

2nd TFTD Hybrid Forum | June 27-28, 2022

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



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**Nikolaos Bakatselos**  
President  
AmChamGR

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of “Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.” and “Pyramis Deutschland GmbH”. Nikolaos Bakatselos was Member of the Board of Directors, and Deputy Managing Director, of “Northern Greece Publishing S.A.”. He has held the position of Managing Director of “Imperium AEX”, and Member of the Board of Directors of “Egnatia Bank Securities S.A.”. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. Nikolaos Bakatselos was a Member of the Steering Committee of the “International Hellenic University” from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board of Directors of SVE, Member of the Board of Directors of IOBE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece. After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American – Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AmChamGR and President of the Northern Greece Committee and since June 2019 he is the President of AmChamGR. Nikolaos Bakatselos is Founding Member and Member of the Board of Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Dr. Babis Bakolias is Director and General Manager at ANSYS Hellas. ANSYS is the global leader of pervasive simulation technologies, a member of S&P500 and Nasdaq-100. Prior to ANSYS and since 2010, Babis worked as General Manager at Helic S.A., a Greek, US-headquartered R&D company producing simulation software for the global semiconductor market. Before Helic, he worked primarily in R&D product development roles, both as scientist and manager, in London, Cambridge and Athens. Babis holds a BSc in Physics, a MSc in Optoelectronics from Queens University Belfast, a PhD in Machine Vision from Imperial College London and an MBA from Athens University of Business and Economics.

### **Babis Bakolias**

Director and General Manager  
ANSYS Hellas

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## Connecting the dots



**Wassili Bertoen**

Managing Partner  
Deloitte Center for the Edge

Wassili is the Managing Partner of the Deloitte Center for the Edge EMEA. Previously, he was the founder and managing director of Deloitte Innovation BV in the Netherlands, a successful incubator. Wassili has more than 15 years of experience in innovation. His focus and passion is to activate organizations to unlock their full innovation potential. His expertise is making organizations and individuals aware of new opportunities on the edge and help them to profit from those. Wassili has been leading strategic innovation transformations at board level at many corporates in different Industries. He is also the co-founder (together with HRH Constantijn van Oranje and former ING CEO Ralph Hamers) of Amstel Dialogues. A peer to peer CEO dialogue platform in which they share their most urgent personal leadership dilemma's around the transformation of their companies.

### Company Profile

Deloitte Center for the Edge partners with CEOs and senior executives to make sense of and profit from emerging opportunities on the edge of business and technology. We help leaders understand the fundamental changes shaping the world, navigate the short-term challenges and identify long term opportunities. The Center for the Edge is headquartered in Silicon Valley and has teams in Australia and Europe. We conduct original research and develops substantive points of view, organizes exclusive executive sessions and leverages an ecosystem of partners to realize new corporate growth.

<http://www.deloitte.nl/c4e>

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Themis Christophidou is the Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, since March 2018. She is a civil engineer with 35 years of experience in private and public sector management. After having worked in the private sector for 15 years, she joined the European Commission in 2001. During the last 20 years she has held various positions, including in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, as Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and as Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. Themis Christophidou is an alumna of the civil engineering faculty of the Metsovio Polytechnic University of Athens. Born in Famagusta, Cyprus, she is trilingual, fluent in Greek, French, English.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChristophidouEU>

### **Themis Christophidou**

Directorate-General for Education  
and Culture  
European Commission



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Alexandros Costopoulos**  
Secretary General  
AmChamGR

Alexandros Costopoulos is a communications strategist, renowned speaker and seasoned contributor to leading international and Greek media on communications, credibility, soft skills and U.S. relations. Founder and CEO of FORESIGHT, Mr. Costopoulos has collaborated with distinguished individuals and prominent organizations from the political, academic and business spheres in the United States, Greece and the broader southeast European region, providing critical insight and developing bespoke results-driven strategies and tactics related to public affairs, reputation management, public diplomacy, civil society engagement and American affairs. He is the Secretary General of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Director for Greece of American Citizens Abroad and Co-Founder of the Institute for Regional Dialogue and Strategy. He has written various social and political opinion editorials for top newspapers and magazines in Greece and has spoken extensively on the importance of cooperation and smart power. He has published two books, “Bridges of Cooperation-Marshall Plan and Greece” in 2008 and “Bridges of Liberty- American Philhellenism in the 18th and 19th Centuries” in 2009. In December 2011 he founded RepowerGreece, an international grassroots public diplomacy initiative that empowered a new way of thinking in facing emerging challenges and contributed to redefining Greece by confronting misconceptions that dominated the public sphere during the global economic crisis, through discussion events at leading think tanks and universities.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Lieven is the Global Learning and Deloitte University Leader of Deloitte. He is responsible for the development and implementation of both the global learning and development strategy and the global Deloitte University strategy at Deloitte. Deloitte's vision is to grow leaders for the future, build world class capabilities for maximum client impact, and consistently deliver an exceptional development experience to its people. The 6 Deloitte Universities across the globe provide a unique development experience where Deloitte grows the world best leaders, inspires lasting connections and drives towards undisputed leadership.

