



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

[f @Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [i @authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [X @Auth_University](https://www.x.com/Auth_University)

PRESS RELEASE

**Aristotle University Honors the Greek Refugee Community of 1922 –
“We Honor Our Roots, We Support the Future”**

Thessaloniki, 1/10/2026

A new landmark of remembrance and historical reference, dedicated to the Greek Refugee Community of 1922, has been created at the heart of the Aristotle University campus. The Monument was unveiled yesterday, Wednesday, September 30, 2026, in the area near the University Observatory, as part of the event titled **“We Honor Our Roots, We Support the Future,”** organized by Aristotle University.

The event continued at the Ceremonies Hall, where the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor **Kyriakos Anastasidis**, addressed the audience, while Professor Emeritus of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens **Thanos Veremis** delivered a speech entitled “The Integration and Contribution of the Refugees of 1922.”

In his address, the Rector described 1922 as *“a wound and a lesson, a rupture and a healing,”* noting that it was *“a wound to the body of Hellenism, but also a lesson in managing its strengths and hopes,”* as well as *“a deep rupture in Greece’s historical continuity, but also a process of healing and rebuilding the strength of this proud nation.”*

Mr. Anastasidis highlighted the event’s special symbolism: *“We honor a defining chapter in the history of modern Hellenism, inextricably linked to Thessaloniki, to the history of Aristotle University, but also to the personal history of many of us.”*

The Monument as a Legacy for the Future

The new Monument takes the form of a circular memorial garden, where visitors are not merely spectators but can enter, stand, sit, and move through the space itself.

At its center stands an olive tree, a symbol of memory, longevity, and renewal. Twelve equal stone sections surround it, evoking the eternal cycle of time and the lost homelands: Adrianople, Eastern Thrace, Eastern Rumelia, Varna, Ionia, Cappadocia, Constantinople, Asia Minor, Pontus, Smyrna, and Trebizond.

The planting of aromatic herbs, including lavender, rosemary, santolina, thyme, myrtle, sage, and oregano, enhances the Monument's experiential character, engaging the senses of sight, smell, and touch.

The Monument was created by Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Visual and Applied Arts at Aristotle University **Aris Katsilakis**.

The Tsahouridis Brothers Move the Audience

The evening concluded with a special musical performance that moved the audience and brought the sounds and memories of the East to the heart of the University campus. Brothers Konstantinos and Matthaios Tsahouridis, together with the musical ensemble "Psyche and Soma" ("Soul and Body"), presented "Kath' Imas Anatoli" ("The East as We Know It"), a musical journey through the lost homelands of Hellenism.

With music from Smyrna, Constantinople, Pontus, and Cappadocia, they earned warm applause from those in attendance. The concert provided a symbolic conclusion to an evening dedicated to the roots and historical memory of the Greek Refugee Community.

The full text of the speech delivered by the Rector of Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, is attached.

Photographs are attached.

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