

# AI in Action: Transforming Business, Work and Life

September 7, 2023  
The Met Hotel

## Speakers Bios

Co-Organizers



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



REGION OF  
CENTRAL MACEDONIA







**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 a Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Managing Director of Northern Greece Publishing S.A. He has held the position of Managing Director of Imperium AEX, and Member of the Board of Directors of Egnatia Bank Securities S.A. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. 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. He is a founding member and member of the Board of the Council of Competitiveness of Greece. From October 2019 until February 2022, 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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**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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## 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 and 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 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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**Julie Dillman**

Digital Transformation Officer  
Chubb

Julie Dillman is Executive Vice President, Chubb Group; Senior Executive, Operations and Technology; and Digital Transformation Officer. In this role, she partners and works closely with Chubb's Chief Digital Business Officer and senior business executives to lead the company's transformation, including how work gets done and the skills and technology employed to serve customers and distribution partners. Ms. Dillman also has executive oversight for the company's global operations and technology. Ms. Dillman has more than 30 years of experience in insurance company operations. Prior to her current role, she served as Global Head of Operations and Technology. Ms. Dillman joined Chubb in 2016 from Travelers Insurance, where, as Executive Vice President, Operations, eBusiness and Analytics, and a member of the company's management committee, she led operations and corporatewide digital and analytics delivery. Ms. Dillman began her career as an underwriter and held positions of increasing responsibility, including product development leadership and integration leadership roles through multiple platforms. She was appointed Senior Vice President, Chubb Group in 2016. Ms. Dillman was honored in Insurance Business magazine with the 2018 Elite Women award and as one of WomenInc.'s 2022 Most Influential Women Executives in Corporate America. Ms. Dillman received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire.



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**Pam Dixon**

Founder and Executive Director  
World Privacy Forum

Pam Dixon is the founder and executive director of the World Privacy Forum, a respected public interest research group. An author and researcher, she has written influential studies in the area of identity, AI, health, and complex data ecosystems and their governance for more than 20 years. Dixon has worked extensively on privacy across multiple jurisdictions, including the US, India, Africa, Asia, the EU, and additional jurisdictions. Dixon currently serves as the co-chair of the UN Statistics Data Governance and Legal Frameworks working group, and is co-chair of WHO's Research, Academic, and Technical network. At OECD, Dixon leads the formal civil society multistakeholder work in OECD's new AI Working Party. In prior work, Dixon was part of the AI expert group that crafted the OECD AI Principles, which were ratified in 2018. (<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/ai/principles/>) Dixon has presented her work on complex data ecosystems governance to the National Academies of Science and to the Royal Academies of Science. She has written 9 books and numerous studies and articles. Dixon was named one of the most influential global experts in digital identity in 2021. Dixon received the EFF Pioneer Award for groundbreaking research regarding privacy and data ecosystems in 2021.



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## **Petros Drineas**

Professor and Associate Head  
Department of Computer Science  
Purdue University

Petros Drineas is a Professor and Associate Head at the Computer Science Department of Purdue University. He earned a PhD in Computer Science from Yale University in 2003 and a BS in Computer Engineering and Informatics from the University of Patras, Greece, in 1997. His work has fundamentally contributed to the development of Randomization in Numerical Linear Algebra (RandNLA). He has also worked on applications of RandNLA to Data Science, with a particular focus on genomic data. Prof. Drineas was elected a SIAM Fellow in 2023; was named a Purdue University Faculty Scholar in 2022; and is the recipient of an NSF CAREER award and an IBM Academic award. He was a Visiting Professor at the US Sandia National Laboratories during the fall of 2005, a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles in the fall of 2007, and a long-term visitor at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing at the University of California Berkeley in the fall of 2013. From October 2010 to December 2011, he served the US National Science Foundation as a Program Director in the Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS) Division and the Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF) Division. Prof. Drineas has published over 140 papers (cited over 13,300 times) in theoretical computer science, applied mathematics, and genetics venues, including the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, PLOS Genetics, Genome Research, the Journal of Medical Genetics, PLoS One, the Annals of Human Genetics, etc. He has presented keynote talks and tutorials in major conferences (e.g., SIAM ALA, KDD, VLDB, SDM, etc.) and over 100 invited colloquia and seminars. He received two fellowships from the European Molecular Biology Organization for his work in genetics and his research has been featured in popular press articles, including SIAM News, LiveScience, ScienceDaily, Scitizen, the National Geographic, Yahoo! News, etc. Prof. Drineas is an associate editor of the SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications (SIMAX), the SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing (SISC), the Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis (ACHA) journal, and PLoS One.

Visit <https://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/pdrineas/> for more details.



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**Carolin Eggers**

Director

Google Cloud EMEA | Data Analytics  
and AI

Carolin Eggers is a seasoned leader who joined Google in January 2023 as the Sales Director for the newly established Data & Analytics organization in the EMEA North region. With almost 20 years of experience, Carolin has a remarkable track record in setting up GTM strategies, driving digital transformation initiatives and delivering business value to clients. Before joining Google, Carolin's extensive career at Microsoft saw her in various leadership roles, including serving as the Azure Sales Director in Germany. In this capacity, she was responsible for overseeing Azure's business, fostering adoption, and driving growth across Infrastructure, Data, AI, and Applnno across all industries. As a key member of the EMEA North leadership team at Google, Carolin leads specialized sales teams with a focus on Data & AI. Her responsibilities encompass hiring and nurturing a diverse team of sales professionals, exceeding ambitious growth targets in terms of revenue bookings and client acquisition, and ensuring customer success by maximizing the value of Google Cloud's platform. Carolin is also actively engaged in the WomeninTech community, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion within the tech industry. Her educational background includes an MSc in Supply Chain Management, an MBA from SCU (AUS), and a postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Management from ESMT. Outside of her professional pursuits, Carolin resides in southern Munich with her husband and three children.



