



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION, RESEARCH & RELIGION

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF  
PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION  
OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA

DIRECTORATE OF HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATION OF PIERIA  
INNOVATIVE ACTIONS DEPARTMENT

Date:	11/02/2019
Ref. Nr. .:	1763

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**SUBJECT: "INTERNATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE, MUSIC AND ATHLETIC MEETING"**

1. Approval of the Greek **Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs**(Ref. Number of Approval: Φ16/18147/Δ2-06/02/2019)
2. Auspice the Greek **Ministry of Tourism** (Ref. Number of Approval:21500-07/12/2018)
3. Auspice the Ministry of Culture and Athletics (Ref. Number of Approval 31/01/2019-Α.Π.ΥΠΠΟΑ/ΓΔΣΠ/ΔΠΤΚ/ΤΘΧ/50096/714/241)
4. Auspice the Ministry of **National Defence** (26/11/2019)
5. At the foothills of the famous Mount Olympus, the home of the ancient gods, and in the Ancient Theatre of Dion, the Directorate of High School Education in Pieria and its Innovative Actions Department organize every year the **International Youth Meeting of Ancient Drama, Music and Athletics** which is set under Approval of the Greek **Ministry of Education, Research**



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Education,  
Research and Religious  
Affairs



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Culture and Sports

**and Religious Affairs** (Ref. Number of Approval: Φ16/18147/Δ2-06/02/2019) , the Auspice the Greek **Ministry of Tourism** (Ref. Number of Approval:21500-07/12/2018), the Auspice the Ministry of Culture and Athletics (Ref. Number of Approval 31/01/2019 Α.Π.ΥΠΠΟΑ/ΓΔΣΠ/ΔΠΤΚ/ΤΘΧ/50096/714/241), the Auspice the Ministry of **National Defence** (26/11/2019)

titled :

***Theatre, Music and Athletic Games: «Ολύμπια εν Δίω» (Olympia in Dion)***

The Games last for nine (9) days and take place the second half of September. Weekends are not included. Each day is dedicated to each of the nine Pierian Muses, who according to Greek Mythology were the patron goddesses of Knowledge, Literature, Arts and Sciences. They were: Calliope, Euterpe, Clio, Erato, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, Urania.

The event is a revival of the ancient games which were held on the same place, the sacred city of the Macedonians, under the same title; “Olympia in Dion”.

In the Ancient Theatre of Dion the great tragic poet Euripides wrote and presented five of his plays among which his last masterpiece “Bacchae”. According to ancient writers, Euripides died and was buried in Pieria. On his tombstone the Athenians engraved the following epigram:

*" Χαίρε μελαμπετάλοις, Ευριπίδη, εν γυάλοισι Πιερίας τον αεί νυκτός έχων θάλαμον...ως αν λάτρης πιερίδων ναίης αγχόθι Πιερίδων".*

*“Be happy, Euripides, to have your eternal night’s home (grave) at the deep-blue see-side in Pieria...”*

*You who adored Pierian Muses continue to live close to them”*

The archaic choral, the dancing and the athletic ceremonies as well as the orpheic mystic events that were held on the slopes of Mount Olympus in honour of Zeus, king Archelaus(413-399 b.C.) established and highlighted them on a national range, where thousands of pilgrims came from all over the known world. Along with the theatre games, musical and sports games were held too, in which artists and athletes participated from the Greek and later on of Roman cities. The celebrations started with a sacrifice to Olympian Zeus. That is why they are called “Olympia in Dion”. During the reign of Phillip the II and his son Alexander the III (the Great) “Olympia in Dion” became renowned all over the world. They continued up to the Christian times as a nationwide celebration until the games “Demetria” succeeded them, after Thessaloniki became the capital of Macedonia.