

Center of Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture - K.EL.A.L.P.

An autonomous initiative of CulturePolis



An initiative of understanding the "Other" through literature and culture

What is K.EL.A.L.P.

The **Center of Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture (K.EL.A.L.P.)** was created in 2020 as a new, autonomous initiative under the auspices of the civil non-profit organization **CulturePolis**.

K.EL.A.L.P. aims to promote and strengthen an open-to-all study of the two cultures towards a better understanding of "what unites us, rather than those that separate us" through research, analysis, discussion, and dialogue, as well as targeted actions and programs to inform/raise awareness of experts and the general public about Greek and Arabic literature, poetry and language.

Language - Literature - Book - Love of Reading

Arts - Culture

Research - Study - Analysis

Discussion - Dialogue

Awareness Raising

See in video recordings all the events of K.EL.A.L.P. [HERE](#)

Participation in Projects

K.EL.A.L.P. contributes significantly to the design and implementation of targeted activities in CulturePolis projects funded by EU programmes (Erasmus+, etc.) and Greek bodies (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports - YPPOA), to which CulturePolis is a leading partner or partner.

- [TOGETHER - TOwards a cultural understandinG of thE oTHER](#)
- [READ-IN-CLUB: READ-ING for CuLtUres across Borders](#)
- [A thousand and one...gatherings](#)

Recognitions - Collaborations

- Events under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Secretariat General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy
- Cooperation Agreement with the Hellenic Foundation for Culture
- Anna Lindh Foundation member

Learn more about K.EL.A.L.P.

K.EL.A.L.P. website: <https://kelalp.org>
CulturePolis website: <https://culturepolis.org>
K.EL.A.L.P. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/kelalp.center
YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/3s0rCK4>

Contact us!

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LITERARY MEETINGS / READINGS OF GREEK AND ARAB POETS

Great distinction for the collaborators of K.EL.A.L.P./CulturePolis, Persa Koumoutsi & Dr. Khaled Raouf

2020-2021

1st Meeting

November 27, 2020



In the context of the 17th Thessaloniki International Book Fair of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture the 1st Meeting of Greek and Arab Poets entitled "The Mediterranean and its History" took place online.

Participating poets:

Kyriakos Charalambides (Cyprus)
Nouri al Jarrah (Syria)
Tassoula Karageorgiou (Greece)
Alaa Khaled (Egypt)

The president of the Hellenic Authors' Society and poet **Yiorgos Chouliaras** (Greece) opened the meeting.

The **Life Achievement Award** of the Sheikh Hamad Awards (Qatar) for 2021 - one of the largest and most prestigious in the Arab world, has been awarded for the Greek language jointly to **Mrs Persa Koumoutsi**, author and translator of Arabic literature and director of K.EL.A.L.P. and K.EL.A.L.P.'s collaborator, author and translator of Greek literature into Arabic, **Dr. Khaled Raouf**, for all their work and their contribution to international understanding.



2nd Meeting

January 29, 2021

'K.EL.A.L.P. continuing in 2021 the cycle of meetings with Greek and Arab Poets organised also virtually the 2nd Meeting under the title "From Another Place". The event was opened by the statement of the **Secretary-General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Prof. John Chrysoulakis.

Participating poets:

Najwan Darwish (Palestine)
Stathis Gourgouris (Greece)
Iman Mirsal (Egypt)
Georgios Veis (Greece)



Online Meeting with the official representative of the Sheikh Hamad International Awards (Qatar), Dr. Hanan Fayadh

July 16, 2021



Online Presentation of the book of the distinguished Lebanese author Hoda Barakat, entitled "Night Mail"

September 17, 2021

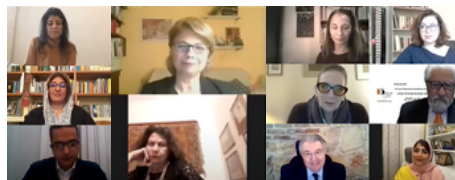
3rd Meeting

March 17, 2021

Completing the 1st Circle of the Meetings of Greek and Arab Poets, K.EL.A.L.P. celebrating simultaneously the World's Days of Women and Poetry, successfully organized the 3rd Meeting under the title "**Women in Greek and Arabic Poetry**".

Participating poets:

Nujoom Alhganem (UAE)
Aisha el Saifi (Oman)
Lamia Makaddam (Tunisia)
Lily Michaelides (Cyprus)
Athina Papadaki (Greece)



The Greek poet and lyricist Ms **Lina Nikolakopoulou** opened the meeting.

K.EL.A.L.P. of CulturePolis in collaboration with Kedros Publications, organized an online presentation of the book of the distinguished Lebanese author **Hoda Barakat**, titled "Night Mail", in her presence.

Ms Hoda Barakat conversed with the translator of the book into Greek, Director of K.EL.A.L.P. Mrs. Persa Koumoutsi.



EVENTS OF THE PROJECT "A THOUSAND AND ONE...LIT- GATHERINGS" YPPOA



A few words about the cycle of events "A thousand and one...lit-gatherings"

How to spread the history, the arts, the culture, the images, the sounds of a country...our country...in the eyes of a world that knows little about our present?

