

June 1-2, 2021



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SPEAKERS BIOS
by alphabetical order

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Cees Admiraal, Business Development Director, High Tech Campus Eindhoven

Since 2005 Cees Admiraal is working as Business Development Director of High Tech Campus Eindhoven. He attracts high tech companies to establish their business on the Campus. He works closely together in the high tech network both national (Brainport Development for region and BOM for the Netherlands) and international (NFIA). Within Philips Cees held various positions in process-, technology- and product development, in which he learned how to cooperate with Asian partners, especially in Japan and Korea. He graduated in Physics from the Nijmegen University.

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Nikolaos Bakatselos, President, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of “Pyramis Metallourgia A.E.” and “Pyramis Deutschland GmbH”. He 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 AEEX”, 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. He 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 and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE 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 was elected President of AmChamGR. In October 2019 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.

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Sjors Berns, Senior Manager, Financial Advisory, Deloitte

Sjors Berns is a senior manager at Deloitte Financial Advisory in the Netherlands. He primarily works in the field of economic development, corporate real estate and port advisory. Mr. Berns has extensive experience with campus and ecosystem development. His experience includes innovation ecosystem strategy, campus development, location strategy, feasibility studies, real estate development, impact assessments and port competitiveness. His project experience includes successful advisory on establishing and developing various innovation districts and campuses, including the Rotterdam Makers District. Furthermore, Mr. Berns leads the global Deloitte Port Advisory group in The Netherlands. Mr. Berns has a master's degree in Economics (specialisation geographical economics) from Utrecht University and a master's degree in Real Estate from the Amsterdam School of Real Estate. Before joining Deloitte Mr. Berns worked at the Chamber of Commerce Utrecht as a researcher on investment promotion and at the Rabobank Rotterdam as a port analyst.

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Wassili Bertoen, Managing Partner, Deloitte Center for the Edge

I have a passion for stimulating people to explore new opportunities. I founded the Deloitte Innovation BV in 2008. In 2013 I founded Deloitte Center for the Edge Europe. We say: 'your future business is already on the edge of your current business'. We are the innovative front end of Deloitte and publish the newest business model trends on the edge. We help executives become aware of & profit from these new opportunities. Still on board? Invite me and I'll be the crazy enthusiast I usually am.

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Michael Bletsas, Director of Computing, MIT Media Lab

Michail Bletsas is a Research Scientist and the Director of Computing at MIT's Media Lab where he has been working since 1996. He is responsible for all the infrastructure that the lab uses to produce, store, transport and consume its bits. He was a member of the core technical and design team for the "One Laptop Per Child" initiative which created OLPC's pioneering, award-winning "XO" laptop. His current research interests include network security, wireless networks and building efficient high performance machine learning computing infrastructures. Over the years, he has advised governments around technology policy issues and provided expert opinion in technical matters to top-level officials. He has cofounded two companies, has been a director and consulted for many others in a variety of capacities. He has implemented broadband access networks using cutting-edge technologies including one of the earliest ADSL testbeds and various wireless technologies. Mr. Bletsas has been a frequent keynote speaker in international conferences and has been engaged in many civic activities. He holds an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and an MSc degree in Computer Engineering from Boston University.

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Peter Chresanthakes, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, Anatolia College

Peter Chresanthakes is the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement at Anatolia College since June, 2010. His responsibilities include leading the branding, marketing, and fundraising team whose aim is to maximize both engagement and support from the College's many constituency groups and supporters. In conjunction with the President and the Board of Trustees' Institutional Advancement Committee, he is responsible for steering the strategic direction of these integrated initiatives to carry Anatolia's fundraising appeals to an ever wider circle of donors. Mr. Chresanthakes has served as a business solutions consultant and a board member of a variety of financial startup enterprises in the banking sector in both the USA and Greece and has an extensive background in financial analysis and middle market private equity having served as a direct equity investment advisor for a US emerging markets fund. He has held various positions in the finance industry, as an analyst for a US based hedge fund as well as Vice-President in a US money center bank in their real estate capital markets division. He has also served as an instrumental member of an investor group that successfully completed new start-up ventures as well as distressed asset buyouts. Mr. Chresanthakes received a BS of Marketing from the University of Illinois (1985), Chicago and an MBA from Pennsylvania State University (1989) and is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

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Constantinos Constantinidis, CEO, Pelopac

Constantinos Constantinidis is the CEO of PELOPAC since 1996. PELOPAC is one of the leading Greek exporters of table olives and other Greek and Mediterranean specialties. The company specializes in developing and producing top quality products for leading brands and retailers worldwide, including the USA, Australia, UK and Europe. PELOPAC has received multiple awards, including “Greek Export Awards” for Top Manufacturing Company (Silver) and Top Exporting Company (Bronze) and “Greek Values Awards” for Outstanding Medium Size Company, Export Excellence and Innovation. PELOPAC’s products have received 27 Great Taste Awards (UK) and have been featured at Innovation Expositions at SIAL and PLMA. Since 1988 he has been involved in new ventures in textiles production, sportswear, garment retail, building materials production and several real estate developments in Greece. He was a founding partner of Mt.Vikos and Big Picture Foods, both food import and marketing companies in the USA. Since 2020 he is the Chairman of the Board of the Agritech Export Cluster in Central Macedonia. He is a member of the Agrotechnology Committee of AmCham, the Boards of FIG and SEVE, the Board of Trustees of Anatolia College and the Chair of the Oversight Committee of the American College of Thessaloniki. He holds an MBA from Columbia Business School, and a BSc (ENG) in Mechanical Engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London.

