



Recipient of the Academy of Athens Award

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM EVENT**

The non-profit organization ExcellenSeas successfully held its annual Scholarship Program event on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Technopolis City of Athens.

The event aimed to showcase the work and developmental trajectory of the organization, celebrate the program's graduates, and recognize the sponsors and supporters who contribute continuously to achieving its goals.

The event was honored by the presence of:

- Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, former President of the Hellenic Republic and Honorary President of ExcellenSeas
- Mr. Nikolaos Papaioannou, Deputy Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
- Mr. Athanasios Papaioannou, President of ASEP
- Mr. Andreas Bountouvis, former Rector of NTUA
- Mr. Dimitris Lianos, Mayor of Naxos

as well as representatives from government institutions, academic bodies, and the business community.

Special thanks are extended to the sponsors and supporters, and to ANT1, the event's Media Sponsor, for covering the evening.

**About the ExcellenSeas Scholarship Program – ExcellenSeas**

The ExcellenSeas program was initiated by the open-water swimming team Pastra Cretonaxiosa. Through long-distance swimming across various Greek seas and engaging with local communities, the team gained a direct understanding of the specific conditions and needs of the country's small, remote islands.

The team aimed to raise awareness and mobilize resources to provide financial support in the form of scholarships to students from these islands, under the honorary aegis of the Presidency of the Hellenic Republic.

In 2021, the initiative was recognized with an award from the Academy of Athens, a high honor and a strong motivation for continuing its mission.

Since 2018, starting with a single scholarship to the sole graduate of the Lyceum of Agios Stratis, ExcellenSeas has evolved into a program supported by a wide range of companies and organizations, including: National Bank of Greece, EYDAP, Eugenia Giannini and Associates Law Firm, Athens International Airport SA, Grant Thornton, Attica Group, Blue Star Ferries, Boston Consulting Group Hellas, MGCode Ltd, Sofreh N.Y., Ioniki Hotel Group AE, Motodynamiki AE, Electra Hotels, SANI/IKOS Group, ERGO Insurance, Ertif Ltd, Fraport, AXIA Ventures Group Ltd, TEMES, ELLAKTOR Group AE, SETE, HELLENIQ ENERGY, Bank of Greece, doValue Greece, Eurolife FFH, Triton Asset Management, CVC Philanthropy Limited, Netcompany-Intrasoft, KERKYRA Publications, and many others.

These organizations support the program's operations and sponsor the scholarships.

ExcellenSeas' vision is to develop local communities in remote islands through the academic and professional advancement of young people. Specifically, it aims to reward and support outstanding students who have been admitted to universities but require assistance to meet the financial demands of their studies.

Through targeted financial support (up to €7,000 per year) and advisory guidance, under the supervision of the Program's Scientific Council, scholarships cover the full spectrum of university studies. The program also provides students with internship opportunities relevant to their field of study.

The Scientific Council consists of full or emeritus professors from Greek and foreign universities, as well as distinguished professionals with high academic and business credentials. Its key role is the selection of scholars, monitoring their academic progress, and providing guidance during their early professional careers.

Since 2018, ExcellenSeas has awarded 60 scholarships to students from islands including Donousa, Astypalea, Amorgos, Kastelorizo, Meganisi, Agios Stratis, Kalymnos, Nisyros, Chalki, Psara, Kasos, Symi, Lipsi, Oinousses, and Fournoi, who are currently pursuing higher education in Greece.

The organization remains committed to expanding the program in the coming years, contributing to the development of remote islands and ensuring equal opportunities for their youth.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing its next initiative with great enthusiasm, which will once again honor students embarking on their personal academic journeys.

For more information about the initiative and scholarship framework, please visit: <https://excellenseas.org/>