



PRESS RELEASE

ExcellenSeas scholars' visit to the Ministry of Tourism

AMKE "ExcellenSeas of Pastra Cretonaxiosa" is pleased to announce the recent visit of the ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program's scholars, accompanied by the President of the Program Dr. Eugenia Tzannini, at the Ministry of Tourism.

The visit of the scholars took place on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, following the invitation of the Minister of Tourism of the transitional government and member of the Scientific Committee of ExcellenSeas, Ms. Ioanna Dretta.

The scholars had the honor of being welcomed by the Minister in her office and were able to talk with her about the subjects of her competence. In fact, considering the origin of all of the fellow scholars, from small borderline Greek islands, the discussion that followed was particularly productive, constructive and enthusiastic.

On behalf of the Program's scholars, as well as on behalf of the entire ExcellenSeas family, we sincerely thank the Minister, Ms. Ioanna Dretta.



The photo shows the ExcellenSeas scholars: Dionysia Politi, Eleni Vrettou, Anna Klapsi, Julia Sala, Marios Mandzaris, Irini Prasinou, Stamatia Koutsokeri and Marian Kaloyanov. In the center, the Minister of Tourism, Ms. Ioanna Dretta and the President of ExcellenSeas, Dr. Eugenia Giannini.

A few words for the ExcellenSeas Scholarship program

The ExcellenSeas program began as an initiative of the Pastra Cretonaxiosa offshore swimming team. The members of the team, while swimming long distances in various areas of the Greek seas and communicating with the local communities, have gained a direct perception of the special conditions and needs of the small remote islands of our country. For this reason, the team set as a goal its swimming excursions to raise public awareness and raise funds, in order to provide financial support in the form of scholarships for students coming from these islands. Further, the team's swimming missions have been taking place under the auspices of HE the Presidency of the Hellenic Republic.

Starting in 2018, with the award of a scholarship to the only graduate of the High School of St Stratis island, the initiative evolved into a program supported by a wide range of companies and organizations, including Boston Consulting Group, HELLENIQ ENERGY, Eugenia Giannini and Associates Law Firm, Grant Thornton, Athens International Airport, Attica Group, MGCode, INTRASOFT International, National Bank of Greece, MOTODYNAMICS, Sofreh N.Y., ELLAKTOR Group, Fraport Greece, Electra Hotels, SETE, TEMES, Ionian Hotel Enterprises S.A., SANI Resort, EYDAP, Ertif Verwaltung Photovoltaics Ltd, Mr. Vasilis Antoniadis, Ms. Aggeliki Verli and those who have supported us in a direct or indirect way. These organizations and companies support the operation of the program and undertake the particular scholarships for one or all of the scholars' years of studies.

The vision of the ExcellenSeas program is the development of the local communities in the borderline islands through the academic and professional progress of the young people of these islands. In particular, the aim of our initiative is to reward and support excellent students on these islands, who have been accepted to universities, but need support to meet the financial needs of their studies. Thus, through targeted financial support (6.000 euros/year) and advisory guidance, under the auspices of the Scientific Committee of the program, we award scholarships that cover the entire range of university studies. The program also provides scholars the opportunity to participate in short-term internships in order to gain professional experience, depending on their respective scientific field.

The Scientific Committee of ExcellenSeas is staffed by Professors of Greek and foreign Universities, as well as by personalities distinguished for their ethics and high academic and professional level. The key task of the Committee is the selection of scholarship holders and the close monitoring of their academic development. In addition, task of the Committee is also the provision of valuable consulting work in the next stage for the students' lives, that towards their professional rehabilitation.

In addition, ExcellenSeas has already awarded 33 scholarships during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, to students from islands like Astypalea, Kastelorizo, Meganisi, St Stratis, Nisyros, Chalki, Psara, Kasos and Fournoi, who are currently studying at several university faculties of our country's Universities. The support that scholarship recipients have received at both the advisory and financial levels - especially given the economic impact of the recent pandemic - is a key driver of their academic progress.

Our goal is to continue for the next years in order to contribute in the progress and the development of our borderline islands and in providing equal opportunities to the students coming from these islands.

For more information on the scholarship initiative and framework under which our scholarships are provided, visit our website following the link: www.excellenseas.org.