Slide 1

Εθνική Αρχή
Ανώτατης Εκπαίδευσης
Hellenic Authority
for Higher Education

Humanities in Greece:
Current State and Future Outlook

UNICA Rectors' Seminar
"The key role of the Humanities in our universities"
University of Athens, 20-6-2025
Session 2: Integrating Humanities in STEM education and research

Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas
President of HAHE

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Slide 2

Are the Humanities and Social Sciences in a crisis?

- Globally?

- In Greece?

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Slide 3

Hellenic Authority for Higher Education

Independent Authority

A. National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HE)

B. Recommends and advises on matters of national strategy on HE

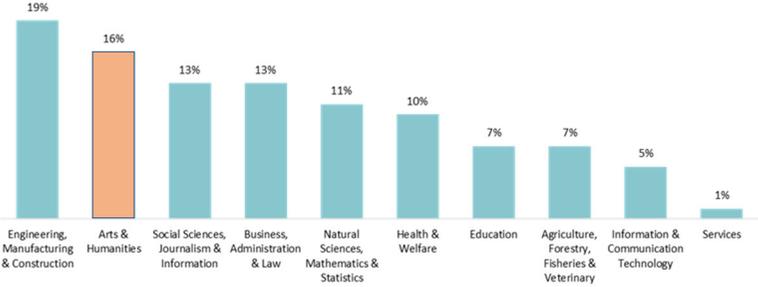C. Evaluation and monitoring of the soon-to-be-established non-public Universities

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Κυβέρνηση

εθαae hahe

Trusted Authority

ΕΘΑΑΕ   3

Slide 4

Classification of academic departments by field (UNESCO ISCED-F 2013) in Greece

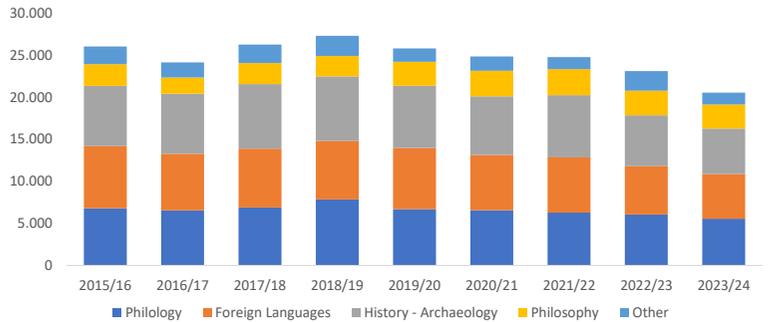| Field	%
Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction	19%
Arts & Humanities	16%
Social Sciences, Journalism & Information	13%
Business, Administration & Law	13%
Natural Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics	11%
Health & Welfare	10%
Education	7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Veterinary	7%
Information & Communication Technology	5%
Services	1%

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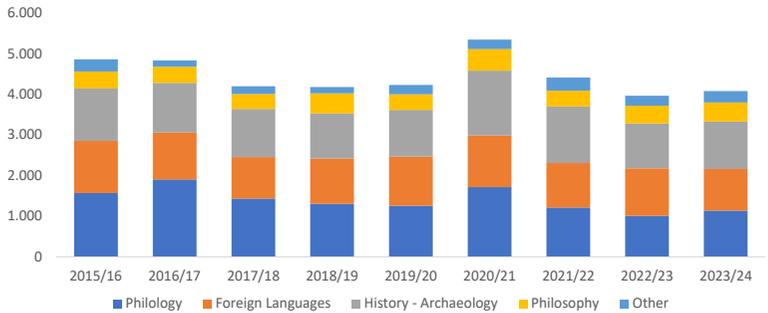## Are the Humanities and Social Sciences in a crisis?

- **Decline of academic departments and USP ?**
  Not supported by evidence

- **Decline of staff?**
  Similar to the trends in other scientific areas

- **Reduction in funding?**
  Not supported by evidence
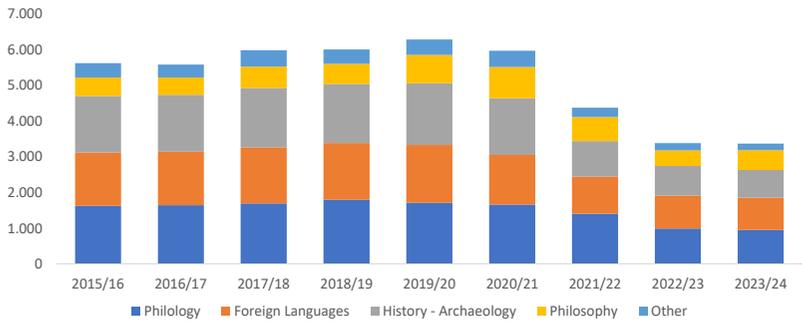
- **Falling student numbers?**

Undergraduate Students in Greece Humanities – 4-year programs

Undergraduate Degrees Awarded in Greece Humanities – 4-year programs

New Student Admissions in Greece Humanities – 4-year undergraduate programs

Are the Humanities in a crisis, in Greece?

