

Opening remarks by Andreas Dracopoulos, SNF Co-President

DIALOGUES: Stereotypes

We would like to thank all of you for coming to our Foundation's event today. You are honoring us with your presence.

We wish to thank Giorgos Koumentakis, and his associates at the Greek National Opera, as well as Nikos Manolopoulos, and his colleagues at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, for their hospitality. When we are here, among so many familiar faces, it is always a special feeling for us. Mostly, it is pride.

We want to thank our colleagues at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and especially Lena Vlavianou, Elenia Saloutsi, Asimina Koutroumpousi, Thanasis Politis and, of course, Anna Bousdoukou, for everything that they have accomplished in a very short time with the DIALOGUES project. Thank you!

Dialogue: In our time, dialogue is necessary for us to be able to tackle the thousands of challenges we face, either as individuals or as members of a human society. Only through continuous dialogue, based on mutual respect and mutual understanding, can we move forward, by dealing with adverse conditions, or by simply following developments around us; otherwise, it is a matter of time until artificial intelligence swallows us all up, without exception. Only through dialogue will we, as a human species, be able to develop our emotional intelligence (EQ), a basic human asset. Even monologue—despite the fact that as an inherent stereotype, it is not considered preferable—is sometimes nothing but a dialogue with ourselves; also necessary for us to become better in dialogue with our fellowmen.

It is time for me to hand over the microphone to Anna, and to our guests. We would especially like to thank Nujeen Mustafa, who traveled here from Germany to be with us, as well as the Barcelona Foundation, and its Director, Maria Valles, thanks to whom we found out about Nujeen and her work.