



IT based Methodology for Promoting, Assessing and  
Validating Competence oriented Learning and Training



PROmoting and validating key competences in  
MObility and Traineeships in Europe



...because Learning happens everywhere...

## IMPACT & PROMOTE Final Dissemination Event

Jointly organised with the 7<sup>th</sup> REVEAL Conference

# Competence Oriented Learning and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VINFL)

AUTH | Thessaloniki, 22-23 September 2016



3rd my-VITA award for innovative practice and  
initiatives on validating competences in informal  
and non-formal learning in Europe



IMPACT and PROMOTE projects have  
been funded with support from the  
European Commission



The Validation of Learning Outcomes in Informal and Non-formal Learning (VINFL) is one of the top priorities on the European Educational Agenda. Frameworks and instruments like EQF, ECVET, EUROPASS and others are about to be largely implemented in the member states to facilitate transparency of qualifications and competences and foster mobility.

However, though there are long term initiatives and a number of pilot projects on the theme, VINFL has not yet sufficiently reached the “practical level” of the educational professionals.

IMPACT will develop and pilot a comprehensive implementation strategy for VINFL with a special focus on IT-based interoperability and on integrating those educational groups that have not (yet) a good affinity to this important European field.

The core output of the project is the IMPACT Implementation strategy for VINFL into educational practice (O7).

It is based on a fully fledged qualification for educational staff on VINFL which is designed, developed and piloted with a group of 20 professionals in blended learning methodology (O6) including a rich open learning environment, the IMPACT platform (O4).

A specific platform section for KA1 stakeholders will be provided as O5. The platform is centrally managed and maintained on an open source e-Portfolio system are consisting of a combined learning and validation environment (O3+O4) that shall be developed on the basis of a sound technical ECVET specification (O2). The specification is grounded on a research survey (O1) on the demands of the stakeholders in the field regarding VINFL and available good practice examples under specific consideration of ECVET taxonomy.

To achieve these outputs the following activities will be carried out:

1. Developing a basic IT-specification for validation systems to achieve interoperability;
2. Integrating the specifications in an existing validation software;
3. Creating interfaces to OER (Open Educational Resources) by developing plug-ins for the open source e-portfolios;
4. Integrating data from pilot previous pilot projects in both systems
5. Piloting the approach in different educational sectors;
6. Qualifying educational stakeholders that are not yet familiar with VINFL but supposed to work with it like educational personnel from IST-course organisers, youth organisations, HR managers or educators/trainers in enterprises.
7. Deriving a comprehensive implementation strategy



One of the core missions of IMPACT is to explore how to connect different IT based learning environments with single sign on procedures.

From here you can connect to the [ImpactMoodle](#), where you find an extensive glossary of ECVET related terms and a course on VINFL that is connected to the LEVEL5 validation platform. One registration is enough to make use of

- the IMPACT platform on my-Vita (based on Mahara), where you find a rich repository of sources and materials that relate to VINFL and IT based open learning;
- the [ImpactMoodle](#) with a glossary of terms and a course on VINFL from where you can reach LEVEL5 for a self-assessment of your competence developments in a specific learning context;
- the LEVEL5 Validation platform.





**PROMOTE** stands for **PRO**moting and **validating** key competences in **MO**bility and **Traineeships** in **EU**rope. The project aims at promoting and validating social, personal and organisational key competences such as entrepreneurship, civic competences and learning to learn with the help of an innovative, self-directed learning approach at the interface of higher education and business.

For this purpose the PROMOTE consortium, consisting of six universities, two networks, six business partners and two public entities, seeks to develop a holistic and rich open learning environment for teams of trainees (students) and staff from enterprises (as part of their continuing professional development) who will collaborate in learning projects at the workplace.

In these practical learning contexts the learners will acquire key competences that will be validated by means of the LEVEL5 system and connected via the e-portfolio with EUROPASS and ECTS certification.

The project aims at developing a holistic, ICT-supported and competence oriented learning and validation system that shall be applied in traineeships at the interface of academia and business. It will contribute to promoting and valuing those competences and learning outcomes that are of fundamental importance in our economy and that are acquired to a large extent in non-formalised learning contexts.

This will be achieved through the following main activities:

- Researching existing approaches to acquire and validate key competences – especially social and civic competences, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, learning to learn – both in higher education, in industry and enterprises;
- Developing an overarching competence oriented learning approach and a validation system to assess, evidence and certify learning outcomes acquired in different learning contexts;
- Enriching existing validation and certification systems by creating reference systems for the above mentioned key competences, assessment tools and a quality approach that will link the validation with existing ECTS-based validation and certification;
- Customising the web-based LEVEL5 system for competences acquired in European mobility, traineeships and CPD programmes.
- Piloting and evaluating the competence oriented learning and validation system in internships or traineeships that will be organised as learning projects;
- Transferring the project results both into university contexts (to enrich formal curricula) and into the business sector (continuing professional development schemes).



The project will contribute to an improved transparency of the acquired competences, to a higher variability of learning pathways and eventually to a better matching of learning contents and individual learning styles.



# IMPACT & PROMOTE Final Dissemination Event

Jointly organised with the 7<sup>th</sup> REVEAL Conference

## Competence Oriented Learning and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VINFL)

The 7<sup>th</sup> conference on Competence Oriented Learning and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VINFL) will be carried out on **22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016**.

After the 10-years anniversary in 2015 in Mechelen the 2016-conference will be carried out in the wonderful city of Thessaloniki, home of our partner, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the CEDEFOP.

