



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

**Description of the funded research project**  
**1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty**  
**Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value**  
**Research Equipment**



**Title of the research project:**  
The “ekphraseis” in the byzantine literature of the 12th century  
**Principal Investigator:** Ilias Taxidis

**Reader-friendly title:** Ekphraseis

**Scientific Area:** Humanities and Arts –  
Languages and literature (specific  
literatures)

**Institution and Country:** AUTH -  
Greece

**Host Institution:** AUTH

**Collaborating Institution(s):** -

**Project webpage  
(if applicable):**



**Budget:** 22800 euros

**Duration:** 2 years

## Research Project Synopsis

The main objective of my research project is to collect and examine in detail all ekphraseis dated to the 12th century [i.e. the written works (in prose or in verse) in which is tried the detailed and explicit description of various topics (of cities, works of art, persons, buildings, animal hunting and more)], either it concerns self-existent texts, or embedded in larger works of rhetorical content and not only. The ultimate goal of this research project is the composition of a monograph after a detailed introduction concerning the genre of ekphraseis, their characteristics and the preexistent tradition, these texts will be classified at first based on specific criteria, in order to be presented systematically and overall. Then the texts will be examined on the basis of a common outline which will include information about the authors, the larger work in which they are embedded (in the case of the inset ekphraseis) and their possible dating, as well as bibliographical information concerning the editing of the texts and the recent studies about them. Subsequently, the structure and the content of every text will be analyzed, the main interpretative and ideological, prosopographical or historical issues will be commented and of course will be also examined the key issues of language, style, narrative techniques and figures of speech.

## Project originality

**The deeper and total study of the literary production of the 12th century, but also byzantine literature as a whole, through a rhetoric genre, such as the ekphraseis.**

## Expected results & Research Project Impact

**The monograph will decisively contribute in a deeper and more versatile knowledge of the literary production of the 12th century, but also byzantine literature as a whole and an attempt to pinpoint the authors' aspects, thinking and worldview through the "imitation of antiquity". That's why the results of the research project are considered important, not only in the field of byzantine studies but also in classical studies in general.**

## The importance of this funding

**Absolute security and freedom in conducting and completing the research**



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

## COMMUNICATION

185 Syggrou Ave. & 2 Sardeon St. 2  
171 21, N. Smyrni, Greece  
+30 210 64 12 410, 420  
communication@elidek.gr  
[www.elidek.gr](http://www.elidek.gr)