

19th Corporate Responsibility Conference

**September 30, 2021**

Grand Hyatt Athens Hotel



# Citizen Sustain

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## SPEAKERS BIOS

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## **Dimitris Agrafiotis, Manager M&A Project, Corporate & Government Affairs, Mondelez International**

Since 2003, Dimitris Agrafiotis has been a passionate and devoted communicator. He is an all-round strategic and corporate communications expert with extensive experience in multinational corporations from different industries. His specialties include corporate and strategic communications, corporate and brand campaigns management, media relations, crisis and issues management, government affairs, internal communications and others. Since 2017, he has been a Corporate & Government Affairs Manager at Mondelez International and recently undertook the position of Manager M&A Project. Prior to his current role, he has held positions in Vodafone, in Greece and abroad, Toyota Hellas, and PR Agencies. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and European Studies from the Panteion University of Athens of Political and Social Sciences, a Master degree in International Relations and Intelligence Studies from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, United Kingdom and a Masters degree in Marketing and Communications, from the Athens University of Business and Economics.

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## Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos, Chair, Energy Committee, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Professor Dr. Kostas Andriosopoulos is the Executive Director of the Research Centre for Energy Transition & Sustainability Center at Audencia Business School where he holds the position of full Professor in Finance and Energy Economics. He holds a PhD in Finance (Cass Business School, City University London), where he has been the recipient of the prestigious Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation's scholarship. He also holds an MBA and MSc in Finance (Northeastern University, Boston, USA), and a bachelor's degree in Production Engineering and Management (Technical University of Crete, Greece). In addition, he held the position of Executive Director of the Research Centre for Energy Management at ESCP Europe Business School. He is a member in various professional and academic associations: President of the Energy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, President of the Decarbonization Fund of the Greek islands for the Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy, Founder and former Chairman of the Hellenic Association for Energy Economics (a think-tank focusing on issues related to energy, the environment and the economy), Board member of the Global Gas Center-World Energy Council as a Gas and LNG markets expert, Member of the board of the International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) as a Vice President for Publications, Founding board member of the Financial Engineering and Banking Society, Member Technical Chamber of Greece, Member of the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society, which recognizes outstanding academic achievements of students enrolled in collegiate business and management programs, Member of the Energy Commission of the Industry and Parliament Trust in the UK (2012-13). In addition to his academic profile, he has an extensive professional experience in the business world and has served as a business consultant in energy, food, web & software, commodity trading and shipping industries. During September 2019-February 2021 he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Public Gas Company (DEPA), a position he also held for the period 2014-2015. Since August 2018 he is Country Manager of Akuo Energy in Greece, a multinational company based in France that develops RES projects in 17 countries around the world. In addition, he has worked as an Advisor to the Retail Banking Director and Managing Director for the British Bankers' Association (2007). His current interests include energy-related geopolitical issues, gas and LNG market dynamics, RES investments, financial engineering, and the application of operational research tools on risk management and investment techniques in energy, shipping, and agricultural commodity markets. He is the Associate Editor for the International Journal of Financial Engineering and Risk Management, Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Energy Markets.

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## Nickolas Angelopoulos, Sustainability Specialist, Interamerican

Nickolas is a Sustainability Specialist in Interamerican Group and he is a member of the CSR Hellas Board. Graduated from Management of Natural Resources department of the Agricultural University of Athens and then continued his studies in the University of Edinburgh by completing his MSc in Environmental Protection and Management. In 2015 he obtained his PhD degree from the University of Edinburgh in Environmental Sustainability. Nickolas was appointed by the Scottish Government to work closely with the Head of Climate Change and Business Support Branch for the Agriculture and Rural Development Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and EU Officials as a European Climate Change Consultant. He then continued his career as a Senior Consultant in EY Greece in the Climate Change and Sustainability Services. Moreover, he served as a CSR Team Manager for Lidl Hellas and Lidl Cyprus.

