

**PRESS RELEASE**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**CrediaBank & the Region of Crete Sign Memorandum of Cooperation to Promote Cretan Culinary Culture**

CrediaBank has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Region of Crete to promote Cretan Culinary Culture, as part of the Bank's commitment to strengthening the agri-food value chain through financing investments and supporting local producers who leverage technology with respect for the environment and promote the richness of the Cretan land. The Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between CrediaBank's Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Eleni Vrettou, and the Governor of the Region of Crete, Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, at the offices of the Region of Crete.

Under the Memorandum, the Bank will participate as a supporter of initiatives connecting Cretan Culinary Culture with scientific research, production, health, culture, and tourism, as well as initiatives aimed at strengthening the agri-food economy to be implemented by the Region. In particular, within the framework of the operational plan "Cretan Culinary Culture" and especially in support of the project "Crete, European Region of Gastronomy 2026," the Bank will support the organization and communication of the International Gastronomy Symposium and the individual Gastronomy Days events. The objective is to create a positive image, international outreach, and global interest in the institution, the Region of Crete, and Cretan Culinary Culture.

The International Gastronomy Symposium will bring together experts, researchers, scientists, producers, and professionals from the agri-food, gastronomy, health, culture, and tourism sectors, with the aim of highlighting trends, needs, and prospects within the value chain that will further strengthen Crete's prestige and position on the international map.

The Gastronomy Days – Celebrations of Taste are thematic events showcasing gastronomic heritage, with emphasis on local products, local cuisine, and the living traditions and customs of Crete throughout the island. These events are organized by municipalities and local organizations in collaboration with producers, entrepreneurs, women's cooperatives, chefs, and others.

On the occasion of the signing, Mr. Stylianos Iliadis, General Manager of Retail Banking & Wealth Management at CrediaBank, stated: *"At CrediaBank, today we are writing the history of banking entrepreneurship and financing in Crete in a different way: by supporting culture through Cretan nutrition and gastronomy. For us, culture is a strong pillar supporting the rural economy and the supply chain of*



*both small and large businesses within the tourism ecosystem. Through this new collaboration with the Region of Crete, we aim to contribute to the global promotion of Cretan heritage through experiential activities that connect rural and urban communities."*

The Governor of the Region of Crete, Stavros Arnaoutakis, stated: *"As the Region of Crete, today we signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with CrediaBank for the promotion of Cretan culinary culture, within the framework of the project 'Crete, European Region of Gastronomy 2026.' Through this partnership, we further showcase the heritage of our island. We firmly believe that a banking institution should not be limited solely to loans and sponsorships. It must also undertake initiatives and actively support culture and the agri-food sector, contributing to the development of local society. This is an initiative that highlights our gastronomic wealth and its creative presence in contemporary life."*

CrediaBank maintains a strong presence in Crete with 16 branches and executive staff, and has consistently supported initiatives that strengthen the island's sustainable development.