



33rd International Congress on Physical Education & Sport Science

23 - 25 May 2025
Komotini

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PRESS RELEASE

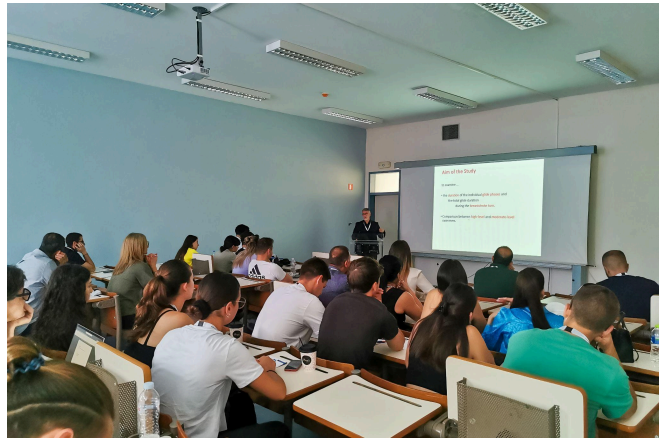
The 33rd International Congress on Physical Education & Sport Science Successfully Concluded

The 33rd International Congress on Physical Education and Sport Science was held with great success and an impressive turnout. This year's event, centered around the theme **"Innovation in Sports Technology and Science"**, took place from **May 23 to 25, 2025**, at the facilities of the **School of Physical Education and Sport Science (DPESS)** of the **Democritus University of Thrace**, in **Komotini, Greece**.



The Congress hosted more than **1,000 participants** from **Greece, Cyprus, the United States, Bulgaria, Italy, China, Norway, Spain, Ireland, Slovakia, and France**. Over the course of the event, **340 scientific papers** were presented, while **11 roundtable discussions** were held with

distinguished speakers from both Greece and abroad. In addition, **16 theoretical and practical workshops** took place.



This year's event also featured numerous distinctive parallel activities. Among the highlights were the Health Festival, the Beer Festival, scientific book presentations, and the Department's annual spring voluntary blood donation.



For the first time, the Congress introduced the option for **remote paper presentations**, while many of the parallel activities were **live-streamed online**, providing the opportunity for even more scientists and interested individuals to participate.



The official Opening Ceremony took place on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the “G. Papadriellis” Auditorium of the School of Physical Education and Sport Science (DPTH) and was warmly received by the audience. The evening had a strong **female presence**, as—on the occasion of the election of the first **female president** of the Congress—three prominent women in sports were honored. Specifically, the “**Samara**” Award was presented to **Evina Maltzi**, veteran basketball player, for her outstanding career and contribution to Greek and international basketball. Also honored for their overall contribution both on and off the field were **Maria Prevolaraki**, wrestling champion, and **Tasoula Kelesidou**, Olympic silver medalist and former discus thrower.



As Chair of the Gender Equality Committee of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Ms. Tasoula Kelesidou received her award from the Chair of the corresponding committee at the Democritus University of Thrace, Ms. Sevasti Chatzifotiou. Also serving as the event's **Keynote Speaker**, Ms. Kelesidou presented compelling data and statistics regarding the status and representation of women in sports—both as athletes and in leadership roles.



During the ceremony, **Konstantinos Thanos** was also honored for his valuable contribution to the field of wrestling, both as an athlete and as a member of the **Hellenic Wrestling Federation**.



A remote address was delivered—thanks to modern technology—by the **Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Giannis Vrotsis**, who also presented the innovative initiative “*Digital Transformation e-Kouros*”—the new digital platform of the **Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports**, in collaboration with the **General Secretariat of Sports**, which records all measurable indicators of Greek sports.



The rich program of the conference also included the **24th Meeting of the Internship Offices of the Student Support Units (S.S.U.)** and the Institutional/Scientific Supervisors of Higher Education Institutions across the country. This meeting contributed to the exchange of good practices and experiences among academic institutions.



The 33rd International Congress on Physical Education and Sport Science concluded with the **Closing Ceremony**, leaving behind a sense of fulfillment and vibrant enthusiasm. The event culminated in a festive atmosphere, full of positive energy and smiles, with the Graduation Ceremony of the Department's Postgraduate Programs.



On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we would like to extend our **heartfelt thanks** to all those who contributed to the successful implementation of the Conference: the 170 volunteers, the academic and technical staff of the School of Physical Education and Sport Science for their excellent cooperation, the speakers and distinguished guests who honored this year's event with their presence, all delegates for their participation, and our sponsors for their invaluable support of the institution.