### Lieven De Groodt

Global Learning and Deloitte  
University Leader  
Deloitte

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



### Christos Dimas

Deputy Minister for Research and  
Technology  
Ministry of Development and  
Investments

Dr Christos Dimas is the Deputy Minister for Development and Investments in charge of Research and Innovation. He is a lawyer and Member of the Hellenic Parliament representing New Democracy in the district of Korinthia. Before entering politics, he worked in the private sector as a business consultant for The Boston Consulting Group (BCG). He was born on the 29th of May 1980. He graduated from the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Queen Mary University in London. He completed his Master Degree in Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He then finished his PhD in European Political Economy from the LSE, with a scholarship from the Alexander Onassis Foundation. Parallel to his studies, he worked as a correspondent in London for Apogevmatini newspaper while also practicing journalism at the BBC. At the age of 25 he was a teaching assistant at the LSE while teaching at ICON College in the University of Leicester and was a research fellow at the Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence. He was elected as an MP in the district of Korinthia, with New Democracy in the May 2012 elections and has been re-elected ever since. In his spare time he enjoys playing football and basketball and reading history books. He is married to the lawyer Nicoleta Syrengela and they have one daughter and a son.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Nico Gariboldi**

Site Lead, Global Center for Digital  
Innovation - Senior Director  
Pfizer

Nico started his career in Pfizer Italy 16 years ago, serving as Brand Manager of peri-LOE products, Commercial Effectiveness Manager, Business Intelligence Advisor, Supply Policy Specialist, and Junior Analyst. He has since then held roles of increasing local, regional and global responsibility. Most recently, Nico was Global Capability Lead for the healthcare provider portal experience within the Customer Experience team and prior was Senior Director, Global Lead for Customer Engagement and Content Strategy for Pfizer Essential Health. In that role, he managed the team responsible for creating enterprise customer engagement strategies (digital and face-to-face) that supported commercial, scientific and business goals, based on an omni-channel approach and content marketing strategy. Nico earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from La Sapienza University in Rome.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Allan E. Goodman**

President and CEO

Institute of International Education

Dr. Allan E. Goodman is the sixth President of the Institute of International Education, which marked its Centennial in 2019. IIE promotes the exchange of scholars and students, rescues scholars, students, and artists from persecution, displacement, and crises, conducts research on international academic mobility, and administers the Fulbright program sponsored by the United States Department of State, as well as over 200 other corporate, government and privately-sponsored programs. U.S. Senate Resolution 146 passed unanimously in April 2019 commending IIE for its work in all these areas. Dr. Goodman is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a founding member of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), and serves on the selection committees for the Rhodes and Schwarzman Scholars and the WISE and Yidan Prizes. He also serves on the Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees of the Education Above All Foundation. Dr. Goodman has a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard, an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and a B.S. from Northwestern University, and is the recipient of honorary degrees from Canadian, European, Japanese, UK, and US universities. He received decorations for his work in promoting educational exchange and scholar rescue from the governments of France, Germany, and Norway; he received the first Gilbert Medal from the Universitas 21 Organisation. Before joining IIE, Dr Goodman was Executive Dean of the School of Foreign Service and Professor at Georgetown University. His books on international relations are published by Princeton, Harvard, and Yale University presses. He has served at the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Vassilis Kafatos**  
Vice President  
AmChamGR

Vassilis Kafatos (Partner) is Deloitte Greece Clients & Industries Leader and President of the Deloitte Alexander Competence Center. He specializes in corporate & digital strategy, innovation, business model transformation, mergers & acquisitions, financial restructuring and operational excellence. Vassilis has over 20 years of advisory experience in various sectors including travel, hospitality, investment management, consumer business and manufacturing. He serves as a Trustee of the Board of Anatolia College, as the Vice President of the American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as the President of the Advisory Board of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece and as an Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Industries of Greece. He holds a degree in Economic Science from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MBA in Corporate Strategy from the University of Texas at Austin and postgraduate diplomas in Business Leadership from IMD, Lausanne.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Eva Kaili**

Vice-President  
European Parliament

Eva Kaili has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2014. In January 2022, she was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament for the second half of the 9th legislature. Her responsibilities include the Parliament's ICT Innovation Strategy, Informatics & Telecommunications, the STOA Panel, CSR, and replacing the President for Middle East, business associations, and multilateral bodies. She is the first woman to have chaired the STOA Panel and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence. She is a Member of the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy; Economic and Monetary Affairs; Budgets; Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age; and the Pegasus Committee of Inquiry. Eva has worked on promoting innovation as a driving force of the European Digital Single Market. She has been the draftsman of legislation on blockchain, big data, fintech, AI, cybersecurity, cybersurveillance, EFSI2, InvestEU, and FuelEU Maritime. Prior to being elected as MEP, Eva was a Member of the Greek Parliament. Before that, she worked as a journalist. She has a BA in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and a Postgraduate degree in European Politics.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



### Stavros Kalafatis

Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Interior  
(Sector of Macedonia-Thrace)

Stavros Kalafatis is the Deputy Minister of Interior Responsible for Macedonia - Thrace. He also served as Deputy Minister of Development (2007 – 2009), Minister of Macedonia – Thrace (2009), Alternate Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (2012-2014). He’s been a member of the Greek Parliament since 2003. He’s been reelected as a member of the Parliament in 2004, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2019. His political carrier started in 1998 when he was elected into the Municipal Council of Thessaloniki and sworn in as Deputy Mayor responsible for the Environment and the Green Belt in 1999. He served as special advisor of Communications and Public/International Relations to the Municipal Council of Thessaloniki (2000-December 2002). He was born in Thessaloniki in 1965. He’s an Attorney at Law. He studied Law at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and continued his education receiving an MA in International Studies from the same institution in 1991. In 1994, he took a second MA from the University of Maryland, USA, in Sports Management. He worked as a Communications Manager for “Macedonia”, one of the most popular newspapers in Greece. He was a Management and Communications Consultant of the soccer team PAOK. He also taught sports management at private colleges. He’s married to Vicky Moisiadou with whom he has a daughter and a son.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

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### **Panayiotis Ketikidis**

Vice President for  
Research and Innovation  
City College

Professor Panayiotis H. Ketikidis is the Chairman of the South East European Research Centre (SEERC) and the Vice President for Research and Innovation of CITY College, University of York Europe Campus. Prof Ketikidis has over 30 years of experience in management, education, innovation, research, and competitive research funding with various networks established as a result of this experience. Prof. KETIKIDIS is a Board member in several profit and non-profit professional associations supporting and mobilizing the knowledge triangle (research, business and education) to facilitate innovation. He is the president and founder of the Triple Helix Association Chapter of Greece (2013-present); Executive Committee Board Member of EBAN - The European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds and Early Stage Market Players, (2020-present); Co-founder of HeBAN - Hellenic Business Angels Network (2015-present); Member of the Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee – Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce (2015-present); Emeritus Member of the Management Board - Exporters' Association of Greece - Chairman of the Digital Transformation Committee (2020-present) and Expert Evaluator for the European Innovation Council (EIC).



