



2023 Greek Parliamentary Elections in the UK

June 24, 2023



Celebrating 3 European Capitals of Culture at the Greek Embassy in London

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Greek Parliamentary Elections abroad and the new Government in Greece



Fewer but equally enthusiastic, Greeks residing abroad cast their votes in the Greek elections on Saturday 24 June, in 102 polling stations in 35 countries and 82 cities around the globe.

The polling stations established were more than in the previous elections in May, as the number of those registered in the special electoral rolls abroad was 25,610. That is 2,755 more than the 22,855 eligible in the previous round.

The polling stations were set up in the same countries and cities, although a polling station was created in Vancouver, Canada, while the one in Kaunas, Lithuania was eliminated. One polling station was also added in Brussels (four in total), in London (nine in total) and in Luxembourg (two in total).

The General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, which is in charge of the election process, and with the continuous cooperation of the relevant Greek Diplomatic and Consular Missions, assisted in the preparation of the election process and the operation of the polling stations around the world, a significant number of which were hosted in Embassies and other spaces belonging to Greek Authorities abroad.

In the national elections on 21 May no party achieved an overall majority, since the elections were held under a simple proportional representation system.

This time, they were contested under a different system that grants the winning party up to 50 bonus parliamentary seats.

Voting in the United Kingdom

Of the approximately 170,000 Greeks who live permanently in the United Kingdom, 5,624 were registered in the special electoral rolls. As pointed out by the Greek Ambassador in London, Yannis Tsaousis, the process, as in the previous general election, went smoothly. In total, 13 polling stations were held in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leeds, London and Birmingham.

New government in Greece

As a result of the national elections Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the New Democracy party got 158 seats in the 300-seat parliament and formed a new government.

Mitsotakis appointed Kostis Hatzidakis as his Finance Minister, while Former Finance Minister Christos Staikouras was moved to the Infrastructure and Transport Ministry. Nikos Dendias, Foreign Minister in the previous administration, was appointed Defence Minister and the Foreign Ministry portfolio went to Georgios Gerapetritis.

Former Digital Governance Minister Kyriakos Pierrakakis, who is credited with upgrading the country's digital services, is heading to the Education Ministry, with Trikala mayor Dimitris Papastergiou taking over Pierrakakis' previous post.

Niki Kerameus, the former Education Minister moved over to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kostas Skrekas took over the Ministry of Development, while Lina Mendoni remained in her previous post as Culture Minister. Giorgos Florides was appointed Minister of Justice and Pavlos Marinakis became the new Government spokesman.



Image Source: Athens-Macedonian News Agency (AMNA)

3 European Capitals of Culture in London – Event to celebrate Elefsina, Timisoara and Veszprém

On June 28 an event themed “The Contribution of Greece, Hungary and Romania to the Shaping of European Literature” was held at the Embassy of Greece in London in order to celebrate Elefsina (Greece), Timisoara (Romania) and Veszprém (Hungary) as European Capitals of Culture for 2023.



Elefsina - The Birthplace of Aeschylus

Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of Oxford, Oliver Taplin, presented with excellency “Aeschylus and his influence in shaping European and world theatre”, while passages from the works of the ancient tragedian were recited in Greek by the actress Angeliki Petropetsioti.

The bilingual edition “They Wrote about Her” by the “2023 Elefsis European Capital of Culture” Organisation, was also presented; It is a dedicated bilingual anthology for Elefsina with texts by Greek and foreign authors from antiquity to the present day.

The contribution of Romania and Hungary to world literature was also presented. Professor Raluca Rădulescu discussed on “Eugene Ionesco and Tristan Tzara: Romanian authors influencing the absurd in universal literature” and Len Rix, retired academic and prize-winning translator talked about “The



character of Hungarian Literature and its significance for the wider world”. Anca Nana Vaida and Betty Verbászi gave equally interesting performances.

The event is part of a series of activities aimed to familiarize the British public with the work of “2023 Elefsis European Capital of Culture”, with the city of Elefsina as a unique archaeological site and birthplace of Aeschylus and the Eleusinian Mysteries, but also with the contemporary face of the city.

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The event was held in cooperation with the Embassies of Romania and Hungary in London, as part of a plan of joint actions to promote the institution of the European Capital of Culture and, in particular, the cities of Elefsina, Timisoara (Romania) and Veszprém (Hungary) that jointly hold the title for 2023.



