

Symposium at Democritus University of Thrace on Challenges and Prospects for Universities: Learning Outcomes and Skills in Light of UNESCO's Future of Education Report

The Workshop entitled *“Challenges and Prospects for Universities inspired by UNESCO's landmark volume on the future of education: Learning outcomes and skills”* was successfully held in Alexandroupoli, organised by the Quality Assurance Unit in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning of the Democritus University of Thrace.

Opening remarks were delivered by the Rector of DUTH, Professor Fotios Maris, the President of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education, Professor Periklis Mitkas, the representative of His Eminence the Metropolitan of Alexandroupolis, Traianoupolis & Samothrace, as well as -online- by Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chair of UNESCO's International Commission on the Futures of Education.

The symposium featured opening remarks by Professor Periklis Mitkas, President of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE); Dr Christina Besta, Director General of HAHE; Professor Maria Michalopoulou, member of the DUTH Governing Council; Professor Marirena Grigoriou, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Lifelong Learning; Professor Katerina Kedraka, Coordinator of the DUTH Teaching and Learning Centre (CTL-DUTH); Ms Stella Gavaki, Head of the DUTH Quality Assurance Unit (QAU-DUTH); and Dr Christos Kaltsidis, staff member of QAU-DUTH.

In the **keynote speech**, **Thanassis Karalis, Professor of the University of Patras**, analysed the findings of UNESCO's Education 2050 Report, presenting the challenges for higher education while **focusing on the importance of learning outcomes and the development of skills** that respond to future social and professional demands and challenges for the University of the future. The **round-table discussion** explored contemporary approaches **linking academia to the labour market, the integration of learning outcomes within quality assurance processes, and European educational synergies** — effectively, as Professor Karalis highlighted, **marking the starting point for consultation on UNESCO's education report in Greece**.

The symposium was organised as part of the implementation of SP1: “Quality Assurance Unit of Democritus University of Thrace (MODIP-DUTH)” and SP3: “Teaching and Learning Support Centers of Democritus University of Thrace,” as part of the Action “Quality Assurance, Strategic Development, Teaching & Learning Support Services for the members of the academic community, and the Digital Governance Unit of DUTH,” with MIS Code 6038353. This Action has been included in the “Human Resources & Social Cohesion 2021-2027” Program, under the priority “Education & Lifelong Learning.”