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Alexandros Costopoulos, Secretary General, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Alexandros Costopoulos is a communications strategist, renowned speaker and seasoned contributor to leading intl' and Greek media on communications, credibility, soft skills and U.S. relations. Founder and CEO of FORESIGHT, Alex 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, an elected member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors 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, while he 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. On December 2011 he founded RepowerGreece, an international grassroots public diplomacy initiative that seeks to empower a new way of thinking in facing emerging challenges and redefine Greece by investing in a renewed entrepreneurship and talent based movement.

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Wayne Cuervo, Director of Innovation and General Manager, Cisco Toronto Innovation Centre

Wayne is Director of Innovation within the Cisco Innovation Labs Organization. Based in Canada Wayne leads the Global Edge team, which focuses on outside-in, industry innovation by a team of solution architects and engineers across 10 different locations worldwide. Wayne is also the General Manager of the Toronto Innovation Centre at Cisco Canada's headquarters. The Toronto Innovation Centre is one of eleven global Cisco Innovation Centres with a mandate to help solve customers' business challenges by creating relevant solutions through co-development, creation of proof of concepts and prototypes. Additionally, the Centre seeks to inspire and showcase local innovation and digital transformation trends and opportunities. The only of its kind in North America, the Cisco Toronto Innovation Centre helps organizations improve business outcomes by integrating, creating, testing, and validating industry, technology and business solutions. Wayne was also a project and program manager in other roles at Cisco, and is Project Manager Professional (PMP) certified with a Six Sigma Black belt designation, and has managed large and complex system implementation and process improvement projects, both for Cisco Canada as well as Cisco globally. Like his company, Wayne believes that giving back to his community is important. Wayne takes the position that donating time to community endeavors and encouraging others to do so helps support our society. Wayne is the founder of Cisco Canada's Gay and Lesbian Enterprise Resource Group. Also a Director on the Advisory Board, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at University on Toronto, and formerly on the board of directors of Pride at Work Canada (2008 to 2012) and still does work in the Inclusion and Diversity space.

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Philipp Deutscher, Managing Director, TeamViewer Greece

Philipp is the Managing Director of TeamViewer Greece and VP Engineering at TeamViewer Germany, leader of global technology that provides a connectivity platform to remotely access, control, manage, monitor and repair devices of any kind. He has studied Computer Science and he has over 14 years of experience in Software Development. He is leading TeamViewer Greece since its inception in August 2019, bringing with him his experience and his vision for a successful company growth. He shares his life with his family combining his professional life in Germany and in Greece. His LinkedIn profile is <https://www.linkedin.com/in/philippdeutscher/>

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Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Research and Innovation, 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.

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Tim Gaidis, Principal and Senior Project Designer, HOK

Tim is a Principal and Senior Project Designer in HOK's St. Louis office where he leads a broad range of projects including innovation districts, corporate headquarters, and science and technology. At the Cortex Innovation Community in St. Louis, Missouri, Tim has played an integral role in the design and delivery of masterplanning efforts, core/shell buildings and tenant fitouts. He's led work in the 4240, 4220 and 4210 Duncan buildings, supported work at the 4340 Duncan and 4140 Forest Park Avenue lab accelerator projects, and has led or supported dozens of tenant fitouts in these and other Cortex buildings while continuing to inform future building and planning efforts. Tim's work at 3675 Market in Philadelphia's uCity Square innovation district has expanded relationships developed through Cortex work. Tim has also been involved in the planning and phase 1 and phase 2 developments at the Discovery Square and Destination Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota that works through the Destination Medical Center Corporation and Economic Development Agency while partnering with the Mayo Clinic, the City of Rochester, the State of Minnesota, Olmstead County, and a development partner. Tim has also supported the masterplanning and initial phase development of a confidential innovation center in Texas that will soon be coming online. He understands the complexities of the innovation community project type and the principles integral to its success – and his past experience as HOK St. Louis' Sustainability Leader continue to inform critical aspects of this work as forward-thinking innovation community clients desire ecologically, commercially, and personally transcendent solutions for business, lifestyle, and planet.

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Stas Gayshan, Managing Director, Cambridge Innovation Center

Stas Gayshan is General Counsel at CIC Health and Managing Director at the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC). At CIC Health, Stas runs the legal team, covering legal, compliance, and policy issues as CIC Health seeks to broaden and scale access to affordable COVID testing. Before COVID, Stas led the early development of new CIC projects in the Americas, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, and beyond, connecting innovators across boundaries and borders. Stas worked with governments, universities, large corporations, real estate developers, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, funders, and other stakeholders to solve difficult problems, build powerful, interwoven innovation ecosystems, and help cities craft lasting, impactful outcomes. A globally sought-after thought leader on innovation and entrepreneurship, Stas is often seen speaking at conferences and judging startup competitions around the world.

Stas Gayshan joined CIC in early 2014 as founder of CIC Boston. Previously, Stas was the Founder & CEO of Space with a Soul, a 20,000 square foot coworking space in Boston's Innovation District. Stas is an entrepreneur and an attorney, and he worked in Democratic political campaigns at various levels prior to starting Space with a Soul. In his political work, Stas focused on the intersection of collaboration, technology and activism. Stas has been recognized by the Boston Globe as one of the Most Innovative People in Massachusetts Business and by CJP as one of Boston's most influential young leaders. He holds leadership positions in several philanthropic and nonprofit organizations active in the Greater Boston area. Stas has a B.A. and J.D. from Boston College.

