Candidacy Portfolio

I.C.T.M.D

34th Symposium Study Group of Ethnochoreology

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University of Ioannina & City of Ioannina
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1. EPIRUS
The Region of Epirus is one of the 13 regions of Greece. It is located in the northwestern part of the country. It is bordered on the west by the Ionian Sea, on the east by Macedonia and Thessaly and on the south by the Amvrakikos Gulf and the Regional Unit of Etoloakarnania. Its largest city and capital is Ioannina.

Epirus is a region that has a unique natural environment, combining in an ideal way sea and mountain, culture and history, pure local products and traditional Epirus flavours. Here the past meets the present in archaeological sites, museums, castles, stone bridges and traditional villages that bear witness to the former prosperity of the region. Epirus scholars, merchants, craftsmen and musicians have created an unsurpassed tradition of letters and arts that continues to grow today.

The Epiros of the four seasons, the legends and the rich historical route and the famous Epirus hospitality over the centuries, are features that excite its visitors, as confirmed by the choice of most of them to make it a favorite way of destination. [https://epirusforallseasons.gr/](https://epirusforallseasons.gr/)
2. IOANNINA, THE CITY OF LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS

Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, "The city of the silversmiths, is located in the centre of a beautiful valley and is developed around the magnificent Lake Pamvotida between large mountains, 1 hour away from the beaches of the Ionian Sea. The town was built on the Egnatia Road, the road that connects Europe and Asia, one of the oldest roads in the world and has 300 years of history with the first evidence of human activity in the area dating back to the Paleolithic Age (22,000 BC). The population of the city is 64,896 inhabitants
and of the wider metropolitan municipality to 113,978 according to the 2021 census.

The nature, climate and character of the town are defined by the famous lake with its un tarnished waters and the small island that is a natural monument around which the whole town lives and breathes. A unique combination of natural beauty, history, tradition and nobility, a combination of sights, sounds, tastes and smells that appeals to all five senses.

Ioannina was a multicultural territory, dominated by Christian, Islamic and Jewish elements. The coexistence of Christian, Islamic and Jewish elements has left strong memories and records in the historic centre of the city. The immense multicultural value of the area is reflected in the architecture of the buildings, the religious buildings, the churches, the monasteries, the mosques, the shopping streets of the city and the flavours of the region. The Luli Stoa is one of the places where the three communities have worked together and made progress. The lodge originally served as a hani, only to be transformed into a commercial centre of great importance for the whole of Epirus.
From the Stone Age, the ancient Greek civilizations, the Roman and Byzantine despotisms, to the Ottoman Pasha’s and the modern Greek state, the traces of history in Ioannina lead to sightseeing. Wondrous buildings such as the House of Hussein Mattei, the Ottoman Mosque of Velis Pasha and the entire historical centre of Ioannina are unique attractions, as are the Archaeological Museum of Ioannina and the Byzantine Museum of Ioannina, the Museum of Silversmithing, the Interactive Hall of the History of the Art of Silversmithing - Centre of Traditional Crafts of Ioannina (KEPABI), the Municipal Museum - Castle of Ioannina, the Museum of Ali Pasha, the Museum of Waxworks P. Vreillis Museum, the Municipal Gallery of Ioannina, 2 archaeological sites of great importance, 12 churches, one synagogue, 16 monasteries, 12 Muslim
monuments (mosques, madrasas and hammams), 13 buildings of special architectural interest, 8 mansions, a unique Cave, the lake, the Castle, etc.
The imposing castle of Ioannina was built in 528 AD by the Emperor Justinian. It is the oldest Byzantine fortress in the Greek territory, with an uninterrupted history. Over the years it has evolved into a real state, in the context of which the spiritual life of Ioannina has progressed to a high degree.
The whole lakeside area is an ideal walk, full of small shops with folk art, mainly silversmithing and bronze making. Silversmithing is inextricably linked to the tradition and cultural heritage of Ioannina and Epirus in general. Silver has been worked in Ioannina since late Byzantine times, when the city, due to its position and the support of local rulers, was developing economically.
The "small island" (nissaki) of Ioannina is one of the few inhabited lake islands in the world. The visitor can admire the ornate Byzantine monasteries with their exquisite frescoes, the traditional architecture of the houses, the narrow cobbled streets and the lush natural environment. The island is also home to Ali Pasha’s house - the largest refuge of Ali Pasha, which today functions as a museum, reviving with its exhibits the legend of Lady Frosyne and the end of Ali Pasha.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgAispxe7Xc

2.1 Access to Ioannina

By air: Access to Epirus can be easily achieved, as the region is served by Ioannina Airport, Preveza-Aktio Airport and Thessaloniki Airport for both national and international flights.

