



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Scientific Conference

Heraklion, Crete
October 2026, 22–25

European Routes of Nikos Kazantzakis: From Yesterday's Heraklion to the Europe of Today and Tomorrow

The “European Routes of Nikos Kazantzakis”, as part of their ongoing effort to be included in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, and with the support of the Region of Crete, the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (ISFNK) and the Nikos Kazantzakis Museum (Myrtia, Heraklion) invite researchers, academics, scholars, and experts to participate in the international scientific conference entitled: **«European Routes of Nikos Kazantzakis: From Yesterday's Heraklion to the Europe of Today and Tomorrow»**.

The conference seeks to explore the European dimension of the thought of the Cretan thinker and writer Nikos Kazantzakis, while fostering interpretative and critical approaches to his work through contemporary theoretical frameworks.

In line with the priorities of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, the conference aims to promote **a European and interdisciplinary perspective on Kazantzakis' work** and to highlight its enduring relevance to contemporary issues, including cultural identity, freedom, alterity, sustainability, and innovation.

Thematic Axes of the Conference

1. The Global Impact of the Work of a Quintessential European Intellectual

- The notion of Europe as a spiritual and cultural space in which Nikos Kazantzakis was formed.
- Intercultural dialogues and influences: toward a re-mapping of Kazantzakis' literary work.
- Kazantzakis' journeys as reflections of the European philosophical and historical context of his time.

2. Freedom, Rights, and the Human Condition: Concepts of Freedom and Existential Responsibility in Kazantzakis' Work

- Conceptions of freedom and human rights in the work of the Cretan writer.
- The individual in confrontation with power and ideology: the case of Kazantzakis.
- Ethics, critical inquiry, and the responsibility of the engaged citizen as expressed in his work.
- Cultural democracy: the example of the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (ISFNK).

3. Otherness, Identity, and Inclusion: Kazantzakis' Work through the Lens of Contemporary Criticism

- Gender representations and contemporary readings of his work.
- Cultural, spiritual, and social alterity in the Kazantzakian novel.
- The concept of the "Other" and processes of integration within Kazantzakis' thought.

4. Science, Modernity, and Contemporary Cultural Approaches

- Interrelations between science, philosophy, and metaphysics in his work.
- Nikos Kazantzakis and modernity.
- The international context and new methodological approaches to the Kazantzakian corpus.

5. The "Nikos Kazantzakis European Routes" and the Cultural Route as a Contemporary Tool for Cultural Policy and Development: New Perspectives

the potential of the Cultural Route as a contemporary tool for cultural development

- The "Nikos Kazantzakis European Routes" and their contribution to sustainable development.
- The promotion of cultural heritage and transnational cooperation.
- The value of dialogue between the Kazantzakis European Route and other Cultural Routes.
- The "Nikos Kazantzakis European Routes" as a platform for education, dialogue, and cultural exchange.
- The role of the "Nikos Kazantzakis European Routes" in fostering literary tourism in Greece and beyond.

Conference Objectives

- To strengthen the scientific and cultural foundation of the "Nikos Kazantzakis European Routes" and establish them as a dynamic platform connecting literature with contemporary European values and challenges.
- To promote interpretative approaches to the works of Nikos Kazantzakis in light of the pressing challenges facing Europe today.
- To highlight the enduring relevance of Kazantzakis' intellectual legacy.

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts (up to 300 words) should clearly indicate the relevant thematic axis. Interdisciplinary approaches are especially encouraged. Submissions may be made in Greek, English, or French.
- **Deadline for abstract submission:** 10 July 2026
- **Notification of acceptance:** 10 August 2026
- **Deadline for full papers** (up to 3,000 words) for publication in the conference proceedings: 30 September 2026 (writing guidelines attached).
- Presentations should be 10–15 minutes in duration.
- Proposals should be submitted to:
european.routes.nikos.kazantzakis@gmail.com

The conference will be held in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and remote participation and presentation of papers.

On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committees

Dr Aikaterini Zografistou, President of the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (ISFNK). PhD in Modern Greek Philology, Paul Valéry University-Montpellier III, France.

Dr Elena Avramidou, Member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (ISFNK). Executive Director of the Hellenic Sinology Center (HSC), Ionian University; member of the Steering Committee of the UNESCO Chair at the Ionian University.