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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 the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. 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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## Kostas Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens

Kostas Bakoyannis is Mayor of Athens. He served as Governor of Central Greece from 2014 to 2019 and as Mayor of Karpenissi, from 2011 to 2014. Born in 1978 in Athens, he graduated from Millfield School (UK) in 1996 before going to Brown University (USA) to study History and International Relations. He continued with postgraduate studies in Public Policy, with a specialization in Macroeconomics, at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government (USA). He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations, from the University of Oxford (2019). He has worked at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as executive manager in the private sector in Athens. He has also held positions in the European Parliament in Brussels and the World Bank in Kosovo. He is a council member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and a Greek Leadership Council member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). He served in the Greek Special Forces as a Paratrooper. He speaks English and German.

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## Leonidas Christopoulos, Secretary General of Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures, Ministry of Digital Governance

Leonidas Christopoulos is the Secretary General of Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures at the Ministry of Digital Governance. He has worked as an advisor to several Ministers, as well as to the President of the governing party on the field of public administration reform. He has coordinated significant public administration reform projects in Greece such as the reorganization of the Greek Central Administration (2014), the reduction of administrative burdens in several policy areas (2014), the public financial management agenda (2012-2014) and the new law on the Executive State (2019). He was a civil servant at the Ministry of Finance and a graduate of the National School of Public Administration. He holds a degree on Political Science and International Relations from Panteion University and an MA in International Political Economy from Warwick University. He speaks English & German.

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## Rouli Christopoulou, Head of CSR & Sustainability, Alpha Bank

Rouli Christopoulou is a communications professional with 20 years of experience, undertaking roles related to corporate & brand communication, public affairs, CSR & sustainable business. She is Head of Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability at Alpha Bank. By 2007 she joined Vodafone Greece holding managerial roles and in 2016 she was appointed Head of Vodafone Foundation & Sustainability, having previously worked as a Communications Consultant. She holds an MA in Corporate Communication from Bournemouth University and an International & European Relations Degree from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens. She is an active volunteer, a member of BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network and a member of the Advisor Board at the Greek Non-Profit Women Do Business promoting female entrepreneurship.

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### **Jerry Dayken, Senior Media Director EMEA, GSK**

Jerry leads media across GSK's EMEA & LATAM regions, helping drive the continued digital transformation of one of the world's largest consumer healthcare businesses with brands including Sensodyne, Advil and Voltarol. He leads their global internal Diversity & Representation in Marketing initiative, overseeing light house best practice as well as training over 1,000 marketers across the business. Externally he champions representation across the marketing industry as co-chair of the WFA Diversity Task Force and a voluntary director at Outvertising and the Conscious Advertising Network. He has a background in media partnerships and digital strategy, having led both globally for Diageo, Mondelez and agency side at Carat. He's a regular writer and blogger with contributions across industry titles and in his own Digital Sense blog and contributed to the collaborative book 'Eat Your Greens' with a range of notable industry contributors.

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## John Filos, Professor, Panteion University

Graduated Economic University of Athens (AUEB/ASOEE) obtained MBA in USA and completed his Doctoral Research at Panteion University. Worked at Arthur Andersen for 7 years and continued as consultant and project leader in a big number of companies and in an international organization. Taught at AUEB/ASOEE (2000-2008), and since then at Panteion University, where presently serves as Professor in Auditing-International Standards. At Panteion served as Vice Rector for Finance and Development, President of its Research Committee and at early 2021 was appointed as the Students Advocate. Served as non-paid President in the Pharmaceutical Products Pricing Committee (Ministry of Health). He is President of the Academic Committee of the Greek Chapter of European Business Ethics Network (EBEN GR) and BoD member in Transparency International, Greek chapter. He is an independent non-executive BoD member and Audit Committee Chair in a big Public Company. Finally, he is a writer of many books and scientific articles and has participated in a vast number of scientific and professional conferences in Greece and abroad.

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## Manolis Grafakos, General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination, Ministry of Environment and Energy

Manolis Grafakos is an economist and the General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Greece. He studied Economics at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of the Aegean, in Banking from the Greek Open University, and in Design, Management and Tourism Policy from the University of the Aegean. He is a PhD candidate at the University of the Aegean. During 2012-2019 he was the Secretary General of the Municipality of the Aegean. From 2010-2011 he was the President of the Inter-Municipal Association for the Sustainable Development "21 Local Authorities" of the northern Attica municipalities. During 2007-2010 he was the Mayor of Melissia Attica. In the period 2004-2006, he was Deputy Governor of the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica. He worked in the private sector from 1994-2004 as a business consultant in finance.