By sea: Igoumenitsa’s national port provides direct access to Central Europe through the Italian ports, Bari, Brindisi and Ancona, even with Patra’s port.

By road: Epiros is a crossroads in northwestern Greece, connecting the East with Europe and the South with the Balkans. Access to Ioannina has been greatly facilitated by the development of the road network. There is road access via the A2 - E90 Egnatia Highway to/from Thessaloniki and North-Eastern Cities, and via the A5 Ionian Motorway to/from Athens and South-Western Cities. Regional transport: Services within the area are provided by local urban and intercity buses, in addition to private transport, due to the excellent network connecting traditional villages, activity centers and nature settlements. The city has a network of accessible pavements and pedestrian crossings for all pedestrians with provision for people with disabilities and disabled persons, a network of cycle paths and public transport and taxis.

Parking spaces are also available to facilitate transfers to Public Transport (PMT) and largely meet the parking needs of residents and
2.2 Accomodation

The city and the surrounding area is distinguished for its warm hospitality and the number of beds available. Urban hotels in the city centre, luxury hotels, economical guesthouses, picturesque boutique hotels in the castle town, modern Airbnb apartments, youth hostel, glamorous camping are excellent accommodation options. The strength of the Ioannina Prefecture Hotel Association incorporates 70 hotels with 1800 rooms and 4,000 beds, representing about 60% of the total hotel beds in the Ioannina Region.

2.3 Alimentation-Gastronomy-Local cuisine

Ioannina and the wider region offer a wide range of food and catering options such as luxury restaurants, picturesque taverns, local taverns, traditional grill shops, modern fast-food, restaurants with international cuisine, options for vegeterians or vegans, excellent pastry shops and comfortable cafes and bars with finger food and a variety of drinks, traditional bakeries with local flavors, dairies of local products and large supermarket chains. The culture since antiquity, the influence of conquerors (Romans, Byzantines, Franks, Ottomans), the “Romaniotes” as the oldest Jewish community in Europe, and other ethnic groups (Sarakatsani, Vlachs, Slavs, Arvanites), the climatic conditions, combined with the geological position and local habits, shaped the gastronomic physiognomy of the region.
The culinary feast of Ioannina is of high standards. The continental mountains offer a wide range of herbs and spices, which flavour the fine raw materials. The fish of the lake, such as eels and trout, together with the special frog legs, are the hallmark of the cuisine of Ioannina.

Unique cheeses, delicious pies, well-cooked fresh meat with local herbs, traditional noodles, trahanas, fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs.
The traditional sweets of Ioannina are famous all over Greece. The famous sheker burek, which means sugar pie, the famous syrupy pastries, dominated by baklava and the other pastries are just a few of the flavours that remain unforgettable. Also, an unforgettable culinary delight is offered by the city's famous bougatsa with cheese or cream.

The traditional cafes of the city offer unique "sherbetia", sweet wines with fruit and floral aromas, as well as special non-alcoholic liqueurs with organic vinegar, nectar, herbs and fruit aromas.
2.4 CULTURE-RECREATION

Ioannina is a city in perpetual motion. The cultural history of Ioannina, with its great prose writers and poets, the artistic and intellectual events, which are organized throughout the year, give the opportunity to get acquainted with the roots of the intellectual tradition of Epirus. The program of an ordinary walking tour includes, among other things, theatre performances, "street music", film screenings, exhibitions of photography, painting, sculptures or engravings and book presentations, festivals, fairs in the surrounding villages and various events throughout the year.

Both the city and the surrounding areas are a place where the musical paths of the West and the East meet with traditional rhythms in folk festivals and events, while different streams of musical and artistic expression, acrobatics and spectacles blend with the mystical atmosphere of the landscape in a flood of feelings of intoxication and spiritual uplift.
Dancing and singing are intertwined with the life of the inhabitants of Ioannina. The local timbre is dominated by the clarinet - which was usually 'inherited' by the son from the father - the lute, the violin and the toubeleki.

