**Hellenic Republic**



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 Athens, May 2 2023

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Participation of the Running Team of the Agricultural University of Athens into the 14th International Poseidon Half Marathon.**

 On Sunday, April 23 2023, the team of runners of the Agricultural University of Athens - *AUA RUNNING* took part into the 14th International Poseidon Half Marathon. This year marks the establishment of the Agricultural University of Athens for 103 years, inasmuch its contribution to the field of agriculture and society. Along these lines, 103 has been the number of participants into that international organisation, a symbolic number and inextricably linked to the creation and existence of the Agricultural University of Athens. Champions and amateur runners from all over the world have participated into a lovely running lap across the coastline of Falirikos Bay that passes through important spots of cultural and historical interest. The meeting point has been the Palaio Faliro Cultural and Sports Center, wherein the starting and finishing point for all the races included in the 14th Poseidon Half Marathon had been defined.

 The team of runners of the Agricultural University of Athens - *AUA RUNNING*, composed of students, members of the teaching, research and administrative staff, coming from all the departments of the academic community of the Prefecture of Attica, as well as the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management

of the Agricultural University of Athens headquartered in Karpenisi, have all met at the Palaio Faliro Cultural and Sports Center, with a view to participating into the race. The athletes had been wearing the official outfit with the distinguishing features of the University Team and it is actually the second time that this participation has been the largest group involvement amongst the educational institutions, for which a commemorative cup has been awarded to the team.

 The Vice Rector for Research, Finance and Development of the Agricultural University of Athens, Mr. Thomas Bartzanas, Professor, has participated as a runner into the 14th International Poseidon Half Marathon, who acting as the University representative, has given a pertinent interview after the end of the organisation. The interested parties have the opportunity to watch the interview on the following link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/codq6EuBebbGB7jm6>. In addition, among the competitors, the former Vice Rectors Mr. Nikolaos Dercas and Mr. Stavros Zografakis, Professors, have taken part into these races.

 The AUA Running Team of the Agricultural University of Athens has been founded in September 2021, under the initiative of Ms. Polyxeni Tsaliagkou, being a Physical Education Teacher, currently on a teaching posting to the Agricultural University of Athens, in addition to the coordination by Mr. Konstantinos Soulis, Assistant Professor and the Professor, Mr. Dionysios Kalyvas. That was attained on the occasion of the participation during the pandemic, of members of the University across a virtual race held by the alliance of European Universities EU-CONEXUS, into which the Agricultural University has been a partner. By that action, extra keenness of the members of the University has emerged to participation into relative activities, too. The Agricultural University of Athens besides its educational and research work, has been participating into a number of actions having a cultural, artistic and sporting nature through the functioning of voluntary groups and scheduled events. “The 14th International Poseidon Half Marathon, in line with the modern standards of energy footprint management, features its ecological orientation, thanks to the recycling action:” ECO Environment. Attitude to life!”, enhances volunteering through the voluntary program of reusing sports shoes “Let them run again” (wherein pairs of sports shoes are being gathered, which are in good condition with the aim of their being used again), highlights the Action on Diabetes and Obesity, with the slogan “Run and Walk. I value my steps! And many other actions”, emphasizes Ms. Polyxeni Tsaliagkou.

 Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Photography Team of the Agricultural University of Athens, AUA Clicks!, has been always supporting with great zeal the sports activities of AUA RUNNING, nominating the photographers in every case, suitable for capturing the highlights of the races. Anyone interested, may enjoy more photographs on the link as follows: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FBdQzxuZpvMPZmkt5>