This year the conference has been organised by

- the **PROMOTE** network working on innovative approaches of competence oriented learning and VINFL in the field of business-academia mobility (internships and Erasmus mobilities),
- the **IMPACT** consortium which has developed a systemic approach to interconnect VINFL with e-learning and learning technologies and
- the **OWL** team representing a large scale project from the German Institute for Adult Education which provides an Open Web-based Learning Space for Professional Development for Adult Educators based on the principles of competence oriented learning and VINFL.

The conference is being carried out in connection with the 3<sup>rd</sup> my-VITA award which will be given to the most innovative practice projects that integrate the VINFL in the fields of non-formal (Adult, Vocational and Higher Education) and informal learning settings.

As always, the REVEAL conference will bring together approximately 80 experts from practice and research and political and administrative stakeholders from the field of European Education to report on latest developments, innovative approaches and exchange on best practices and develop new projects.



# 3<sup>RD</sup> MY-VITA AWARD

FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AND INITIATIVES ON  
VALIDATING COMPETENCES IN INFORMAL AND  
NON-FORMAL LEARNING IN EUROPE

THESSALONIKI, GREECE, 22<sup>ND</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016



We are a group of partners working together in EU projects dealing with competence oriented learning and validation. We have been collaborating since 11 years and developed the LEVEL5 system for the validation competences outside or parallel to formal education under specific consideration of social, personal and organisational competences.

Since 2013 we are offering the my-VITA e-portfolio system as a platform for learners, trainers, educational institutions to connect the evidences of learning with CVs and also web-based learning offers.

Our 9th European conference will be organised in cooperation of the ERASMUS+ projects:

- PROMOTE (knowledge alliance);
- IMPACT (KA2);
- and the recently started project EULE (OWL), funded by the German Ministry of Research and Education in Thessaloniki, home of the Aristotle University and the CEDEFOP.

Following our tradition to present and award projects connecting validation and competence oriented learning we would like to invite innovative European projects from the field and provide a forum for presentation and exchange.

We are looking for projects and activities in all educational fields (from school to higher education, vocational training, adult learning, youth, volunteering and mobility projects etc.) that promote the development of competences in a holistic way and include practical cases on how learning outcomes and competence developments within this specific competence area can be assessed and evidenced also beyond the walls of formal education.

Hence the my-VITA prize is an award given to most promising European initiatives and projects that:

- work in an innovative and novel fashion;
- focus on integrating competence oriented learning in their learning contexts;

- target also social, personal and organisational competences;

- reflect on/consider ways of measuring and documenting learner's development in relation to these competences;

- promote understanding and awareness for the evaluation / validation of informal and non-formal learning and highlight its value either for the individual (whose competences were validated) or

- for the organisation (who validates competences);
- In 2016 we would be specifically keen on practice projects that (either/or):

- Work at the interface of academic and business (the PROMOTE focus);

- Integrate innovative learning technologies in both validation and learning processes (the IMPACT focus);

- Relate to the continuing professional development of professionals in Adult Education (the OWL focus).

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The competition is targeted towards individuals, companies, training funds, professional groups, NGOs, VET schools, schools, universities, youth organisations, public authorities, institutions of LLL, civic society organisations, social partners, professionals and researchers.

Participants must live in one of the following countries: 27 Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Croatia, Turkey.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Ongoing or completed, existing or planned case studies, initiatives or projects can enter the competition. For this purpose log-in to My-Vita page: [mahara.vita-eu.org/](http://mahara.vita-eu.org/) and follow the directions listed there.

## WHEN IS THE CLOSING DATE?

The competition entries are to be presented by August 15th, 2016

## AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The contributions will be evaluated by an independent jury according to the following criteria:

- Innovation: Original solutions to non-formal and informal learning problems and needs
- Validation: The way learning outcomes are assessed and evidenced;
- Impact: Potential and actual effect on participants, learning context and the society in general;
- Sustainability: Continuation of this innovation;
- Transferability: Potential use of the innovation in other contexts;
- Sub-project criteria as mentioned above.

## AWARD CEREMONY IN THESSALONIKI

The ten winners will be invited to present their project at the conference which will be held on September 22nd and 23rd with an international audience.

The prize includes travel, accommodation and subsistence for a 2-day trip to Thessaloniki. All winners will get the opportunity to present their cases during the final conference and will benefit from a European wide dissemination in a specific newsletter and on our PROMOTE website.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



# IMPACT & PROMOTE Final Dissemination Event

Jointly organised with the 7<sup>th</sup> REVEAL Conference

## Competence Oriented Learning and Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VINFL)

AUTH | Thessaloniki, 22-23 September 2016

### INFORMATION PACKAGE

#### Meeting Venue & transportation during your stay

Our meeting will take place at the [KEDEA, the Research Dissemination Centre](#) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). The venue is located in the city centre and is accessible by bus lines 2, 8, 14 & 78 from the city centre towards east (bust-stop Panepistimio Makedonias), or bus lines 17 & 37 from the city centre towards west (bus-stop Fitiitiki Leschi). Alternatively you can access it by taxi (blue cars with white roofs), or walk the distance from your hotel which is approx. 1 km. **The first day of the meeting I will come and pick you up from your hotel and we will walk the distance through the University Campus.**