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### Dr. Harry Hiniadis, Co-Founder, Be-Live

Dr. Harry Hiniadis is a Reproductive Gynecologist, Member of the Board of Directors of Mitera Hospital and co-founder of the Non-Profit Association for the Assistance of Reproduction "Be-Live". He specialized in Obstetrics & Gynecology in the UK for 6 years at esteemed institutes such as King's College Hospital, Royal London Hospital, Medway Maritime Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, and King George Hospital. Whilst at King's College Hospital, London, Dr. Hiniadis was research fellow at the Harris Birthright Unit for Fetal Medicine. He specialized in IVF and Gynecological Endoscopic Surgery (Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy) and worked in the Assisted Reproduction Unit of Saint Bartholomew's University Hospital, London. Since 2004 he is an associate of the of Mitera IVF Unit, where he has served as Scientific Director. He has obtained the European Diploma in Gynecological Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy, Université d'Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, the Diploma of Console Surgeon in Robotic Laparoscopy, Strasbourg, the Diploma of Faculty for Family Planning of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RCOG) and the A.L.S.O. Diploma (Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics), U.K. He is a certified ultrasonographer and holds the Diploma of the Hellenic Ministry of Health for Gynecological and Obstetric Ultrasound. He teaches in the Postgraduate Program "Human Reproduction" of the Medical School of the Democritus University of Thrace, as well as the sixth-year students at the Medical School of the European University Cyprus at Hygeia Hospital. He devotes a significant part of his working time to the free provision of medical services and to educate doctors and the public about the treatment of infertility and the decline of global fertility rate.

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## Amir Kabel, Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Burberry

An award-winning global leader and influencer in D&I, with a 15-year career in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Amir is listed in the global Top 50 Diversity Professionals List; Top 50 Most Influential Diversity Stars 2020 List; and he won the prestigious 'Head of Diversity' Award at the European Diversity Awards in 2017, for his commitment to and 15 direct years of service in the field of D&I. Amir has also received the following accolades: Telegraph's Top 50 LGBT Executives List 2015; Winner of 'Future Leader' at the British LGBT Awards 2015. Amir is a Board D&I Advisor and Chair of the D&I Steering Committee for the British Fashion Council. He also sits as the head judge on the Ethnicity Awards, and the British LGBT Awards 2020. He was also a Non-Executive Director for an LGBT recruitment platform called MyGwork. Taking a business-led approach to D&I, Amir's diversity programs are considered pioneering and innovative. As the Global Head of D&I/Chief D&I Officer, Amir has created and led global strategies for Burberry, Adidas, Reebok, Coty and Vodafone-working across the world to effect change and create sustainable award-winning diversity and talent programs.

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### Vasiliki Kapari, HR Manager, Wella Company

Vasiliki's aim is to empower the most valuable asset of the human capital intensive organizations, in order to have a long lasting business impact; leveraging a diverse experience from multiple industries for 15 years and a track record of transformation challenges, operational change initiatives and agility projects. Her ultimate passion is to establish both a Sustainability and an Employee Ownership Culture in the organization. Since 2011 she has initiated numerous CSR programs, has been actively volunteering as business coach, as well as member of the Corporate Responsibility Committee of AmCham. She is the HR Manager of Wella Company and her academic background is in European & International Studies and Human Resources Management.

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### **George Kavelakis, Manager, KETHEA Schema + Chroma**

George Kavelakis is the Manager of KETHEA SCHEMA+CHROMA, a printing factory that belongs to the largest rehabilitation and social reintegration organization in Greece (Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals). With degrees in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Akron, Ohio, he initially worked in the automotive industry (GM, Dayton, Ohio) and upon returning to Greece in other industrial fields, while complementing his education with a degree in Business Administration. As manager of KETHEA SCHEMA+CHROMA (since 2003) he became very involved in the field of drug dependence treatment and social reintegration, was additionally trained in Management of Health Units and Social Policy and developed a particular interest in the fields of Social Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility.