- **Decline of academic departments and USP?**
- **Decline of staff?**
- **Reduction in funding?**
- **Falling student numbers?**
  Yes
- **Attractiveness shrinking among prospective students?**
  Yes
  - ➤ Lower admission thresholds
  - ➤ Unfilled spots
  - ➤ Student drop in Theoretical (Humanities) Track

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Humanities Track (HT) Candidates

Admission Year	Number of Candidates (HT)	Total Number of Candidates	% HT Candidates
2003	34.500	90.472	38,13%
2008	36.507	89.987	40,57%
2013	32.448	81.010	40,05%
2018	29.067	79.326	36,64%
2023	18.849	73.220	25,74%
2024	20.244	74.847	27,05%

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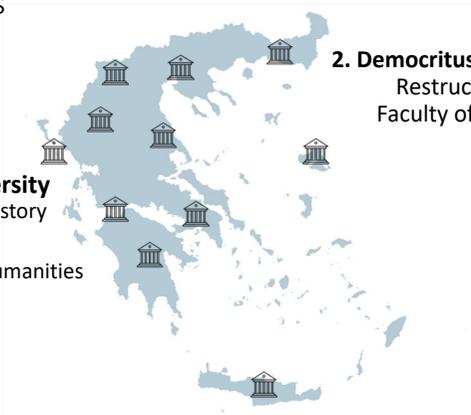## Suggestions for strengthening Humanities

- ✓ **You need to reinvent yourselves**
  Humanities do not produce only teachers for secondary education
  or archaeologists for the Ministry of Culture
- ✓ New tracks – Additional skills – New undergraduate programs?

- ✓ **Diffusion of Humanities into other study programs**
- ✓ Interdisciplinary graduate courses
- ✓ International Programs (FLSP & summer schools)

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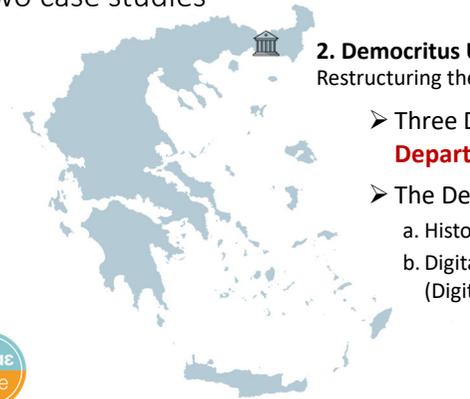## Restructuring Humanities Study Programs
Two case studies

2. Democritus Univ. of Thrace
Restructuring the
Faculty of Philosophy

1. Ionian University
Department of History
↓
History and Digital Humanities

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Restructuring Humanities Study Programs
Two case studies

2. Democritus University of Thrace
Restructuring the Faculty of Philosophy

➢ Three Departments merge into one:
Department of Humanities

➢ The Department will offer two USPs:

a. History, Anthropology and Philology

b. Digital Applications for Arts and Culture (Digital Humanities)

Problems?

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Integrative Education Is the Future

The future is **interdisciplinary**:
- Narrative medicine
- Ethics in AI
- History in climate studies

Universities Need to Shift:

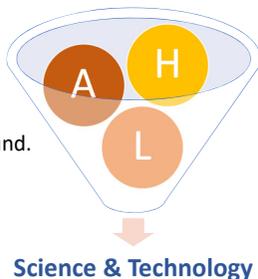Not just STEM **vs** Humanities. They must **integrate**:
- Philosophy courses for coders (ethics of tech)
- Design thinking for engineers
- History for political scientists (context matters!)

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Interdisciplinary skills

- **Medical students** who take courses in **bioethics** are better prepared to make **compassionate** decisions about patient care than those with only a scientific background.

- A **business executive** with a background in cultural studies is more likely to succeed in **international negotiations** than someone who lacks knowledge of different **cultural norms.**

- A **software engineer** who can explain complex technical concepts in simple terms will be more effective in **leadership** roles than one who lacks communication skills.
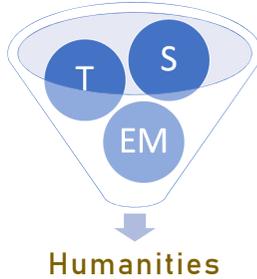
Science & Technology
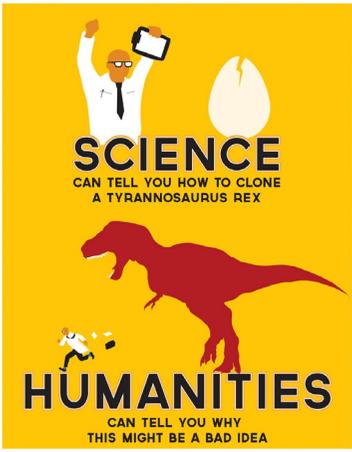
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Interdisciplinary skills

- A **philosophy student** trained in logic and ethics, who also understands algorithms, may be better equipped to analyze **ethical** dilemmas in **AI** than a purely technical expert.

- A **philologist** with advanced digital skills will be better suited to manage the **digital content** of a company and its online presence.

Humanities

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Food for thought

Without Humanities, we risk raising a generation of experts who can answer the question **"Can we?"**

but are ill-prepared to ask the more important question: **"Should we?"**

2015

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Thank you!

Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas
President of HAHE

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