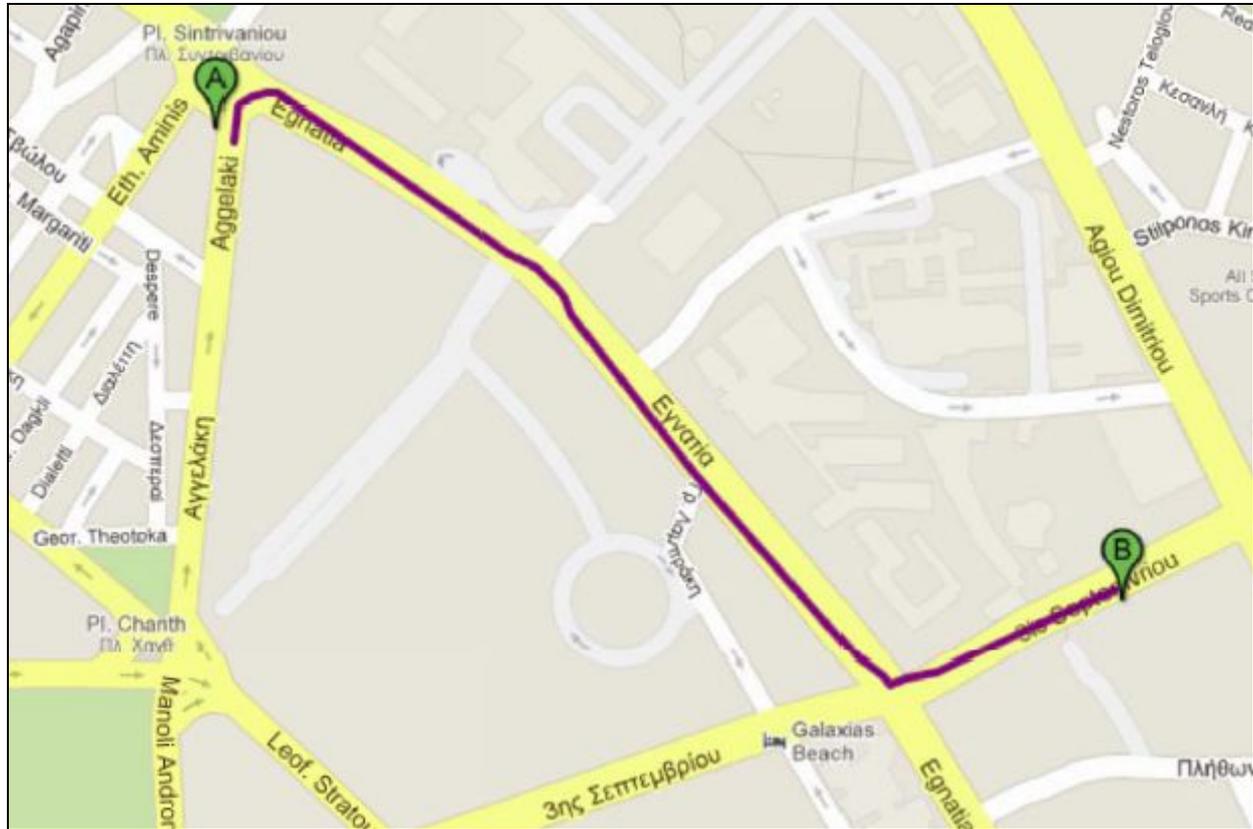
#### From the airport to your hotel

**Bus 78** runs a direct service **from the airport to the city centre** (check the bus stop signs across the arrivals hall and under the bridge) 24hrs a day (78N runs after 24:00). For more information and an interactive map of bus routes please visit [http://www.oasth.gr/tools/routeGMap\\_eng.php](http://www.oasth.gr/tools/routeGMap_eng.php). The cost by **bus** is (1) **one euro** for a single journey (if you buy the ticket at the signposted kiosks or designated ordinary paper kiosks) or **1,30 euros** for single journey (if you buy the ticket on the bus from the blue vending machines. Make sure you have exact change). The cost from the airport by **taxi** is approximately **20 euros** (around 25 after 24:00). Taxi area is exactly outside the airport arrivals hall (taxis stand in line). The ABC hotel is located in the heart of the city and is right across from the University Campus, HELEXPO-the International Fair of Thessaloniki and the I. Vellidis Congress Centre. A few steps away are to be found the White Tower, the Palais des Sports, the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Byzantine Culture as well as many of the city's most important monuments. More information on your hotel is available at <http://www.hotelabc.gr/en/>.





*Panoramic View of parts of the University Campus from the Byzantine walls.*



The distance between [ABC Hotel](#) and the [Research Dissemination Centre \(KEDEA\)](#) is approx. 1 km (15 minutes walk)

### About Thessaloniki

An interactive map of the city is available at the website of [Thessaloniki's Urban Mobility Center](#) (check the beta map on <http://www.mobithess.gr/routing.aspx?rt=1&ct=4>). Thessaloniki is the second-largest city in Greece and the capital of Macedonia, the nation's largest region. The Thessaloniki Urban Area is the largest city in the wider geographical region of Macedonia (population 1.200.000). Thessaloniki is Greece's second major economic, industrial, commercial and political centre, and a major transportation hub for the rest of southeastern Europe; its commercial port is also of great importance for Greece and its southeast European hinterland. It has been traditional for the country's Prime Minister to set out his government's policies for each coming year in a speech at the annual Thessaloniki International Trade Fair. Thessaloniki retains several Ottoman and Jewish structures as well as a large number of Byzantine architectural monuments.



