



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Greek startup introduces the first Virtual Reality learning experience about ancient Greek culture.**

*For the first time, one of Greece's most important archaeological museums becomes accessible to all through high-end technology.*

**KOTINOSvr** tells the story of Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the original Olympic Games (776 BC). With the help of 360° photography and Virtual Reality users can *travel* to Ancient Olympia's museum and find out about the archaeological exhibits, the Ancient Olympic Games and their ideals, the athletes, the events, and the Ancient Greek culture in general. The virtual tour is enriched with educational games, interactive quizzes and fun activities, making learning an exciting overall experience for the digital generation.

**The application** will be available for Virtual Reality (VR) headsets such as Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR, Google Cardboard, and more. There will also be a version for tablets, smartphones, computers and laptops.

**The final application will be available for free to all public schools**, making Greek culture and Ancient Olympia treasures accessible to students and teachers around the world.

**SpinAround, the startup behind the project**, has received approval by the Greek Ministry of Culture for the development of the application. The team has been working with virtual reality for more than 2 years, developing some unique skills in VR applications. Now it brings the project on **Indiegogo**, aiming to raise 150.000€ - a minimum amount needed to complete the project, 63% of which will cover human resources costs.

**According to SpinAround's CEO** and project initiator, Dimitris Christodoulou, this is more than a technological innovation.

*"Virtual Reality is a once-in-a-generation technology that can change everything. For our team, it's an exciting way to introduce Ancient Greek culture to the digital generation. Anyone can recognise the significance of that, especially at these difficult times. We might not be a Silicon Valley start up or have the funds to go for it ourselves, but we have the passion, skills and dedication to start an immersive journey to the pillars of modern civilisation. Let's talk to our children about philosophy, humanism, peace, fair play, in a way that will grab their attention. This is an invaluable learning journey that starts from Ancient Olympia and we wish to continue to all of Greece's archaeological treasures."*

**The crowdfunding campaign starts on Indiegogo on the 13th of June.**

**Please share a few words about the project during the campaign and help KOTINOSvr become a reality.**

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If you'd like more information about KOTINOSvr or to schedule an interview with a team member, please email [info@spinaround.gr](mailto:info@spinaround.gr) or send a tweet [@KOTINOSvr](https://twitter.com/KOTINOSvr).

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### ***Campaign Launch on 13th of June***

Website: [www.kotinosvr.com](http://www.kotinosvr.com)

Campaign page on Indiegogo: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/kotinos-experience-ancient-olympia#/>

## About Ancient Olympia

**Ancient Olympia**, located in western Peloponnese, is considered a place of outstanding universal value, with a history that dates back to the end of the Neolithic times (4th millennium BC). The sanctuary of Olympia was a major religious, cultural and sporting centre, a pole of attraction for Hellenism.

In this place, the Olympic idea was born making Olympia a universal symbol of peace and fair competition. Starting in 776 BC, athletes from all the Greek cities of the Mediterranean world came to compete, demonstrating the ideals of Hellenic humanism: peaceful and loyal competition between free and equal men, with their only ambition being the symbolic reward of an olive wreath (greek: *κόρινος*). From this sacred place, the Olympic flame of modern Olympics starts its journey to the city where the games are held.

**The archaeological museum of Ancient Olympia** presents the long history of the most celebrated sanctuary of antiquity, the sanctuary of Zeus, father of both gods and men. The museum's permanent exhibition contains finds from the excavations in the sacred precinct of the Altis dating from prehistoric times to the Early Christian period. The museum is home to the richest bronze collection of its type in the world, a large terracottas collection and a unique sculpture collection, including some of the world's masterpieces: the Hermes of Praxiteles, the Nike of Paionios, the sculptured ornaments from the Temple of Zeus and Pheidias workshop. According to UNESCO *"the sanctuary of the Altis contained one of the highest concentrations of masterpieces of the ancient Mediterranean world", "...all major works of sculpture and key references in the history of art"*. (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/517>)

## About SpinAround

SpinAround was introduced in 2013 and is a startup with experience in full 360° virtual tours and a focus on educational experiences. The team has completed a series of projects including virtual guides for the Gastronomy Museum of Athens, Parnassus Literary Society and local municipalities. The last few months the team is working on KOTINOSvr, the first of a series of VR educational applications dedicated to Greece's most prominent museums and monuments.