

The 8th International Congress on Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory

Greetings!

- Honorable:
- Mrs. Ralli (University of Patras),
- Mr. Joseph (Ohio State University),
- Mr. Barka (Eqrem Çabej University, Chair of the Scientific Committee),
- Mr. Kontos (University of Athens),
- Mr. Aristotel Spiro and Mr. Doris Kiriazis (as special guests and keynote speakers);
- Honorable Mr. Kostas Qirios, Representative of the Greek Embassy in Tirana;
- Honorable Mrs. Malo, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Distinguished colleagues from universities and scientific academies of USA, Canada, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Belgium etc.;
- Honorable Mr. Sala, Dean of Social Science Education Faculty;
- Distinguished colleagues from the university, and especially the colleagues of the Department of Greek Language, Literature and Civilization;

Honorable directors and teachers of minority schools, alumni, students and participants, allow me on behalf of Rector Mr. Mema to welcome you!

I am honored to officially open the "8th International Congress on Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory". I welcome you, and thank you very much for your presence.

Special thanks are in order also to the initiators and organizers of this congress, for their fine idea of cooperation with "Eqrem Cabej" University of Gjirokaštër, which is both an academic and a research institution.

The University of Gjirokaštër aims to co-operate with academic and scientific institutions in the organization of joint activities so as to be an active participant on the international stage via links with other research institutions.

The university's mission as an institution of higher education is to create realistic resources for society at large. This mission is centered on the preparation of teachers at all levels of the pre-university education system. For over 50 years, this institution has been preparing teachers, covering the needs of our country, and thereby creating a clear profile in this regard.

Knowledge is not a business; rather it is the best social, economic and cultural policy, and this university aspires to continue on the path of knowledge, and to aim to establish even higher standards for the future.

University of Gjirokaštër as an academic and research institution will continue to be a powerful center of education and research.

The organization of this 8th International Congress in cooperation with our University marks another unique means by which to measure our values and our academic potential for scientific research, inasmuch as a significant group of scholars from our university is involved in this congress, alongside the other organizing and participating universities.

The collaboration in this congress and the participation in it by so many here have given the University of Gjirokastër the opportunity to get acquainted with and make contact with the academic world encompassing scholars from many nations east and west, confirming the conviction that our university is open to knowledge and science on a global scale.

The topic of the congress, namely dialectal phenomena within the Greek language, the main language of a neighbouring country but also a language written and spoken by the Greek minority in our region, is of great importance for the study of the Greek language more generally while at the same time strengthening our cooperation with Greek universities with regard to both academic and research matters.

In particular, the organization of this edition clearly shows the scientific interest in contacts, exchanges between our two languages, giving us above all a methodology for further study and also important results in this area of investigation.

The organization of this Congress in the University of Gjirokastër has been essential not only because it shows our organizational experience but also because it highlights our efforts to shed the light of scientific knowledge on the linguistic and cultural phenomena featured in the multicultural mosaic of our region.

Moreover, it remains especially significant that the organization of the congress and the cooperation with the Department of Greek Language, Literature and Civilization have coincided with the 25th anniversary of the department's creation. In this context, this congress is of great importance in the life of this Department, which has contributed professionally to the mission of preparing teachers for the Greek minority and the analytical curricula for the Greek minority schools, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and Institution of Education Development.

Thanking you and showing appreciation at the same time for your professionalism in organizing "The 8th International Congress on Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory", I have the honor of presiding over its opening.

To close this greeting of welcome and gratitude, hoping to convey all our institutional gratitude, I wish the Congress good work and you, its honored participants, great success!

Thank you and good works!

Vice rector
Assoc. Prof. Valbona DURI