*The colourful shopfronts of the central district of Ladadika which used to be the Jewish quarter*



*Nikis Avenue on Thessaloniki's central seafront.*



*Part of the Hagia Sophia Square.*

Thessaloniki is home to a number of festivals and events, including the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair. The Fair has been hosted at the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Center. Over 400,000 visitors attended in 2015. The Thessaloniki International Film Festival has been established as one of the most important film festivals in Southeastern Europe, with a number of notable film makers such as Francis Ford Coppola, Faye Dunaway, Catherine Deneuve, Irene Papas and Fatih Akın taking part. The "Documentary Festival", founded in 1999, has focused on documentaries that explore global social and cultural developments, with many of the films presented being candidates for FIPRESCI and Audience Awards. The Dimitria festival, founded in 1966 and named after the city's patron saint of St. Demetrius, has focused on a wide range of events including music, theatre, dance, local happenings, and exhibitions. The "DMC DJ Championship" has been hosted at the International Trade Fair of Thessaloniki and has become a worldwide event for aspiring DJs and turn-tablists. The "International Festival of Photography" has taken place every February to mid-April. Exhibitions for the event are sited at museums, heritage landmarks, galleries, bookshops and cafes.



*YMCA Square*



*The Rotonda*



*Seafront promenade (east end)*

The architectural map of Thessaloniki has been a direct result of the city's position at the center of all historical developments in the Balkans. Aside from its commercial importance, Thessaloniki was, for many centuries, the military and administrative hub of the region, and beyond this the transportation link between Europe and the Levant. Merchants, traders and refugees from across Europe came to the city, including Jews joining the city's earlier population. The authorities replaced part of the city's earliest Byzantine walls to allow it to expand, which it did, to the east and west along the coast. The need for commercial and public buildings in this new era of prosperity led to a marked shift in architectural direction and the construction of large edifices in the city center, in lots formerly occupied by small, shabby one-family homes. During this time, the city saw the building of banks, large hotels, theaters, warehouses, and factories. The city layout changed after 1870, when the seaside

fortifications gave way to extensive piers, and many of the oldest walls of the city were demolished including those surrounding the White Tower.



*Part of Aristotelous Square in central Thessaloniki.*



*The Arch of Galerius (Kamara) stands on Egnatia Avenue.*



*The General Secretariat of the Region of Macedonia & Thrace.*

The expansion of Eleftherias Square towards the sea completed the new commercial hub of the city. The western districts are classified as a working class section, near the factories and industrial activity; the middle and upper classes gradually moved to the east suburbs of the town from the center, leaving the latter mostly business dominated. The most decisive and unforeseen moment in the city's modern history was 1917. A devastating fire swept through the city that year and burned uncontrollably for 32 hours. It destroyed the city's historic center and a large part of its architectural heritage, including many buildings of rare beauty.

A team of architects and urban planners led by Ernest Hebrard, a French architect, chose the Byzantine era as the basis for their (re)building designs. The new city plan included axes, diagonal streets and monumental squares, with a street grid that would channel traffic smoothly. The plan of 1917 included provisions for the future population explosion and an adequate street and road network that would have been sufficient even today. It contained sites for public and significant buildings, the restoration of important Byzantine churches and landmarks and of Ottoman mosques, while the whole of the Upper City, near the fortifications, was declared a heritage site. The plan also included a site for the campus of the future University of Thessaloniki, which was never fully realized, although today's University campus incorporates some of Hebrard's ideas nonetheless.



*The OTE Tower is one of the city's modern landmarks.*



*The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*



*Aristotelous Square Esplanade*

An important element of the plan was to achieve a fine balance between contemporary urban planning and architectural ideas, and the city's tradition and history. These plans were never to be fully implemented, and the city lacks a full administrative district to this day. Nevertheless, this aspect of the plan influenced a number of building and planning decisions throughout the 20th century, with inevitable adaptations to service the population explosion of the last 50 years.

## Transportation



Public transport in Thessaloniki is by buses. The bus company operating in the city is called Organization of Urban Transportation of Thessaloniki (OASTH) <http://www.oasth.gr> and is the only public means of transport in Thessaloniki at the moment. It operates a fleet of 604 vehicles on 75 routes throughout the Thessaloniki Metropolitan Area. International and regional bus links are provided at the Makedonia Central Bus Station (intercity buses terminal), located to the west of the city centre.

### *Commuter Rail*

Commuter rail services have recently been established between Thessaloniki and Larissa, covering the journey in 1 hour 33 min.

### *Motorways*

Thessaloniki is accessed by GR-1/E75 from Athens, GR-4, GR-2, (Via Egnatia) /E90 and GR-12/E85 from Serres and Sofia. The city's 6-lane bypass runs from the western, industrial side of the city, to its southeast. In 2008, the motorway was expanded toward the Egnatia Motorway, northwest of Thessaloniki.

### *Railway*

The city is a railway hub for the Balkans, with direct connections to Sofia, Skopje, Belgrade, Moscow, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest and Istanbul, alongside Athens and other destinations in Greece <http://www.ose.gr/en/Home.aspx>.

### *Airport*

Air traffic to and from the city is served by Makedonia International Airport, for both international and domestic flights. The short length of the airport's two runways means that it does not currently support intercontinental flights. <http://www.thessalonikiairport.gr/>.



*The city's airport (departures level)*



*View of the city's harbor*



*The Central Railway Station (main entrance)*

### *Thessaloniki Metro*

The construction of the [Thessaloniki Metropolitan Railway](#) began in 2006 and is scheduled for completion in late 2012. The line is set to extend over 9.5 kilometers (5.9 miles) and include 13 stations, and it is expected that the subway will eventually serve 250,000 passengers daily. Some stations of the Thessaloniki Metro will house a number of archaeological findings.

