

Press Release



Press & Public Relations
Office, Promotion and
Development Sector

Telephone: 22894304

Email: prinfo@ucy.ac.cy

Website: www.ucy.ac.cy/pr



04 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020

ANOTHER RESEARCH SUCCESS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS: DR ARTEMIS GEORGIU SECURED A SIGNIFICANT FUND FROM THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC – STARTING GRANTS)

The innovative proposal by Dr Artemis Georgiou to study the interregional contacts between Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean states during the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (around 1600-750 BC) secures funding from the European Research Council for 1,25 million euros

Dr Artemis Georgiou has secured research funding from the European Research Council (Starting Grants), one of the most prestigious distinctions in the funding schemes established by the European Union. The project was selected during a most competitive selection process on a European-wide level. This is the fifth ERC Starting Grant secured by the University of Cyprus and the first for the Department of History and Archaeology and the Faculty of Letters.



Dr Georgiou's proposal with the acronym "ComPAS" received research funding of 1,25 million euros for five years. The project is titled **"Commercial Patterns Across the Sea: The interdisciplinary study of Maritime Transport Containers from Cyprus and the elucidation of Mediterranean connectivity during the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age"**. It will generate eight new research positions for doctoral students and postdoctoral associates.

The project aims at a clearer understanding of the seaborne commercial networks and interregional contacts among the Eastern Mediterranean communities of the 2nd and 1st millennia BC. Dr Georgiou and her team will undertake the comprehensive study of transport containers produced in the Syro-Palestinian coast, Egypt and the Aegean, which were imported to Cyprus in antiquity. By means of a series of interdisciplinary analyses and the implementation of innovative methodological approaches for the study of ancient remains, the proposed research aspires to answer a number of critical questions: what was the origin of the transport vessels found deposited in the archaeological layers of Cyprus? What were their contents? How were these vessels constructed and what were the marking strategies involved? *"The implementation of the proposed interdisciplinary research will provide a clearer understanding of the commercial contacts maintained by the ancient Cypriots with the communities in the Syro-Palestinian coast, Egypt and the Aegean, as well as the products traded but also the complex mechanisms associated with the production, transport and consumption of these vessels and their*



contents” says Dr Georgiou. “The ultimate goal of the research project “ComPAS” is to elucidate the intricate character of interregional commerce in the Mediterranean during the 2nd and 1st millennia BC and of the role of Cyprus within this complex network”.

ERC Starting Grants provide long-term funding to the most prominent researchers across Europe, with the aim of enabling them to pursue their ambitious, advanced and highly unconventional academic research. The main objective of these grants is to encourage and support the research excellence of the most creative young scholars in Europe, with a research experience spanning between two to seven years from the completion of their doctoral dissertation.

It should be mentioned that the University of Cyprus is the top institution in Cyprus in terms of attracting ERC grants. Through the implementation of the innovative research project “ComPAS” by Dr Artemis Georgiou and her team, Cyprus will continue to constitute one of the most prominent centres for interdisciplinary research on the study and promotion of archaeological material culture throughout Europe and the Middle East.
