**Hellenic Republic**



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 **PRESS RELEASE**

**The Agricultural University of Athens has declared the national groups that will represent the University in the 2ndEuropean School EU-CONEXUS Final Contest: “*Think smart, create green*”**

 The Partnership of European Universities entitled EU-CONEXUS, in which the Agricultural University of Athens participates in collaboration with eight other Universities, aims mainly at promoting the challenges faced by urban areas on the European coastline, inspiring the society to look for the proper solutions to apply environmental-friendly principles, in their daily life.

In the School Contest, organised for the private schools across the Region of Attica, the following schools took part:

* 2nd Arsakeio Junior High School (Gymanasio) in Athens,
* Lycée Franco-Hellénique Eugène Delacroix,
* GEITONAS School,
* Avgoulea – Linardatou Private School, S., S.A.,
* Athens College in Psychico,
* DOUKAS School.

Groups have been composed, consisting of four students and a leading teacher, from two age target groups, which have chosen to develop green sustainable proposals for the smart cities of the future. In particular, they had had the choice to select between two topics for presenting their suggestions. The first subject was “Smart Ports for Sustainable Green Cities”, whereas the second one was “Sustainable Green Buildings for Smart Cities”.

 According to the above statements, pupils aged 12-14 have created a 3D model project based on their chosen topic, using sustainable and biodegradable materials, for example clay, paper and related products, cotton, bamboo, etc. The model created, had been accompanied by a pdf file that explained in detail the innovations proposed to make European ports and cities smarter and more sustainable. Pupils aged 14-16 have created a computer-designed model on a topic of their choice. The submitted project, had been accompanied by a pdf file that explained in detail the innovations proposed to make European ports and cities smarter and more sustainable.

As far as the procedure and the stages of the contest are concerned, a pre-selection was initially made of the groups, which are to participate in the national contest. The five (5) best works have been pre-selected, per age group. With respect to the National Contest, the pre-selected groups presented their projects on Tuesday, the 5th of April 2022 to the national jury of the Agricultural University of Athens. Afterwards, a group of students per age target group was chosen to take part in the National Contest. At the final stage, the national winners will present their projects to the International European Competition before the international jury on the 5th of May 2022. One winner team per age category will be selected, amongst all countries.

 Besides, the level and quality of all the works of the pupils was extraordinarily high and their innovative ideas had impressed the national jury of the contest, which has voted unanimously the following winner groups per age category, which shall represent Greece in the final of the european contest:

* From the 12-14 age group: Athens College in Psychico, with the project “A Smart Mall”,
* From the 14-16 age group: 2nd Arsakeio Junior High School (Gymanasio) in Athens with the project “DREAM FACTORY”.

This contest having been completed with success for the second consecutive year, tends to become an institution, giving the chance to all the participants to live an exciting experience, through which the skills of teamwork and creativity were being cultivated, gaining knowledge at the same time about sustanaible development.

 For more information about the EU-CONEXUS partnership, anyone interested can visit the website: [www.eu-conexus.eu](http://www.eu-conexus.eu) .