

- *35 years ago, a donation from the Pancretan Association of America helped bring one of the Anglo-Saxon world's most successful institutions to Greece: the idea of a University Press.* Since then, Crete University Press has gone on to win numerous awards, as a publishing house serving university education and the promotion of Greek culture nationwide.
- *Another comparable venture has now been set in motion.* 2015 saw the establishment of Mathesis, a separate branch of Crete University Press aimed at bringing yet another institution to Greece: Massive Open Online Courses. MOOCs were first launched by major US universities in 2011, and have now spread to all the countries shaping our common future.
- *With 55,000 student enrollments and 33,000 certificates issued* (on completion of exams), Mathesis – keeping in mind the population differences– is now one of the world's most successful MOOC centres.

We believe that the following features of our profile have been key to that achievement:

- *Instructor quality.* Our instructors have been and always will be hand-picked as the top academics in their field currently working at universities in Greece and abroad. A case in point is Angelos Chaniotis, Professor of Ancient History at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. The three Mathesis courses he teaches stand as proof of the importance we attach to attracting the most distinguished Greek academics overseas.

- *The quality of the technology we use.* The Mathesis platform (OpenEdX/gr) is the Greek version of that used by edX, the MOOC provider founded by Harvard and MIT. Beyond bringing the MOOC concept to Greece, Mathesis has also introduced the best available technology for managing and offering courses.

- *The overall message of trust in our country and its people that we send out.* This seems to have chimed in well with a need we share with a significant proportion of the population: the need to break free from the feeling of national despondency that has gripped the country in recent years. And the need to prove, first and foremost to ourselves, that *there is also another Greece out there.*

- *Giving back to the community and striving for equity of access to quality education.* Attending Mathesis courses and sitting exams is *free of charge*. All we ask for is a small contribution (20 Euro) for course completion certificates. This is a symbolic amount affordable to all. Unemployed students receive certificates at no cost. We at Mathesis believe that achieving equity of access to *quality education* is one of the noblest aims a modern democratic society should set itself. Within our own modest means, that is the general goal we want to serve.

- *Zero cost to the state - Reliance on Civil Society.* The people at Mathesis—there's only four of us—are proud of the fact that everything mentioned above has been achieved without a single cent of state aid, whether direct or indirect (e.g. staff wages). All of our funding derives from generous initial support of our work from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), combined with voluntary (full time) work offered by our director plus an endowment from a private donor. *Now that we are embarking on a more mature phase of Mathesis, the plan is for our main source of income to derive from student contributions, together with more limited donor support from the SNF. This includes challenge funds, matching any third party donations we succeed in attracting.*

Our eventual goal is to have an *entirely self-funding Mathesis* within ten years of our inception. It is our belief that Greece is in urgent need of cultural and learning institutions that rely primarily on the civil society their work is directed at, and on which their intellectual autonomy rests. The Crete University Press is one such an organization created by us in the past, with initial support from the Pancretan Association of America and FORTH. Our ambition is to accomplish the same with Mathesis.