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PRESS RELEASE

**From CPR to Natural Disaster Response: Collaboration Between
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Hellenic Red Cross**

Thessaloniki, 28/4/2026

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed today, Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Senate Hall between the Aristotle University and the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC). The Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, and the President of the HRC Central Administrative Board, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, signed the agreement.

The agreement aims to develop joint initiatives that focus, on the one hand, on training volunteers in healthcare, medical support, and rescue operations for handling emergencies and crisis situations, and, on the other hand, on promoting volunteerism and spreading humanitarian values for the benefit of society.

Within the framework of the Memorandum, the HRC will provide specialized training programs to the university community. These include training in First Aid and Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) using modern equipment, as well as training in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). At the same time, the HRC will offer Mental Health First Aid programs and training in rescue techniques and natural disaster response, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes.

In addition, the HRC will support the organization of blood donation drives at the Aristotle University and contribute to medical coverage for major university events.

For its part, the Aristotle University commits to supporting HRC activities by providing infrastructure, technological equipment, and suitable spaces for organizing and promoting educational and other events.

The collaboration also extends to the joint organization of workshops, conferences, and awareness events on issues related to health, mental health, volunteerism, and the protection of vulnerable social groups. It also предусматривает the active participation of the university's volunteer teams in HRC activities.

“The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Hellenic Red Cross represents a particularly important step for the Aristotle University, as it strengthens our social role and our connection with society,” stated the Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis. He emphasized, *“Through this collaboration, we provide members of our university community with the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and skills in health, prevention, and crisis management, while also fostering the spirit of volunteerism and contribution.*

The Aristotle University will continue to invest in initiatives that promote knowledge, social responsibility, and solidarity, making a meaningful contribution to addressing contemporary social needs.”

Photos from the event are attached.

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