

Women that made a career in the early years of the National Center for Scientific Research “DEMOKRITOS” in Athens, Greece

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This paper aims at the presentation of female scientists that made a career in the early years of the National Center for Scientific Research “DEMOKRITOS” in Athens, Greece. DEMOKRITOS is among the oldest Greek National Research Centres, founded in 1959 as a Centre of Excellence for the development of Nuclear Science and Technology in Greece in view of building nuclear power plants in the country. For this scope an experimental nuclear reactor has been donated to Greece by the U.S.A. forming thus the “Nuclear Center DEMOKRITOS” under the auspices of the queen of Greece at the time. Because of the importance placed on the development of such a frontend knowledge and technology, DEMOKRITOS had gained high esteem among the scientific community of in the 60's making the selection of the scientific personnel quite competitive. Despite this constrain, some very brilliant and determined women managed to be among the scientific community of DEMOKRITOS and contributed in the evolution of the Center. As the “nuclear idea” has declined in the 80's, DEMOKRITOS has been transformed into a multidisciplinary research centre, still the largest in Greece, performing R&D in the area of physical sciences and technology (www.demokritos.gr) in domains ranging from Informatics and Telecommunication to Material Science, Biology, Nuclear Physics and Nuclear Technology- Radiation Protection. It employs about 600 permanent and fixed-term-contract employees, while the men/women ration in both scientific and technical staff is fully balanced nowadays.