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## Martha Kesisoglou, Marketing & Sustainability Advisor

Martha Kesisoglou is a marketing, corporate social responsibility & sustainability and public relations advisor. She holds a Business B.Sc. from Deree College and a MA in Sociology from the University of Kent. Her career, to date, has embraced all corporate and marketing communication functions, including C-suite communication consulting, press relations, crisis management, stakeholders engagement, business to market integrated marketing (retail, wholesale and start-ups), initiation of large-scale business synergies and initiatives, traditional and digital advertising, sustainability and ESG transformation, philanthropic and cultural donations, and a 360 strategic public relations approach. She has held managerial positions at Athens International Airport, Nova Bank (Millennium bcp), Piraeus Bank and Eurobank, where she was responsible for B2B and HNWI Marketing & Strategy, Group PR and Group CSR.

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## Thanasis Konistis, Director of After Sales & New Business Development, Kosmocar

Thanasis Konistis, an executive with more than 20 years of experience in the automotive market, is Director of After Sales & New Business Development at Kosmocar SA, a leading Automotive Importer Group in Greece which represents the brands Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda, Bentley, Lamborghini & Ducati of the Volkswagen Group. Kosmocar, through its automotive brands portfolio and its new e-bikes operation under Kosmoride brand, is setting e-mobility at the forefront of its future development, through the launch of a new generation of electric vehicles & mobility services.



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## Dimitra Kontova, Campaign Manager, Me Alla Matia

Dimitra Kontova was raised in Lamia but has been living in Athens for over 10 years. She became physically disabled after a car accident in her early childhood. She started her studies in the "Marketing and Communication" department of AUEB but eventually altered her field of studies to "Fashion Design & Styling". She has worked as a Sales Consultant in the private sector and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Culture, Sports and Youth of the Municipality of Athens (OPANDA). She participates voluntarily as a motivational speaker in the "Educational Programs for Information & Familiarity with Disability" of SKEP. With the support of the Vodafone Foundation, through the World of Difference program, she implemented the #SpeakUp campaign in collaboration with the Civil Non-Profit Company "Me Alla Matia" a campaign that promotes the visibility of disabled people and their daily lives. Dimitra is an active member of a dance community who has taken part in various social events, seminars and campaigns. In 2018 she completed the 36th Authentic Marathon in her wheelchair as a member of the "Flying Geese" team. Through her presence on social media and her attitude towards life, she challenges the stereotypes around disability, aids in creating an inclusive society and shares positive energy with everyone.

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## George Lialios, Journalist, Kathimerini

George Lialios is a Journalist for Kathimerini, the leading Greek daily, since 1998. From 2005 he covers all news and aspects of environmental issues in Greece, from European and national policies to ecology. He also writes about urban and spatial planning, urban development, and strategies, building legislation and public works. He holds a Master's degree in Urban and Spatial Planning from the National Technical University of Athens and a degree in Communication and Mass Media from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

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## Alexia Macheras, Sustainable Retail and Corporate Communication Manager, AB Vassilopoulos

Alexia Macheras has been working at AB Vassilopoulos as Sustainable Retail and Corporate Communication Manager for the past 15 years. In charge of the company's Sustainability Strategy, she also coordinates External and Internal Corporate communication activities at local and group level. Previously to that, she worked for ten years in advertising agencies such as Publicis, UpSet! and Lowe Athens, on accounts such as L'oreal, Vodafone, Dixons, and Unilever. She has studied Law at the University Paris II-Assas and has a BA in International Relations from the American University of Paris.

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### **Apostolos Mangiriadis, Journalist, SKAI**

Apostolos Mangiriadis is a Political Correspondent for SKAI TV and SKAI Radio. He is also a frequent News Anchor for the network's nightly newscast. He also writes for KATHIMERINI, Greece's historic daily. He was the Editor-in-Chief of "Histories" for SKAI TV, the country's leading current affairs tv program, and worked as a political correspondent/columnist for TA NEA newspaper, Greece's historic daily. Previously he was a Political Correspondent for MEGA TV. He conducts media training and coaching workshops for senior executives of big companies and moderation at corporate events. He holds a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York and a BA in Political Science from the Athens Law School. He was born and raised in Theesaloniki, Greece in 1979.

