

# 2<sup>nd</sup> International Summer School



**International Summer School  
on Inclusive Education,  
Inclusive Technology and  
Best Practices Through  
a Transdisciplinary Context**

**21-26  
June 2026  
International  
Olympic Academy**

**Under the auspices of the Municipality  
of Ancient Olympia, Greece**

  
**savvy business**

 HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
**National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens**  
EST. 1837

**International Summer School**  
**Ancient Olympia, 21-26 June 2026**  
**Detailed Program**

**Day 1, 22 June 2026**

**Introducing Inclusive Education and Technology**

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- 08.00-08.45     **Breakfast**
- 09.00-10.00     **School Opening**  
Welcome Speeches of Municipality of Ancient Olympia, Scientific Committee: Prof Anastasia Vlachou and Prof. Lia Galani and introduction of participants, instructors and mentors
- 10.10-12.00     **Inclusive Education in principle and action**  
**Prof Anastasia Vlachou, Professor of Inclusive Education, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**  
The topic aims to deepen participants' understanding of the **core principles of inclusive education** and how they **align with equity, diversity, and human rights** frameworks. It explores **practical strategies** for translating inclusive policies into **effective classroom practices** that support learners with diverse needs, abilities, and backgrounds. The session seeks to equip educators with tools to identify and remove barriers to participation, fostering learning environments where **all students feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.**
- 12.00-12.15     **Coffee break**
- 12.15-14.00     **Key note: The Importance of Technology in Education and Independent Living for Disabled People**  
**Kamil Goungor, Policy and Movement Support Officer, European Network on Independent Living**  
This keynote will explore the **importance of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), in advancing inclusive education and independent living for disabled people** through a human-rights-based approach. The presentation will examine how digital, assistive, and AI-driven technologies can enhance access to education, learning processes, communication, and

participation, while supporting autonomy and self-determination across the life course. At the same time, it will critically address key challenges such as algorithmic bias, digital exclusion, affordability, data ethics, and educational technologies designed without the meaningful involvement of disabled people. The participants will be invited to reflect on how technology and AI can move beyond accommodation toward genuinely inclusive education, equality, and independent living.

14.00-15.00

**Lunch**

15.00-17.00

**Free Time**

17.00-18.00

**Workshop: Questioning inclusion in everyday educational practice**

**Assist Prof Lia Tsermidou, University of Thessaly, Greece**

This reflective workshop invites educators to examine how everyday language, routines, and assumptions in schools can shape inclusion and exclusion. Attention is given to the ways disablism is reproduced through taken for granted practices rather than through individual attitudes or intentions. Short **classroom scenarios** and familiar policy language are used to support **critical reflection on educators' positioning and responsibility**. Inclusion is approached as a relational ethical and political stance embedded in everyday practice rather than as a set of specialist techniques or interventions.

18.00-19.30

**Outdoor activities (on choice)**

Art activities with **Sofia Karakantza, Theatre Director**

**Theatre games** will be performed promoting physical awakening and the feeling of shared joy, enhancing the communal spirit.

Sports Time with **Zoe Leroutsou**

Sports Time uses **shared physical activity** as a space for inclusion, cooperation, and connection. Through adapted and collaborative games, participants experience sport to bring people together, value diversity, and promote participation and belonging for everyone.

19.30-20.30

**Dinner/ a taste of Greek tradition**

Participants are invited to **taste the Greek cuisine**. After the dinner, they should engage in discussions, exchange experiences and build networking.

**Day 2, 23 June 2025**

**Relational Inclusivity – Social Networks**

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08.00-08.45      **Breakfast**

09.00-11.30      **Keynote Address: Relational inclusivity through social network analysis**  
**Associate Prof. Christophoros Mamas, University of California, San Diego**

This topic introduces **relational inclusivity** as a paradigmatic shift in how we understand equity, participation, and belonging in educational systems. Moving beyond individual-level accommodations and deficit-based framings, the talk conceptualizes inclusion as an emergent property of relationships among students, educators, families, and institutional structures. The session invites participants to rethink inclusion not as a static outcome, but as an ongoing relational process that can be studied, designed, and sustained across educational contexts.