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Jeff Hamilton, Senior Vice-President, Pfizer Digital

Jeff Hamilton is Senior Vice-President, Pfizer Digital. Jeff and his team are focused on achieving the strategic goals of the Finance and Global Supply functions through the innovative use of digital, automation and analytics. Jeff is also responsible for the Center for Digital Innovation in Greece which is a key component of Pfizer Digital's global operating model to deliver patient-centric digital solutions. In addition, Jeff leads the digital activities to execute the company's acquisitions, collaborations and divestitures. Most recently Jeff led Pfizer Digital's Client Partner organization and had responsibility for the Digital team supporting the Biopharmaceutical commercial business with a focus on enhancing customer engagement and improving patient health outcomes. Previously, Jeff led the successful completion of Pfizer's global SAP ERP program as a key enabler of Pfizer's operating strategy and the foundation for company's digital strategy. Prior to joining Pfizer Jeff held executive positions at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in commercial, manufacturing, supply chain and information technology. Preceding Wyeth, Jeff was an Associate Partner at Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) where he specialized in leading large digital-enabled transformation programs for Healthcare and other Fortune 500 companies.

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Marina Hatsopoulos, President, Hellenic Innovation Network

Marina Hatsopoulos was Founding CEO of Z Corporation, an early market leader in 3D printing out of MIT, from 1994 through its sale in 2005. She is Board Chair of Levitronix Technologies, the worldwide leader in magnetically-levitated bearingless motor technology and President of Hellenic Innovation Network. She is a member of the National Board of Research & Innovation for the Republic of Cyprus. She is on the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She is on the Advisory Board of the Nantucket Conference, MIT Enterprise Forum Greece, Eurobank's EGG incubator, Mindspace Startup Program and the OK!Thess accelerator in Greece. She was a Director of Cynosure Inc., a \$400 million leader in the laser aesthetics market; the GSI Group, a \$300 million supplier of laser-based equipment; and Contex Holding, a \$100 million leading manufacturer of large-format scanners. She was an investor and Director of Dear Kate performance apparel and Tea Forte, a luxury tea brand. She has also written articles, essays and short stories which appear at windystreet.com and have been published in Venturebeat, CEOWORLD Magazine, Antioch Review, Bellevue Literary, and numerous other journals. She holds B.A. degrees from Brown University in Math and in Music, and an M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Mechanical Engineering.

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Nishita Henry, Principal, US Consulting Chief Innovation Officer, Deloitte

Nishita Henry is Deloitte's US Consulting Chief Innovation Officer, advising clients nationwide on topics of modernization and innovation, digital transformation, and customer experience. She is driving forward the firm's innovation agenda working with the external ecosystem to evolve our offerings and assets. She established our Deloitte Catalyst function which works with start-ups and VCs to source innovative tech and create unique assets to enable our clients' missions. She leads our extensive New Business Innovation team which is responsible for sensing, incubating, building, scaling, and operating new solutions. In this role she is also responsible for our AI, Cloud, Cyber, and Emerging Tech investments for next-gen market needs. Prior, Nishita was the Federal Technology Practice Leader, providing advisory, implementation, and operations services to every cabinet-level agency in the U.S. government. With more than 3,000 practitioners, they assisted Federal agencies in transforming into more efficient, effective organizations. In this role, Nishita led our work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) transforming business and technology from the production floor to the back office. Nishita's experience also includes leading the work at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create new ways for industry to interact with FDA and improve drug quality efforts. She also led the modernization of a Travel Distribution Platform for Amtrak to improve the Customer Experience from reservations to ridership. Nishita holds an MBA from Darden, University of Virginia, and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She has been with Deloitte Consulting since 2005. Nishita also serves on the boards of the Girls Scouts National Capital Region and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband, two daughters (14 and 11), and a loved dog. Outside of work, she spends most of her time as a dance mom.

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Vassilis Kafatos, Vice President, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

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.

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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.

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Sophia Kambanis, President and Executive Director, Massachusetts Innovation Network

Sophia has 30+ years of C-level experience in diverse countries, industries, market sectors, for-profit and non-profit organizations and startups. She specializes in strategic and business planning, and marketing optimization. Sophia has worked with large corporations like Unilever, PepsiCo, KraftHeinz, and CITIgroup, in 6 different countries. She currently leads the Massachusetts Innovation Network, home of the New England Innovation Awards, the oldest (est. 1986) and longest-running innovation competition in the U.S. East Coast. Sophia steers a team of 30 Judges and 15 Mentors, all supporting startups commercializing emerging technologies (in life sciences, cleantech, robotics, deeptech, VR and AI). Each year she works with 70-80 startups, individually coaches 15, serves as a Mentor for Blue Institute Labs, and as a Judge for MIT Enterprise Forum Greece.

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Panagiotis Karampinis, Managing Director, Endeavor Greece

Panagiotis holds a degree in Financial and Banking Management from the University of Piraeus. During his studies he worked in the International Fund of Investment Funds Group in Greece and was the Head of Corporate Partnerships at AIESEC in Greece, the largest student organization in the world. Panagiotis joined Endeavor in 2012 and until 2018 he worked on the development of the network, overseeing the process of selecting prospective entrepreneurs and managing a portfolio of 14 major entrepreneurs in Greece, owners of successful companies such as Workable, FrezyDerm, Ergon, Konva, Christodoulou Brothers, Metamaterial Inc and others. Panagiotis was also the Head of the Global F&B Community, a community of 80 Endeavor entrepreneurs with a high impact from 30 countries working in the F&B industry. Through the association and cooperation of all entrepreneurs, he organized F&B initiatives and events around the world to help the community develop its entrepreneurial actions and skills. Since 2018 is the Managing Director of Endeavor Greece. Panagiotis is a co-founder of TEDxKalamata, a volunteer of the Red Cross Samaritan, and is a consultant to speculative and nonprofit organizations.