Panel discussion: Exploring the challenges and opportunities in Greece and UK's startup ecosystems



On June 13, 2023, the Embassy of Greece in the UK hosted a hybrid panel discussion on the state of play in the Greek and British startup ecosystems. The event addressed the challenges and opportunities facing current and aspiring entrepreneurs wishing to run, start or grow an innovative business in today's environment.

A stellar panel of speakers exchanged views on the factors driving Greece's startup revolution and booming tech sector, and shared valuable insights on anything from setting up and growing startups in Greece and the UK, to tech transfer and IP.



Ambassador Yannis Tsaousis and Elevate Greece CEO Michael Dritsas opened the night highlighting Greece's emergence as a regional tech and innovation hub. Providing a useful background for the discussion ahead, Mr Dritsas went on to outline Greece's initiatives to support the growth of its innovation ecosystem and underline Elevate Greece's readiness to assist.

As the Greek startup ecosystem is growing more robust and competitive, with an increasing supply of talent and funds, there's never been a better time to make an impact. Being Greece's official platform and leading resource for in-depth information on

the Greek Startup Ecosystem, Elevate Greece serves as a gateway, identifying promising startups and supporting them to grow and expand.

A vibrant audience consisting mainly of academics, founders, researchers and VCs also brought their expertise to the conversation thus contributing to a truly engaging conversation that was extended into the networking reception that followed.

The panel discussion themed "Building global companies: Opportunities and challenges presented by the Greek and the British startup ecosystems" was moderated by Tony Kypreos, Advisory Council Member and Venture Partner of Accelerate2030. The line-up of panellists included: Alex Kyriakopoulos (Co-Founder of Simpler), Pavlos Linos (CEO at Exit Bee), Yorgos Mousmoulas (Partner at Metavallon), Dr. Maria Papathanasiou (Director at Sustainable Modelling Solutions), Katerina Pramataris (Partner at Uni.Fund), Omiros D. Sarikas (CEO at Brookstreet Equity Partners LLP), and Panos Vrettos (Co-Founder of BibeCoffee).

Greek wine exports to the UK keep rising

According to the latest data, more and more British wine aficionados seem to be raising a toast to the over 300 indigenous grape varieties, millennia-old wine culture and award-winning wines of Greece.



Highlighting Greece's wines' growing recognition in the UK market, Greek wine exports have been increasing steadily over the past years.

In 2022, exports of Greek wine to the UK reached 5,6 million pounds, according to the latest official data. The UK was the 6th largest market for Greek wine worldwide, representing 7% of the country's total wine exports.

Boasting a fascinating array of indigenous grape varieties -many of which cultivated since ancient times- Greece is increasingly regarded as one of Europe's most up-and-coming wine producing countries.

The Runciman Award Ceremony 2023



On Monday 19 June, at a ceremony in the Great Hall of King's College London, the Anglo-Hellenic League announced the Runciman Award for 2023, which is given annually, since 1986, to the best book or books published the previous year in English about some aspect of Greece.

The chair of judges, Professor Peter Frankopan, in the presence of the League's Chief Patron & President, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, and a large audience in the hall, announced this year's winner: Alicia Stallings and her book «This Afterlife: Selected Poems».

The Chair of the Council of the League, Dr John Kittmer, said: «Congratulations to Alicia Stallings for winning the Anglo-Hellenic League Runciman Award 2023: the first time in the history of the prize that the award has gone to a book of poems».

From her part, the winner of the Award, Alicia Stallings, said: «...I didn't really think poetry would have a strong chance. A selected poems is a lifetime's work—and in this case, it turns out, a lifetime of creative engaging with Greek mythology, Greek history, modern Greece, and the continuum that is Greek. I couldn't be more heartened by this honour and thrilled with this affirmation, for myself, but also for poetry, and those very Greek goddesses, the Muses».

<https://www.anglohellenicleague.org/>



The Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award Ceremony 2023



The annual ceremony for the Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award 2023, organized by The Anglo-Hellenic League in partnership with the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London, took place on the 13th of June at King's College London.

The Prize, awarded to final-year undergraduates at King's College for an essay on a Greek subject, is given annually in memory of Katie Lentakis, a 'pillar' of the London Greek community and a longstanding vice- chair of the Anglo-Hellenic League. Professor Gonda van Steen, Koraeas Chair of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, announced that winner of the Katie Lentakis Award 2023 was the undergraduate student Oliver Graham and his dissertation on «Guilt and Sickness: reading an addiction narrative in Euripides' Orestes» has been judged as the winner.