In the city and the municipal districts, traditional music and dance performances and festivals are organized throughout the year by the dozens of Traditional Dance Departments of the Municipality's Traditional Dance Associations. The main venues of the city's activities are the Hall of Pirsinellas of the Cultural Centre, the open-air theatre of the Society of Continental Studies, the central square, Mavili Square, Molos Square, etc. The Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Ioannina has two modern conference rooms: The "Vassilios Pyrcinellas" Hall with a capacity of 700 people (500 in the square and 200 in the balcony) and the "D. Hatzis Cultural Centre" Hall with a capacity of 150 people) as well as the "D. Hatzis Cultural Centre" outside yard with a capacity of 1000 people.
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20/6/2024
18:00-21:30
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Πάρκο Κάτσαρη
Ιωάννινα

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ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΓΛΥΚΗΔΩΝ
ΕΣΠΕΡΙΚΟΣ ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΑΚ
Based in Ioannina, the visitor can go on the same day, especially in summer, to festivals or folk festivals of many villages of Epirus, where the organizers take care to preserve the particularities and the specific musical and dancing idiom of the region or the village. Indicatively mentioned villages such as Vovousa, Drosopigi, Sklivani, Metsovo, Syrrako, Kalarrites, Zitsa, Kefalovryso, Vitsa, Delvinaki, Chouliarades, Parakalamos etc.

2.5 Conferences
Ioannina, a place of unrivalled beauty, surrounded by nature, is the ideal conference destination. The city of Ioannina is built on the Egnatia Road, the trade route that has connected Europe and Asia for more than two millennia. Today, the Egnatia Road is a modern motorway of international standards and Ioannina is home to modern hotels, conference rooms, equipped halls and one of the most important universities in the country, with more than 18,000 students enrolled, filling the city with their vitality and creativity.

2.6 Remarkable destinations
The options are truly limitless and vary from season to season, making Ioannina a fantastic destination regardless of the season. Strolling through
the picturesque alleys of the pedestrianised city and the castle, sightseeing and museums, a walk on the lake, hiking in the mountains, diving in the crystal clear waters of the Ionian Sea are some of the excellent options for the visitor. At 25.5 km NW of Ioannina is Zitsa, the most important wine production area in Epirus with a worldwide reputation for its famous wines. In Zitsa the river Kalamas chiseled the big rock with its wild waters and presented the "Theogefyro", a natural bridge formed by rocks which were joined over the river by the rushing waters. A real oasis of coolness, the green and cool landscape of the river relaxes the visitor even on the hottest days of summer. The Folklore Museum of Zitsa, near the church of Agios Nikolaos, is located in a small and cozy place.

Just outside the city, just 4 kilometres away, is Perama, which is home to one of the most beautiful caves in Europe with a history of 1.5 million years. The beauty of its chambers is indescribable. The Hall of the Cross is a natural sculpture, which literally captivates the viewer.
The archaeological site of Dodoni, known for its nationwide radiance, is located 22 km from Ioannina. It is one of the most important ancient sanctuaries that have been preserved and in a condition that helps to understand many details about its function and usefulness. The origins of the sanctuary date back to the Bronze Age (2,600 - 1,200 BC). The ancient Dodoni was the political and religious center of the Pelasgians in prehistoric times. The sacred oracle is the oldest and most beloved to the gods, since Zeus himself designated it as his own oracle, all-honourable to humans. An integral part of the sanctuary of Dodoni is the ancient theatre of Dodoni, one of the largest and best preserved ancient Greek theatres, with a capacity of about 18,000 people. [https://ancienttheatersofepirus.gr/en/]
An ideal roadtrip from Ioannina, lasting 45 minutes-1 hour, is the Zagorochoria. The combination of the pristine natural beauty with the special continental architecture of the stone houses, the bridges, the alleys of the villages and the beautiful churches.

