



International Symposium

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki:

A Century of Global Bridges

Shaping the Campus of Tomorrow

20-21 May 2026

Tentative Programme

Wednesday 20 May 2026	
	<p>Venue: Tellogleion Foundation of Art, AUTH</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Professor Timoleon Kosmides, President of International Relations Committee</p> <p>Professor Zacharoula Andreopoulou, Workshop Coordinator</p>
09:30 - 10:00	Registration of the participants
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Welcome Speeches</p> <p>Professor Iakovos Michailidis, Vice Rector of International Relations and Outreach, Lifelong Learning and Student Care of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)</p> <p>Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Education (TBC)</p> <p>Mayor of Thessaloniki (TBC)</p>
	<i>Group Photo</i>
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Keynote Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Adam Fenech, Provost of Research, Canadian University Dubai <p><i>“From Climate Risk to Global Resilience: Bridging Science, Policy, and Universities for a Sustainable Future.”</i></p> <p>How can we visualize the invisible threats of climate change? Dr. Adam Fenech, the award-winning creator of the CLIVE coastal visualization tool and shared recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, answers this question in his talk. His presentation will delve into bridging the gap between science</p>

	and society, demonstrating how innovative research and pedagogical adaptation can build global resilience against environmental risks.
11:15 – 12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:00 – 13:30	<p>1st Session: Forging Global Bridges: A Century of Academic Cooperation and Networking.</p> <p>Focusing on a century of academic synergy, this session examines the impact of university networks, strategic alliances, and specialized institutes on global knowledge exchange. Join us for a comprehensive discussion on fostering successful inter-university partnerships and enhancing international connectivity.</p>
	Chair: Prof. Dr. Timoleon Kosmides, Chair of International Relations Committee of AUTH
	<p>Panels on:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Networks, Alliances and Bilateral Inter-University Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Sungdon Hwang, Secretary General, Silk-Road Universities Network • Dr. Ivan Svetlik, Professor, Rectors' Forum of Southeast Europe and Western Balkans • Prof. Dr. Lisa Pawloski, Senior Associate Dean, University of Alabama • Prof. Johannes Orphal, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology • Prof YIN Dongmei, Chair of the University Council, SISU University <p style="text-align: center;">Cooperation through Specialized Institutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shaodi Wang, Chinese Director, Confucius Institute at AUTH • Prof. Emerita Vasiliki Kindi, President of the State Scholarships Foundation, IKY • Prof. Despina Papadopoulou, School of Modern Greek at AUTH • Ms. Artemis Zenetou, Fulbright Foundation Greece, Executive Director • Ms. Anastasia Andritsou, Country Director at British Council Greece and Cyprus
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Light Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:30	<p>2nd Session Education is the Future: Innovation and Sustainability</p> <p>From dual degree partnerships to sustainable campus initiatives, this session examines how modern universities are evolving to meet global demands.</p>

	Participants will discuss the strategic expansion of international curricula, the implementation of innovative teaching methodologies, and the critical importance of building resilient academic communities in an era of environmental and geopolitical shifts.
	Chair: Prof. Nikolaos Maghioros, of Academic Affairs and Development
	<p>Presentations and discussions on:</p> <p>Undergraduate and postgraduate study programs in English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Nikolaos Foroglou, School of Medicine, AUTH <p>AUTH Teaching and Learning Centre: Upgrading Teaching Practices and Pedagogical Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Sofia-Eleftheria Gonida, School of Psychology, AUTH <p>Resilience in Motion: Supporting Scholars at Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis, School of Biology, AUTH <p>Green Transition and green campuses</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Chair: Prof Panos Seferlis, School of Mechanical Engineer, AUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Lars Rehmann, Associate Dean (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) Western Engineering, Western University, Ontario Canada • Heather Hyde, Director Sustainability, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada • Prof. Zacharoula Andreopoulou, School of Forstry and Natural Environment, AUTH
19:00	<i>Concert at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall</i>

	Thursday 21 May 2026
	<p>Venue: Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center (KEDEA)</p> <p>Chair :</p> <p>Professor Timoleon Kosmides, President of International Relations Committee</p> <p>Professor Zacharoula Andreopoulou, Workshop Coordinator</p>
10:00 – 11:30	1st Session:

	<p>Voices of Tomorrow: The Student Experience & the Future of Cooperation</p> <p>Centering on the perspective of the next generation, this session explores the 'Voices of Tomorrow' and their role in shaping the future of academic cooperation. Discussions will highlight the global student experience, focusing on effective strategies for attracting international talent and providing the essential support systems needed for a thriving, diverse campus community.</p>
	<p>Chair: Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis, School of Biology, AUTH</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilias Tsitsios, PhD candidate in Space Law, AUTH • Anastasia Tzima, Vice-President of Erasmus Student Network AUTH • Aikaterini Myrto Kolioussi, Mechanical Engineering Graduate, iGEM Thessaloniki • Antonia Demopoulos, Medical Student • Rebecca Arnaout, Literature Graduate and Cinema and Television Student
<p>11:30 – 12:00</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
<p>12:00 – 13:30</p>	<p>2nd Session: The Global Funding Landscape: Synergies in Research and Mobility</p> <p>Navigating the complexities of international funding, this session provides a comprehensive overview of the mechanisms supporting research and mobility. From the administrative framework of Special Accounts for Research Funds (ELKE) to the opportunities offered by major European and transatlantic scholarship programs, the discussion aims to highlight pathways for building sustainable international academic collaborations.</p> <p>Presentations and discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Support Structures: The role of the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE). • European & International Fellowship Schemes: Advancing scientific careers through competitive mobility grants. • Strategic Global Partnerships: Promoting prestige and academic exchange through international funding bodies.
	<p>Chair: Prof. Tatiani Rapatzikou, School of English, AUTH</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Petridou, Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE) • Els Hanappe, Greek Program Coordinator, Fulbright Greece

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcelo Rios, Université de Montpellier
13:30	Ending Ceremony
13:30 -14:00	Historic routes in AUTH: A Guided Exploration of Greece’s Largest Campus Supported by Post Graduate Programme “TOURISM & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT” AUTH
	Exploring the historic foundations that support our university’s modern innovative spirit.
14:00 – 16:00	Lunch

This Symposium is a satellite event in “*Aristotle Innovation Forum weekly celebrations for 100 YEARS of AUTH*”, follow us for more at <https://aristotleforum.auth.gr/>

VENUE DETAILS

DAY 1, 20th May 2026

<https://www.teloglion.gr>

Teloglion Foundation of Arts, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

159A Agios Dimitrios Street

546 36 Thessaloniki, Greece

Metro station: SINTRIVANI

DAY 2, 21st May 2026

<https://kedeia.rc.auth.gr/>

KEDEA

3rd Septemvriou Street, University Campus

546 36 Thessaloniki, Greece

Metro station: PANEPISTIMIO