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Press Release: Participation of the Department of Nursing of the University of the Peloponnese in the Blended Intensive Programme organized by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto

The Blended Intensive Programme, **BIP in Geriatrics, 3rd edition**, which was organized by the **Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto in Portugal**, in collaboration with the **Université Paris-Saclay** (France), the **University of Salamanca** (Spain) and **Johannes Gutenberg University** (Germany), has been successfully completed.

The interdisciplinary team of instructors included members of the board of the European Geriatric Medicine Society and medical professors from various countries. The **University of the Peloponnese** was represented by **Dr. Rojas Andrea Paola, Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing**. The program was attended by medical students from various countries. The **students** from the Department of Nursing of the School of Health Sciences of the University of the Peloponnese who participated were: **Ms. Maria Michaela Gerasimou (graduate), Ms. Argyro Arseniou (final-year student) and Mr. Dimitris Katsimpouras (PhD candidate)**.

Specifically, the BIP in Geriatrics aimed to provide interdisciplinary knowledge and skills necessary for the practice of Geriatrics, focusing on the prevention, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment of the most common diseases of the elderly. The six-week program was implemented in a blended format, combining online mentoring with face-to-face meetings at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto. It concluded with the presentation of the participants' final papers and their evaluation by the university's scientific committee.

Our involvement was hard-won, as this specific BIP, which is organized for the third consecutive year, is well-recognized in the field of Health Sciences and is mainly addressed to final-year students of Medical Schools. The co-organization with top European universities further highlights its prestige and the importance of the Greek representation. It is worth mentioning, however, that the participation of the University of the Peloponnese took place within the framework of yet another successful initiative of the **Department of International Relations**, under the supervision of the **Vice-Rector for Administrative Affairs, International Relations and Outreach, Professor Efthalia Chatzigianni**. This action is part of the University's extroversion strategy, strengthening international collaborations and offering high-level experiences to students and staff.

The benefits for the University of the Peloponnese are numerous, as the easier participation of the Department of Nursing and other departments of the School of Health Sciences in future programs to be implemented by the partner universities is now ensured. Dr. Rojas Andrea Paola, representing the University of the Peloponnese, described the BIP as a "great success" and emphasized the excellent cooperation between the participating institutions. She also expressed the hope that the program's successful execution and excellent outcomes would serve as a model for future events. The Department of Nursing is already planning to organize its own BIP next academic year, taking advantage of the new collaborations that have significantly expanded the department's opportunities for international cooperation at a clinical and research level.



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We would like to warmly thank the **Hellenic State Scholarships Foundation (IKY)** for the opportunity for the University's participation in such programs. The significant increase in our institution's mobilities over the last three years has contributed decisively to the increase in funding from IKY.

We would also like to especially thank **Dr. Paula Guilhermina Fernandes** from the Mobility Office of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto (Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto) for the remarkable coordination.

Members of the UoP academic community are invited to regularly follow the announcements of the Erasmus+ Office of the University of the Peloponnese (<https://erasmus.uop.gr/>) to benefit from the opportunities offered by the short-term Erasmus+ BIPs mobility programs.

Photos from the participation of the Department of Nursing of the University of the Peloponnese in the program follow.