11.30-11.45      **Coffee Break**

11.45-13.30      **Workshop: Social network analysis**  
**Associate Prof. Christophoros Mamas, University of California, San Diego**

This interactive workshop introduces the **Social Network Analysis (SNA) Toolkit** as a practical and theory-driven approach for examining and transforming relational inclusivity in educational settings. Participants will engage with the Toolkit to explore how patterns of relationships, such as peer connections, access to support, and participation in learning networks, shape experiences of belonging, marginalization, and opportunity. Drawing on **real classroom and school-based examples**, the workshop demonstrates how network data can be collected, visualized, and interpreted in ways that are ethically grounded and culturally responsive.

13.30-14.30      **Lunch**

14.30-17.00      **Free Time**

17.00-19.00

**Workshop (outdoor) “Mythos”**  
**Sophia Karakantza, Theatre Director**

'Mythos', based on Ancient Greek mythology, using myths that link us with our environment, myths of transformation. Participants are asked to incorporate in this narrative, tales and songs from different parts of the world. Together we shall create an "**imaginary path**" connecting shared images and symbols, communicating with the surrounding environment, weaving a communal "action", incorporating, masks, crafts, pieces of clothing, objects and anything else our imagination will guide us to. Thus defining and sharing an environment of connection and inclusion.

19.00-20.00

**Dinner**

20.15

**Visit to the Village to Ancient Olympia**

A visit to the village of Ancient Olympia offers participants the opportunity to explore the area on foot, enjoy local shopping, and connect informally with one another. This creates a space for conversation, networking, and experiencing everyday local life together

**Day 3, 24 June 2025**

## **Differentiated Pedagogy and the Use of AI**

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08.00-08.45

**Breakfast**

09.00-11.30

**Workshop: Differentiated pedagogy: From theory to practice**  
**Prof. Anastasia Vlachou, Professor of Inclusive Education,**  
**National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

The workshop introduces **differentiated pedagogy** as a framework for addressing learner diversity and promoting equitable access to learning. It supports educators in **designing flexible curricula** and **instructional strategies** that foster inclusion, engagement, and academic success for all learners.

11.30-11.45

**Coffee Break**

11.45- 14.00

**Workshop: AI driven inclusive differentiated practices**

**Post-Doc. Smaragda Tsiratonaki, Inclusive Education and Leadership, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

The workshop introduces **AI-driven approaches to inclusive and differentiated teaching**, supporting educators in responding to diverse learners' needs. Participants explore **practical AI tools** and data-informed strategies to design adaptive, ethical, and inclusive learning experiences for real classroom contexts.

14.00-15.00

**Lunch**

15.00-16.30

**Interactive Workshop: Human + AI: Creating Safe and Inclusive Speaking Classrooms**

**Antonina Paletska-lukalo, Ph.D., English Teacher & Speaking Club Facilitator, Star for Life Ukraine**

This interactive session explores how artificial intelligence can be used ethically and creatively to: personalize language learning, support anxious or hesitant speakers, differentiate instruction in mixed-level classrooms, strengthen SEL through speaking tasks, maintain a human-centered learning environment. Participants will

gain, among others, guidelines for ethical AI use with children.

**16.45- 19.30**

**Walking and swimming at the beach/outdoor exercises**

**Zoe Leroutsou**

Walking, swimming, and gentle outdoor exercises at the beach provide opportunities for movement, relaxation, and social connection. These shared activities encourage interaction, well-being, and bringing people together in natural environment.

