



R e c i p i e n t o f t h e A c a d e m y o f A t h e n s A w a r d

## PRESS RELEASE – CROSS SWIM 2025

### ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program

The Non-Profit Civil Company **“Thalasses Aristeias” (ExcellenSeas)**, together with its swimming team **Pastra Cretonaxiosa**, successfully completed the annual swimming crossing, dedicated to the outstanding students and scholars from Greece’s remote island regions.

This year’s event, held under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Constantine An. Tassoulas, took place on Saturday, October 18, 2025, covering a distance of 23,430 meters from Kalamos to Lefkada.

The start was given by Mr. Antonios Karavias, a resident of Kalamos, in a symbolic gesture of support for the organization’s mission. During the crossing, the swimmers were accompanied by dolphins, offering a touching and unforgettable moment that highlighted the deep connection between humans and the sea.

The purpose of this symbolic initiative is to raise awareness and support the mission of “Seas of Excellence” (ExcellenSeas) through its scholarship program, which has been honored by the Academy of Athens and supports university students originating from Greece’s island communities.

This year’s swimming team consisted of: Eugenia Tzannini, Apostolos Tsagkarakis, Vasileios Maroulis, Sofia Psilolignou, and Vasileios Sofikitis.

#### Acknowledgements

- To ANT1, communication sponsor of the event, for its steady support and promotion of our work.
- To Captain Spyros Kaloudis for the excellent coordination and safe escort of the team at sea.
- To Mr. Grigorios Psofakis for the generous sponsorship of the escort boat.
- To Holmes Place for its contribution to the team’s training and preparation.
- And to Attica Group for its ongoing and valuable support.

## About the "ExcellenSeas" Scholarship Program

ExcellenSeas was initiated by the Pastra Cretonaxiosa swim team after years of long-distance swims and close engagement with remote island communities. Experiencing first-hand the unique challenges faced by youth in these regions, the team turned its mission toward raising awareness and collecting funds to support university students from these islands.

Since its founding in 2018, the program has provided 49 multi-year scholarships to students from small and remote Greek islands, including Donousa, Astypalaia, Amorgos, Kastellorizo, Meganisi, Agios Efstratios, Kalymnos, Nisyros, Chalki, Psara, Kasos, Symi, Leipsoi, Oinousses, and Fournoi.

The initiative operates under the scientific supervision of a distinguished Academic Council composed of full and emeritus professors from Greek and international universities, along with prominent experts with high academic and ethical credentials. This Council selects recipients and follows their academic progress, while also providing mentorship toward their professional development.

ExcellenSeas scholarships cover up to €7,000 per year, supporting tuition and living expenses throughout the students' university studies. The program also facilitates internship opportunities aligned with each scholar's field of study.

Numerous institutions and companies support ExcellenSeas, both by funding scholarships and sustaining the program's operations. Supporters include: National Bank of Greece, EYDAP, Eugenia Giannini & Associates Law Firm, Athens International Airport SA, Grant Thornton, Attica Group, Blue Star Ferries, Boston Consulting Group Hellas, MGCode, Sofreh N.Y., Ioniki Hotel Company, Motodynamics SA, Electra Hotels, SANI-IKOS Resort, ERGO Insurance, Ertif Ltd., Fraport, AXIA Ventures Group Ltd, TEMES, Ellaktor Group, SETE, HELLENIQ ENERGY, Bank of Greece, doValue Greece, Triton Asset Management, CVC Philanthropy Limited, Netcompany-Intrasoft, and many others.

With the vision of empowering young people from the country's most isolated regions, ExcellenSeas continues to build bridges of opportunity through academic and personal growth.

To learn more or support the initiative, please visit: <https://excellenseas.org/>