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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترية والعلم والثقافة

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Professor Andreas Floros
Rector
Ionian University
Corfu
Greece

Ref: ED/FLI/26/156

28 May 2026

Subject: Renewal of the agreement of the UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage and Cultural Heritage-related Activities, Ionian University, Greece (ID 2021GR1482)

Dear Rector,

In reference to the request to renew the mandate of the UNESCO Chair on Threats to Cultural Heritage and Cultural Heritage-related Activities, I am pleased to inform you that the agreement between UNESCO and the Ionian University concerning the Chair, initially established in 2021, shall remain valid until 31 December 2029.

Under the leadership of Professor Stavros Katsios as Chairholder, the Chair will contribute to the activities of the Culture Sector through research, teaching and training, as well as community action and communication.

Recognizing the pivotal role of institutional support in ensuring the success of the UNESCO Chair, we seek your commitment, in this new mandate, to facilitate the active engagement of the Chair's team in various UNESCO activities and those organized by its partner institutions, as well as to leverage opportunities for interuniversity collaboration, and to champion knowledge sharing and dissemination activities. Your unwavering support in this regard will strengthen the Chair's impact and outreach. We also seek your support to strongly encourage the research produced and published by the Chair to be made available as Open Access in line with the [2021 Recommendation on Open Science](#), and educational materials as Open Educational Resources in line with the [2019 Recommendation on Open Educational Resources](#).

The UNESCO Chair is encouraged to consult the [UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme guidelines and procedures](#) regarding some changes, including renewals. More specifically, and to ensure that all UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks are contributing to UNESCO's programme and priorities, a revised set of criteria will be used in future evaluations of renewal requests, as published in Annex B of the guidelines. In this regard, the Chair should align its activities – as relevant – to the new requirements.

The [Chair's website](#) describes the objectives of the Chair and demonstrates its current activities, and should continue to be regularly updated, drawing further synergies with existing UNESCO initiatives in related areas. The new logo, included in this message and already used on the webpage, could be used also on other communications materials produced by the Chair.

The Chair is encouraged to continue strengthening its work on the protection and promotion of cultural heritage through community engagement and international cooperation, and to continue its engagement with UNESCO as well as with other UNESCO Chairs and Networks. To this end, a database of the programme members is updated regularly on the [UNITWIN Programme webpage](#).

All members of the Chair are also invited to join the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs [LinkedIn Group](#) and to participate in UNESCO-driven initiatives/activities, intellectual and public policy dialogues, ethical reflections and standard setting processes. The designated focal points, Ms. Sonia Zerroualy, Culture and Emergencies Entity, (e-mail: s.zerroualy@unesco.org) and Mr. Tural Mustafayev, Emergency Operations and Programmes Unit, (e-mail: t.mustafayev@unesco.org) can be contacted to seek out opportunities for closer collaboration with UNESCO. The focal point(s) look forward to hearing from the Chair on a regular basis – please add them to your mailing lists, invite them to join Chair events, and share your latest research/publications.

Finally, should the Ionian University wish to continue hosting the UNESCO Chair beyond this mandate, a formal request is to be submitted to UNESCO by 30 June 2029 through the dedicated online platform. The renewal of the Chair may require the signature of a new agreement.

Do not hesitate to contact the UNITWIN Programme team for any questions you may have at unitwin@unesco.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sobhi Tawil', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sobhi Tawil (PhD)
Director
Future of Learning and Innovation Division