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

Born in Thessaloniki, Mr. Kouimtzis completed his High School studies in the U.S. as an exchange student. He holds a BSc degree in Business Administration and Political Science from Barton College, and Master's degree in National Security and an International Executive MBA from Georgetown University. He worked for three years at the office of Economic Council of the embassy of Greece in Washington DC and World Carrier Shipping company in London and Athens, before entered the family business in 2000, and has been instrumental in its evolvement to a successful Group, active in four distinct business sectors, based on a relentless drive for innovation engineering and new technologies. As Group CEO Mr. Kouimtzis oversees the operations of Alpha Parts, an export-oriented manufacturer of agricultural systems and components, with branch in Cologne Germany FENDT Hellas, representing AGCO Corporation's top brand for agricultural machinery for Greece and Cyprus, Industry Motion, providing power transmission components and automation systems for industrial purposes, and Alpha Systems, serving the defense and security industries with aviation and land system applications. The Company is enrolled in the Cyprus Stock Exchange. Mr. Kouimtzis is currently serving as a Member of the Board of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the Agrotechnology Committee of AMCHAM, a Board Member of the Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE), Vice President of the Business Council Greek delegation of the Black Sea Economic Corporation (BSEC) and Vice President for the European Region of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA). Mr. Kouimtzis has also served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Pinewood, The American International School of Thessaloniki..

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Konstantinos Lafkas, Co-Founder and Partner, Uni.Fund

Konstantinos Lafkas is a seasoned corporate professional, serving for more than 25 years in high and C level managerial positions (Selonda - CCO, Sunlight - CEO, Alfa Laval Greece - CEO, Maillis - Development Director, Epa Attikis - Retail Sales and Customer Service Manager, Bitros SA - Sales Manager, Shell -Sales Engineer). He led the aggressive expansion of Greek multinationals all over the globe through organic growth and acquisition projects. In addition, he has been heavily involved, with his teams, in transforming businesses models, disrupting product/service fixedness and introducing new growth frameworks. The value of projects and deals involved exceed 1 bn euro. He has lived in many European countries, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany and Spain and led business cases in the Far East, Middle East and the Americas. During his career he has spent most of his time travelling all around the globe and negotiating deals in many different environments and cultures. Over the last 12 years, Konstantinos has been supporting Greek start-ups, as co-Founder and Partner of Uni.Fund (one of the funds of the EquiFund investment platform that was established in 2018) and having cooperated with Coralia, EGG, EVEA, Greece's first Angel Fund, and SEV. He is the 1st certified Scale Up Coach in Greece, and one of the 200 globally, and has also founded MicroGlobals, an Athens Greece based organization that contributes ways and concepts for local companies to expand and position themselves meaningfully in the global market. Konstantinos holds an MSc in Mechanical Engineering, from the National Technical University of Athens, an MBA from IMD-Lausanne and an MSc in Decision Sciences from the Athens University of Economics. In addition, he has been trained in specific managerial areas in high ranked Universities like Stanford (Entrepreneurship and Innovation), Babson (Entrepreneurship in corporate Environments), IMD (Program for Executive Development), INSEAD (Young Managers Program) and Ashridge (Strategic Global Sales and Marketing).

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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.

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Beth Letscher, Vice President, Communication and Strategic Planning, Cortex Innovation Community

Beth Letscher is an experienced major project lead in strategic planning, communications, and physical planning. Working with the Cortex Innovation Community since 2016, Beth has been involved with shaping the physical environment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem as well as pursuing new strategic initiatives for the district. Mostly recently, Letscher assumed the role of Vice President of Strategic Communication where she leads the organization's communication efforts. Beth has been working in the fields of economic and community development for 18 years. A St. Louis native, Beth spent 7 years in Chicago at Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago where she earned her Master's in Urban Planning and Policy. In Chicago, she developed her passion for cities and how they work, which led her back to St. Louis to help guide development in her hometown. Beth is also a certified Planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners, and volunteers her time mentoring high school students on urban development through the Urban Land Institute's UrbanPlan curriculum.

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Kyriakos Loufakis, President, Thessaloniki Innovation Zone

Born in Thessaloniki in 1960, Dr. Kyriakos Loufakis holds a PhD and an MSc from Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. in N. York and a BSc from Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki in Chemistry. He has won the Fulbright and the Alexander von Humbolt scholarships, the Green Dream Prize of the Entrepreneurship Club and the first Prize in the Greece Innovates competition. Research assistant and guest speaker in several Universities and Institutes in USA, China, Europe and Greece. More than 15 publications in Scientific Journals and 9 presentations in conferences. Since 1988 he works in the Chemical Industry. Member of American Association of Textile Chemists and Colourists (AATCC), American Chemical Society (ACS), New York Academy of Science, Textile Institute and Greek Association of Chemists. He has been member of the Board of Directors in various organizations, such as University of Macedonia, KEPA-ANEM, SEVE, SBE and committees of educational institutes. Enlisted in "Who is who in science and engineering" (1988) and "Who is who in the world" (1995). Dr. Loufakis has chaired the Greek Exporters' Association – SEVE for the years 2014-2018 and is currently the President of Alexander Innovation Zone. He has broad experience in implementation and management of projects, concerning product development and has worked extensively in the marketing, sales and contracting. He speaks English, German, French. He is married and father of three children.