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## Katerina Matiatou, Head of Development, ActionAid Hellas

Katerina Matiatou, Head of Development at ActionAid Hellas, is passionate about the non-profit sector and its potential to sustainably solve social issues and make our world a better place. Since 2008 she has collaborated with non-profits, foundations and corporations in Greece and the UK, with Royal Academy of Arts, Special Olympics, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Desmos and HIGGS being amongst them. She specializes in strategic planning, grant-making, fundraising and organizational development. Katerina is also a SE Europe Network Driver of the BMW Foundation's Responsible Leaders Network and also serves as an Advisory Board member in a variety non-profit organizations. Her studies are Communications, Mass Media & Culture at the Panteion University, Athens, and Cultural & Creative Industries at King's College, London. She loves the sea, sailing and culinary experiences.

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## Konstantinos Mavros, CEO, PPC Renewables

Konstantinos Mavros has significant and diversified experience in the broader energy sector and the fields of corporate finance and technology. He has worked in the past in the Renewable Energy Sector and has been leading companies in the technological field. He has also co-founded a Venture Capital fund supported by the European Investment Fund. He is an active member and holds key positions in several international professional and academic associations and has been a visiting lecturer at the Athens University International MBA program. He holds a Masters' degree in Finance from Imperial College London and has completed high level executive education programs at Harvard Business School.

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## Alexandra Mitsotaki, Co-Founder & President, World Human Forum

Alexandra Mitsotaki is co-founder & president of the World Human Forum, a global citizen initiative which has its symbolic base in Delphi. In 2019 she launched the Convergences Greece Forum. In 1998 she founded the Greek affiliate of ActionAid, the international organization against poverty and injustice, ActionAid Hellas. For the last 10 years, she was in charge of the Hellenic Cultural Centre in Paris, of which she is now vice-chair, with the aim of establishing a tool of cultural diplomacy for Greece in the Francophone world. Reacting to the financial crisis in Greece, in 2014 she co founded Action Finance Initiative, the first microcredit organization in Greece with partners ActionAid Hellas and Adie France. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Studies from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris and a Post graduate degree on Development Issues. In the past, she has worked at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), where she specialized further in poverty issues in the developing world. She is a profound believer in civil society mobilization and in citizen responsibility and their capacity to hold governments accountable at all levels of civic engagement. She is a member of the High Level Roundtable Committee of the New European Bauhaus, an initiative of the European Commission aiming to connect the European Green Deal to our living spaces.

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## Yiorgos Mylonadis, Adjunct Professor of Strategy & Entrepreneurship, London Business School

Yiorgos is an Adjunct Professor of Strategy & Entrepreneurship at London Business School where he lectures senior executives and MBA students. Consulting assignments include keynote speeches and senior management meeting facilitation. He specializes on business ecosystems, digital strategy, entrepreneurial communities, social enterprises, and methodologies for strategic thinking. After earning a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he has held appointments on the faculties of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Athens Laboratory of Business Administration (ALBA) before joining London Business School in 2000 where he created *Developing Strategy for Value Creation* - the School's first Executive Education Strategy Program. He has led large, multi-year advisory and teaching programs for many firms including Nestle, IBM, Emirates, Oracle, GEA, Xstrata, Nokia, SKF, and Mars, among others. Recent engagements include senior leadership workshops with Sika and the British Council. He has served as a Trustee of the Reload Greece Foundation.