## History



The city was founded around 315 BC by the King Cassander of Macedon, on or near the site of the ancient town of Therma and twenty-six other local villages. He named it after his wife Thessaloniki, a half-sister of Alexander the Great (*Thessalo-nikē* means the "victory over the Thessalians"). It was an autonomous part of the Kingdom of Macedon. After the fall of the kingdom of Macedon in 168 BC, Thessaloniki became a city of the Roman Republic. It grew to be an important trade-hub located on the Via Egnatia and facilitating trade between Europe and Asia. The city became the capital of one of the four Roman districts of Macedonia.

When in 379 the Roman Prefecture of Illyricum was divided between East and West Roman Empires, Thessaloniki became the capital of the new Prefecture of Illyricum. The economic expansion of the city continued through the twelfth century as the rule of the Komnenoi emperors expanded Byzantine control to the north. Thessaloniki passed out of Byzantine hands in 1204, when Constantinople was captured by the Fourth Crusade. Thessaloniki and its surrounding territory – the Kingdom of Thessalonica – became the largest fief of the Latin Empire. The city was recovered by the Byzantine Empire in 1246. In the 1340s, it was the scene of the anti-aristocratic Commune of the Zealots. In 1423, the Byzantines sold the city to Venice, which held the city until it was captured by the Ottoman Sultan Murad II on 29 March 1430.

During the Ottoman period, the city's Muslim and Jewish population grew. By 1478 Selanik – as the city came to be known in Ottoman Turkish – had a population of 4,320 Muslims and 6,094 Greek Orthodox, as well as some Catholics, but no Jews. By ca. 1500, the numbers had grown to 7,986 Greeks, 8,575 Muslims, and 3,770 Jews, but by 1519, the latter numbered 15,715, 54% of the city's population. The invitation of the Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella, was an Ottoman demographic strategy aiming to prevent the Greek element from dominating the city. The city remained the largest Jewish city in the world for at least two centuries, often called "Mother of Israel". Selanik was a sanjak capital in Rumeli Eyaleti until 1864, and subsequently the capital of Selanik Vilayeti, which consisted of the sanjaks of Selanik, Serez and Drama between 1864-1912. From 1870, driven by economic growth, the city's population expanded by 70%, reaching 135,000 in 1917.

During the First Balkan War, on 26 October 1912 (Old Style), the feast day of the city's patron saint, Saint Demetrius, the Ottoman garrison surrendered Salonica to the Greek Army without any resistance. In 1915, during World War I, a large Allied expeditionary force landed at Thessaloniki as the base for operations against pro-German Bulgaria, which ended in the establishment of the Macedonian or Salonika Front. In 1916, pro-Venizelist Greek army officers, with the support of the Allies, launched the Movement of National Defence, which resulted in the establishment of a pro-Allied temporary government that controlled northern Greece and the Aegean, against the official government of the King in Athens. This led the city to be dubbed as symprotévousa ("co-capital"). Most of the old town was destroyed by a single fire on 18 August [O.S. 5 August] 1917, which was accidentally sparked by French soldiers in encampments at the city. The fire left some 72,000 homeless, many of them Turkish, of a population of approximately 271,157 at the time. Thessaloniki fell to the forces of Nazi Germany on April 22, 1941, and remained under German occupation until 30 October, 1944. The city suffered considerable damage from Allied bombing, and almost its entire

Jewish population was exterminated by the Nazis. Barely a thousand Jews survived. Thessaloniki was rebuilt and recovered fairly quickly after the war with large-scale development of new infrastructure and industry throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.



*The New City Hall*



*The city's Concert Hall Complex*



*The NOESIS Science Center and Technology Museum*

On 20 June, 1978, the city was hit by a powerful earthquake, registering a moment magnitude of 6.5. The tremor caused considerable damage to several buildings and even to some of the city's Byzantine monuments; forty people were crushed to death when an entire apartment block collapsed in the central Hippodromio district. Early Christian and Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1988, and Thessaloniki later became European Capital of Culture 1997. In 2004 the city hosted a number of the football events forming part of the 2004 Summer Olympics. Thessaloniki unsuccessfully bid for the 2008 World EXPO, this time won by Zaragoza in Spain, but another planned bid for 2017 was announced in September 2006 and is now in full development.

## Climate

Thessaloniki lies on the northern fringe of the Thermaic Gulf, along its western side, and to its south-eastern side is bordered by Mt. Hortiatis. The city borders the Mediterranean and Mid-European Temperate climates. Annual rainfall has averaged 451 mm (17.75 inches). Snowfall has been sporadic, but has occurred almost annually. The city lies in the transitional climatic zone, so its climate has displayed characteristics of continental as well as Mediterranean climate. The winter is relatively dry, with morning frost being common. Snow has occurred almost annually, but usually has not persisted for many days. During the worst winter spells, temperatures have dropped as low as -10C/14F (Record min. -14C/7F). Thessaloniki's summers have been hot and their nights humid. Maximum temperatures have generally risen above 30C/86F, but have rarely overshoot 40C/104F (Record max. 44C). Rain has been infrequent during summer, and has occurred mainly in the form of thunderstorms.

