

## Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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**Type of organisation:**

SME       School       University       Public Authority   
 Training       No Profit       NGO

**Fields of action:**

SMEs       Youth       Universities       Public Authorities   
 Equal opportunities       Schools       Unemployed

## Description of the organisation

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki or, in Greek, the Arisoteleio Panepstimio Thessalonikis, 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 are 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 **the Medical Faculty** which is subdivided into four Departments: Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical. And, secondly, **the Department of Philosophy and Education** which specializes in teaching and research in Moral Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Medical Deontology, Medical Ethics, and Bioethics.

## Experience of the organization in previous European projects

The Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis 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 the prospective researchers see advise and find support and encouragement in all the complicated issues that arise concerning the administration of European projects.

The Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis 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 faculties of the AUTH is the Medical Faculty. One main field of research and teaching in the Department of Medicine is the History of Medicine, tracing its origins back to classical antiquity, when medicine was inseparable from philosophy. The origins of medicine are traced to the Presocratic philosophers like Almaeon and Empedocles, but also to Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, and to physician-philosophers like Hippocrtaes, Dioskouridis, Galen and the Roman Celsus.

-Mrs Niki Papavramidou who ia an Assistant Lecturer in the History of Classical Medicine, has undertaken with her collaborators to establish a Virtual Museum of the History of Medicine for the Medical Faculty of the AUTH.

In addition, the Department of Philosophy and Education specializes, among other things, in Moral Philosophy, Medical Deontology, Medical Ethics and Bioethics. -Eleni Kalokairinou, Associate Pprofessor of Philosophy in this Department teaches and makes research not only in the beginings of Medicine in antiquity but also in the origins of Medical Ethics and Bioethics in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The staff members of the two Departments together with Dr. Costas Tsiamis, post-doctoral researcher of the University of Athens and temporary lecturer of the Department of Medicine of the AUTH who also participates in the team, combine their interests and studies together and can collaborate successfully in the suggested project.

## 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 the Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis 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 the Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis, and for that matter a Greek University, can provide.

## Reasons of involvement in the project

There are many reasons why we -the partners of The Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis - 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.

## Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

(Maximum 3000 Characters)

**Eleni Kalokairinou**, Associate Professor of Philosophy of the Department of Philosophy and Education, ATh. She specializes in Moral Philosophy, Medical Ethics and Medical Deontology and Bioethics. She is also interested in the History of Medicine in classical antiquity and the origins of Medical Ethics and Bioethics. She has published widely on these issues, and she is currently editing the Greek translation of Celsus, *De medicina*.