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## Yiannis Olympios, Founder, The Power of a Flower

Yiannis Olympios is Co-founder and CEO of V+O Group. He counsels international corporations, governments, banks, and institutions, and is a driving force behind the growth of V+O Group, the leading communications business in the region, with offices in Athens, Belgrade, Bucharest, Sofia, Skopje, Tirana, and Nicosia. He is actively involved in nearly all projects of major transformational impact in Greece and the wider region. As a strategic communications expert, he has an extensive experience in reputation management, marketing, and communication, having successfully handled challenging Public and Government Affairs programs, corporate & financial communications campaigns, and a wide range of communication crises. Yiannis is the founder of The Power of a Flower, a social cooperative enterprise supporting the integration of neurodiverse people into economic and social life, through seasonal flower farming and distribution. The company operates a seasonal flower farm in Marathonas and is creating a new farm in Athens International Airport as well as operating the on-site flower shop. By the end of the of the year, the aim is to be the biggest European platform of its kind. He believes that the Greek private sector has never shared the burden of care and that the lack of inclusivity and redistribution of security and opportunity is the cause of many problems that could have civic driven solutions.

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## **Spiros Papageorgiou, Founder & Director of Business Development, Cities for Cycling**

Cycling Expert, with 22 years of experience in cycling. Founder of MBike, the first communication platform for cycling in Greece. Athens Bike Festival's organizer. Founding member and Development Director of NGO "Cities for Cycling", member of European Cyclists Federation for Greece. National Eurovelo Coordinator and representative for Cycle Friendly Employer accreditation. Cooperates with SNFCC for cycling activities and events. Announced as "Athens Bicycle Mayor" from Dutch organization BYCS.

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## Peggy Pelonis, President, American Community Schools

Dr. Peggy Pelonis is President at the American Community Schools, a K-12 International school in Athens Greece. She is an educational leadership trainer, a licensed Family Therapist and National Certified Psychologist in the State of California and is certified in Educational Leadership from the Harvard Business School and the Harvard School of Education. Her doctoral work in Educational Leadership from the University of Bath, UK, focused on the complexities of professional development in international schools. She is devoted to facilitating positive change in people's lives and has developed a 'Process of Change' Model to help individuals strengthen the skills needed to cope with life changes. Dr. Pelonis has been on the faculty of the Master's Psychology programs for the California State University of Fullerton, the University of LaVerne and has taught at the University of Malta. She is a transnational Psychotherapist and Educator currently on the staff of the International Committee of Adlerian Summer Schools and Institutes (ICASSI). She works with Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools as a team leader for school accreditation; she is Chair of the Special Interest Group of the European Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS). Her work on international education also includes speaking engagements for the United Nations (New York), The World Innovation Summit in education (WISE) and the Alliance for International Education (AIE). She is the author of numerous professional journal articles in education and of three books on change and resilience.

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## Achilleas Plitharas, Footprint Leader, WWF

Achilleas Plitharas was born in Trikala. He studied Environmental Sciences at the University of the Aegean and holds a master's degree in Environmental and Energy Management Systems. He joined the WWF Greece team in April 2004 as head of an advocacy campaign to control hazardous chemicals. Today, he is in charge of programs to reduce the environmental footprint of our lifestyle.

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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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## Alexandra Sdoukou, Secretary General for Energy & Mineral Resources, Ministry of Environment and Energy

Alexandra Sdoukou is a lawyer, permanent employee at the Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes (MOU S.A.) under the Ministry of Economy and Development. Since 2004, she is working as legal advisor in the public administration in various positions at the Ministries of Economy, Development and Environment, Energy & Climate Change. She has been specialized as energy policymaker, working with all Energy Ministers from 2007 to 2015. From 2012 to 2015, she was Head of Cabinet at the Minister of Environment, Energy & Climate Change, competent to develop policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring on a wide range of energy and environmental projects. From October 2017, she was Advisor to the President of Nea Dimokratia on energy and natural resources. Alexandra holds a Bachelor of Law degree from Democritus University of Thrace, a Master's Degree LLM in European Commercial Law from the University of Bristol U.K., and a M.Sc. in International & Economic studies from the Athens University of Economics & Business.

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## Akis Skertzos, Minister of State

Akis Skertzos is Minister of State responsible for the coordination of the Government's Work. He served as Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, Responsible for the Coordination of Government Work (July 2019-August 2021). Prior to his governmental positions, he has been the Director General of SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (June 2014-June 2019). Before joining SEV, he worked in politics and held various positions in the Greek public administration between 2009-2014. His previous engagement was Chief of Staff in the offices of the Minister of Finance Yannis Stournaras and of the Caretaker Prime Minister Panagiotis Pikrammenos from 2012 to 2014. He holds a Master of Arts in Political Management and Lobbying from George Washington University, USA (2000-2001), a BA in Journalism and Communications from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1995-1999). He is fluent in English and French. He is married and has one child.

