

Event honoring SNF for its contributions to the nursing sector in Greece**Speech by George Agouridis, Member of the SNF Board of Directors**

Dear Rector, dear Chairman,

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the commemorative plaque you have presented to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). It is such an honor!

Dear Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good evening.

It is a great pleasure and honor for all of us at the Foundation to be here tonight, in the Main Building of the University, on account of our grant to the Nursing Department of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

This grant, which was discussed in depth earlier by the esteemed speakers who preceded me, represents—for all of us at SNF—a tangible expression of our vision to always act with the goal of empowering humanity.

Our support for the nursing sector, starting with education and moving on to practical, clinical applications—an example of which is our second grant to the sector, to Evangelismos Hospital—is an emphatic and practical demonstration of our faith in humanity, our faith in the human beings who stand by those in need, who reach out and who stay up all night caring, reassuring, nurturing, and healing.

The Global Health Initiative (GHI) that SNF began implementing in 2017, headlined by the three new public hospitals already under construction in Komotini, Sparta, and Thessaloniki, which will host the first University Pediatric Hospital outside Athens, and incorporating more than 60 grants in Greece and abroad, has three main objectives:

- Expanding access to health care,
- Strengthening the quality of health services for all,
- And empowering frontline health professionals.

As important as state-of-the-art equipment and world-class, ultra-modern, environmentally pioneering buildings may be, it all starts and ends with people.

The grant that is being recognized tonight at this event is not about numbers, technology, or programming. It is about people, people who are at this moment dreaming of becoming nurses and helping their fellow human beings, despite the difficulties facing the sector and the challenges they will have to face from day one.

With your help and the invaluable guidance and contributions of the Department's Professors, we are proud to be able to offer them some tools that will make their journey easier.

Motivated by their empowerment and guided by our belief in their potential, we hope to encourage them.

Thank you.