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Alexis Kokkos**

Emeritus Professor

Hellenic Open University

Head of diaNEOsis Research on  
Adult Education in Greece

Alexis Kokkos is Emeritus Professor in the Hellenic Open University. He has actively participated in the establishment of the institution of Popular Education in Greece, as well as in the foundation of the Hellenic Open University. He was the scientific responsible of the national program of Training the Trainers of Adult Education. He is Chairperson of the Hellenic Adult Education Association and editor-in-chief of the international journal ADULT EDUCATION Critical Issues. Alexis was scientific director of the Program “Education through Art”, which was addressed to 3.000 educators in various countries under the auspices of UNESCO. His books and articles on Adult Education, Transformative Learning, and Art have been published in Jossey-Bass, Palgrave Macmillan, Brill/Sense, Routledge, Nova Science Publishers, Journal of Transformative Education, RELA, Convergence, LifeLong Learning in Europe, International Journal of Education and Ageing, Andragogical Studies, International Journal of Vocational and Technical Education. He is member of the Leadership Circle of the International Transformative Learning Association (ITLA) and was co-convenor of the European Network of ESREA Transformative Processes in Learning and Education (2013-2021). He has been advisor on issues related to adult education of the Greek Prime Minister (2009-2012) and the General Secretary of Lifelong Learning (2019-). He has been awarded for his Exemplary Service and Leadership within the international transformative learning community.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Iro Koliakou**  
STEM Coordinator  
Anatolia College

Dr. Iro Koliakou is the STEM Coordinator of Anatolia College. She coordinates EU funded projects in Anatolia College related to STEAM education and teaches Physics in Anatolia College Highschool. She also teaches in the Masters Program Regenerative Medicine of the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She is a member of the instructional staff of the John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Greece and has developed the online course Biomedical Engineering and the future of Medicine. She is an ambassador for Scientix, the community for science education in Europe, a member of the executive board of European STEAM educators association and a member of Science on Stage Deutschland, developing STEM activities related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. She is a member of the Greek Women in STEM Association, a mentor for Real Science and a member of the Global talent mentoring program. She holds a Physics degree from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a Master of Science from the Biomedical Engineering Department of Imperial College London and a PhD from the Biology Department of Aristotle University Thessaloniki. From 2009 she has worked in the private biotechnology sector in laboratory quality management and research and development responsible for implementation and internal audits of European R&D projects. She has published 16 scientific papers in international journals. She has received teacher training from ESA Robotics and Automation Lab (2018), European Molecular Biology Learning Lab ( 2017 & 2020 ), CERN (2019) and European Schoolnet Future Learning Classroom ( 2019).



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



### **Athanasios Kouimtzis**

BoD Member and Chair  
Agrotechnology Committee  
American-Hellenic Chamber of  
Commerce

Athanasios Kouimtzis is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KOUIMTZIS Group focusing on engineering innovations and new technologies. Based in Thessaloniki since 1936, the KOUIMTZI Group is an internationally leading manufacturer and supplier of mechanical accessories. The pioneering approach in the industry supports the creation of a reliable network in more than 40 countries exporting 70% of production. Under its management, the Group expanded its activities, listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange, implemented new trading plans, agreed on new partnerships, developed its extroversion, expanded its facilities, acquired exclusive representations of multinational giants companies, and created new sources of revenue and transformed into a modern company. Prior to joining the family business, Mr. Kouimtzis worked at the Greek Embassy in Washington DC and at the shipping company World Carrier Corporation. He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Agrotechnology Committee as a member of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), is an Adviser to the Exporters Association (SEVE) and is also a member of the Board of the European Union of the United States Army (AUSA-European Region). He was President of the Board of Trustees, Pinewood American International Schools of Thessaloniki in the period 2018-2019. Athanasios Kouimtzis studied Business Administration and Political Science at Barton College and holds a Master's degree in National Security and an MBA in Multinational Business Administration from Georgetown University, USA.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Konstantinos Koukountzos is the Managing Director of Kleemann, one of the major elevator manufacturing companies in the European and global market based in Greece, Kilkis, with its distribution network expanding to more than 100 countries. Born in 1973, Konstantinos holds a diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the Polytechnic School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and a Master Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Boston University, USA. Before his current position he has worked as MD in Leistriz in Bochum, Germany, as Kleemann's Plant Director and Kleemann's General Manager. He is a member of the Managing Committee and the Board of Directors of SBE (Federation of Industries of Greece), a Member of the Northern Greece Committee of AMCHAM, the Vice President of PETAK (Lift Technology Association of Greece) and also a Member of the Board of Directors of ThessIntec SA.

### **Konstantinos Koukountzos**

Managing Director  
Kleemann

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Venetia Koussia**

Chair

Employment Committee  
AmChamGR

During her longstanding career, Dr. Venetia Koussia has acquired senior management positions in companies of various sectors, leading them successfully through highly volatile market conditions by designing and implementing socially responsible growth strategies. Having an active role in the world of work issues on a national, European, and international level and through her dynamic engagement in esteemed institutions, she participates in the design and implementation of initiatives aiming to improve the national competitiveness. These efforts are based on the following axes: The strengthening of an innovation ecosystem capable to nurture dynamic business. The enhancement of Boards' effectiveness to assist organizational resilience. The rethinking of the labor laws and social protection for the new economy and the new needs of the workforce. The emphasis needed on skills for jobs and "markets of tomorrow" rather than on jobs and occupations. Since November 2018 she has been appointed as the executive director of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece – CompeteGR. Since 2013 she serves at the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (elected member for the last three terms). Through her Chair of the Employment Committee of AmCham has created several initiatives concerning skills and future world of work. Believing in the power of "actions" she devotes some dozens of hours annually from her personal time in assisting people to unleash their potential. Since Spring 2016 she is the owner and founder of VenetiaKoussia.net and acts as a trusted advisor to Boards and CEOs for People-Processes-Partnerships issues. Advocate of Lifelong Learning in February 2017 she acquired the Financial Times Postgraduate Diploma for Non-Executive Directors (NED) being among the first certified NEDs in Greece. She holds a Ph.D. in Corporate Strategic Planning for Banking Services and an M. Phil. in Agricultural Marketing and Market Research, both from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom. Her first degree (B.Sc.) is in Business Administration from the Deree College, American College of Greece.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Rania Lampou**

