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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Aristotle University Honors Its First Rector: International Scientific
Conference on Georgios Sotiriadis**

Thessaloniki, 8 January 2026

The School of History and Archaeology of the Aristotle University of honors one of the most important intellectual and academic figures of the late 19th and the first half of the 20th century by organizing the International Scientific Conference entitled “Georgios Sotiriadis: the archaeologist, historian, and philologist, first Rector of the Aristotle University.”

The Conference will take place on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 January 2026 at KEDEA and is dedicated to the life and the multifaceted work of Georgios Sotiriadis (1852–1942), the first Rector of the Aristotle University and a distinguished archaeologist, historian, and philologist. The Opening Ceremony will be held on Thursday, 15 January 2026, at 16:30.

Twenty-two scholars from universities and research institutions in Greece, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands will participate in the Conference. Through their contributions, they aim to shed light on lesser-known aspects of the personality and work of Georgios Sotiriadis, as well as on his contribution to the shaping of Greek archaeological and historical scholarship.

Pioneer of archaeological research

Georgios Sotiriadis was born in Ottoman-ruled Sidirokastro of the “Macedonian Homeland,” as he himself used to refer to his place of origin. He pursued his studies at the Universities of Athens and Munich. He served as one of the first Curators of the Archaeological Society at Athens and later of the Archaeological Service, and more broadly as one of the pioneers of archaeology in Greece. According to the organizers, throughout his professional career he conducted major and foundational excavations

and research in Aetolia, Attica, Boeotia, Phocis, Phthiotida, and Epirus. His excavating activity did not cease during his term as Rector of the Aristotle University, as he inaugurated the first university excavation at Dion in Pieria in 1928.

According to the organizers, his activity as a historian and philologist was particularly rich and distinctive, as he authored seminal works that left a mark on the political and scientific developments of his time. He served research from every possible position—as an archaeologist, university professor, author, and translator—and maintained close ties with leading politicians and writers of his era.

The proceedings of the Conference address specialist scholars, archaeologists, historians, philologists, the student community, as well as the general public.

The Conference takes place within the framework of the celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the founding and operation of the Aristotle University.

More information, as well as the Conference program, is available at the following link: https://www.hist.auth.gr/administration_annou/diethnes-epistimoniko-synedrio-georgios-sotiriadis/

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