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Andreas Loutzidis, Co-Founder, iCry2Talk

Andreas Loutzidis is a recent Integrated Master's Electrical and Computer Engineering graduate from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has Co-Founded iCry2Talk an app that translates the baby's cry associating with a specific physiological need which won the 2nd place out of 3000 university teams on the world technology and innovation competition Microsoft's Imagine Cup in Seattle, USA. His interests include machine learning, entrepreneurship and he is actively looking for ways in which they can better serve human societies.

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Costas Malamas, Co-Founder and 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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Jamie Merisotis, President and CEO, Lumina Foundation

Jamie Merisotis is a globally recognized leader in philanthropy, education, human work and talent development, and public policy. He has been Lumina's president and CEO since 2008. He previously was co-founder and president of the nonpartisan, Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Higher Education Policy and also served as executive director of a bipartisan national commission on college affordability appointed by the U.S. president and congressional leaders. Merisotis is the author of the acclaimed book *America Needs Talent*, named a Top 10 Business book of 2016 by Booklist, as well as *Human Work in the Age of Smart Machines*, released to wide praise in October 2020. He is often requested as a media commentator and contributor. His writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Journal*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Washington Monthly*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, *Roll Call*, and other publications. Merisotis has extensive global experience as an advisor and consultant in southern Africa, the former Soviet Union, Europe, and other parts of the world. A respected analyst and innovator, Merisotis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has received numerous awards and holds honorary degrees from several universities and colleges. Merisotis also is a trustee and advisor for a diverse array of organizations around the world. He serves as a Governor of The Ditchley Foundation, based in the United Kingdom, and is past chairman and continuing trustee of the Council on Foundations in Washington, D.C. as well as The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the world's largest museum for children. He also is a board member of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and several other entities.

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Maria Michalopoulou, Vice –Rector of Research and Life-long Learning, Democritus University of Thrace

Maria Michalopoulou is Professor in Skill Acquisition in Physical Activity and Sports. She has a B.Sc. in Physical Education and Sport Science in Department of Physical Education and Sport Science of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has also a PhD in Education in Department of Physical Education and Sport Science of the University of Thrace (1995) and a MSc. in Sport Science in Department of Clinical Physics and Medical of the Engineering University of Sheffield UK (1991-1992). Her areas of interest are: well being & health effects of physical activity, behavioral analysis of sedentary behavior & physical activity children in adolescents and skill acquisition & cognitive behavior in elite performance. Since 2018 until today she is the Vice Rector of Research and Long-Life Education and the President of the Research Committee. Since 2013 until 2017 was elected Dean of the School of Physical Education and Sport Science in Democritus University of Thrace. Since 2012 until 2013 was elected Chair of the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science in Democritus University of Thrace. Since 2012 until today is Member of the Democritus University of Thrace Senate.

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Litsa Panayotopoulos, Treasurer and Chair, EIE Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Litsa Panayotopoulos is co-founder and CEO of EVIA Intelligent Performance Ltd. A committed advocate of innovation, she creates opportunities for entrepreneurship in various roles: Vice-President of Intale A.E. Retail Solutions and Papapostolou S.A. Medical Technologies, Treasurer of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, President of its Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship Committee and Secretary General of the Non-Executive Directors' Club. She regularly participates in local and international events as a judge, moderator and key-note speaker. She is active in the organizational development of innovative companies alongside CEOs and boards of directors in order to turn their business endeavors into strategic action and profit. In addition to her business activities, she is on the Business Advisory Council of the Athens University International MBA, Board member of the Greek-Serbian Business Council and Citizens Movement (Kinisi Politon) and member of the Managing Directors' Club (MD Club). Her extensive career has been built in major international systems and projects in the USA, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Africa in large multinational companies, Control Data et.al. She developed and managed: Geranos SA (a subsidiary of Commercial Bank of Greece being responsible for the 20 affiliates of the bank); Oracle S.E. Europe, Greece and Cyprus (establishing and managing subsidiaries of Oracle corporation in the region), and OTE Academy, the largest professional training organization in Greece, amongst others. Litsa Panayotopoulos is a Founding Member and Honorary President of SEN/Junior Achievement Greece, presiding over its leadership in various roles for 15 years. She has served on boards of major professional associations such as the Hellenic Management Association (EEDE) where she is an Honorary President and founder of its Hellenic Institute of Information (EIP). Former BoD member of IOBE (Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research), f. President and Board Member of ALBA Business University and f. BoD Member of the Hellenic Corporate Governance Council. She holds a BSc and MSc in Computer Science and Management from London University.

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Nikolaos 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.

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Geoffrey R. Pyatt, US Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, US Embassy

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic in September 2016. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine from 2013-2016, receiving the State Department's Robert Frasure Memorial Award in recognition of his commitment to peace and alleviation of human suffering in eastern Ukraine. Previously, Ambassador Pyatt was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs from 2010-2013. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria from 2007 to 2010. He also served at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2006 to 2007 and as Political Counselor from 2002 to 2006. Ambassador Pyatt served as Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong from 1999 to 2002 and as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Lahore, Pakistan from 1997 to 1999. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1989, he has also served on the National Security Council staff, on the staff of Deputy Secretary Strobe Talbott and at posts in Honduras and India. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked with The Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank that brings together leading citizens of the Americas. Ambassador Pyatt grew up in La Jolla, California and holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Yale and B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine.