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## **Maria Syrengela, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs**

Maria Syrengela is the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, responsible for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality. She was Secretary General of Family Policy and Gender Equality from July 2019 until January 2021 and is Vice President of the Women of the European People's Party (EPPWomen). She has also been vice president of KETHI (Center for Equality Research) from 2013 until March 2015. Former Vice-President of the YEPP (Youth of the European People's Party), from 2001 to 2005 and YEPP Representative in the Western Balkan Democracy Initiative and the Southeastern European Forum, at the same time. Former member of the Executive Bureau of ONNED (Youth Organization of Nea Demokratia, political party), in charge of International Relations, from 2001 until 2004 and in the Central Committee from 1998 until 2005. Candidate with New Democracy in the 2004 European Elections. Graduate of Philosophy School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with a Master's Degree in Business Administration for Executives of the Athens University of Economy and Business (AUEB) and thesis in Policy and Strategy of New Public Management. Maria Syrengela has served in key positions, both in private and public sectors, specializing in human resources. Member of the Economic Chamber of Greece. She speaks English, French and Turkish. Married to Fotis Kyriakopoulos, Civil Engineer and mother of two children, Vasilis and Konstantinos.

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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).

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## Alexander Theodoridis, Co-Founder & CEO, Boroume

Alexander Theodoridis is one of the co-founders and the director of NGO Boroume (“We Can”), a leading food saving organization of Greece which since 2012 has saved & offered more than 50 million portions of food from thousands of donors to over 600 charities all over Greece and has been awarded with the European Citizenship Award 2017 by the European Parliament. He has extensive experience in both the private and public sector, is a Marshall Memorial Fund Fellow and has received scholarships from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). He has been a volunteer for various NGOs including the Hellenic Rescue Team, Junior Achievement Greece as well as a board member of Volunteer4Greece and Ethelon and a member of the advisory board of Vouliwatch. He holds degrees from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich (1996-2000, *Magister Artium, Political Science, Economics, International Law*) and the London School of Economics (2000-2001, *MSc International Relations*).

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## Angelika Tzemou, BoD Member & Head of HR, Bayer Greece

Angelika Tzemou is a member of the Board of Directors and the HR Head at Bayer Hellas. A strategic senior executive with a track record in leading organizational transformations and operational excellence across local and global teams. Passionate about developing a diverse and inclusive environment where everyone brings their whole self to work and thrives, Angelika joined Bayer in 2016 to drive the local organizational development journey. Prior to Bayer, Angelika spent 5 years at LEO Pharma, where she acted as a trusted advisor to the VP, Area Directors and General Managers on all human capital matters across 13 countries in Northeast Europe. She holds a MSc in Human Resource Management from Surrey University School of Management, a BA in Sociology from the American College of Greece and completed the Senior Leadership Program at IMD.



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## Nikos Ververidis, Founder, ελCulture

Nikos Ververidis is a growth hacker and serial entrepreneur who is active in the cultural business and specifically in the fields of television production, advertising, and communication with active action in the startup ecosystem. Nikos is the founder of the production company ELCPRODUCTIONS AMKE and the cultural platform ελculture since 2006. His ventures reflect his vision for social development through art and culture. His main responsibilities concern the business development and the general coordination of the company's projects. He is the co-founder of Aephoria.net, a sustainable business incubator, with the most recognizable project being the annual Innovation and Incubation Competition for the Maritime Economy, Blue Growth, which has been successfully organized since 2014. Indicative projects for the implementation of which he is responsible include: "Break the Chain", social awareness campaign against Human Trafficking through art, culture and education, Series of cultural documentaries «Greece from A to Z», Historical documentary about life and work of Nikos Kazantzakis, Series of historical documentaries covering the transition of National Library of Greece and National Opera to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre (SNFCC), Annual cultural program of the Athens International Airport "Fly me to the Moon" etc.

