**Petition in support of the Sectoral Strike in Research and Higher Education on June 15th**

**Strike rallies: 9:00 AM NTUA | 12:00 PM GSRT (14 Mesogeion Ave)**

Unpaid and insecure work in the research sector is a regime; this was the main reason that led to the creation of the Panhellenic Union of Workers in Research and Higher Education two years ago. Under these conditions, postdoctoral researchers and doctoral candidates are the ones who constitute the backbone of academic research in Greece. Ministries and university administrations speak proudly of our work when ranking lists are published or whenever we win an award. However, they are never there to support us in our daily lives, even though we are the ones who bring in millions every year through international programs and our research. If we stop working, universities will collapse!

**Two examples of the feudalistic working conditions prevailing in Academia:**

No. 1: Doctoral candidates are obligated to provide ancillary work, because as university administrations claim, they will gain experience. Nevertheless, what is masked as “ancillary work” usually covers permanent and ongoing needs of institutions with flexible, cheap, or unpaid labour, replacing permanent and specialized personnel positions. The responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and the governments that have underfunded universities for years are enormous, but the universities’ administration also have their share. They find “easy prey” in doctoral candidates in order to fill gaps, instead of demanding and fighting for permanently hiring the staff that institutions need, for both research and education processes.

No. 2: The State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) demands that colleagues in its "B cycle" and "mature doctoral" programs return the stipends received (€30,000!). It even goes so far as to call and threaten that in case of delay, the amount will be multiplied and handed over to the tax authorities, reminiscent of the practices of loan sharks. The demands of IKY are unreasonable and outside any scientific and academic framework. The deliverables it requires, under the threat of stipend return, do not consider the appropriate time required to produce scientific work.

In response to the feudalistic working conditions prevailing in the research sector, characterized by fragmentation, insecurity, non-recognition of our work as such, and the overall denial of any possibility of decent living, the Union of Workers in Research and Higher Education demands a Collective Labour Contract (CLC).

**No return of stipends - No unpaid hours of teaching & research work**

**For labour rights in research and teaching**

**For dignified work with salary, working hours, and insurance.**