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Merin Rajadurai, Adviser to the Secretary, Office of Science and Technology, US Department of State

Merin Rajadurai is with the Office of Science & Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State since August 2018. Prior to this position, Rajadurai coordinated policy, operations, and crisis management for five Secretaries of State. His primary portfolio being Prosperity, he advances public-private partnership through global investment strategy and builds innovation value by nexus of government, industry, university, and civil society. Rajadurai additionally held U.S. State Department positions for human rights, consular affairs, multilateral engagement, international business, and assignments on behalf of the White House.

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Stella Ronner-Grubačić, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Hellenic Republic, Embassy of the Netherlands in Greece

After having obtained her Master's degree (European Studies) at the University of Amsterdam in 1989, and having finished post-graduate studies of International Relations at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, Ms. Stella Ronner-Grubačić started her diplomatic career at the Dutch Foreign Ministry in August 1991. She worked in the Foreign Ministry's multilateral department, after which she was posted at the Embassy in Belgrade. Her following posting was preceded by a year ('Cycle International') at the French 'Ecole Nationale d'Administration' in Paris. In 2001, Ms Ronner-Grubačić was seconded to the OSCE Mission to the FRY (Former Republic of Yugoslavia). Following that, she became Spokesperson to former Foreign Minister Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and, in 2004, took up the position of Spokesperson for the Dutch EU Presidency. Following various other positions in the Ministry in The Hague, Ms. Stella Ronner-Grubačić was appointed Ambassador to Croatia in 2010. After having served in The Hague as Director of Communication, she was accredited as Ambassador to Romania and the Republic of Moldova. From Bucharest, she moved to Athens, where she was accredited as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Hellenic Republic on 24 September 2019.

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Athanasios Savvakis, President, Federation of Industries of Greece

Executive Director of BioSolids SA (soil improvement products). Vice President & CEO of Savvy Can – Hellenic Metal Packaging SA. Shareholder of National Can Hellas SA. Member of the General Council of the Bank of Greece. Member of the Managing Committee of the Athens Stock Exchange. C Deputy Chairman of the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE). Secretary of the Greek Competitiveness Council. Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Production – Industry Roundtable for Growth. Member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Association of Business Parks (HELABP). Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Business and Cultural Development Centre (KEPA). Member of the Board of Directors of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI). Member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute of International Relations. Member of the Advisory Committee of Delphi Economic Forum. Academic qualifications: MBA from the University of Stirling (UK). BSc in Business Studies & Economics from the University of Surrey (RIHE). Certified Lead Assessor for BSEN ISO systems from the Scottish Quality Management Center of the University of Stirling. INSEAD Executive Education Program (Negotiation Dynamics & Strategic Management). International Federation of Purchasing & Supply Management – Certificate in Purchasing and Supply Chain Management. Mr. Savvakis speaks English and Italian.

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Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President, European Commission

Margaritis Schinas took office as Vice-President of the European Commission under President Ursula Von Der Leyen in December 2019. He is entrusted with the portfolio for Promoting our European Way of Life. In this capacity, he oversees the EU's policies for Migration, Security Union, Social rights, Skills, Education, Culture & Sports, Youth, Public health, Interfaith dialogue and the Fight against antisemitism. Mr Schinas began his career in the European Commission in 1990 and is yet both the first EU official who has been appointed Member of the College of Commissioners, and the first Greek Vice-President of the European Commission in the history of the institution. Between 2007 and 2009, he served as a Member of the European Parliament. During his parliamentary term, he has been a Member of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. Upon completing his parliamentary work, he returned to the European Commission where he held various senior positions in areas of high responsibility. In particular, in 2010, President Barroso appointed him as Deputy Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers. Later, he served as Resident Director and Head of the Athens Office of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). In 2014, President Juncker appointed Mr Schinas as the Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission, role that he endorsed during one of the most challenging period of the European integration. Born in Thessaloniki in 1962, Margaritis Schinas holds an MSc on Public Administration and Public Policy from the London School of Economics, a Diploma of Advanced European Studies on European Administrative Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges and a Degree in Law from the Aristotelean University of Thessaloniki. He is married and has two children. You can follow him on Twitter: Margaritis Schinas (@MargSchinas)

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Alexandros Siskos, Vice President of Strategic Growth Initiatives, Everseen

Inventive and inspirational leader, proven retail and technology executive, successful in generating growth-driven strategies for global retail and technology brands. Alex brings a vast array of diverse experience and a unique breed of leadership and business acumen that enables him to impact forward-looking growth strategies, and unlock the full potential of people and technologies. He has proven success in leading and developing world class organizations through foresight and collaboration, with industry recognized accomplishments and game-changing initiatives in retail, market research, consulting services and most recently Artificial Intelligence (AI). As the Head of Strategy & Growth for Everseen, Alex leads the development and implementation of a holistic growth strategy. Focused on customer success, Alex's retail pedigree and accomplishments guide the company's go-to-market strategy, ensuring profitable growth for retail customers, while cultivating strategic alliances and partnerships that catalyze Everseen's role in the space of computer vision & AI. Alex has held leadership roles spanning the retail, consulting, and analytics sectors at Accenture, Walgreens, and Nielsen, amongst others. Prior to Everseen, Alex led the successful North American entry for Blue Yonder, a company acquired by JDA, and most recently Panasonic, specializing in applying cutting edge AI methodologies towards replenishment and pricing. Alex was instrumental in establishing a strategic relationship with Microsoft to accelerate supply chain innovation. His passion for augmenting value is evident in his efforts to weave together the Heart of the Shopper, Soul of the Store, and Mind of the Machine, while leveraging collaborative relationships to continually challenge, enable, and motivate those around him. He founded Augmented Value, LLC, a retail business advisory services unit, around this concept to drive value differently for small to mid-cap brands and accelerate their time to growth. Alex is originally from Thessaloniki, Greece, studied economics at Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota, and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Alex is based out of Frisco, Texas.

