

Sofia Kantaraki is a philologist, author, and PhD holder from the University of Thessaly in History of Education. She is a graduate of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Democritus University of Thrace. She holds Master's degrees with distinction from the University of Thessaly, specializing in Byzantine Studies, and from the University of Patras, specializing in the Management of Cultural Units. As an active secondary education teacher, she was awarded in 2011 by the Greek Ministry of Education in the national "Excellence and Innovation in Education" competition. She currently serves as Principal of the 2nd Model Junior High School of Volos. She has organized in-school language and spelling competitions, and in 2014 she organized at the 3rd Junior High School of Volos the student language competition "Christos Tsolakis," in collaboration with the Association of Philologists of Magnesia and school advisors. From 2017 to 2021, she served as Head of School Activities at the Secondary Directorate of Education of Magnesia. During her tenure, she organized the first student conference in the Prefecture of Magnesia dedicated to Alexandros Papadiamantis, followed by a conference on Anthimos Gazis, in collaboration with Primary Education authorities. She organized numerous training sessions and seminars on cultural and environmental issues. She participated as a member of the scientific committee of the conference held by the Regional Directorate of Education of Thessaly for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Greek War of Independence (1821). Since 2021, following evaluation, she has been serving as a philologist at the Model Junior High School of Volos, where she established the Journalism Club as well as numerous school programs and activities. She has served as a Mentor and Thessaly Ambassador for the European educational program eTwinning. She is currently the regional coordinator in Thessaly for the educational program "Me and You Together": Human Rights Education by Amnesty International. Since 2019, she has been coordinating female students in the Young Women Empowerment training program of the Lambrakis Foundation, collaborating with the foundation on educational matters. She is a distinguished member of the Scientific Committee for the Promotion of Innovation in Education (EEPEK Larissa). She serves as a reviewer of papers at educational conferences and as a trainer in teacher training seminars within the pilot history programs of the Institute of Educational Policy. She has received national and European distinctions in European interschool programs and has participated in educational seminars and scientific conferences as a presenter. Her articles have been published in international and national academic journals. She is a member of various scientific societies, including the Papadiamantis Studies Society, the Thessalian Studies Society, the Panhellenic Association of Philologists, the Book Center of Magnesian Writers, the Panhellenic Union of Writers, and a member of the coordinating team of the network of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature: Young Reporters for the Environment, among others. Since 2019, she has been a radio producer of a cultural program on ERT Volos, focusing on literature and history, titled "With Reason and Dream," broadcast every Wednesday. Her research and writing work focuses both on the development of foundational works for historical research and on the literary and philological study of the work of Alexandros Papadiamantis. She has authored five books of educational and social essays on Papadiamantis, as well as a historical novel depicting the image of Westerners through the eyes of Anna Komnene.