The writing work of Greek artists is rich and comprehensive; a source of expression of human feelings, thoughts and concerns for today's society. However, the accessibility of contemporary Greek writing by foreign readers is a critical issue for the creator of our country...The cycle of events "A thousand and one...lit-gatherings" was born from the need to promote Greek literature and creation as a mean of intercultural dialogue in the Southeastern Mediterranean region and especially the Arab countries.

Through three different events, 12 selected authors were introduced to the Greek-speaking and Arabic-speaking public and highlighted their work as a means of dialogue and understanding of the "other".

The project "A thousand and one...lit-gatherings" was approved and partially subsidized by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and was implemented by the urban non-profit organization CulturePolis and its new, autonomous initiative, the Center of Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture - K.EL.A.L.P.

Read more about the "A thousand and one...lit-gatherings" project [here](#).



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού



1st Event

October 5, 2021

The event entitled "**A City through A Narrative**" presented emblematic cities, mainly of the Mediterranean Basin, which emerged through the narratives and the artistic look of the creators who took part.

With the participation of:

Emilios Solomou (author)
Vassilis Vafeas (director)
Isidoros Zourgos (author)
and the Egyptian **Tarek Imam** (author)



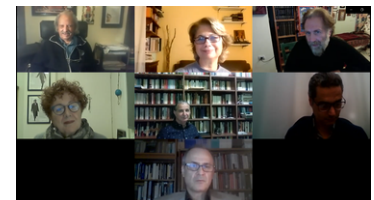
2nd Event

November 26, 2021

The event under the title "**Hosting the 'Other' in our Stories**" was hosted at the **18th Thessaloniki International Book Fair** of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture. The event aimed to highlight the intercultural character of contemporary Greek children's and adolescent literature through the works of four young or/and new-emerging writers.

With the participation of:

Stefanos Ganotis (author, musician)
Anna Kontoleon (author, drama teacher)
Marietta Kontou (author, accredited family mediator)
Argyro Pipini (author, translator)



3rd Event

December 13, 2021

The event entitled "**Historical and Cultural Routes in the Mediterranean**" had the "Round Table" type of discussion where five Greek creators took us on a journey through the history of modern Greece and spoke to us through their creative work on the intercultural relations between our country and other Mediterranean countries.

With the participation of:

Theodoros Grigoriadis (author)
Dr. Alexandros Kazamias (political science lecturer, researcher)
Costas Konstantatos (musician, artist)
Dr. Maria Papadima (literary translation expert, teacher)
Costas Ferris (director, writer)



*The events took place virtually with a parallel translation in two languages by **Dr. Khaled Raouf** and **Persa Koumoutsi***



A few words about those projects...

TOGETHER - Towards a cultural understanding of the oTHER

2020-2022

The **TOGETHER project** was born of the need to create and disseminate know-how about intercultural dialogue between EU countries and non-European countries. Intercultural dialogue is based on shared values emerging from the cultural heritage of different countries and has the potential to strengthen the sustainable development of local communities.

Impact

- Transnational co-operation of partners between EU countries but also beyond European territory
- Contribution to the integration of intercultural dialogue in the cultural development of local communities
- Training of representatives of local actors and bodies to become “ambassadors” of intercultural dialogue
- Develop original educational processes using digital tools.

Consortium

CulturePolis (lead partner) – Greece | EWORX – Greece | A.B. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development LTD (IED) – Cyprus | Fattoria Pugliese Diffusa Associazione Culturale (FPD) – Italy | Georgian Arts & Culture Center (GACC) – Georgia | Lebanese Development Network (LDN) – Lebanon

Project website: <https://thetogetherproject.eu>

READ-IN-CLUB - READ-INg for CuLtuRes across Borders

2021-2023

READ-IN-CLUB was a project where the art of literature and the institution of reading clubs combined with the power of digital technology were seen as enablers of informal learning and dialogue, creating an environment of culture that encourages creativity and innovation. The project aimed at workers in the book sector who organize and coordinate the operation of reading clubs or other educational activities related to literature.

Impact

- Cross-sectoral and transnational cooperation of project partners
- Strengthening the educational value of reading clubs for social inclusion and intercultural dialogue, especially since the time of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Strengthen the professional skills of the reading clubs coordinators and their mobilization to become intercultural dialogue mediators
- Develop a platform to digitize the functions of the reading clubs.

Consortium

CulturePolis (lead partner) – Greece | Hellenic Foundation for Culture – Greece | ITSTUDY – Hungary | IED – Cyprus | Slovene Writers' Association – Slovenia | Srsen Ivan – Sandorf Publishing – Croatia

Project website: <https://www.readinclub.eu>

A few words about CulturePolis...



CulturePolis is a Civil Society Organisation founded in 2006 in Corfu, Greece, offering tailor-made services for civil society and its stakeholders. Our services address organisations' needs for Awareness Raising, Capacity Building focusing on Actions, Training Platforms and Digital Transformation, and Citizen-centered Research Activities.

Special attention is given to issues related to:

1. **CULTURE:** The promotion of intercultural dialogue as a driver for social cohesion and inclusion. In this context, our work focuses on the Greek and the Arab world powered by the “Centre of Greek and Arabic Literature and Culture – K.EL.A.L.P.” – kelalp.org.
2. **SUSTAINABILITY:** The promotion of cultural tourism and its relations to heritage at local, regional, and international level.
3. **INNOVATION:** Capacity building for the Cultural and Creative sector by supporting CCI professionals in their entrepreneurial, marketing, and digital upskilling.