Director of Educational Technology  
and Innovation  
Ministry of Education and Religious  
Affairs

Rania Lampou is a Global Educator, STEM instructor, ICT teacher trainer, neuroeducation researcher, international keynote speaker, author of scientific books for kids and global peace ambassador in Greece. She has a post-graduate degree (M.Ed.) in language teaching related to cognitive neurosciences and she is also a passionate researcher on cognitive neurosciences, neuroeducation and neuromarketing. Currently, she is a STEM instructor at the Greek Astronomy and Space Company (Annex of Salamis) and she is also working at the Greek Ministry of Education, at the Directorate of Educational Technology and Innovation, where she writes STE(A)M projects for Greek schools. She has been awarded many national and international prizes (over 150) and she is a "Global Teacher Award 2020 & 2021" (AKS Awards) winner and a "Global Teacher Prize finalist 2019" (Varkey Foundation). Recently, she has been selected as "Global Icon 2020" featured in "Passion Vista" Magazine, among the top 10 women entrepreneurs featured in "Fortune", among the "100 most successful women in business" featured in an Amazon book by "Global Trade Chamber" and among the "Top 10 CEO's of the year 2021-22". She features in the book «The 28 Credentials of an Entrepreneur» by «Global Business & Investment Consulting firm», in the book «Queens Book 2021» by «Hoinser New Group», in the book «101 great educators who have inspired the world» by «International Internship University», in the book «100 Inspirational Super Women» by «ESN publications» and in the book «100 eminent academicians of 2021» by «I2OR Academy». She promotes STEM vision by introducing STEM in astronomy and physics projects and combines STEM with Language Teaching. She is the founder and international coordinator of many innovative international projects that focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals described in the 2030 Agenda. She is also an author of scientific books for kids. Furthermore, she is a social activist, a global peace ambassador, senior advisor of United Nations Peace-Keepers Federal Council (UNPKFC) and ambassador of the Ecumenical Delphic Union. She is also a member of the educational committee of the Ecumenical Delphic Union in collaboration with Harvard University and International Ambassador of Volunteerism and Education of the "Greek Academy of Volunteerism Help Hellas". She has received many humanitarian and peace awards from International Humanitarian Organizations. She is CEO & Board Member of International Internship University, Global Council Member of "Chartered Institute of Leadership, Education and Development", Country Chair of "G100", Advisory Board Member of the "Asian-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry", "Africa Asia Scholars Global Network", "Advisory Council for the School of Education, GD Goenka University", President (for Greece) of "International Internship University", "Access to Human Rights International", "Ladies of All Nations International", "Beyond Books Publication", "Global Women Youth Leaders", "LEAD Philippines", "World Voice International", "Edu World Voice", "Academic Development for "Global Leadership in Education", "Igniting Dreams of Young Minds Foundation" and member of the "International Institute of Influencers". She is also an International Executive Member of "Global Edu Leaders Forum", Honorary Ambassador of "Charles Walter's Society for Innovation and Research", Education Ambassador & Member of the International Organization of Educators and Researchers Inc. (IOER), Ambassador of the National Education Policy 2020 of India (Nep2020), International Advisor of the: "South Asian Institute of Advanced Research and Development", "Center for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development", "K12 Digest Magazine", "International Youth Society", "Global Peace Councils" and a mentor of the "100 mentors platform. She is an Editorial Board Member of many journals. She has presented her research in numerous international conferences and e-conferences and she has published work in various journals.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Effie Lazaridou**

Chief Executive Officer

New Agriculture New Generation

Effie is leading 'New Agriculture New Generation', a non-profit organization established under the initiative and with the founding support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) in 2018. 'New Agriculture New Generation' supports employability, entrepreneurship and innovation across the agrifood value chain in Greece. The organization has supported to date 7.000+ beneficiaries and professionals and 100+ small or family-owned agrifood business and startups, while at the same time contributing to the establishment of new producer groups and cooperatives as well as to the development of numerous new agrifood products. She is an experienced professional in the fields of strategic marketing and branding, specializing in the Agrifood sector, Culture and Tourism and has a successful track record for implementing complex international projects. Among others, Effie has led landmark projects of national importance, such as Destination Greece's brand and marketing strategy, the largest communication consultancy project ever initiated in the country, and Greece's Wine Sector's first ever international branding & strategic marketing initiative. She has also directed numerous demanding projects for multinationals companies, cooperatives, and SMEs in Southeast Europe. She has a diverse academic background, holding an Integrated Master in Chemical Engineering from the Aristotelio University of Thessaloniki, a Master in Cultural Management from the City University of London and Professional PGDip in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing of London. She is a member of the Agricultural Technology Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and of the Agricultural Economy Committee of the German - Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Effie is also a trainer and certified business coach, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing London and an Associate Certified Coach by the International Coach Federation. In 2017 she was selected as mentor at the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women's Mentoring Women in Business Program. She plays the flute, is a volunteer with Make-A-Wish Greece and a regular speaker on women empowerment.

