

## Three Greek Universities in World University League Table

Three Greek universities ranked among the world's top 500 in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2017. The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens placed 301-400, while the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the National Technical University of Athens ranked 401-500. At the top of the rankings, Harvard maintained first place for the 15<sup>th</sup> year running, followed by Stanford in second place, the University of Cambridge as a newcomer to third place, MIT in fourth, and UC Berkeley in fifth place.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), also known as Shanghai Ranking, first published in 2003 by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, were the first international rankings to be compiled. They ARWU use multifarious indicators to produce an annual league table of the world's top 500 universities.



## Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program Awards Second Round of Fellowships

Thirty Greek- and Cypriot-born scholars were selected in the second round of the Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program and announced this summer. The fellows, U.S. and Canadian based academics, will be traveling to Greece to conduct academic projects with their peers at thirteen Greek universities, in areas ranging from medical physics to educational psychology.

Launched in 2016, the Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program is designed to help avert Greece's brain drain and develop mutually beneficial collaborations between universities in Greece, the U.S., and Canada. It is co-managed by the Institute of International Education and the Fulbright Foundation in Greece and funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

The 13 host universities are: Alexander TEI, The American College of Greece, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Athens University of Economics and Business, Democritus University of Thrace, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, National Technical University of Athens, Panteion University, University of the Aegean, University of Crete, University of Macedonia, University of Patras, University of Thessaly

## GENDER INEQUALITY CREATES COGNITIVE DISADVANTAGE

A new study, published in the journal Psychological Science, looked at 200,000 women and men from 27 countries across five continents to determine how gender inequality affects cognitive development later in life. The study shows that women living in gender-equal countries have better cognitive test scores later in life than women living in gender-unequal societies and that women's cognitive performance improved relative to men's as their countries became more gender neutral.

Women consistently outperformed men on memory in countries like Sweden, The Netherlands and the U.S., while in countries like India, China, and South Africa—and even in some gender-traditional European countries like Greece and Russia—the pattern was reversed.

The study's authors argue that attitudes to gender roles and the associated gender-appropriate behaviors affect life choices and experiences to such an extent that it affects the amount of cognitively stimulating experiences a person is exposed to. The study suggests that exposure to negative stereotypes has detrimental effects on cognitive functioning and that gender-role attitudes may play a notable outcome for women across different countries.



## Greek Military Takes Initiative Towards Electrification

The Hellenic Army has taken a step towards electromobility, with the purchase of its first electric cars. These are part of a pilot scheme, under a wider strategy by the Ministry of National Defense to reduce its energy footprint and operating costs. According to the Hellenic Army Press Office, this wider strategy includes a recently introduced energy management system that resulted in a 46% energy saving compared to 2011, as well as plans to provide renewable energy to small islands by using wind turbines.

While Norway leads European nations with electric vehicles holding a 34.72% market share in 2017, according to the European Alternative Fuels Observatory, Greece is lagging behind due to a combination of reasons, including non-application of relevant directives, no clear national action plan for electrification, and a lack of public charging infrastructure.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AHEPA JOURNEY TO GREECE BRINGS STUDENTS TO ANCESTRAL HOMELAND

The recently completed 12<sup>th</sup> annual American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) Journey to Greece program through Webster University Athens, brought student of Greek descent from across the U.S. and Canada to Greece for a month-long heritage program. The students studied Greek language, society, and culture and had a chance to explore Athens and visit some of the country's foremost archaeological areas.

Students explore Delphi. The students also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Terens-Nikolaos Quick and the Greek Ambassador, and enjoyed a guided tour of the Hellenic Parliament.



## Getting Tough on Trade Dumping

This summer, the European Parliament's Trade Committee voted to get tougher on dumped imports, updating rules that regulate when and how anti-dumping duties can be imposed, taking into account WTO rules for trade between China and the rest of the world. MEPs, the Council, and the European Commission are to negotiate a final text to put before Parliament for approval. Commenting on the plans, Italian EPP member Salvatore Cicu said: "It's not protectionism, but it's an instrument which takes into consideration the necessity of having free market competition and at the same time considers the need for fairer conditions."

Dumping is a kind of predatory pricing, particularly in the context of international trade. It occurs when a company tries to increase its market share in a foreign country by selling their product at abnormally low prices, harming local competition. Dumping prices can result from a lack of competition in the producing country, heavy state interference in the production process, or simply because the company in question disregarded international labor and environmental standards.

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## PHARMA & HEALTH: WHERE TO NEXT?

The 8th annual Pharma & Health Conference, titled 'The Greek National Healthcare System in Transition: Where to Next?' took place this July at the Atheneum InterContinental in Athens. The agenda covered key topics relating to the reorganization of primary healthcare services and the pharmaceutical sector, including plans for new local health units and a revised referral system, as well as new medicine compensation and the market penetration of generics. Speakers included prominent healthcare providers, administrators, government, researchers, academics, and pharmaceutical industry representatives. Makis Papataxiarchis, Managing Director of Janssen Greece, President of PhRMA Innovation Forum, and Chairman of AmCham's Pharma Committee also spoke at the conference.