



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program Presentation Event**

The Non-Profit Organization "ExcellenSeas by Pastra Cretonaxiosa" is pleased to announce the presentation event of the ExcellenSeas scholarship program, which took place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 18:00 at the "Leonidas Zervas" Amphitheater of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens.

The purpose of the event was to showcase the work of "ExcellenSeas," honor the individuals who have supported the organization's efforts to date, and celebrate the first graduates of the scholarship program.

The event was graced by the presence of the former President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, and the Minister of Labor and Social Security, Ms. Domna Michailidou, who addressed the attendees.

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#### About the ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program

The ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program started as an initiative of the open-water swimming team Pastra Cretonaxiosa. Through their long-distance swimming expeditions across the Greek seas and their interaction with local communities, team members gained firsthand insight into the unique challenges and needs of the small remote islands of Greece.

As a result, the team set the goal of raising public awareness and gathering resources during their swimming expeditions to provide financial support in the form of scholarships to students from these islands. This effort operates under the auspices of the Hellenic Republic.

The program began in 2018 by awarding a single scholarship to the only high school graduate of Agios Efstratios. Since then, it has grown into a robust initiative supported by a wide range of companies and organizations, including: Boston Consulting Group, HELLENiQ ENERGY, Eugenia Giannini and Associates Law Firm, Grant Thornton S.A., Athens International Airport, Attica Group, MGCode, INTRASOFT International, National Bank of Greece, Motodynamics S.A.E.E., Sofreh N.Y., Ellaktor Group, Fraport Greece, Electra Management, SETE, TEMES, Ionian Hotel Enterprises, SANI Resort, EYDAP, Ertif Verwaltung Photovoltaics Ltd, DoValue Greece, AXIA Ventures Group Ltd, ERGO Insurance, Mr. Vasileios Antoniadis, Ms. Angeliki Verli, and many others who have directly or indirectly supported the initiative.

These companies and organizations not only sustain the program's operations but also sponsor scholarships.

To date, the ExcellenSeas program has awarded 42 scholarships (four- or five-year duration) to students from islands such as Donousa, Astypalaia, Kastellorizo, Meganisi, Agios Efstratios, Nisyros, Chalki, Psara, Kasos, Lipsi, and Fournoi. These students are currently pursuing academic studies in Greek universities.

The financial and advisory support provided to the scholars—especially during the challenging economic climate created by the recent pandemic—has been a key factor in advancing their academic journeys.

Our mission is to continue this dynamic initiative in the coming years, contributing to the progress and development of our remote islands and ensuring equal opportunities for children from these areas.

For more information about the initiative and the scholarships, please visit our website at [www.excellenseas.org](http://www.excellenseas.org).