The village of Vikos is located near the sources of the Voidomatis River and has an incredible view of the gorge that bears its name. Nearby is Aristi, which borders the Vikos-Aoos National Park, an excellent starting point for rafting and hiking excursions. Monodendri is famous for the Rizarios Exhibition Centre & School of Handicrafts, where it keeps alive the traditional arts of the region such as foot-powered weaving. A little further afield are the Gardens, surrounded by stone bridges and Tsepelovo, Zagori’s largest village, with well-preserved mansions, an art gallery and a lovely square. The uniqueness of this place and its cultural heritage are the reasons why Zagori with its 46 villages has been included in the UNESCO list of Cultural Landscapes.
In the same area, 30 km northwest of Ioannina, in the Vikos-Aoos National Park, is the Vikos Gorge, one of the most famous gorges in Greece and around the world as, according to the Guinness Book of Records, it is the deepest gorge in the world in proportion to its width. With a length of 20 kilometers, a depth of 900 meters (in some places it exceeds 1,000 meters) and an opening of about 1,000 meters, it is undoubtedly an impressive monument of nature with imposing beauty that captivates in a breathtaking location. The 'Uesco World Geopark of Viko-Aoos' has a special geological heritage, expressed through a significant number of geological sites of particular importance in terms of their quality, rarity, scientific and educational value and their aesthetic appeal. [https://vikosaoosgeopark.com/](https://vikosaoosgeopark.com/)
The Epirus Trail is a great mountain adventure that crosses all of Epirus, from Mount Gramos to Tzoumerka. It is based on and highlights the old roads through which Epirus people moved for centuries inland, to other parts of Greece or abroad. The areas it crosses include places of outstanding natural beauty, unique landscape variations, interesting man-made environment, while the cultural elements that 'dress' it give it an important specificity.

About 1 hour from Ioannina, are the imposing Tzoumerka or Athamanika Mountains, which belong to the European Network of Protected Areas "NATURA 2000" and the National Park of Tzoumerka, Peristeri and Haradra Arachthos. Their villages are perched on steep streams, deep gorges, bare rocks, high peaks with few inhabitants in winter. The region is famous for its mono-arch stone bridges with the famous Bridge of Plaka, the largest mono-arch stone bridge in the Balkans and the third in Europe, a historical monument, which for almost 30 years was the border between Greece and Turkey. Mountain Bike, Kayak-Rafting, Canyoning, Mountaineering - Mountain Hiking, Horse Riding, are some of the suggestions for activities that enchant the senses and make the experience of traveling in Tzoumerka unique. The most popular 4.5 km route starts from the picturesque stone-built village of Syrrako and ends at Kalarrytes, the "village of siver-goldsmiths."
In the Municipality of North Tzoumerka, the settlements of Syrrako and Kalarrites have been designated as Settlements of Special State Protection and Sites of Special Natural Beauty and of course Traditional Settlements, as well as that of Raftanaia.

Syrrako, 52km from Ioannina, built at an altitude of 1,150 meters, preserves unchanged the traditional Epirotic architecture with stone-built houses with slate roofs.
The traditional festival of Syrrako, which takes place on the feast of Panagia (Virgin Mary) on August 15th, has been registered in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016. It is a social ritual practice and a music and dance event, recognized by all Syrrakians as an important element of their cultural heritage and a unique opportunity for collective expression and renewal of the ties of the entire dispersed community of Syrrakians.

The Festival of Syrrako is identified with the public dance, organized in two or more concentric open circles. In the inner circles the women dance and in the outer circles the men dance. In the first place, everyone dances in the order they are seated in the circle, each with the dance-song of his or her choice from what is recognized as the “Syrrako’s” repertoire.

32 kilometres from Ioannina, in North Tzoumerka and at an altitude of 1,050 metres, there is also the stone-built village of Chouliarades, whose inhabitants were famous builders and excellent stone carvers until the middle of the last century. The three-day celebration of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, on September 8, includes a festival in the central square and a daytime feast on the day, where the “Kykles or Kagelia”, the well-known Kagelaris, are held. The Kykles or Kagelari dance was inscribed in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2020.
It is the Kagelari dance that is danced and sung by men and women in counterpoint without the accompaniment of instruments. The song begins at sunset and lasts until the first good dusk. The leader of the dance is always the village priest. It is the dance that unites everyone who participates, since everyone takes hold of each other’s arm and at the same time everyone follows the same pace without anyone (neither the first nor the last one), while it is addressed to everyone, young and old, local and foreign, and does not exclude anyone.