### *Weather averages for Thessaloniki*

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	9 (48)	11 (51)	14 (57)	18 (65)	24 (75)	29 (84)	31 (88)	31 (87)	27 (80)	21 (70)	14 (58)	11 (51)	20 (68)
Average low °C (°F)	1 (34)	2 (36)	5 (41)	8 (46)	12 (54)	17 (62)	19 (66)	18 (65)	15 (59)	11 (52)	7 (44)	3 (37)	10 (50)

## Useful links

Thessaloniki interactive map: [http://gis.thessaloniki.gr/default\\_en.aspx](http://gis.thessaloniki.gr/default_en.aspx)

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: [http://www.auth.gr/home/index\\_en.html](http://www.auth.gr/home/index_en.html)

Restaurants: <http://www.saloniki.org/en/catalog/food.htm>

## Useful phone numbers

The dialing code for Greece is +30 and the dialing code for Thessaloniki is 2310 so if you are calling from outside Greece or during your stay but from a mobile phone make sure that the number you are calling begins with +302310. Otherwise it should start simply with 2310 followed by a 6 digit number.

<b>Emergency Number to call Police:</b>	<b>100</b>
Tourist police:(information available in English, French and German)	2310 - 554871
Greek National Tourist Organization	2310-222935 / 2310-271888
<b>Public Transportation:</b>	
Railway station (call centre):	1110
Bus Information centre (for lines, trips, stops etc):	185
Long Distance Buses (KTEL):	2310 - 595408
<b>Health Services:</b>	
Thessalonikis Ippokrateio General Hospital (49 Kostantinoupoleos Str)	2310 - 837921-9
G. Papanikolaou General Hospital (Eksohi):	2310 - 357602
Ahepa General Hospital (1 Stilp. Kiriakidi Str):	2310 - 993310, 2310 - 993111
G. Gennimatas General Hospital (41 Ethnikis Aminas Str):	2310 - 211221-2, 2310 - 211323-5, 2310 - 211426-9, 2310 - 212019, 2310 - 212051
Agios Dimitrios General Hospital (2 Elenis Zografou Str):	2310 - 969100-30, 2310 - 203121-5, 2310 - 203157, 2310 - 203269, 2310 - 201283
Agios Pavlos General Hospital ( 161 Ethnikis Antistaseos Str ):	2310 - 493040
Theageneio Cancer Hospital ( 2 Al. Simeonidi Str ):	2310-898111
Dermatological & Venereal Disease Hospital ( 51 Halkidikis Str ):	2310-817913, 2310-859202, 2310-859224, 2310-859246, 2310-859268, 2310-859280
Psychiatric Hospital ( 36 Kostantinoupoleos Str - Stavroupoli ):	2310-659512, 2310-659534, 2310-659578, 2310-659590, 2310-655103
Chronic Disease Hospital Dermatological & Venereal Disease Hospital ( 13 Grigoriou Lampraki Street ):	2310-202148
Papageorgiou General Hospital ( Circular Road Neas Efkarpias ):	2310-693000
<b>Tourism Information:</b>	
Tourism Information Office Of Airport " Macedonia " :	2310-471170
Information Centre:	2310-473212, 2310-473312
Flights information:	2310 - 473977, 2310- 473720
Olympic Airways Thessaloniki :	2310 - 368311
Aegean Airlines Thessaloniki :	2310 - 280050
Thessaloniki Port Authority:	2310 - 593120

## Places of Interest

### THE WHITE TOWER



The [White Tower](#) is a defensive structure dated to the 15th century. Later, it was used as a guard's quarters by the Janissaries and as a prison for those who were convicted to death. It was built on the place where an older, Byzantine tower once stood. This Byzantine tower connected the east wall of the fortification of Thessaloniki (the part preserved today) with the sea wall, which was demolished in 1866. The museum in the White Tower contains various collections of sculptures, frescoes, fragments of mosaic floors and wall mosaics, icons, coins, inscriptions, pottery, glass and metal items. The stairway and the entrance to a floor, after the restoration. Of the most important exhibits of the museum are: Fragment of silk cloth woven with gold thread. It was found in a man's grave, in the basilica of Saint Achilleios at Lake Prespa. Dated to the 11th century A.D. A couple of armlets made of gold and enamel, found in Thessaloniki. Dated to the 10th century. Icon depicting the Virgin with Christ Child. It was probably imported to Thessaloniki from Cyprus. Dated to ca. 1200 A.D. It has been adopted as the symbol of the city, and also as a symbol of Greek sovereignty over Macedonia.

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



Work on the construction of [the Archaeological Museum](#) began in February 1961, to designs by the architect Patroklos Karantinos. The building was inaugurated on 27th October 1962, during the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Thessaloniki. In 1971, the displays were brought to completion in all the rooms. They included sculpture, a prehistoric collection, miniature art of the Archaic and Classical periods, and the brilliant group of finds from the tombs at Derveni, which was first presented to the public on the day of the inauguration ceremony. A few years later, in 1978, the astonishing discoveries at Vergina led to the first changes in the display: finds from the royal tombs were exhibited in the rooms housing the prehistoric collection and miniature art as part of the exhibition Treasures of Ancient Macedonia.

### THE MUSEUM OF BYZANTINE CULTURE



The [Museum of Byzantine Culture](#) aims in presenting various aspects of life during the byzantine and post-byzantine periods: art, ideology, social structure and religion, as well as how historical changes and the political situation were affecting people's everyday life. At the same time, the activity of the Department of Educational Programmes, the good structure and function of the conservation laboratories and of the archaeological material storerooms, the provision of

scientific know-how to other Balkan countries, the organisation of scientific meetings and conferences, as well as the editing and publishing work, render the Museum into an exceptionally important centre for the preservation, research and promotion of Byzantine and Post-byzantine culture.