**20.00-21.00**

**Dinner**

**21.00 – 22.30**

**Evening: Stories Under the Stars / Stories Under the same Sky “  
The Constellations couples in the sky - Stories and Star watching”  
Prof. Apostolia (Lia) Galani, National and Kapodistrian University  
of Athens**

This activity combines stargazing with storytelling, exploring constellation couples and shared myths under the same sky. Through collective observation and narrative, participants experience astronomy as a unifying practice that fosters inclusion, connection, and shared wonder. Participants can bring their drinks to enjoy the activity, as they will create the constellation of inclusiveness.

**Day 4, 25 June 2025**

## **Universal Design for Learning and Technology**

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08.00-08.45

**Breakfast**

09.00-10.45

**Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)-  
Applications in Learning and Inclusive Education**

**Prof Charalambos Karagiannidis, Education, University of  
Thessaly, Greece**

The session topic explores how digital tools can transform teaching and support diverse learners. It highlights practical strategies for integrating technology into classrooms to enhance engagement, accessibility, and personalized learning. The discussion will emphasize how ICT can remove barriers for students with different abilities by providing adaptive resources, assistive technologies, and flexible learning platforms. It will demonstrate how thoughtful use of technology can create more inclusive and effective educational environments.

10.45-11.00

**Coffee Break**

11.00-14.00

**Workshop: Universal Design for Learning**

**Prof. Anastasia Vlachou, Professor of Inclusive Education,  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Assoc Prof.  
Lia Tsermidou, University of Thessaly, Greece**

The workshop introduces **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** as a proactive framework for addressing learner diversity through flexible and inclusive instructional design. Educators explore core UDL principles and practical strategies to enhance accessibility, engagement, and participation for all learners.

14.00-15.00

**Lunch**

15.00-16.00

**Free Time**

16.00-19.00

**Cultural Immersion to the Archeological museum  
(<https://ancientolympiamuseum.com/>) and archeological site of**

## **Ancient Olympia**

Art activities under the instructions of Sophia Karakantza

This cultural immersion visit to the archaeological site and museum of Ancient Olympia connects participants with the birthplace of the Olympic Games and their values of participation, respect, and shared humanity. Through inclusive outdoor art and experiential activities, the visit invites collective reflection on how the Olympic ideals of unity and equality can inspire inclusive practices and meaningful participation today

19.30-20.30

### **Dinner**

20.45-22.00

Attend a **traditional Greek dance performance** at the premises of International Olympic Academy

Participants are invited to attend a traditional Greek dance performance at the premises of the International Olympic Academy, where movement becomes a shared language of communication. In a relaxed, informal setting—feel free to bring your drink—dance offers an opportunity to connect, interact, and build networks through rhythm, culture, and collective experience.

## Day 5, 26 June 2025

### Building a Legacy – Action Plans and Farewell

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08.00-08.45	<b>Breakfast</b>
09.00-11.30	<b>Workshop: From Learning to Practice: Applying Summer School Insights</b> <b>Moderator: Prof. Anastasia Vlachou, Professor of Inclusive Education, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b> Participants of the summer school will be required to express their views regarding the educational practices, learning outcomes, introduced tools and modern methods, as well as future implications in their educational settings. They will be asked to work in small groups to reflect, discuss and develop ideas how to implement the content of the summer school in their everyday practices
11.30-11.45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.45-13.00	<b>Final Workshop and final Reflections</b> Based on the morning workshop, the participants will present the outcomes of their joint work. The results of their work will be registered and monitored on a six month basis, in order to ensure the sustainability of the school The participants will asked to fill in the evaluation questionnaire of the school. At the end, each participant may have the opportunity to express the final reflection.
13.00-14.00	<b>Ceremony</b> Hand over participation certificates & photos
14.00-16.00	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>
17:00	<b>Return to Athens by local bus</b>

## Bios of the speakers and the mentors

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**Prof. Anastasia Vlachou**  
National & Kapodistrian  
University of Athens

