**Hellenic Republic**



**The Agricultural University of Athens,**

**The International and Public Relations Office,**

Address: 75 Iera Odos Str, GR-118 55, Athens, Greece

Information: Rania Hindiridou,

Tel.: (+30) 210 5294841,

e-mail: [public.relations@aua.gr](mailto:public.relations@aua.gr)

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**Press Release**

**Press Conference for signing a Memorandum of Understanding among the Chamber of the Cyclades, the Agricultural University of Athens and the University of Piraeus**

On Monday the 22nd of February 2021, the Chamber of the Cyclades organized an online Press Conference in order to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among the Agricultural University of Athens and the University of Piraeus. Throughout the Press Conference, the President John Roussos, upon expressing his gratitude and thanks to the two Rectors of the previously stated Universities for supporting the work of the Chamber, as well as their immediate response to the planning and organization of the new training course, has presented in short, the educational programme of the entrepreneurship development and upgrading having been implemented so far by the Chamber of the Cyclades, laying special emphasis on both the compulsory seminars held by the *Hellenic Food Authority* and *Safety Technicians*, inasmuch the programs of general business interest.

In the first place, the Rector of the Agricultural University of Athens, Professor Spyridon Kintzios, has highlighted the special gladness and honour of the third oldest Higher Educational Institution in Greece, participating as a key partner in an institutional cooperation with the Chamber of the Cyclades, aiming further at encouraging the academic community, by means of its research actions and initiatives to contribute to the integrated development of entrepreneurship activities all over the Cyclades, inaugurating a new era on the one hand, having the strengthening of the agri-food, the primary and the tourist sector as the primary axis of strategy, on the other hand.

On top of that, the Agricultural University of Athens being both the largest Higher Educational Institution in the South-Eastern Europe, as far as the pertinent Agricultural Science subjects are concerned and acting as a founding member of the *EU-Conexus Alliance* of European Universities, specialized in Smart Urban Coastal Zone Sustainability, has been committed to the fulfilment of the targets of that strategic cooperation.

Afterwards, the Rector of the University of Piraeus, Professor Kotios Aggelos, has expressed his warm thanks to the Chamber of the Cyclades for creating the possibility of establishing such a partnership, since the University of Piraeus, on the part of the Departments of Tourism Studies and Business Administration pertains to the organizational structure of the Prefecture of the Cyclades Islands. In addition, it is worth mentioning that sustainable blue economy is a strategic goal of the University of Piraeus, as its Rector has featured in the Press Conference, making it clear that the University has been serving this objective consistently. Subsequently, Panagiotis Theodorakis, the Head of New technologies, Education and Training of the Chamber of the Cyclades, has announced the thematic fields of the first educational programs, which are due to take place in the immediate future:

In collaboration with the Agricultural University of Athens, as follows:

* Certified products. The importance of the Protected Designation of origin Products (PDO), the Geographical Indication Protection Products (PGI) and the Traditional Speciality Guaranteed Products (TSG) within the regional development.
* The value and significance of the local genetic resources for the islands’ development.
* The cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants on the Cyclades Islands.
* Non-irrigated crops in the various areas of the Cyclades.

In cooperation with the University of Piraeus, as it is described below:

* Acquisition of Knowledge of the new data has become our “asset” concerning the preparation of this season.
* Marketing & E-marketing available for Services and Tourism.
* Strategic Management for Modern Tourist Organizations in the after covid-19 era.
* Cost Accounting Systems & Cost Management of Tourism and Hospitality Businesses.

In conclusion, the President of the Chamber of the Cyclades has reported that the beginning of the new training course along with the University of Piraeus will be functioning by an introductory webinar provided free of charge for all the members of the Chamber of the Cyclades, which is to be held on March 3, 2021. Besides, a relevant introductory webinar will be scheduled associated with the academic course in partnership with the Agricultural University of Athens, consequently an accompanying announcement shall be made.

More detailed information upon the new educational programs will be promptly posted on the web portal of the Chamber of Cyclades <https://www.e-kyklades.gr/intro.jsp?lang=en>