Following the award ceremony, Professor Kevin Featherstone, Director of the Hellenic Observatory at London School of Economics, and Dr John Kittmer, Chair of the Anglo-Hellenic League, discussed on the Greek political scene, the developments of Greek political system through the years from 'metapolitefsi' until today and how they expected the Greek political scene to be developed in the future.



17th London Greek Film Festival Award Ceremony

The 17th London Greek Film Festival was held on the 17th of June, in the presence of a large audience, artists and representatives of the film industry. The London Greek Film festival has a long-standing history, as it started in 2008 and from its very beginning it became the international meeting point for Greek films, filmmakers, writers and artists not only from Greece but from all over the world. The 17th London Greek Film Festival was presented under the auspices of the Secretariat General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and supported by the Greek Embassy in London and the Hellenic Centre in London, who hosted this year's edition.

The Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, Mr John Chrysoulakis, reiterated his support to the promotion of Greek filming in a video message, while Ms Mariana Varvarrigou, the Head of the Public Diplomacy Office in the Greek Embassy, delivered a speech on behalf of the Greek Ambassador Mr Yannis Tsaousis.

In her speech, she stressed that art, in all its forms, can provide consolation and comfort as it helps us understand and cope with all aspects of life, tragedies, feelings, inner thoughts and experiences. She also congratulated the founder and artistic director of the London Greek Film Festival, Christos Prosyliis and Dr. Nayia Yiakoumaki and the Hellenic Center for their contribution to this event. Lastly she pointed out that Greek cinema has seen a surge in recent years developing notable directors and films especially post the financial crisis as well as that our country is an ideal filming destination with stunning filming locations and amazing weather!

Apart from the prize awarding, guests had the opportunity to enjoy the dance performance «When Flamenco meets Byzantium» presented by Ms Kalliopi Fouseki.

The film [Karagiozis the movie](#) directed by Akis Karras, Xristos Livaditis & Aikaterini Papageorgiou was awarded with the Best Fiction Feature Film (Cosmocinema Awards) and the Best Animation (Acting Code Awards). The Best Documentary Cosmocinema Award was awarded to the documentary film about music radio and the official selection in the 2023 Thessaloniki Documentary Film

Festival, [A voice in the night](#) directed by Christos Tolis, Olga Laskaritou & Aris Lychnaras. Best Director Cosmocinema Award was given to Corinna Avraamidou & Kyriacos Tofarides from Cyprus for the film IMAN.

The London Greek Film Festival is a project that promotes Greek or Greek related feature fiction films, short films, documentaries, animation, experimental films, video art and other kinds of moving image and filmmaking; promotes and supports also, the Greek culture in general, emphasising in modern authors, creators and artists and in ancient Greek culture.

It provides a welcoming space to artists, filmmakers, producers, actors, practitioners, academics, technologists and art-film lovers for discussion, education and networking. Films and screenplays accepted, from Greek Origin Individuals and Production Companies from all over the world, with no specific subject in their work (Greek Diaspora or Greek-Cypriots included), or International Individuals and Production Companies from all over the world, with film or screenplay related to Greece (i.e. subject, myths, history or filming in Greece).

You can find more about the London Greek Film Festival and 2023 awarded film and screenplays [HERE](#)



Praxis and Theatre Lab Company Present "Praxis 8: A Festival of Modern Greek Theatre"

To mark its tenth anniversary, Oxford's Greek theatre company Praxis held a day-long festival celebrating modern Greek theatre in Oxford at the Simpkins Lee Theatre, Lady Margaret Hall, on Saturday 3rd June 2023. In collaboration with Theatre Lab Company, the biggest festival of Modern Greek Theatre in the UK is now brought to the Hellenic Centre in London, at the heart of Greek Culture, on 25th of November 2023.

The Praxis 8 festival under the title WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT presented eight contemporary plays performed as rehearsed readings with English subtitles, directed by Anastasia Revi.

The 8 plays are: *Those you Couldn't Burn* by Danai Liodaki, *Beneath the Parthenon* by Minas Vidiadis, *Xerxes* by Maria Drimi, *Flying Asparagus* by Natalie Katsou, *Snow on my Teeth* by Dimitris Foutsias, *Insanity* by Danai Papoutsis, *Antigone*, *Foreigners*, and *Fire* by Penny Milia, *Ismene* by Nefeli Maistrali.