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Elias Spirtounias, Executive Director, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

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.

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Steven Strauss, Lecturer and John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor, Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs

Steven Strauss, Ph.D. is a Lecturer and John L. Weinberg/Goldman Sachs & Co. Visiting Professor at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. He has advised governments on public policy issues in the U.S.A., Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Dr. Strauss has been cited, quoted or interviewed by news organizations such as: The New York Times, CNN, CNBC, The Guardian, Mother Jones, Al Jazeera, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other media outlets. He is a contributing columnist at: USA Today, The LA Times, The New York Daily News and The Huffington Post. At Princeton, Strauss has taught courses on the Future of Work; Implementing Urban Economic Development; Leadership, Management and Strategy in Government; Smart Cities and Innovation in Urban Government; as well as Innovation and Technology in the Public Sector. Immediately prior to Princeton, Dr. Strauss was on the faculty of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. From 2011 to 2012, he was an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard University. In 2010, along with New York City (NYC) Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Dr. Strauss was elected to the Silicon Alley 100. Immediately prior to Harvard, Dr. Strauss was the founding Managing Director of the Center for Economic Transformation in the NYC government, and was responsible for NYC's strategic reviews of its major private sector industries (e.g., Financial Services.NYC.2020, Media.NYC.2020, Fashion.NYC.2020, EducationTechnology.NYC.2020, NYCEDC Innovation Index, and the NYC Game Changers initiative). This work identified major strategic moves for NYC's economic development, including a recommendation that NYC focus on higher-growth knowledge-based industries. Dr. Strauss's work resulted in numerous initiatives, including: Applied Sciences NYC (e.g., the NYC Cornell-Technion campus, and the NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress), General Assembly (an innovation campus in Manhattan's Flatiron District), the 160 Varick Street Incubator (in partnership with Trinity Realty and NYU-Poly), the NYC NextIdea Business Plan Competition, NYC BigApps, Hive@55, NYC Media Lab, and the NYC Entrepreneurial Fund. Prior to his role with NYC, Dr. Strauss was with McKinsey & Company where he worked on health systems reform, economic development, and other strategy issues in the public and private sectors. Dr. Strauss graduated from New York University with a BA. He received his Ph.D. in Management from Yale University in 2002.

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Evangelos Syrigos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

Angelos (Evangelos) 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 worked as Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge (1993-1994), as Legal Expert to the Council of Europe and as member of the Law Bar of Athens and practicing lawyer in Athens. 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). He has served in positions of high management responsibility for foreign policy issues on minorities, transparency and telecommunications. He was awarded in 1992 by the Academy of Athens for his work on the delimitation of the continental shelf. During his military service, he was honored with Praise by the 4th Corps in Thrace for services to the minority of Thrace and with Honorable Mention by the Army General Staff for his contribution to the creation of the Pomak-Greek dictionary. He has published books on Greek-Turkish relations, the Cyprus issue, the Prespa Agreement. On July 7, 2019 he was elected as a Member of the Hellenic Parliament. He is a member of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs, the Special Standing Committee on European Affairs, as well as the Greek Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA). He is married to Irini Stamatoudi and they have three children.

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Anastasios Tzikas, President, TIF-HELEXPO and Technopolis ICT Business Park

Mr. Anastasios Tzikas is an Electrical Engineer graduate from the Faculty of Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is the President of Thessaloniki International Fair HELEXPO SA, from 2011 until today and Technopolis Thessaloniki ICT Business Park S.A., from 2001 until today. Also he is the President of Exhibition Research Institute. He is the Vice President of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece, member of the BoD of Thessaloniki Tourism Organisation and of the Metropolitan Organisation of Museums of Visual Arts of Thessaloniki – MOMus. He has been one of the founders of the “Singular Northern Greece SA” and served as the CEO for the “Singular Northern Greece SA” and “Singular Software SA”, companies, the period between 1987 and 2004. During this period, he also served as the CEO of “Singular Bulgaria” and “Singular Romania”, as the Vice President of “Internet Hellas”, “Delta Singular Training Center” and as Executive Director and member of the BoD of “Delta Singular”. Mr. Anastasios Tzikas has also been exceptionally socially active by participating as a member in the Dialogue Committee appointed by the Greek Prime Minister for the Constitutional Revision and in the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art. Last but not least, he has been nominated as Honorary President of the «Federation of Hellenic Information Technology & Communications Enterprises – SEPE», in which he served as President for 8 years and also Honorary President of “Association of Information Technology Companies of Northern Greece - SEPVE” in which he served as President for 15 years.

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Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor, Region of Central Macedonia

Apostolos Tzitzikostas was born on September 2, 1978. He studied Government and International Relations at Georgetown University, in Washington DC. After graduating in 2000, he had his first working experience at the Office of the President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States Congress. In 2002 he obtained a Masters Degree on European Public Policy and Economics from the University College of London. Following his studies, he created his own company on the field of production, processing and standardization of dairy products, based on organic standards. In 2007, he was elected Member of the Greek Parliament, in the First District of Thessaloniki. In the Regional Elections of November 2010 he was elected Vice-Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia and Head of the Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki. On the Regional Elections of May 2014 he was elected Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia and on the Regional Elections of May 2019 he was re-elected Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia. On November 2019 he was elected President of the Association of Greek Regions. Since 2015 he is a Member of the European Committee of the Regions. In July 2017, he was elected Head of the Greek Delegation and Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions. On February 2020 he was elected President of the European Committee of the Regions. He fluently speaks English and French and his articles are regularly being published in Greek and foreign newspapers and magazines.