At a distance of 1 hour and 15 minutes is the famous Pogoni. The rich historical - cultural heritage and the unparalleled natural environment is an attraction for every visitor who has the opportunity to visit the historical and archaeological sites, to feel the religious devotion in the churches and monasteries, to admire the architecture of the mansions, to experience the rich beauty of nature, to cool off in the rich waters of the area, to have fun in the beautiful traditional festivals and the rich events organized by the Municipality with the institutions of the region, enjoying the pure wine and tsipouro of the region. The music and dance tradition of Pogoni is rich and has its own peculiarity, due to historical, climatological, anthropological, sociological and other factors. Polyphonic singing ‘a capella’ is a tradition with ancient roots. The Pogonisio, or the Pogonisios is the characteristic dance of the Pogonis province. This dance, combining the Doric pentatonic anharmonic scale of ancient Greek tradition with the modern musical identity of the Pogoni region, reflects the culture of the Epirus in all its dimensions and encapsulates for the Epirus people their timeless singing and music and dance expression.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5gQ-EQGUUA
Majestic mountains, impressive gorges, diverse geological formations, rich and dense forests, rushing rivers, rough paths, small fertile valleys and among all these the picturesque town of Konitsa with the plain at its feet and the numerous villages on the slopes of the great mountains of North Pindos, make up the diverse landscape of the Municipality of Konitsa.

Konitsa is considered the city of kayaking and offers the possibility all year round to enjoy this sport as well as rafting, mountaineering, paragliding, hiking, mountain biking and other activities. In the field of spa tourism, the region offers the sulphurous thermal baths of Kavassila and the thermal baths of Amarantos.
Hikers will enjoy climbing and adventure in the mountains of Smolika, Grammos, Tymfi, enjoy the mythical Drakolimnes and indulge in winter sports at the ski resort of the nearby Vasilitsa in the Pindos-Valia Calda National Park (Valia Calda.)

https://youtu.be/1G2o_iOs7gA

A short distance from Ioannina, about 1.15 km, is the National Park of Pindos - Valia Calda, one of the most important National Parks of Greece with the ski resort of Vasilitsa. Wild, high snow-covered peaks, endless ridges, centuries-old dark-coloured coniferous forests over 700 years old, autummal beech forests, green meadows, crystal water springs and chirping streams, wildlife form an amazing alpine landscape. Bear’s River (Arkoudorema), waterfalls and at 1960 m the Flegga lakes fascinate the visitor. In the eastern part of the Regional Unit of Ioannina, just 1 hour from Ioannina, on the slopes of North Pindos lies the picturesque Metsovo, one of the most mountainous municipalities in Greece and a favorite winter resort with organized ski resorts, which, combined with the picturesque landscape, attract many visitors.
The vineyards in Metsovo are the most mountainous vineyards in Greece, at an altitude of 950 to 1,050 meters where the cosmopolitan varieties Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir and Traminer are cultivated, as well as the indigenous, Vlachiko, Syrah. The vineyards are located within the brown bear habitat. There, bears and teddy bears leave their footprints in the vineyards. And since the bear is an integral part of the Metsovan habitat, every year, on the last Sunday of May, Metsovo hosts the mountain marathon race "UrsaTrail - In the footsteps of the bear". It starts from the village of Metsovo, continues along the mountain paths and follows the footsteps of the bear through the vineyards.
Metsovo has a Folklore Museum, Folk Art Museum, Art Gallery, the Averofios Garden with trees and plants representative of the flora of Pindos, and the famous Averof Winery.

Apart from the fine wines, the most famous cheeses of the region have Metsovo in their name.

Metsovone (a smoked, hard, mostly cow's cheese) is the region's blockbuster, with Protected Designation of Origin status and a preparation that includes curing for three months and smoking with burnt grass and herbs for 12 days. Unheard of are semi-hard Metzovela, sweet Graviera, Grana (a type of Parmesan), soft Galotyri that can be spread on pies and a type of chevre called Batsisio, as well as other cheeses infused with red wine and wild herbs. Metsovo butter is also very special.
Ioannina can combine the mountain with the sea. 1 hour and 20 minutes from Ioannina, on the Ionian side is the beautiful coastal town of Parga, a hiker’s paradise.