The Praxis 8 festival was conceived to provide a stage for many voices that emerged due to the profound changes of global economic and political turmoil, and to provoke reflection on how social norms can render us captives of our own identities. After receiving a massive response to its call to current Greek writers, with some 30 recent plays submitted, 8 plays were selected for the festival; their stories are heart-warming, shocking, tragic, comic, and remind us of our essential truth: our humanity. Each play was followed by live and on-screen discussions with the authors.

Anastasia Revi, the director of the Festival said that this is the biggest Festival of Modern Greek Theatre that has ever happened in UK.

"I have spent years promoting Contemporary Greece through Theatre always faithful to new, upbeat, high quality work and always outside the borders of Greek community. I am proud to say that I have been the first one who ever presented Modern Greek Theatre in UK equally with British productions in the professional Theatre industry, and I still continue this hard work. It is really rewarding for me and my team to reach the multicultural audiences of London, Oxford and Europe and it is pure joy to see that the Greeks of UK who are looking for vibrant, diverse theatre

that celebrates the Contemporary identity of Greece, are always by our side. This year with PRAXIS Theatre Group of Oxford, that is my other team after Theatre Lab Company, we decided to celebrate in a different way than the previous years. We decided "not to have one full on theatre production" like we did in the past but "to have one full on day of a Play Reading Festival" where we present the contemporary talent of Greece by choosing 8 plays out of the many wonderful ones we received, those that meet themes which reflect social sensitivities. Feminism, sexism, class division, racism, ageism, mental health issues, homophobia, eating disorders, neurodiversity are the subjects we explore this year. We do not have the answers, but we are happy and proud to raise the questions! "We are all different" is the philosophy of the team and the title of this Festival!

Praxis ("Action") was established in 2013 as the Oxford University Greek Society Drama Company, with a vision to introduce contemporary Greek plays performed in their original language to an English-speaking audience by providing subtitles, and is proud of being the first ever to do so in Oxford.

Theatre Lab Company (www.theatrelab.co.uk) is a London-based international company, with a reputation for mesmerising theatrical imagery, physical theatre/performance and devised experimental work. The Company has been invited and participated in international theatre festivals in France, Edinburgh, London, Greece, Belgrade, Dublin, Prague and New York.



Event on 'Bilingualism and Greek-English Bilingual Education' at the Greek Embassy



On Wednesday, June 21, 2023, the Education Office at the Greek Embassy in London organised a workshop on 'Bilingualism and Greek-English Bilingual Education: Experiences and Perspectives from the Greek Schools of London'. The event was attended by the Head of the Consular Office, Mr. Christos Goulas and the Deputy Education Counsellor, Dr. Eirini Veroni.

Invited speakers Dr. Froso Argyri (UCL Institute of Education), Dr. Vally Lytra (Goldsmiths, University of London) and Prof. Napoleon Katsos (University of Cambridge) highlighted the linguistic, cognitive, educational and social benefits of bilingualism and bilingual education. In addition, Elena Argyri-Rafnsson and Kyriakos Karagiannis, 15-year-old students, who graduated from the Greek Primary School of London, presented their positive experience and views on being bilingual in Greek and English.

Dr. Marilita Papastathi and Ms. Grammati Kapnia, teachers at the Greek Primary/Secondary Schools of London, discussed ways in which they integrate the English language and British societal and cultural values into the Greek curriculum. Dr. Veroni noted the contemporary need to introduce a bilingual education programme in the Greek schools of London. Concluding, Dr. Argyri presented the proposal submitted to the Ministry of Education of Greece on the development of a bilingual Greek-English curriculum for the Greek schools of London.

"Go Greek with On The Beach"

"Go Greek with On The Beach" suggests the successful event that took place at Southbank, on the 28th of June 2023.

The Greek National Tourism Organization Office in UK & Ireland in cooperation with the British Tour Operator On The Beach Holidays, acquainted the British audience with Greek gastronomy, Greek wines, summer cocktails based on mastic, while masterclass on Greek honey and tasting of Greek local products thrilled the audience.

The Greek winner of the British Master Chef in 2019, Chef Irini Tzortzoglou, shared her expertise on Greek gastronomy through masterclasses by using raw materials, recipes and culinary 'secrets' from Greece, that made the guests even more excited.

It's no wonder why Greece is - once more - one of the UK's top holiday destinations for summer.



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