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## Christina Vidou, Journalist, ERT

Christina Vidou is a journalist. She has been with ERT since August 2021 and had a longstanding career with SKAI from 1995-2021. Until 1997 she was a reporter, when she undertook the weekly broadcast of SKAI's radio. At the same time, she continued reporting, and since 2000 she was editor and news broadcaster. In 2008 she began her television career and by 2015 she was a central presenter of daily newscasts, as well as of the central SKAI TV weekend news bulletins. She worked exclusively in radio broadcasting presenting for 22 years the show zoi.gr on SKAI 100.3 every evening. In parallel, she was a morning radio broadcaster at Melodia.

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## Michael Vlastarakis, General Manager, Group Marketing & Corporate Communications, Eurobank

General Manager Group Marketing & Corporate Communications Eurobank S.A the last 7 years. Member of the Board of Directors of Eurobank A.D. Belgrade. Before Eurobank, he has held managerial positions at Euromerchant Bank, Barclays Bank Plc in Greece and the U.K. and National Bank of Greece. During his career, he has played an important role in the development of Retail Banking in Greece and Southeastern Europe, having served among others as a Board Member in Banks in Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. He holds an MBA in Financial Services from ALBA Graduate Business School, a Degree in Economics from Athens University and has attended various Executive Education Courses like Strategic Marketing at Harvard Business School and Leadership at IMD.

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## Andreas Vouros, Managing Director, Thrive Global Greece and Romania

Andreas Vouros is the Managing Director at Thrive Global Greece and Romania. He has over 19 years of experience in digital marketing and digital transformation. Prior to Thrive Global, he held the position of Global Head, Digital Marketing in the FF Group with responsibility for the strategic planning and implementation of digital communication plans of all the FF Group brands, including but not limited to Folli Follie, Links of London, Converse, Samsonite. For 3 years he held the position of General Manager of Bakers Digital, V + O Group where he had the overall responsibility for the development of the company as well as the communication strategy for its customers, among others Coca Cola 3E, Aegean Airlines, Mytilineos Group, Lamda Development. He holds a degree in Mathematics from Imperial College London and is the proud father of two.

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## Thalia Vouvonikou, HR Head Greece and Cyprus, Henkel Hellas

Thalia Vouvonikou holds the position of Head of Human Resources Department Greece and Cyprus at Henkel Hellas SA. She has many years of professional experience in employee's Development and Assessment, as well as in Labor Relations. She has gained important experience from various roles in well-known multinational and large Greek organizations and has coordinated large scale projects in the fields of employee's assessment and labor affairs. From those roles, she has also managed several Human Resources process improvement projects and has facilitated in the further development of Diversity & Inclusion principles in the workplace. She is a member of Greek Human Resources Management Association and has been referred to many of her writing activities to the importance of diverse and multicultural teams for the sustainable development of organizations. She Holds a Bachelor's Degree (BA) in Sociology from the American College of Greece, and she is also a holder of a Master's Degree (MA) in Human Resources Management from Leeds University Business School of UK.

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## George Yannis, Professor, National Technical University of Athens

George Yannis is Professor in Traffic and Safety Engineering with particular focus on data management and analysis at the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the School of Civil Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). For more than 30 years, he has contributed extensively to more than 285 research and engineering projects and studies and in several scientific committees of the European Commission and other International Organizations (UNECE, OECD, WHO, World Bank, EIB, CEDR, ERF, IRF, UITP, ETSC, ECTRI, WCTR, TRB). He has published 676 scientific papers (201 in scientific journals) widely cited worldwide.

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## Nikos Ypofantis, Journalist, SKAI

Nikos Ypofantis works for SKAI TV, Skai Radio 100.3 and the websites [www.skai.gr](http://www.skai.gr), [www.meaculpa.gr](http://www.meaculpa.gr), [www.political.gr](http://www.political.gr). He writes for business related magazines and websites, along with a series of broadcasts in television and radio for SKAI group. He anchors the business show, Ready Business, on SKAI TV. He has been covering for 26 years and reporting on entrepreneurship, commerce, energy, and general reporting. He has completed studies in communication and mass media. He speaks English and Spanish.