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PRESS RELEASE

**From the Lost Homelands to the Future: A New Memorial Unveiled in
the Heart of the University Campus**

Thessaloniki, 23/9/2026

A new landmark of remembrance dedicated to the refugees of 1922 is being created in the heart of the Aristotle University campus. The unveiling of the Memorial will take place **on Wednesday, 30 September 2026, at 18:00**, in the area near the Observatory, followed by a commemorative event and an open-air concert at the Ceremonies Hall.

Entitled **“Honouring Our Roots, Supporting the Future,”** the event serves as a symbolic tribute to the memory of the refugees of 1922 and traces their journey from uprooting and loss to settlement, integration and the creation of a new life.

At 19:00, at the Aristotle University Ceremonies Hall, following a welcome address by the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, Professor Emeritus Thanos Veremis of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens will deliver a speech entitled **“The Integration and Contribution of the Refugees of 1922,”** highlighting the refugees’ contribution to the shaping of Greek society and the country’s course throughout the 20th century.

A Memorial That You Do Not Simply Look At, but Experience

The new Memorial at Aristotle University does not simply serve as a place of reference to the past. It takes the form of a **circular memorial garden**, designed so that visitors do not remain mere spectators, but can enter the space, sit, stand and move through the memorial itself.

At its centre stands **an olive tree**, a symbol of memory, longevity and renewal. Its deep roots evoke the ties to the homelands that were lost.

Around the olive tree, **twelve equal stone sections** form a circular arrangement, evoking the eternal cycle of time and, at the same time, the lost homelands: **Adrianople, Eastern Thrace, Eastern Rumelia, Varna, Ionia, Cappadocia, Constantinople, Asia Minor, Pontus, Smyrna and Trebizond.**

The architectural design of the central core subtly incorporates the **sixteen-pointed Star of Macedonia**, while the memorial garden is complemented by aromatic plants, including lavender, rosemary, santolina, thyme, myrtle, sage and oregano. The choice of vegetation evokes the landscapes of the lost homelands and **enhances the visitor's sensory experience**, engaging not only **sight**, but also **smell** and **touch**.

Open-Air Concert with Brothers Konstantinos and Matthaïos Τσαχουρίδης

The history will also come alive through music, as an **open-air concert** will follow the event, featuring the musical ensemble "**Psyche and Body**" and brothers Konstantinos and Matthaïos Tsachouridis, under the title "Our East."

The two artists, fourth-generation refugees and PhD holders from the University of London, will present a commemorative musical performance featuring music from the homelands of the East, bringing back sounds and memories passed down from generation to generation.

From Smyrna and Constantinople to Pontus and Cappadocia, music becomes yet another way to keep memory alive.

The event is open to the public.

The event poster is attached.

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