The special architecture of the old town with the illuminated Venetian castle, the stone alleys, the picturesque arches and the colourful mansions take the visitor back to a romantic era. Parga has some of the best beaches, with clear, turquoise waters and the most famous is Valtos, a huge sandy beach located behind the Castle, with organised facilities and a choice of relaxation, entertainment and water sports.
3. UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA

The University Campus is set in 350 acres with extensive green areas surrounding the building complexes, which house the University Schools and Services. It is one of the largest campuses in Greece. It is located 6 km from the city center, and it is connected to the city by regular daily local bus services and taxi.

The University of Ioannina is a Higher Educational Institution based in Ioannina, founded in 1970. Its departments had already started to operate in 1964 as a branch of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
The University of Ioannina currently has 11 Faculties and 23 individual Departments, with approximately 18,000 students. The members of the Teaching and Research Staff (D.R.P.) amount to approximately 500, while the Special and Laboratory Teaching Staff (S.L.L.P.) has approximately 30 members.

In particular it includes:

- School of Philosophy
- School of Sciences
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Education
- School of Fine Arts
- School of Engineering
- School of Social Sciences
- School of Economics and Administrative Sciences
- School of Music Studies
- School of Informatics and Telecommunications
- School of Agricultural Technology

### 3.1 School of Education- The Department of Primary Education

The Department of Primary Education was established in 1984 and welcomed its first students during the 1984-1985 academic year. The Department's mission is to cultivate and promote Pedagogical Sciences with academic and applied teaching and research. Minimum duration of study: eight (8) academic semesters.

The Department also offers postgraduate and doctoral studies that are highly upgraded.
The Department has 13 laboratories, of which 2 are listed below:

a) Laboratory of Social Sciences and Education

The Laboratory of Social Sciences and Education contributes to the development of teaching and research activity, with modern, documented and credible scientific work in the fields of Epistemology and in particular, Educational Epistemology and the Philosophy of Education, Sociology of Education, Sociology of Media, Human and Children Rights and the fields of History, Education and History, as well as in Educational Administration and Politics.

Research programs are being implemented in collaboration with Primary and Secondary Education Schools of Epirus and other institutions and they are conducting research educational activities in collaboration with the Ph.D. candidates, postgraduate students and Teachers – members of the Laboratory. It has also organized a number of lectures by faculty from other schools and universities, as well as researchers.

b) Greek Language, Language Teaching and Culture Laboratory

The "Laboratory of Language - Language Teaching and Culture" serves teaching and research needs in the fields of Modern Greek Language, Language Teaching and Culture in relation to the Modern Greek linguistic
tradition and is scientifically active in the methodology and production of language material for the Hellenism of the diaspora on the one hand and for foreign pupils, students, businessmen, etc., who are interested in learning the Greek language. In addition, it is active in the editing and publishing of textbooks and auxiliary language material and in the implementation of new innovative methods of teaching Greek as a mother tongue, second or foreign language. Furthermore, the Laboratory aims to organize seminars, symposia, conferences, lectures, meetings and events with Greek and foreign experts, as well as to publish and disseminate publications.

3.2 Research-Collaborations

In the context of its research strategy, the University of Ioannina aims to strengthen and upgrade scientific and technological research at the level of the institution, but also to contribute to the creation of the single European Research Area.

The proposal of the University of Ioannina for the partnership of European higher education institutions under the name ARTEMIS: Alliance for Regional Transition, Equality, Mobility Inclusion and Sustainability, in the Erasmus+ program was distinguished among a number of other proposals and was approved by the European Commission with a score of 90/100.

The European ARTEMIS University is the beginning of a permanent alliance, which aspires to lead to a systematic and profound transformation of the academic space, with an impact on the respective regions and communities, with the possibility of mobility of people and ideas and interaction between eight European Universities.

