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## **S.Flogaitis: Honorary Doctor of the State University of Mariupol and Official Visit in Mariupol**

The long- standing academic relationships between the European Public Law Organization and the State University of Mariupol have been strenthened and expanded with the visit of Professor Spyridon Flogaitis, EPLO Director, to Ukraine and the important meetings that took place in his capacity as a representative of a major scientific International insitution. Indeed, the University's Senate awarded in an official ceremony the title of Honorary Doctor of the State University of Mariupol to Professor Spyridon Flogaitis, Director of the EPLO, honoring his work and the EPLO.

Mr Flogaitis' trip to Ukraine included discussions with the Ambassador of Greece to Ukraine, Mr. Georgios Poukamisas, and visits to the EPLO Branch at the State University of Mariupol, the EU Information Center in Ukraine, the Library of Greek Studies "Anastasios G. Leventis" the Institute of Greek-Ukrainian Studies and the Greek Village of Mariupol.

The awarding ceremony for the Honored Professor which took place on **Wednesday 12 June, 2019**, was held by the Rector of the University, Associate member of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus in Mariupol Mr. Konstantin Balabanov.

The Rector stressed that the decision to award the title was unanimously approved by the Senate of the University. For many years, the State University of Mariupol cooperates effectively with the European Public Law Organization and it is the first university in Ukraine to be accepted in this international organization.

Since 2006, the university hosts the branch office of EPLO in Ukraine, which contributes to the development of legal education and science. The SUM has assisted the process for Ukraine to become a member of the European Public Law Organization. This has resulted, to the participation of SMU students in the international programs of the EPLO, as well as the implementation of joint research programs under the Erasmus+ and the organization of scientific events with the support of the EPLO.

Spyridon Flogaitis has visited many times the State University of Mariupol, has given lectures to the students and has participated in scientific conferences. During this visit, issues of support for legal specialties were discussed, in particular the new specialization "International Law", which will start operating at the University from this year.