



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
**HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

Postal Address: 185 Syggrou Ave. & Sardeon St. 2, 171 21 Nea Smyrni

Website: [www.elidek.gr](http://www.elidek.gr)

E-mail: [communication@elidek.gr](mailto:communication@elidek.gr)

Tel: [+30 210 6412410](tel:+302106412410), [210 6412420](tel:+302106412420)

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### **Press Release**

#### **Interactive workshops on the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows at the 4th Kastellorizo Puzzle Festival**

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) visited the island of puzzles and science games for the second consecutive year on the occasion of the 4th Kastellorizo Puzzle Festival, which took place on 11-13 October 2024.

In the framework of the Action "Exploring Seagrass meadows", the Principal Investigator of the Project "Engaging primary and secondary school students in marine sciences issues," funded by H.F.R.I., Theodoros Kevrekidis, Professor of the Department of Primary Education at the Democritus University of Thrace, and the member of the research team, Professor of the Department of Biology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Paraskevi Malea, using educational audiovisual material, presented to students from Kastellorizo, Symi, Rhodes, Kos and Athens the marine angiosperms, with emphasis on *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. During the presentation, they talked about their ecological importance and value for humans, highlighted the threats they face from human activities and how we can all contribute to their protection.

"How can we help? " the young participants asked eagerly as they discovered the underwater meadows, while shortly before the official opening of the Festival, students of all classes (Kindergarten - High School) of Kastellorizo participated in hands-on workshops, where they identified and categorized marine angiosperms, observed under the microscope specimens of *Posidonia oceanica*, taken in the marine environment of Kastellorizo, and learned ways to protect this valuable ecosystem.

The H.F.R.I. would like to thank the organizers of the Kastellorizo Puzzle Festival, Mr. Pantazis Choulis and Ms. Eleni Grammatikopoulou, for the exceptional cooperation and the opportunity to spread scientific knowledge to the far end of the Aegean.

You can find photos of the H.F.R.I.'s participation in this year's event [here](#).

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### **About HFRI**

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) was established (Law 4429/2016) in response to the vital need for supporting Greek scientists. It is a legal person governed by private law, monitored by the Ministry of Development. HFRI aims to promote research and innovation in the country. In particular, it aims to evaluate and fund unrestricted research, namely research activities, research infrastructure and their technological applications, arising from scientific curiosity, without any thematic exclusions or geographical limitations, having scientific quality and excellence as a sole criterion.