Professor of Special and Inclusive Education at the Department of Educational Studies, at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. PhD in Inclusive education for students with developmental disabilities from University of Sheffield, U.K., Masters on Educational Psychology and Counselling from McGill University, Canada and Bachelor on Psychology from University of Ioannina, Greece. Prof. Vlachou has contributed actively in Disabilities Studies and Inclusive Education in research, teaching, advocacy and funded projects. During her 30 years' experience and developed expertise, she developed curricula on disability studies and taught extensively at all levels of education. In recognition of her work and impact in the field, she was appointed alternate national representative at the European Agency for Special Need and Inclusive Education. She is heavily published in high impact journals (more than 150 articles), extensively referenced in the field (more than 3100 citations) and her books are included in recommended book lists on inclusive education and disability.

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**Prof. Apostolia Galani**  
National & Kapodistrian  
University of Athens

Professor at the Department of Pedagogy and Primary Education at NKUA. She holds a doctoral degree in Didactics of Geography and Master's degree in Special Education - Specializations: (i) Pedagogy and Didactics of learners with SEN (ii) Pedagogy and Didactics of Deaf Students. Lia worked for more than 5 years in the Department of Special Education at the Pedagogical Institute of Greece. She has managed WB funded educational projects, among which delivering asynchronous training to 2000 teachers and training on inclusive education to 500 teachers in Kazakhstan. She is the author of the educational material for elementary and secondary school Geography and Biology for learners with SEN.

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**Kamil Goungor**  
European Network on  
Independent Living (ENIL)

Originally from Poland and based in Greece, he studied Journalism and Communication. In 2014, he co-founded i-living, Greece's first Independent Living organisation. Since 2018, he works with the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), supporting youth, membership, and initiatives on disability, inclusive education, personal assistance, and accessible tourism. He is an experienced speaker, moderator, and workshop facilitator, and until 2022 chaired the Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum. He is also Greece's only disabled travel blogger (@thetrawheeler) and part of Care Under Sun, an accessible tourism company.

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**Assistant Professor  
Lia Tsermidou**  
University of Thessaly (UTH)

Lia Tsermidou - PhD in Special and Inclusive Education from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Her research interests revolve around Inclusive Education (theory and praxis), whilst she has extensive research experience in issues related to disability and inclusion and more specifically: in support, assessment and evaluation of inclusive schools, teachers' education and the development and differentiation of educational material. She is an active researcher and academic having contributed papers to international and national conferences as well as publications in the field of Inclusive Education and Disability Studies.



**Sofia Karakantza**  
Theatre Director

Theatre director with a significant career in Greek theater and artistic performances. Combining literature, music, and visual elements, she creates multidimensional productions that offer unique experiences to the audience. She has directed numerous performances, with notable works including: "Common Sense" (1994), a play by Giorgos Maniotis, presented at the National Theatre of Northern Greece; "Alice in Wonderland" (1996), an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic, also at the National Theatre of Northern Greece; "You: The Elements" (2018) by Vasilis Amanatidis at the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art as part of the 53rd Dimitria Festival; "Expecting" (2024), a play by Giorgos Veltsos, which she directed and presented at the Foyer National Theatre of Northern Greece. Among her more recent collaborations, one of the most significant is with poet and writer Vasilis Amanatidis. In 2019, they presented the video performance "Plankton (Duckling)", based on his work. Sofia Karakantza is known for her experimental approach, her boldness in blending different forms of art, and her continuous search for new ways of expression through theater and performance art. Her productions stand out for their originality and artistic daring, always offering something fresh and innovative to the audience.



**Prof. Charalampos Karagiannidis**  
University of Thessaly (UTH)

Professor Charalampos Karagiannidis is a faculty member at the Department of Special Education, University of Thessaly (UTH), specializing in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Learning and Special Education. He has been with UTH since 2005 and previously worked at the University of the Aegean, ITI-CERTH, and ICS-FORTH. His research focuses on technology-enhanced learning, accessibility, assistive technologies, educational software, robotics, augmented reality and gamification. Professor Karagiannidis has published over 150 scientific papers, serves on international journal and conference committees, and chairs the TeDISABLE SIG of the IEEE TCLT. He holds degrees from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (BSc in Mathematics), the University of London (MSc in Information Technology) and the University of Kent (PhD in Electronics Engineering).