In addition, the Rector of the University of Ioannina, Anna Batistatou, will be the new President of UniAdrion, the International Network of Adriatic & Ionian Universities, for one year. The UniAdrion network promotes academic and research inter-university cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian region through face-to-face/remote postgraduate programs, training activities, summer schools and joint research projects. The aim of the network, which currently involves 53 universities from 10 countries, is to strengthen international cooperation and enhance peace, security, economic and social well-being of the countries of the Ionian-Adriatic region, while respecting democracy, environment, history and culture.
Alongside studies, quality of life is a key issue. For this reason, students are offered services to ensure satisfactory living conditions, services for the promotion of their cultural and social development and their physical and mental health, electronic services that can be used by all members of the academic community, as well as opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities such as internal leagues, tournaments, dance, exercise, activities of the Speech and Art Committee, Camerata, Choir, activities of student clubs and groups.
3.4 Facilities
The buildings of the faculties and services of the University are functional and fully equipped, with a modern structure of spaces, so as to meet the requirements of a standard Higher Intellectual Institution. Innovative and self-sufficient spaces have been created on the campus to serve the needs of students not only in terms of their quality of living and the cultivation of their skills and qualifications, but also in terms of their socialization as agents of the multilevel cultural world.

3.5 Food Services
The Student Restaurant, which is located on the ground floor of the campus’ Student Club building, occupies an area of around 4,500 m² and is fully equipped with cutting-edge University facilities. The Restaurant operates from 1 September to 30 June, Monday-Sunday, and closes for 14 days during the Christmas and Easter holidays, respectively. It operates for a total of 275 days per year and has a feeding capacity of 4,000 students/day (for free).

The daily menu, in accordance with the proclamation and the contractor's obligations, includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. In addition, the University Campus of Ioannina is home to the restaurant "Phegos", a place with special aesthetics and service, where the academic community and visitors can enjoy excellent meal or celebrate special occasions, such as graduation days at very affordable prices.

3.6 Halls
The University of Ioannina has an enviable infrastructure of large and smaller halls, with a total capacity of hundreds of people, for hosting conferences, events, etc.

Specifically:

**a) The Conference Center “Karolos Papoulias”** which includes:

- The main auditorium with 452 seats.
- Two conference halls with 94 seats
- Four meeting rooms (three for 10 people and one for 25)
b) The Hall of Speech and Art "Dimitris Hatzis", with a capacity of 350 seats, which operates as a venue for events and film screenings).

c) International Centre for Hellenic Education - Tradition and Vocational Training "Stavros Niarchos" (DI.K.E.P.P.E.)

- An auditorium for 250 people
- Two halls for 36 people
- Three halls for 25 persons
- Five halls for 18 persons
- Two halls for 15 persons
- One conference hall for 12 persons
University Library and Information Centre

The University of Ioannina has the largest, in terms of effective surface area (14,500 sq. m. divided into six storeys), single library in Greece, which has been named the "The University of Ioannina Library and Information Centre" due to the wide use of information technology. The equipment of the "The University of Ioannina Library and Information Centre" meets all international specifications regarding Academic Libraries and includes 31 workstations, 504 reading stations, a contemporary 140-seat auditorium, an Art Gallery Exhibition Room, a Seminar Room with a seating capacity of 20 people, 12 carrels, etc. UoI Library features open reading rooms with a seating capacity of 600 students, collections of 400,000 books and 150,000 volumes of science magazines and journals. Library users include all members of the academic community of the University of Ioannina. The Library services are also accessible to the general public. The Library also owns a significant collection in Braille as well as equipment that can be used by visually impaired people.
**e) The University Sports Center**, concerns the free time of students and employees and aims at improving quality of life and lifelong exercise. It offers to all members of the university community General - Free Fitness for students, Competitive Sports, Employee Exercise Programs, Exercise Programs for Injured Athletes and People with Special Needs.

3.7 Culture
One of the most beautiful sites on campus is the old Monastery of Agios Georgios of Dourouti, which was built in the 18th century and is picturesquely perched on the hillside overlooking the campus. The Monastery has been restored and today is used as the University’s Cultural Centre and it inspires and activates the university community for action in areas that
contribute to both the protection and enhancement of the wider ecological and cultural environment.

In addition, the museums that are housed within the university campus display exhibits that reveal local history and arts, such as:

- Folklore Museum
- Typography Museum
• History of Medicine Museum

• Maria and Spyros Malafouris (Ernanis) Library and Museum

• Museum of Casts
Πολιτισμός – Πανεπιστήμιο Ιωαννίνων (uoi.gr)