



ICOMOS
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΠΟΘΕΣΙΩΝ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ HELLENIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE COMITÉ NATIONAL
HELLENIQUE

HELLAS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES HERITAGE OG EDUCATION

ICOMOS Hellenic within the framework of celebrating and promoting the international Day for Monuments, has organized a number of events in collaboration with other organizations like the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), the Association of Greek Archaeologists (SAR), the MONUMENTA, the Club for UNESCO of the departments of Piraeus and Islands and the Committee of residents of Plato's Academy.

More specifically:

- ICOMOS Hellenic has printed a poster depicting the building of the National Technical University of Athens and the surrounding district in the beginning of the 19th Century (see photo 1).
- Together with the other co-organizers we have recorded and documented all educational monuments in Greece so as to protect them and make them known to the public.
- Upon the initiative of the Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities in Thesprotia, and with the urge of the Hellenic ICOMOS, a poster was created on: “Heritage and Education. A challenge and an occasion for pupils to meet the old schools buildings of Thesprotia”, and school buildings of the 19th and 20th century in the area were gathered in printed material and digital form.
- Several bodies (public and private) are organizing in Sparta (Peloponnese) an event entitled: “The first public educational buildings in Sparta”. Similar initiatives will take place all over Greece, especially for the awareness-raising of teenagers in the protection and preservation of educational monuments.
- On Monday, (15/4), a scientific event will be held entitled: “**The Cultural Heritage of Education. Greek Education (*paedeusis*)**” (NTUA Hall events), Averof building, 42 Patission Str., Athens). The presentations will deal with issues regarding the Hellenic heritage of education.
- On Sunday (14/4) ICOMOS Hellenic organized a very successful guided tour in Plato’s Academy, followed by an artistic event with the Mixed Choir of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)



Visiting Plato's Academy



Plato's Academy was the first University in the western world. This area is a monument of the global civilization, bearing outstanding universal value as it constitutes the place in which the philosophical thinking was born, closely connected with the political institutions of the ancient *polis* of Athens.

Nowadays, the area called "Academy" is an open space, where excavations have brought to light findings of athletic installations from different historical periods. In Antiquity, this place was also surrounded by gardens, and in 388 B.C. Plato established there his famous

School, while other schools and institutions were installed around the Gymnasium. The Academy enjoyed great fame throughout antiquity and was still flourishing in the time of Emperor Julian, as well as during the whole period of the Neo-Platonic philosophers until 529 A.D, when by a decree of the Emperor Justinian all the educational Institutions in Athens closed. Then, the destruction of the various buildings of the Academy began and in the course of time the ruins were buried under the silt of the Kephisos River.

The objective of the guided tour was to sensitize people on the protection and enhancement of this unique monument, as well as to help its integration to the modern economic, social and political life. It is particularly important that in this effort we received great help by the Committee of residents of Plato's Academy, which also co-organized today's events.

- Finally, we are preparing and we will print an informative booklet for the schools and educational institutions in Greece from the Antiquity to date (see below).