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**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Minister of Digital Governance, Dimitris Papastergiou, visited the first Immersive Cube in Greece and Southeast Europe at Aristotle University**

Thessaloniki, March 2, 2026

The Minister of Digital Governance, Dimitris Papastergiou, visited the first Immersive Cube in Greece and Southeast Europe on Friday, February 27, at the Laboratory of Medical Physics and Digital Innovation of the School of Medicine at Aristotle University.

The Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, welcomed the Minister, along with the Vice-Rectors: Professor Ioannis Rekanos (Research and Innovation), Professor Nikolaos Maggioros (Academic Affairs and Development), and Professor Iakovos Michailidis (International Relations, Outreach, Lifelong Learning and Student Welfare). Professor Panagiotis Bamidis, Director of the Laboratory of Medical Physics and Digital Innovation, and the Foundation's Executive Director, Ioannis Salmatzidis, also attended the meeting.

The Immersive Cube is an innovative multisensory learning infrastructure that transforms the educational process into an experiential journey. The facility consists of a specially designed virtual reality space where the room's walls function as high-resolution projection surfaces, allowing the environment to transform completely—from a cardiac surgery operating room to a laboratory or research field.

Through this technology, university students experience complex scientific scenarios in real-life dimensions and conditions, significantly enhancing comprehension, interaction, and knowledge retention.

**Dimitris Papastergiou: "If you don't experience it, you don't believe it"**

During his visit to the Immersive Cube, the Minister of Digital Governance, Dimitris Papastergiou, stated: *“I had heard about the work being done at Aristotle University and about the Immersive Cube, but I wanted to see it and experience it myself. Above all, you must experience it—that is the whole point: to step inside and simulate a real-life situation, a hospital in real dimensions and real conditions. If someone does not see it, they cannot believe that something like this exists in a Greek university. And yet it exists here at Aristotle University,”* he said, congratulating everyone who contributed to the project. *“In any case, together with the Rector, the Vice-Rectors, and the entire team, we have already started implementing initiatives that, I believe, stand out among Greek universities,”* he added.

### **Strategic Digital Upgrade at Aristotle University**

From his side, the Rector of Aristotle University, Kyriakos Anastasiadis, thanked the Minister both for his support and cooperation with the University’s leadership and for his willingness to continue collaboration with the institution. He emphasized that digitally upgrading the educational process remains a strategic priority.

He noted that discussions focused on the introduction of new digital examinations using tablets, as well as plans to create an even larger Immersive Cube, with an inauguration expected next year. As he stressed, this new facility *“will redefine education not only for our University but for all of Greece.”*

*“We want our students to be in tune with their era, to stand at the forefront of technology. With the support of the Ministry and all our professors, our students will enjoy an upgraded educational experience,”* he stated.

### **Open to the Entire Academic Community**

Professor Panagiotis Bamidis, Director of the Laboratory of Medical Physics and Digital Innovation, described the Immersive Cube as *“the first construction of its kind in Southeast Europe,”* highlighting that it offers a new experiential dimension to education.

Although the primary focus is medical education, the infrastructure remains open to experimentation by other schools and scientific disciplines. The Laboratory can integrate virtual and augmented reality applications into the Cube through specialized software, and it invites other academic units to take advantage of this new technological capability.

Photographs are attached.

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