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## Connecting the dots



**Elizabeth K. Lee**

Consul General

US Consulate General Thessaloniki

Consul General Elizabeth K. Lee arrived in Thessaloniki in August 2020. Ms. Lee is a career member of the Foreign Service with fourteen years' experience as a foreign policy leader, manager, and negotiator on a diverse range of regions and issues, including the Middle East, East Asia, and the United Nations Security Council. Previous assignments include the U.S. Embassies in Seoul and Baghdad, the former U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City, and the Israel and Palestinian Affairs Desk at the State Department in Washington D.C. Ms. Lee holds an M.A. degree in Public Policy and International Affairs from Princeton University, a law degree (J.D.) from the University of Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Grinnell College. She is proficient in Greek, Korean, and Hebrew, and has studied Arabic and Spanish. She is from California and is accompanied by her Golden Retriever, Pumpkin, aka Kolokithoula. She was the President of glifaa (LGBT+ Pride in Foreign Affairs Agencies) from 2018-2019.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Luca Lepore**

Business Development Manager  
Cisco Italy, Romania, Bulgaria,  
Cyprus, Israel and Malta

Luca Lepore is CSR Corporate Affairs Business Development Manager for South Europe (Italy, Israel, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Kosovo, Greece, Cyprus and Malta). In this role he manages Cisco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and initiatives and has a big focus on Networking Academy, a Computing and ICT training program that equips people with the skills to succeed in today and tomorrow's increasingly connected world. Luca joined Cisco, the worldwide leader of networking for the Internet, in 2000 as recruitment specialist for Italy. In 2001 Luca took the role of University Relations Manager for EMEA region (Europe Middle East and Africa). In 2002 Luca became Program Manager Education for Italy and later Marketing Program Manager for the East Mediterranean region. In 2016 Luca took the role of Education Lead for the Country Digitisation Acceleration program in Italy and CSR Corporate Affairs Business Development Manager for South Europe (Italy, Israel, Greece, Cyprus and Malta). Recently responsibility has been extended to Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. Prior to joining Cisco, Luca worked with companies like HP and Manpower. In 2004 he promoted the creation of the association ASSINT that represents the best IT training institutions in Italy and currently he is a board member. Since January 2000 member of the Italian journalists register. Luca is a Political Science graduate with honors and a specialisation in Sociology. He has over 25 years of experience in Education, CSR, Marketing, Communication, Recruitment, Partners Management and Business Development in the IT industry. Passionate about technology and innovation, great supporter of Corporate Social Responsibility and education, he believes technology and skills are key for a better society.



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## Connecting the dots



**Robert I. Lerman**  
Fellow  
Urban Institute

Dr. Robert I. Lerman is an Institute Fellow at Urban Institute and Emeritus Professor of Economics at American University. Dr. Lerman was one of the first scholars to examine the economic determinants of unwed fatherhood and to propose a youth apprenticeship strategy in the U.S. His published research covers family structure, inequality, income support, and youth employment and development. A leading academic expert on U.S. apprenticeship, Dr. Lerman has testified before congressional committees and served on a National Academy of Sciences panel on the U.S. training system.

He is currently principal investigator of the evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative and a Youth Apprenticeship Intermediary grant to stimulate employers to start apprenticeships. Dr. Lerman has recently co-founded Apprenticeships for America (<https://apprenticeshipsforamerica.squarespace.com/>), an organization focusing on helping scale apprenticeship in the United States. He and financial economist Zvi Bodie recently created the podcast/webcast, Ideas and Lives ([www.ideasandlives.org](http://www.ideasandlives.org))

Dr. Lerman earned an A.B. at Brandeis University and a Ph.D. in economics at MIT.

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## Connecting the dots



**Costas Malamas**  
Managing Partner  
Veltio Greece

Costas Malamas is a software entrepreneur with more than 20 years of international experience working with some of the world's best-known retail brands. He founded and led Veltio, a retail planning software consultancy which grew to become one of the largest companies in its niche globally, with offices in the US, UK, Russia and Latin America and over 150 researchers and engineers world-wide, with its main base located in Thessaloniki Greece. Costas is now the founder and CEO of a retail planning software startup, Dataviva, also based in Thessaloniki. He earned his Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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**George Milonas**  
President & CEO  
Alumil

Mr. George Milonas was born in Greece in 1959, in the city of Serres. He is married and has three children. He studied Mathematics at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He completed postgraduate studies in Business Research at the London School of Economics (MSc in Operational Research, L.S.E.). He is the President & CEO of ALUMIL S.A. and all the branches of the Group in Greece and abroad (over 30 subsidiaries). He has served as President of the Board of the Association of Industries of Northern Greece and he is a member of the Board of the Hellenic Aluminum Association. He speaks English, German and Italian.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Pericles A. Mitkas**

President  
Hellenic Authority for Higher  
Education

Pericles A. Mitkas is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In Feb. 2020 he was appointed by the Greek Parliament as the first President of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE) for a 4-year term. HAHE is the independent authority responsible for the evaluation and accreditation of all University programs in Greece. HAHE also maintains the national database for Higher Education and proposes to the Ministry of Education the allocation of state funds to the Universities based on performance criteria. Prof. Mitkas served as Rector of Aristotle University from 2014 to 2019. Among other positions, he also served as President of the Balkan University Association (2018-19) and as President of the Black Sea University Network (2018-21). He was a faculty member at Colorado State University for ten years (1990-2000), where he founded and directed the Laboratory for Optoelectronic Computing Systems. His research interests include databases, machine learning, intelligent systems, and bioinformatics. Prof. Mitkas has been the coordinator of numerous research projects in Greece and the US, several of which involved industrial partners. He holds a Diploma of Electrical Engineering from Aristotle University and an MSc and Phd in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University, USA.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Litsa Panayotopoulos**

