


Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Name of the organisation :	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest university in Greece. The main campus is located in the centre of the city of Thessaloniki, and covers an area of about 33.4 hectares. It comprises 10 faculties which consist of 40 schools and 1 single-School Faculty. Some educational and administrative facilities are located off campus for practical and operational reasons. A number of these facilities is located outside the city of Thessaloniki or even in other cities. About 73.930 students study at the Aristotle University (65.026 in undergraduate programmes and 8.472 in postgraduate programmes, of which 3952 at Doctoral level). There are 2.024 faculty members. There are also 11 teaching assistants, 58 research fellows, 248 members of the Special Laboratory Teaching Personnel (S.L.T.P.), 69 of whom belong to category I and 179 to category II, as well as 15 foreign language teachers and 4 foreign instructors. Faculty members are also assisted by 213 members of the Special Technical Laboratory Personnel (S.T.L.P.). The administration office consists of 400 permanent employees and 528 employees under a private law contract of indefinite duration. Moreover, 596 people employed by third parties provide services at the university. (From The AUTH website). Out of the 10 Faculties we must emphasize on the Faculty of Health Sciences which is subdivided into four Schools: Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki devotes a great part of its energies and activities to promote research in all its fields. Participation in research is greatly encouraged in every possible way. The University has organized and developed a particular faculty-service of Research, called ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION CENTER -kedeia.rc.auth.gr-, by virtue of which young scientists and researchers are encouraged and supported by administrative personnel to get on with their research projects. In this faculty all prospective researchers seek for advise and find support and encouragement in all the complicated issues that arise concerning the administration of European projects. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has had a great experience of participation in European programs in all its 10 faculties, mainly in the Physical and Applied sciences, in Medical sciences, the Social and Political Sciences, the Foreign languages and literatures, the Humanities. Presently the University encourages in all possible ways the participation of members of staff in European projects, so there is a great momentum towards this direction.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

As already mentioned, one of the biggest Schools of AUTH is the School of Medicine. History of Medicine is a field of teaching and research, tracing the origins of the medical science back to classical antiquity, when medicine was inseparable from philosophy. -Associate Professor Niki Papavramidou, is the Director of the Museum for the History of Medicine of the School of Medicine of AUTH. and has undertaken, together with her collaborators, to renovate and modernize the Museum so as to fulfill its educational and research purposes. Furthermore, she is in charge of the Interuniversity Postgraduate Program "History of Medicine and Biological Anthropology: Health, Disease and Natural Selection".

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Medicine is an old science or, in Aristotle's words, a techne. Its origins can be traced back to antiquity, and in particular to the first Pre-socratic philosophers, Alcmaeon and Empedocles. In actual fact, the very origins of medicine cannot be distinguished from those of philosophy. The first philosophers were at the same time physicians. This is something that Hippocrates was very well aware of. So in his treatise On Ancient Medicine he tried to show first, how those claimed that medicine and philosophy were indistinguishable were wrong. And secondly, he argued that medicine is a techne independent of philosophy because each employs a different method. The contribution of the partners of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki can be great. They are very well familiar with the origins of medicine in antiquity, since this constitutes part of our tradition. We are therefore the most appropriate partners to contribute to the project detailed knowledge which concerns the origins of medicine. We have access to the ancient Greek texts, so we are more well equipped to approach and study what the ancient physicians have bequeathed to us. A digital museum of medicine, therefore, must be well informed about the ancient origins of medicine and these origins must be well founded through the correct ancient sources, something which only the partners from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and for that matter a Greek University, can provide.

Reasons of involvement in the project

There are many reasons why we -the partners of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - wish to participate. However, the most important is that we wish to disseminate the knowledge which concerns the origins and the history of ancient medicine beyond the national narrow boundaries and render it part of the humanity's inheritance, while helping in formulating a better educational framework of History of medicine in medical curriculums.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Niki Papavramidou, Associate Professor of History of Medicine of the School of Medicine, AUTh. Director of the Museum for the History of Medicine, School of Medicine, AUTh. She – in collaboration with Dr. Christina Papageorgopoulou, Associate Professor of Biological Anthropology, Democritus University of Thrace – has managed to establish in 2018 the Interuniversity Program of Postgraduate Studies in “History of Medicine and Biological Anthropology: Health, Disease and Natural Selection”. She is interested in the History of Medicine in classical antiquity. She has published widely on history of ancient medicine.