

## PRESS RELEASE

### **New donation of Euro 100 million by the four systemic banks for upgrading school units across the country**

The second sponsorship cycle of the “Marietta Giannakou” Program for the renovation of school buildings across the country was initiated by **Alpha Bank, Eurobank, the National Bank of Greece and Piraeus Bank, demonstrating** in practice their ongoing support of Education and their consistent commitment to the largest Corporate Social Responsibility initiative in Greece, totaling Euro 400 million.

Today saw the **signing of the second sponsorship agreement for the amount of Euro 100 million** (Euro 25 million contributed by each bank) by the Hellenic Republic and the four systemic banks, covering the preparation of studies, the drafting of tender documents, the issuance of building permits and the implementation of the necessary works for the **renovation of 238 more school units. The renovated schools will be handed over to the educational community in September 2026.**

[Link to the video of the sponsorship agreement signing ceremony.](#)

The signing ceremony took place at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, in the presence of the **Minister of National Economy and Finance**, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, the **Minister of the Interior**, Theodoros Livaniou, the **Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sport**, Sofia Zacharaki, and the **Minister of Infrastructure and Transport**, Christos Dimas, well as of the **CEO of Alpha Bank**, Vasilios Psaltis, the **CEO of Eurobank**, Fokion Karavias, the **Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Greece**, Gikas Hardouvelis, the **CEO of Piraeus Bank**, Christos Megalou, and the **President of the Hellenic Bank Association**, Giorgos Zaniias. Also present at the signing ceremony were the representatives of the parties responsible for the implementation of the sponsorship project, namely **the Acting General Manager of the Hellenic Bank Association, Haroula Apalagaki**, and the **CEO of “Building Infrastructures S.A.”, Athanasios Giannaris.**

**The CEO of Alpha Bank, Vassilios Psaltis**, said: *“Today we are signing an agreement involving an investment with specific beneficiaries: the children who tomorrow will enter a fully functional classroom, a well-maintained playground, and spaces that respect their dignity. The first cycle of the ‘Marietta Giannakou’ program has shown us that when the State and the private sector work together, setting themselves clear objectives, results are achieved quickly and are visible to society. At Alpha Bank, we remain firm in our commitment: Education is a country’s surest investment.”*

**The CEO of Eurobank, Fokion Karavias**, pointed out following: *“Building on the positive impact of the first phase of the school renovation program across Greece, today we are honoring our commitment to continuing our contribution. Making more schools modern, safe and accessible at all levels of education, from Kindergartens to High Schools, is a prerequisite for an inclusive public education system. For us at Eurobank, our contribution to all phases of the ‘Marietta Giannakou’ program is a key integral part of a wide-ranging set of initiatives with a broad geographical and social reach, which are founded on and centered around the family and the younger generation.”*

**The Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Greece, Gikas Hardouvelis**, said: *“We are continuing this flagship initiative with undiminished enthusiasm, as it brings multiple benefits for society. We are expanding our reach to hundreds of more schools, creating a better school environment for thousands of more pupils across the country. And a better learning environment goes a long way towards encouraging all pupils to engage in the learning process, absorb knowledge and develop critical thinking skills. It helps them acquire the skills that they need for a better life and, ultimately, for an even more productive Greece in the future.”*

**The CEO of Piraeus Bank, Christos Megalou**, stressed the following: *“The completion of the first phase of the ‘Marietta Giannakou’ Program made a significant contribution to improving the operation of 430 schools across the country. With the new agreement, which we have signed today, we are continuing an initiative that supports Education and has a strong social impact. For Piraeus Bank, giving back to society is a core strategic priority. With consistency and long-*

*term vision, we are investing invest in initiatives that create opportunities for the younger generation and help build a better future for all.”*

**The President of the Hellenic Bank Association, Georgios Zantias,** said: *“We are delighted with the significant contribution made by the four systemic banks to the upgrading of the building infrastructure in Greek schools. Once this initiative is fully deployed, the four banks will have contributed a total amount of Euro 400 million. The first phase of the program has already been successfully completed, with 430 schools fully renovated across the country. Today we are launching the second phase, which includes 238 more schools. As a teacher myself, I believe that this initiative will make children enjoy school more, while our teachers will be able to work and communicate knowledge in a more dignified environment.”*

This year’s sponsorship cycle brings the four systemic banks’ total contribution to date to **Euro 200 million** (Euro 50 million by each bank). Taking also into account the schools due to be renovated this year under the second sponsorship agreement, **a total of 668 schools across the country** will have been refurbished since the sponsorship was launched, **benefiting over 150,000 school students.**

In September 2025, when the Euro 100 million first sponsorship cycle was completed, **430 fully renovated school units were delivered** for use by thousands of pupils at state-run Kindergartens and Primary, Middle and High Schools across the country. The four donor banks intend to make corresponding contributions over the next two years, with provision for a total contribution of **Euro 400 million**, subject to evaluations to be carried out, depending on the progress made in the implementation of the “Marietta Giannakou” program and its requirements, as well as on the prevailing conditions in the economy, thereby making a substantial contribution to creating a better and safer learning environment for hundreds of thousands of school students and teachers across the country.

The school units to be renovated are selected by the jointly competent Ministries, in collaboration with the local Municipalities in the country’s 13 Regions.

The Greek banking system has been actively and steadily supporting the State over the years, backing initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and the economy’s growth potential, in line with the donor banks’ ESG strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the four systemic banks’ flagship sponsoring of the Marietta Giannakou Program is a landmark initiative that reflects the donor banks’ consistent commitment to supporting education, investing in the younger generation and enhancing the educational process in the country.\_