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ART COLLECTION ADORNING UCY CAMPUS IN CONTEXT OF THE “STREET OF SCIENCES” PROJECT GROWS STEADILY

Sculpture of inventor of 1st electronic digital computer John Vincent Atanasoff latest gift from the Republic of Bulgaria announced during Bulgarian President’s lecture at UCY



The University of Cyprus (UCY) has welcomed another important addition to the Art Collection formed for the “Street of Sciences” Project, which is in progress, aiming at hosting permanently on its campus distinctive works of art from each EU member state that are related to the academic accomplishments of each country. The important piece of art to join the Collection is a sculpture of John Vincent Atanasoff, an American physicist and inventor of Bulgarian descent, best known for being credited with inventing the first electronic digital computer. The gift was announced by the President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev, who had been

recently paying Cyprus an official visit and was invited to give a lecture at the University titled “*Europe on the way towards the digital future*”.

Before addressing the students, the faculty and the guests, the President of Bulgaria presented the Rector Prof. Constantinos Christofides with the sculpture. In his speech, Mr. Radev said that both Cyprus and Bulgaria and their people share common values and a long history, adding that they can enhance their cooperation in the EU. He said that digitalization is an issue that is high on the agenda of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU pointing out that nowadays education through digitalization is a bridge that connects people. He referred to the single digital market which is a priority in the EU pointing out also the key issue like the ethical and moral restrictions, protection of data, security, human rights, censorship etc.

The Rector thanked the President of Bulgaria for accepting the invitation to address the University community on the subject and also for the readiness to participate in the “Street of Sciences” Project,

leaving Bulgaria's scientific mark on our University for generations of students and scholars to come. The gift is a concrete evidence of the close, cordial and cooperative relations between the two countries. As he stressed conclusively, *"Bulgaria has supported Cyprus in difficult times and continues to show solidarity. The topic of digitalization, especially in the EU, is a significant one because it defines our future"*.

End of announcement