



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: press@auth.gr
Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki
[@Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [@authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [@Auth_University](https://www.x.com/Auth_University)

PRESS RELEASE

**Aristotle University – CrediaBank: University Knowledge Meets
Agricultural Production**
***Strategic partnership for research, innovation, sustainable
development, and new opportunities for students and young
researchers***

Thessaloniki, 21/9/2026

Aristotle University and CrediaBank are building a new bridge between university knowledge, research, and the real economy by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation that places agrifood, innovation, sustainable development, and support for the new generation of scientists at its core.

The Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, and, on behalf of CrediaBank, CEO Eleni Vrettou and General Manager of Retail Banking & Wealth Management Stylianos Iliadis signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Friday, 18 September 2026, in the Senate Hall.

Knowledge and Research Supporting the Agricultural Economy

The School of Agriculture at Aristotle University, one of the country's oldest and strongest schools of agricultural studies, with a long-standing educational and research tradition, serves as a key academic pillar of the partnership.

The partnership creates the conditions for developing a broad range of joint activities that connect scientific knowledge with the real needs of the agricultural economy and production.

Among other initiatives, the agreement provides for scientific advisory services on issues related to the agricultural economy, the calculation and improvement of agricultural income, the assessment of investments in greenhouse facilities,

sustainable financing of agricultural and agrifood activities, as well as broader issues concerning agrifood, innovation, and sustainable development.

At the same time, the framework of cooperation extends beyond the School of Agriculture and allows the partners to draw on the broader scientific and research expertise of Aristotle University, depending on the needs of the activities they develop.

Research, Education and Innovation

The Memorandum provides for the development of joint research projects and studies, as well as educational programmes and specialised seminars for the training of CrediaBank executives by Aristotle University's academic staff.

The two parties will also focus on jointly participating in national and European programmes, exchanging expertise, and developing innovative initiatives applicable to the primary and agrifood sectors.

The partnership seeks to strengthen the connection between education, research, innovation, and production, so that the knowledge generated by the public university can translate into applications with a measurable social and economic impact.

The New Generation at the Centre

The partnership places particular emphasis on the opportunities it creates for students and young researchers.

The cooperation framework provides opportunities for internships, undergraduate and postgraduate thesis projects, and doctoral dissertations on subjects connected with real-world challenges facing the economy and production.

It also provides for scholarships, awards, and grants for students and young researchers, strengthening excellence, innovation, and the connection between the new generation of scientists and the real economy.

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

“At Aristotle University, we believe that the modern public university must build bridges between knowledge and society, and between research and production. It is not enough to generate knowledge. We seek to transform it into innovation, applications, and real impact for the economy and society.

Our partnership with CrediaBank draws on the strong scientific and research expertise of the School of Agriculture and creates new opportunities in a sector of strategic importance to the country: the agrifood sector.

For us, however, the new generation is particularly important. We want our students and young researchers to come closer to the real challenges of production through

research, internships, undergraduate and doctoral research projects, scholarships, and awards.

This is our vision of a modern public university: outward-looking, innovative, open to partnerships, and useful to the country.”

On the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation, **CrediaBank CEO Eleni Vrettou** stated:

“Our partnership with the School of Agriculture of Aristotle University forms part of our strategy to actively support productive development and the transition to a more sustainable and competitive economic model.

By connecting scientific knowledge and innovation with financing and the real needs of the market, we create the conditions for the agricultural and agrifood sectors to seize new opportunities for growth. At CrediaBank, we seek to act as an active partner in collaborations that create long-term value for the economy and society.”

Looking to the Future

The partnership carries particular significance at a time when Aristotle University has just completed a century of history and contribution, while the Department of Agriculture is approaching its 100th anniversary of uninterrupted educational and scientific activity in 2027.

The new partnership reflects the commitment of Aristotle University and CrediaBank to turning scientific knowledge and research into concrete initiatives, with measurable results and a real impact on production, the economy, and society.

Representing Aristotle University at the event were Vice Rector for Research and Innovation, Professor Ioannis Rekanos; member of the Governing Council, Professor Apostolos Apostolidis; Chair of the School of Agriculture, Professor Thomas Kotsopoulos; and Coordinator of Outreach Activities at the School of Agriculture, Professor Maria Partalidou. CrediaBank was represented by Ioannis Karakostas, Head of Alternative Networks at the General Directorate of Retail Banking and Wealth Management.

Photographs are attached.

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