### ***MUSEUM OF THE MACEDONIAN STRUGGLE***



The building was constructed at the end of the 19th century on plans drawn by Ernest Ziller. In 1984 it was rented to the Greek General Consulate and in 1923 it was allotted to the Diocese of St. Gregory Palamas. Until the 1978 earthquake, it had been housing several elementary schools and after it was restored and operated again as a [Museum of the Macedonian Struggle](#). This cube-shaped

two-storied building with the elevated basement, is covered by a four-fold roof. Its ground plan is organized typically with a central staircase and rooms at each side. The facet's structure is characterized by absolute symmetry while the distinct morphologic elements of the building give it neoclassical features.

### ***CHURCH OF AGIOS DEMETRIOS***



The monument is a five-aisled basilica, with a narthex and a transept. Under the sanctuary and the transept there is the crypt. A chapel of Saint Euthymios is attached to the south-east corner of the church. Very few fragments of the sculptural and pictorial (mosaics, wall paintings) decoration of the church, survived the disastrous fire of 1917 but they are representative of the successive phases of the monument's history. The first church was a small oratory, built shortly after 313 A.D. on the ruins of a Roman

bath. In the 5th century A.D., the eparch Leontios founded on the same site a large, three-aisled basilica which was burnt down in 626-634. Shortly thereafter, the five-aisled basilica was erected. It was converted into a mosque in 1493, it was restored to Christian worship in 1912 but it was again destroyed in the great fire of 1917. It was rebuilt and started to function again in 1949.

### ***CHURCH OF AGIA SOFIA***



Already in the 3rd century, there was a church on the location of the current Hagia Sophia. In the 8th century, the present structure was erected, based on the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. In 1205, when the Fourth Crusade captured the city, the Hagia Sophia was converted into the cathedral of Thessaloniki, which it remained after the city was returned to Byzantine Empire in 1246. After the capture

of Thessaloniki by the Ottoman Sultan Murad II on 29 March 1430, the church was converted into a mosque. Its ground plan is that of a domed Greek cross basilica. Together with the Gül and the Kalenderhane Mosques in Istanbul and the destroyed Church of the Dormition in Nicaea, it represents one of the main architectural examples of this type, typical of the Byzantine middle period. Much of the interior decoration was plastered over after the Great Thessaloniki Fire of 1917, and the dome was restored in 1980.

### ***JEWISH MUSEUM OF THESSALONIKI***



The [Jewish Museum](#) is located on Ag. Mina 13 str. in a building built in 1904 by the Italian architect Vitaliano Pozeli. The restoration of the building lasted from 1998 to 2003 and was funded by the "Organisation for the Cultural Capital of Europe Thessaloniki 1997". It was inaugurated on May 13, 2001 by Andreas Sefiha, then the president of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. It was Sefiha who had the idea of the establishment of the Museum and started working for this in 1994. The collection of the Museum was based on the collection of documents, collection of ritual objects, photographic collections and library that used to be housed in Vasileos Herakleiou 26, and was known as "The Center of the Course of Jewish history, in Thessaloniki" or "Center for the Jewish Studies of Thessaloniki" or "Jewish History Centre of Thessaloniki".

### ***KEMAL ATATURK'S HOUSE MUSEUM***



[Salonika Atatürk House](#), which is open to public as a museum today, is located in the corner of the garden where the Salonika Turkish Consulate is also situated, surrounded by a fence wall facing the main boulevard. This three-storey old Turkish style house has a tiled roof and is cantilevered above the ground floor. First and second floors have rectangular and latticed windows. Entrance is through double doors opening to the boulevard.

### ***SOCIETY FOR MACEDONIAN STUDIES***



Founded in 1975, this was the first organised visual art institution in the city, its purpose being to promote and disseminate modern Greek art, mainly that of northern Greece. It occupies the top floor of the building which also houses the State Theatre of Northern Greece. The building was designed by the architect Vassilis Kassaradas and stands directly opposite the White Tower on the sea-front. The collection comprises more than 400 works, mainly paintings, sculptures, and engravings, mostly by artists from Thessaloniki and Macedonia in general, though there are also works by major artists from the rest of Greece and other countries too. Works by foreign artists are selected by virtue of their connection with the city, i.e. they depict monuments or landscapes of Thessaloniki. Most of the artworks have been donated; a few purchased, and at one time quite a number of works

were bequeathed to the gallery. Early in 1999, it was augmented by works from the Papanakos Collection.

### ***THESSALONIKI SCIENCE CENTER AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM - NOESIS***



[NOESIS](#) was founded in 1978 as a cultural and educational non-profit organization. In 1998, the museum initiated a project that aimed at the construction of a new facility and the development of a new spectrum of activities. The project was completed successfully and the new foundation "Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum - NOESIS" was established. The museum's main objective to

offer to the public an environment that facilitates the familiarisation with and the understanding of science and technology. The foundation is also actively engaged in the protection of the Greek Technological Heritage. NOESIS has a 150-seat digital planetarium, a 300-seat Cosmotheatre with the largest flat screen in Greece, a 200-seat amphitheatre, as well as a motion simulator theater with three platforms, 3-D projection, and 6-axis movement. The museum currently features many exhibits, including "Technology of Transportation," featuring car models that mark the history of automobiles. In the near future, the exhibition hall will also include an exhibit on Ancient Greek technology; also, NOESIS will be opening soon the Center for Creativity and Innovation, a facility for students, as well as a Techno-park.