Chair

Education-Innovation-  
Entrepreneurship Committee  
AmChamGR

Litsa Panayotopoulos is a business strategy advisor who regularly participates in international events as a key-note speaker, judge and moderator. A committed advocate of innovation, Litsa creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and managerial strategy as among others, CEO of E.V.I.A Intelligent Performance, President of Intale S.A. Retail Solutions, V.P. of Papapostolou S.A. Medical Technologies, Treasurer of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (Former Secretary General and first female in this role) and Founder and Chair of its Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship Committee. Litsa is Vice President of the Citizens Movement (Kinisi Politon), board member of SAE (Association of A.E & Entrepreneurship) and the Greek-Serbian Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Business Advisory Council of Athens University International MBA. Her extensive career has been built in major systems and projects all over the world, amongst others, Control Data, ORACLE Greece SE Europe & Cyprus, founding subsidiaries in 16 countries. She developed and managed: Geranos SA, OTE Academy (Greek Telecommunications Academy) amongst others. She is Honorary president of SEN/Junior Achievement Greece (founding member) and honorary member of the Greek Management Association (EASE), ex-member of the IOBE and ex-President A.L.B.A Business University. She holds a BSc and MSc in Computer Science and Management - London University.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Nikolaos G. Papaioannou**  
Rector  
Aristotle University  
of Thessaloniki

Nikolaos G. Papaioannou studied at the Veterinary School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Then he started the PhD thesis, which he supported in 1991. In 1995 he was elected lecturer at the laboratory of Pathology of the Department of Veterinary Medicine. In 2012 he was elected professor of first grade. From 2013 to today, he is the Director of the Laboratory of pathology, while from 2017 until 31st August 2019, Chairman of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Deputy Dean of the School of Health Sciences. From 1st of September 2019 he is the Rector of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has been trained in the laboratories of pathology of the veterinary schools of Zurich, Utrecht and Wisconsin of the United States of America. His educational work is related to the subject of pathology, while his scientific-research work focuses on histopathological and immunohistopathological study of disease lesions with emphasis on neuropathology, particularly dealing with the study of the pathogenicity of cognitive dysfunction and tumor pathogenesis. Prof. Papaioannou is a project coordinator in several Greek and international competitive research programs, as well as he has published numerous scientific publications in distinguished international scientific journals. He is the head of the Epidemiology Team of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the research project, between the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and EYATH S.A. entitled: "SARS-COV-2 VIRAL COPIES DETECTION IN THESSALONIKI'S SEWAGE".



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Allyson Parco**

Research Analyst

Center for Universal Education  
Brookings Institution

Allyson Parco is an applied social science and policy researcher with expertise in economic mobility, governance, and sustainable development from roles in and for government, academia, and the NGO sector in the United States. Her most recent analytical work includes whitepapers, reports, and specialized analyses on education technology, workforce development and labor markets, and equitable digital infrastructure. Allyson is a research analyst at the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution. The Center for Universal Education (CUE), founded in 2002 as part of Brookings' Global Economy and Development program, is one of the leading policy centers focused on universal quality education across the world. Her current research project seeks to understand how ecosystems of education institutions and employers can harness the potential of these innovations for closing opportunity gaps in education. Prior to her work at Brookings, Allyson was conducting research at the Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR). She is a member of the W3C Verifiable Credentials for Education Task Force (W3C VC-EDU), the World Bank Group's Community of Practice on Blockchain for Education, and a member of the Penn IUR Forum on Urban Informality. She holds a Master of Science in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University, Northridge.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Dr. Spiros Protopsaltis is Governor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of DYPA the Greek Public Employment Service and First Vice-Chair of the European Network of Public Employment Services. Previously, he was the director of Ed Policy Forward and an Associate Professor at George Mason University. During the Obama Administration, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education and Student Financial Aid for the US Department of Education, Senior Higher Education Advisor to the Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Polis of Colorado. He holds a PhD from the University of Colorado Denver, an MS from the New School University, and a BA summa cum laude from Northeastern University.

**Spiros Protopsaltis**  
Governor and Chairman  
of the Board of Directors  
DYPA

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Scott Ralls**

President

Wake Technical Community College

Scott Ralls is the fourth president of Wake Technical Community College, North Carolina's largest community college. Wake Tech is recognized for its "laddering" strategies to connect workforce and education opportunities and ranked as a national leader in online education. From 2105 to 2019, Dr. Ralls served as President of Northern Virginia Community College, or NOVA as it is commonly known, the second largest multi-campus community college in the nation. During his NOVA tenure, he developed a unique partnership with Amazon Web Services that catalyzed a Virginia statewide initiative between community colleges and universities to create seamless cloud computing degrees that was named 2019 Education Partnership of the Year by EducationDive. He also initiated ADVANCE, a nationally recognized joint admission program with George Mason University. In May 2016, Dr. Ralls was named President Emeritus of the North Carolina Community College System after a prior 20-year career in North Carolina that included roles as State System President, President of Craven Community College and Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development. He has been recognized as a Power 100 Business Leader by regional business publications for both the Washington, DC region (2017) and for the State of North Carolina (2021) and testified six times to U.S. Senate or House committees or subcommittees on workforce development or student success innovations and policy. He was recently appointed by U.S. Secretary Miguel Cardona as the higher education representative to the Telecommunications Workforce Working Group, and also serves at the national level as Co-chair of the Community College Workforce Consortium and a member of the Taskforce on Higher Education and Opportunity.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Brian J. Schilling**

Director

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Brian Schilling is Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. He provides executive leadership in advancement of Rutgers University's cooperative extension mission to improve the lives of New Jersey residents and their communities through the delivery of science-based educational outreach within the state's 21 counties. Schilling holds an academic appointment as Extension Specialist of Agricultural Policy in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University. During his 28 years at the School, much of Schilling's research has been focused on New Jersey farm viability, farmland preservation, and agricultural economic development at the urban-rural fringe. Throughout his career Schilling has worked closely with the agricultural and food industries and has served on a number of industry and government task forces and working groups. He currently serves as past-chair of the Association of Northeast Extension Directors. He is a past-president of the New Jersey Agricultural Society and serves on the State Agriculture Development Committee. He is the author of more than 110 papers and briefings on various issues relating to the food and agricultural system and has given more than 125 invited lectures to academic, business, government, and industry groups. He holds a BS in resource management, an MS in agricultural economics, and a Ph.D. in planning and public policy, all from Rutgers University.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Andreas Schleicher**

Director for Education and Skills  
Organization for Economic  
Cooperation and Development  
(OECD)