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Dimitrios Tzovaras, President, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas

Dimitrios Tzovaras is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas - CERTH. He has conducted very important scientific and research work (826 publications in total), which is summarized in 3 books, 54 book chapters, 200 publications in International Journals with Referees and 569 presentations in International Conferences with Referees. His main research interests include network and visual analytics for computer vision, virtual and augmented reality, visual analytics, multidimensional data analysis, machine learning and artificial intelligence. He is also deeply engaged in applied research aiming at providing innovative solutions in the fields of Energy, Medicine, Industry 4.0, Transport and Culture. He has concluded industrial contracts with leading companies in the world, such as Samsung, while he is actively involved in innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives. He is the co-founder of six (6) spin-offs of CERTH/ITI and the initiator of one of the most innovative activities in the area of electronically equipped infrastructures in Greece, the near zero Energy Smart House, an officially recognized Digital Innovation Hub of the EU. He is also the coordinator of Mega Project 3, Artificial Intelligence and Simulation Applications of the 4th Generation Technologic Park, ThessInTec.

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Marco Veremis, Partner, BigPi Venture Capital

Marco was born in Athens, in 1973. He holds a BA from the University of Warwick and an MPhil from Oxford University. Marco started his career in 1996, as a marketing strategist with Omnicom, WPP and IPG, where he developed global communication strategies for brands such as Nestlé, Smithkline Beecham, Johnson & Johnson and Sony Electronics. In 2002, he returned to Greece and, along with Alex Vratskides, co-founded Upstream. Since then, Upstream has evolved into a leading global technology company within the field of mobile commerce, conducting business in over 45 markets. Marco served as Upstream's CEO until June 2017, and today is its Executive Chairman of the Board, whilst also a partner at BigPi Venture Capital. Marco is an active angel investor and member of the board in technology companies such as Persado, Workable and Hellas Direct. In parallel, Marco is the President of SEN/Junior Achievement Greece and a Board member of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE), of Endeavor and of the research and policy institute diaNEOsis. Marco has been awarded with the EY Greek "Entrepreneur of the Year" award, in 2013.

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Panos Vlachos, President, Anatolia College

Dr. Panos Vlachos was appointed to the role of 11th President of Anatolia College in April 2013. In this capacity, he serves as the lead administrator of Anatolia's four educational divisions: Anatolia Elementary School, Anatolia High School, the Pinewood-American International School and the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT). He is currently also serving as the Vice President of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities. Prior to his appointment as President of Anatolia, he served in a variety of administrative leadership positions over the past 15 years: Vlachos has worked as a Professor for over 20 years teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of Applied Mathematics & Statistics and the application of information and communication technologies in teaching and learning approaches. His academic research has been published in various academic journals. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MSc in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematical Sciences from the University of Rhode Island in the USA.

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Julie Wagner, President, The Global Institute on Innovation Districts

Julie Wagner is president and founder of The Global Institute on Innovation Districts (GIID), a new global-reaching not for profit organization dedicated to the advancement of innovation districts worldwide. GIID formally engages with over 20 districts around the world to support their advancement in addition to providing independent and empirically grounded research. Her most recent research involved designing, and subsequently spearheading, a multi-disciplinary approach to analyze nine innovation districts across six countries and four continents. She has also written extensively about this nascent model of innovation. This includes co-authoring “The Rise of Innovation Districts: A New Geography of Innovation in America”, “The Evolution of Innovation Districts: The New Geography of Global Innovation,” and dozens of research briefs and articles for media outlets such as the Harvard Business Review, Fortune Magazine, Quartz, and The Guardian. Prior to GIID, Julie was director of the Bass Center at The Brookings Institution spearheading research activities on innovation districts. Today, Julie serves as a nonresident senior fellow at Brookings’ Metropolitan Policy Program and a visiting scholar for the Esade Business School’s Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics. Julie earned a master’s degree in city planning from MIT and holds a bachelor’s degree in organizational communication from Northeastern University.

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Konstantinos Zervas, Mayor, Municipality of Thessaloniki

Konstantinos is a graduate of the Experimental school of the University of Thessaloniki and holds a Ba degree and postgraduate degree (Msc) with scholarship and distinction grade from the Aristotle and Brown University (USA) respectively. Since 1990 Konstantinos has started running his own office in Thessaloniki as a civil engineer. He has overseen various big projects, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Attiko Metro sa (2010-2016), he served as the Chairman of the State Orchestra Board of Thessaloniki (SOB) (2011-2014) and in 2013 he was elected as a member of the Central Representation of the Technical Chamber of Greece and the Regional Department of Central Macedonia. He is President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Vice-President of FODSA, President of the council of Agios Stylianos and member of the council of OASTH. Konstantinos has been elected as a councilman of the City of Thessaloniki in 2010, while he has served as Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Quality of Life and Free Spaces (2011-2014), Deputy Mayor for Citizen Mobilization, Youth and Sports. Konstantinos authored a book in 2019 entitled "Poplars or chamaerops? Thoughts for Thessaloniki and politics".