structures, the development of educational programmes on local history, the organisation of creative writing, reading promotion, and digital literacy activities, as well as initiatives promoting democracy, citizenship, and peace in schools.

A key element of the Memorandum is the development of the former Kodra Military Camp, with particular emphasis on planning a metropolitan park for green spaces and culture, highlighting its archaeological findings, and exploring opportunities for the use of facilities and spaces within the former military camp.

Environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development constitute another major pillar of the partnership. The two parties will work together on the management and enhancement of urban green spaces, the mitigation of air and marine pollution, the promotion of the circular economy, the implementation of innovative green technologies, and the promotion of natural resources and ecotourism.

The Memorandum also provides for cooperation in the field of social policy through initiatives focusing on psychosocial support, public health promotion, tackling energy poverty, and strengthening employment. It also includes collaboration in the development of digital applications, cybersecurity, youth entrepreneurship, and support for start-up businesses.

Significant synergies are also envisaged within the Municipality's Technical Services through the use of academic expertise to promote the city's bioclimatic and climate-resilient development, improve the energy and environmental performance of

municipal infrastructure, and provide scientific support on civil engineering and geotechnical matters.

The Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, stated:

"Through this Memorandum of Cooperation, Aristotle University once again reaffirms its leading role as the country's foremost academic and research institution by placing its highly qualified scientific staff, research excellence, and accumulated expertise at the service of the citizens of the Municipality of Kalamaria.

Through the participation of its Schools, Departments, and research groups, the University contributes to the development of modern, evidence-based, and innovative solutions to challenges relating to education, the environment, culture, social policy, technology, infrastructure, and sustainable development, further strengthening the University's meaningful connection with society and local development.

I am confident that our collaboration will deliver significant benefits for Kalamaria, the university community, and society as a whole."

The Mayor of Kalamaria, Chrysa Arapoglou, stated:

"The signing of this Memorandum of Cooperation with Aristotle University marks a particularly important milestone for the Municipality of Kalamaria. We are not simply launching a new partnership; we are affirming a shared vision of how modern institutions should operate—with openness, collaboration, scientific evidence, and a steadfast commitment to serving society.

Our Municipality's cooperation with Aristotle University has already demonstrated its value through a number of significant joint initiatives. Today, it acquires a stable institutional framework that allows us to plan with continuity and a shared vision for the future of Kalamaria.

For us, cooperation with the University is a strategic choice. We believe that science and knowledge can provide meaningful answers to the challenges of our time and contribute to creating a more sustainable, more humane, and more modern city, always placing the citizen at its centre."

Photos are attached.

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