Andreas Schleicher is Director for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He initiated and oversees the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments that have created a global platform for policy-makers, researchers and educators across nations and cultures to innovate and transform educational policies and practices. He has worked for over 20 years with ministers and education leaders around the world to improve quality and equity in education. Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said that Schleicher “understands the global issues and challenges as well as or better than anyone I’ve met, and he tells me the truth” (The Atlantic, July 11). Former UK Secretary of State Michael Gove called Schleicher “the most important man in English education” – even though he is German and lives in France. Before joining the OECD, he was Director for Analysis at the International Association for Educational Achievement (IEA). He studied Physics in Germany and received a degree in Mathematics and Statistics in Australia. He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the “Theodor Heuss” prize, awarded in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany for “exemplary democratic engagement”. He holds an honorary Professorship at the University of Heidelberg.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Michael J. Schoenfeld**  
Vice President for Public Affairs  
and Government Relations  
Duke University

Michael J. Schoenfeld is Duke University's vice president for public affairs and government relations and chief communications officer. He has responsibility for communications and advocacy for Duke University and its affiliated entities, including Duke Health, leads the university's Washington, DC, center, and serves as Duke's chief spokesperson. He is also a visiting professor of the practice at the Sanford School of Public Policy, where he teaches a course on media and politics. As the university's chief external affairs officer, Schoenfeld directs Duke's local, regional, national and global communications, leads federal, state and local advocacy efforts, counsels the president and trustees, represents the university to a wide range of constituencies, and oversees crisis and issues management. Schoenfeld is also co-founder and chairman of Futurity ([www.futurity.org](http://www.futurity.org)), a multimedia consortium of more than 60 leading research universities from the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Australia. Schoenfeld previously served as vice chancellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, from 1997-2008. Earlier, he was senior vice president for policy and public affairs at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in Washington, D.C. He also held reporting and leadership positions at the Voice of America, including news and sports anchor, Congressional liaison officer, and executive assistant to the director, and served as the first director of program development at Worldnet, the U.S. Information Agency's global satellite television network. Schoenfeld is chair of The Seminar and a member of the Page Society, the National Press Club, the Public Diplomacy Council and the Association of American Universities Public Affairs Committee. He is currently chair of the Triangle Community Foundation board of directors and the Regional Transportation Alliance, is vice chair of WUNC-North Carolina Public Radio board of directors, and serves on the board of PBS-NC, PineCone: The Piedmont Council for Traditional Music, Hironnelle USA, and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (Midsouth). A 1984 Duke graduate, Schoenfeld received a master's degree in public policy from Stony Brook University in 1986. He and his wife Elizabeth, a writer and editor, live in Durham.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Louis Soares**  
Chief Learning and Innovation  
Officer  
American Council on Education  
(ACE)

Louis Soares serves as ACE's chief learning and innovation officer. In this role, Soares incubates and scales ACE's executive leadership networks, as well as catalyzes compelling research and innovation initiatives across the Council. Working with colleagues, Soares integrates the work of ACE's leadership, research and innovation teams to optimize membership value for colleges and universities by developing programs and services to advance the success of senior leaders, diversify the executive talent pipeline and facilitate partnerships to enhance institutional performance. Soares' prior roles at ACE include vice president for policy research and strategy (2013–2016) and vice president for strategy, research and advancement (2016–2018). With more than 20 years of experience in postsecondary education policy and practice, Soares is an accomplished policy analyst and thought leader on emerging trends in higher education. While at ACE he published two landmark papers, "[Post-Traditional Learners and the Transformation of Higher Education](#)" and "[Evolving Higher Education Business Models](#)," that advanced the public dialogue on adult student needs and the acceptance of innovative education delivery models. Soares has developed and successfully implemented innovative education/training programs for and, in collaboration with, college, university and employer partners for frontline workers, business executives and higher education administrators. These innovative projects garnered support from: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, TIAA Institute, ACT, Verizon Foundation, Fleet Bank, CVS, Bank of America, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Labor. Prior to coming to ACE, Soares served as the director of the postsecondary education program and fellow at the Center for American Progress (CAP), a premier Washington, DC based think tank. Prior to CAP, he served as director of business/workforce development under Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri and as director of education partnerships for the Rhode Island Technology Council. Soares was appointed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to serve on the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education in 2011-14. He holds a master's in public administration from Harvard University (MA) and a bachelor's in business economics from Brown University (RI).

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Elias Spirtounias**  
Executive Director  
AmChamGR

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme park in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Steve Stevens**

Coordinator

DO! Ghent University

Since 2012 Steve has been coordinating the student-entrepreneurship centre DO! (Durf Ondernemen) at Ghent University - Belgium. Where he has been active both as business coach for student-entrepreneurs and as challenger of entrepreneurial thinking within Ghent University. He started working at Ghent University with the mission 'to make the university entrepreneurial'. Before entering Ghent University, Steve worked at University College Ghent (University of Applied Sciences) as a teaching assistant, business coach and staff member. In this way, he got to understand the diverse roles existing within Higher Education. Steve was (co-)founder of several creativity boosting, soft skill enhancing and/or entrepreneurship oriented programs in Higher Education such as IntEntSem and SportsIDMarathon. He is one of the European HEInnovate (EU Commission and OECD supported) Experts (national expert for Belgium). Steve has experience with coordinating EFRD programmes, cooperated in a Knowledge Alliance pilot project (EUVEN), is part of the EIT UM consortium 'Start For Future', works in the field of entrepreneurship on city level with the cooperation 'Gentpreneur' and represents Ghent University in the Flemish Forum for Entrepreneurial Higher Education (Forum OhO). Lately he decided to become entrepreneur himself and startup 'StudentStartups.eu' as a connector and orientator for EU Student companies.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Evangelos Syrigos**

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Education and Religious  
Affairs

