



**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)

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Researcher's Night 2026: From Asteroids and Space Debris to the
Secrets of the Universe**

Thessaloniki, 22/9/2026

The applications of Physics in everyday life, the latest discoveries in Astronomy, as well as Planetary Defense, will take centre stage at this year's European Researcher's Night, which will take place on Friday, 25 September 2026, from 17:00 to 23:00, at the Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum – NOESIS.

The event will take place simultaneously in eleven countries (Greece, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Albania and Türkiye), with the participation of leading European scientific institutions.

For yet another year, Aristotle University will coordinate the Researcher's Night as part of the European HORIZON programme, under the project "PICO-New Horizons" (Physics for All – New Horizons).

The event brings together the National Observatory of Athens, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, the European Gravitational Observatory (EGO – Italy), the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN – Italy), the Institut de Física d'Altes Energies (IFAE – Spain), the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT – Germany), the Núcleo Interactivo de Astronomia Associação (NUCLIO – Portugal), as well as the Balkan Physical Union. At the same time, PICO-New Horizons is organising Researcher's Night events in Athens (National Observatory of Athens, Penteli – Visitor Center of the National Observatory of Athens, Thiseio – Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Pallini), as well as at the Stefanion Observatory in Corinthia.

The common theme of the Researcher's Night will be the multiple applications of Physics in everyday life and the latest discoveries in Astronomy.

Planetary Defence, Experiments, Hands-on Activities and a Star Party!

The Researcher's Night will feature engaging activities for all ages, including interactive experiments and simulations, demonstrations of impressive constructions, creative activities for young children, a book and gift raffle, as well as a "star party" featuring telescope observations of the Moon and the planet Saturn, adding a unique dimension to the event.

Research groups and laboratories of the School of Physics at Aristotle University will organise the individual activities. ESERO-Greece, the Greek branch of the European Space Education Resource Office, will also participate, along with student teams from Aristotle University, presenting interactive experiments and demonstrations.

In addition, the School of Physics will present its undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes and provide information about the career opportunities they offer.

On 25 September at 20:00, the main auditorium of NOESIS will host the keynote lecture, entitled "Collision Course: Asteroids, Space Debris and the Science of Space Surveillance". The lecture will focus on Planetary Defence and addressing space-related hazards, ranging from asteroids to space debris. The lecture will be delivered by Assistant Professor Ioannis Golias of the School of Physics at Aristotle University.

After sunset, the event will feature an evening observation session using portable telescopes from the Observatory of Aristotle University and the Thessaloniki Friends of Astronomy Club (OFA).

Researcher's Night will mark the culmination of a three-day programme (24–26/9) featuring a rich programme of activities for children and adults alike.

More information about PICO-New Horizons is available on the website <https://picoproject.gr/>, while the detailed programme of Researcher's Night in Thessaloniki is available at <https://picoproject.gr/thessaloniki/>.

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