**Dr. Christoforos Mamas**  
University of California,  
San Diego

Dr. Christoforos Mamas is an Associate Professor of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego. His research focuses on relational inclusivity - how peer relationships, social networks and classroom interactions shape equitable and inclusive learning environments. Combining insights from education, sociology and network science, his work explores how relational dynamics influence student engagement and belonging, especially for marginalized groups. He is the co-developer of the internationally used Social Network Analysis (SNA) Toolkit, supporting inclusive practices in schools. Through his partnerships with schools and communities, Dr. Mamas advances systemic change and promotes educators as architects of inclusive learning spaces.



**Zoe Leroutsou**  
National & Kapodistrian  
University of Athens

Zoe Leroutsou holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Sports from the University of Athens, with a specialization in Competitive Sports, and completed graduate studies in Kinesiology, Physical Education, and Sport at Kansas State University (USA). Her Master's thesis focused on the psychological determinants of physical activity among Greek children. She also pursued academic studies in physical education and health at the University of Physical Education in Bremen, Germany. She has over 30 years of professional experience as a Physical Education teacher, having worked in primary and secondary schools in Attica since 1991, and currently teaches at Vrilissia High School. In parallel, for more than 25 years she has worked as a personal trainer for women's groups and as a track and field coach for young children.



**Smaragda Tsirantonaki**  
Postdoctoral Researcher in  
Inclusive Education & Leadership  
NKUA

Smaragda Tsirantonaki holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from the Open University of Cyprus and a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her academic and professional focus lies in educational management, change leadership, curriculum development and applied educational research. She has served as a primary school teacher, deputy principal, and managing director in the education sector, combining hands-on leadership experience with strong research and analytical skills. Ms. Tsirantonaki has published several studies on educational policy, change management and language education, and has presented at national and international conferences. She holds certifications in ICT in education, insurance market regulation, and digital learning tools, with advanced proficiency in English, French, and Swedish. Actively engaged in the academic and social community, she is a member of the Scientific Network for Adult Education in Crete, Greenpeace and other educational and cultural organizations



**Associate Prof. Antonina Paletska-Iukalo**  
IT STEP University (Lviv)

PhD in Pedagogical Science, Associate Professor and Head of the Soft Skills School at IT STEP University (Lviv), she is also a lecturer and trainer/facilitator at the Star for Life Ukraine Foundation. With 15 years of experience in formal and non-formal education and five years specializing in soft skills development, she is the author of educational programmes, training courses, and international workshops focused on enhancing communication and transferable skills. As Head of the Soft Skills School and a language professional, she has led numerous student initiatives, educational projects, and start-ups, supporting young people in developing competencies such as pitching, public speaking, storytelling, presentation, and negotiation. Her main professional focus is the development of methodologies for soft skills and language acquisition among youth and youth workers



**AnaMaria Tutea** - Savvy Business sLTD Manager of Savvy Business sLTD with 25 years of experience working with international organizations and international donors (EU, EBRD, EIB, World Bank) and state and private entities. Management of multimillion international contracts and multi-cultural regional teams in various fields including sustainability development, education, capacity building, professional development and extensive training programs in more than 30 countries of Central Asia, Caucasus, Southeastern Europe, EU, Morocco and Uganda.



**Nino Zhorzholadze** - Savvy Business sLTD Local coordinator of Savvy Business in Georgia. She has organized three summer / winter excellence schools with more than 100 participants within the WB Education project on Internationalization of Higher Education in Georgia. Apart of her legal background, she has excellent skills for dissemination and awareness activities, as well as digital marketing and social media.