Evangelos (Angelos) Syrigos is an Associate Professor of International Law and Foreign Policy at the Department of International and European Studies at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens. He was born in 1966 in Athens. He is a graduate of the Law Schools of the National University of Athens and of the University of Bristol, England, where in 1994 he was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the field of Public International Law. He has served as Secretary General of Population and Social Cohesion of the Greek Ministry of Interior (August 2012 and May 2015) and Secretary for Intercultural Education and Greek Studies Abroad of the Greek Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (2007-2009). On July 7, 2019 he was elected as a Member of the Hellenic Parliament. He was sworn in as Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs in charge of Higher Education issues on January 5, 2021. He is married to Irini Stamatoudi and they have three children.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Siria Taurelli**

Senior Human Capital Development  
Expert Coordinator for  
Governance and Quality Assurance  
European Training Foundation

Siria Taurelli is coordinator of Governance and Quality Assurance of skills systems at the European Training Foundation, the agency of the European Union that supports human capital development policies in the partner countries that surround the EU ([www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)). She led a governance analysis of public-private partnerships for skills development whose results are a thematic overview <https://europa.eu/!hX86Pw> and the analysis of 23 case studies located across 14 countries <https://europa.eu/!uF74fw>. In 2022, Siria and her team launched the #GLADnetwork – Governance Learning, Action and Dialogues – to learn about and act upon system-level enablers of lifelong learning. These enabling conditions comprise: multi-actor and multi-level coordination, national and local governance bodies, role of social partners and civil society organisations, quality assurance, financing <https://europa.eu/!tf3C4w>. She coordinated the VET Governance Toolkit, which brings concepts and tools for skills development governance closer to practitioners and decision makers VET Governance Toolkit | Open Space (europa.eu). Siria has initiated and coordinated projects and studies, among others on human capital development and equity; on education for competitiveness; on continuing vocational training in Eastern Europe. She has worked on project evaluation and impact assessment of training projects, notably on Eastern European countries. Has carried out country analyses, for example [POLICIES FOR HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA | ETF \(europa.eu\)](#). Siria started her career in the EU institutions at the European Commission, within the external relations directorate general where she worked on cooperation programmes with Eastern Europe. While on secondment at the World Bank, she carried out a policy review of the vocational education and training sector in Morocco, and worked on skills gaps in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. She became passionate about internal development and cooperation programmes as a young graduate through volunteer work for a non-governmental organisation.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Christos Theocharopoulos**  
Principal at Consulting  
Deloitte Greece

Christos Theocharopoulos is a Principal in Deloitte's Consulting Strategy practice in Greece. He has 25 years of experience in Management Consulting, Project Management and Banking, and held senior management positions in private and public organizations. He specializes in M&A transaction readiness, post-merger integration and PMO projects and is the Deputy Public Policy Leader for Deloitte in Greece. Christos holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the Democritus University of Thrace and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.



# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Leonidas Tzonis**

Executive Vice President  
and CFO  
Hellenic American College

Dr. Leonidas Tzonis is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Hellenic American University, NH, USA and Hellenic American College, Athens, Greece. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at the Hellenic American Union, Athens, Greece. He represents the organizations above at the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (member of the Culture Committee), the Hellenic Indian Chamber of Commerce & Economy (Chair of the Education Committee), as well as at the Hellenic Association of Entrepreneurs and the Panhellenic Exporters Association. As a consultant he worked with firms in Greece, Northern Africa, and Central Asia. He is a founding member and seats on the Board of Directors of AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING Ltd, Cyprus. Dr. Tzonis holds a PhD from the Newcastle Business School, UK; an MSc in Finance and Investment; a PG Certificate in Higher Education from the University of Durham; and a BSc in Economics and Business Finance from Brunel University, UK. In 2022 he was awarded an Honorary PhD by the Warsaw University of Business. He was a full-time member of the Business School Faculty at Durham University, UK (2002-2006), a visiting Lecturer at the Singapore Institute of Management (2003-2005), and a distance learning tutor for SOAS, University of London (2001-2006). He also served as Professor of Finance and Director of Business Programs (2007-2012) at Hellenic American University & Hellenic American College.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



**Sofia Zacharaki**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Tourism

Sofia Zacharaki was appointed Deputy Minister for Tourism Education and Special forms of Tourism in January 2021. She previously held the office of Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs from July 2019 to January 2021. Before her appointment, she served as the spokesperson for Nea Demokratia, the then leading opposition Centre-right party in Greece, an EPP member party. Previous to that and for more than 2 years, Sofia was the party's deputy spokesperson. Prior to that, in 2012 until 2014 she was the European and International Affairs advisor to the Minister of Development and participated in the preparation of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union. A state department programme alumna, in 2015 she represented Greece in the International Leadership Visitor Programme in the USA in the field of "The role of Private Public Partnerships in restructuring economies". In the past, she worked as a teacher in state and private schools in Greece, as a European Affairs executive in the Greek Ministry of Education and the Secretariat for lifelong learning and youth policies.

# EDUCATION INTEROPERABILITY

## Connecting the dots



Artemis A. Zenetou is the Executive Director of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece—the first Greek citizen and first woman to hold that position in the Foundation’s history (established in 1948). Educated in Greece and in the United States, with degrees in the History of Art/Business, Museum Studies/Management of Non-Profit Organizations, she has extensive professional experience with U.S. and international organizations, including the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she established an art and cultural program; the 42nd U.S. Presidential Inaugural Committee for Art and Cultural Initiatives; the Smithsonian Institution; and the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston– Cultural Affairs. Zenetou has published both in English and in Greek and has co-authored two books: *Museums: a Place to Work* (Routledge Press) and *Gender Perspectives: Essays on Women in Museums*, (Smithsonian Press). She has served on the Board of the Cultural Olympiad at the Ministry of Culture (2001–2004), on the Advisory Committee on Cultural Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002–2004) and on the Board of College Year in Athens–DIKEMES (2008–2018). She is currently on the Advisory Committee for the Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program and the International Academic Partnership Program–Greece, Institute of International Education and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

**Artemis Zenetou**

Executive Director  
Fulbright Foundation in Greece