### ***THESSALONIKI OLYMPIC MUSEUM***



The museum is located on the confluence and educational, athletic and cultural routes of the city. It stands next to the Kaftanzoglio National Stadium and the Aristotle University. The museum was established in 1998 with the name "Sports Museum" - being the unique sports museum in Greece - with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the Special Secretariat for Sports of Macedonia-Thrace, Athletic Unions and Associations of

Local Authorities. The aim of the museum is to collect, conserve, record and establish the sport history and to promote it in an active and vivid place, having a mainly educative character.

### ***EPTAPYRGIO***



Eptapyrgio (= the castle of seven towers) was built in the 9th century. Some of its parts have been added later (from the 15th century. to modern times). It was used as a prison from the end of the 19th century to 1978. It is being restored by the Archaeological Service. Also known by its Turkish name "Yedi Kule".

### ***THE OLD TOWN (Ano Polis)***

A must. Take a walk to the old town. The place has a unique atmosphere. Time has stopped and you can walk into Thessaloniki history!



### **KAMARA (GALERIUS ARCH)**



The Arch of Galerius belongs to the Galerian group of buildings, in the SE part of the historical center of Thessaloniki. From the original triumphal arch only three pillars and a part of the brick masonry above are preserved to the present day. The two main pillars are covered with sculpted marble slabs, which narrate the wars of Galerius against the Persians. The central arched opening is 9.7 m wide and 12.5 m high and the secondary 4.85 m and 6.5 m

respectively. The Arch of Galerius was built in 305 AD, to celebrate the definitive triumph of the Emperor over the Persians. The whole structure consisted of 4 main pillars and 2 smaller ones on each side, the former supporting a central dome. Through the latter, a connection to the Galerius Palace (to the south) and to the Rotunda (to the north) was possible. Today, only a part of the monument still stands and there is no information on the period or the circumstances under which the rest of the arch was destroyed.

### **THE ROMAN FORUM OF THESSALONIKI**



The [Ancient Forum](#), the administrative centre of ancient Thessaloniki, occupied an area about two hectares in the heart of the city. Its construction began at the end of the 2nd century A.D. on the site of an older forum dating from early Imperial times. The complex was arranged around a rectangular paved square. There were stoas on three sides, each of which consisted of a double row of columns and provided direct access to a surrounding zone of public buildings. The southern stoa stood on a

vaulted substructure (cryptoporticus) - a double arcade which lay partly underground, making use of the natural slope of the land. To the south, along the whole of the cryptoporticus, lay a row of shops fronting the ancient shopping street which ran along the north side of present-day Philippou St. Off this street lay minor entrances to the square, while the latter opened north, to the present-day Olympou St. In the middle of the east wing, on the site of an earlier council - chamber, a building for public performances was erected, which, on the basis of the inscription and the statues of Muses found there, must have functioned as an odeon.

### ***GALERIOUS MAXIMILIANUS PALACE***



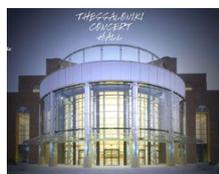
The palace complex of Galerius Maximianus was built in ca. 300 A. D. to become the administrative and religious center of Roman Thessaloniki. The Rotonda, the Arch of Galerius, the Palace, the Octagon and the Hippodrome are its main buildings. The southeast part of the complex is still visible. It comprises large corridors, paved with mosaics and marble slabs around a central atrium with colonnade that is surrounded by rectangular rooms. Along the east corridor four arched rooms are situated next to a large ceremonial hall with niche and mosaic floor. A monumental passage on the south led to the harbor. Founded on the spot of an older rectangular hall the Octagon is a monumental building, possibly a throne-hall, richly decorated with colorful marble slabs and paving.

### ***GIAKO MODIANO MANSION***



It was built by the Israelite Giako Modiano who followed the designs drawn by his son Eli Modiano (Ecole Centrale, Paris). It is known as the "Old Government House" and from 1913 and onwards it was successively used as a palace, as the residence of the General Governors of Macedonia, as a Religious Seminary and as a Military School. Since 1912, it Houses the Folk Art and Ethnological Museum of Macedonia and Thrace.

### ***THESSALONIKI CONCERT HALL***



The Organisation of Thessaloniki Concert Hall (founded on February, 1993) is a public foundation which operates and manages the Congressional and Cultural Center "Thessaloniki Concert Hall".  
BOX OFFICE TEL: 2310895938-9, email: [info@tch.gr](mailto:info@tch.gr)

### ***THE MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY***



The Municipal Art Gallery was founded in 1966 as an offshoot of the Municipal Library. Since 1986 it has been housed in the Villa Mordoch on Vassilissis Olgas St., a listed building designed by the architect Xenophon Paionidis in the eclectic style in 1905 and owned by the Municipality of Thessaloniki. The gallery has more than 1,000 works in its collection, and these are divided into the Thessalonian Artists Collection (3 generations: 1898–1922, 1923–40, 1941–67), the Modern Greek Engraving Collection, the Collection of Byzantine and Post-byzantine Icons, which covers a period of six centuries, the Modern Greek Art Collection, and the Sculpture Collection.



*Plan for central Thessaloniki by [Ernest Hébrard](#).  
Much of the plan can be seen in today's city center.*

Organised by



---

ARISTOTLE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
THESSALONIKI

Faculty of Philosophy  
School of Philosophy and Education  
Department of Education