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**Tasos Flambouras**

Managing Partner  
One9Six

Tasos Flambouras is the Managing Partner at One9Six, a marketing and communications agency. Previously, a Group Director at Intralot SA and the Chairman of the Hellenic-Korean Chamber of Commerce. With over 20 years experience in tech, he also serves as a principal consultant to a number of international firms. He has advised government on digital transformation and innovation and has supported Greek startups through a variety of incubator and accelerator roles. He holds a master's degree in electrical engineering.

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**Nico Gariboldi**

Vice President

Thessaloniki Site Lead

Pfizer

Nico started his career in Pfizer Italy 20 years ago, serving as Brand Manager of peri-LOE products, Commercial Effectiveness Manager, Business Intelligence Advisor, Supply Policy Specialist, and Junior Analyst. He has since then held roles of increasing local, regional and global responsibility. Most recently, Nico was Global Capability Lead for the healthcare provider portal experience within the Customer Experience team and prior was Senior Director, Global Lead for Customer Engagement and Content Strategy for Pfizer Essential Health. In that role, he managed the team responsible for creating enterprise customer engagement strategies (digital and face-to-face) that supported commercial, scientific and business goals, based on an omni-channel approach and content marketing strategy. Nico earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from La Sapienza University in Rome.





**Christos Georgiou**

General Director

Institute of Federation of Greek  
Industries

Christos E. Georgiou possesses a Mechanical Engineering Degree awarded by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1992. He was also awarded a Masters degree in Operations Management by the same university in 2000 and during 2010 he was awarded his Ph. D. degree in the research field of “Business Administration”, from “Business Administration Department” – University of Patras. He currently serves as General Director of the «INSTITUTE OF FEDERATION OF GREEK INDUSTRIES». From 2003 until 2019 he served as Director of the Documentation and Research Department of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece. (FING) Also, from 2003 up to date FING functions as the representative in Greece of International Institute for Management Development (IMD), and Dr. Georgiou heads the Greek research team that co-operates with the IMD’ team, for the realization of “The World Competitiveness Yearbook” (W.C.Y.)

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**Alexandra Gouta**

Gjournalist

Athens - Macedonian News Agency

Entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, R&D, science, society. When these six are combined and produce specific results, my heart beats stronger. As a journalist and financial/technology news editor for over 20 years now, I love to learn, write, discuss and talk about inspirational stories concerning these subjects. I am a member of the Greek Node of the “Millennium Project”, whose aim is to engage as many people as possible in the global conversation about the Future, and the co-founder of “Journalists Acting”, a volunteer group which created 10 libraries for children and young people in remote villages, and received the Special Award of the Botsis Foundation, under the auspices of the President of the Greek Democracy. More about me and my work at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandra-gouta/>



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**Jerry Ismail**

Consul General

US Consulate General Thessaloniki

Consul General Jerrier (Jerry) Ismail arrived in Thessaloniki in August 2023. Jerry Ismail, a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, most recently served as human rights chief in the International Organization's (IO) Bureau, overseeing the U.S. campaign for election to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), launching the first-ever U.S. Joint Statement on Racial Justice, and coordinating U.S. diplomatic outreach ahead of the UN's vote to suspend Russia from the HRC. Mr. Ismail's prior Washington assignments include special assistant in the Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations and senior Australia desk officer, planning and staffing the return of the strategic bilateral diplomacy and defense consultations ("AUSMIN") after three years. He previously served as Albania desk officer, advancing Euro-Atlantic integration, including Albania's NATO accession. His overseas assignments include political-economic counselor in Turkmenistan; deputy political-economic chief in Montenegro; economic officer in Kosovo; and human rights officer in the Czech Republic and in Saudi Arabia, where he began his career in 2004. Mr. Ismail has received numerous individual and group superior and meritorious honor awards, two Department commendations, and a letter of appreciation from the U.S. Senate for his work with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He earned his bachelor's degree with honors in political science and economics from the State University of New York at Albany and a juris doctor from Emory University. He is fluent in Czech and Serbo-Croatian and proficient in Arabic, Greek, and Russian. Proudly hailing from the Hudson Valley region of New York State, he is joined in Greece by his wife Lejla, an international development expert, and their two children.

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**Vassilis Kafatos**

Vice President

American-Hellenic Chamber of  
Commerce

Vassilis Kafatos (Equity Partner) is Deloitte Greece Growth Leader and President of the Deloitte Alexander Competence Center. He specializes in corporate & digital strategy, innovation, business model transformation, financial management and mergers & acquisitions. Vassilis has over 25 years of advisory experience in various sectors including travel, hospitality, investment management, consumer business and manufacturing. He serves as Trustee of the Board of Anatolia College, as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the American - Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Industries of Greece, as President of the Advisory Board of the Council on Competitiveness of Greece, and as member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Museum of Macedonian Struggle. 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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**Panayiotis Ketikidis**

President

Thessaloniki Innovation Zone

Professor Ketikidis has over 30 years of experience in management, education, innovation, research, and competitive research funding and very solid networks as a result of this experience. His expertise lie in (responsible) innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, triple helix, (impact) investment, regional development, supply chain management and health informatics. Prof. Panos also served as President and Board member in several profit and non-profit associations supporting and mobilizing the knowledge triangle (research, business and education) to facilitate innovation. He is Co-founder of HeBAN - Hellenic Business Angels Network (2015-present); Executive Committee Board Member of EBAN - The European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds and Early Stage Market Players, (2018-present); Member of the Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Committee – Hellenic American Chamber of Commerce (2015-pesent); He is President and founder of the Triple Helix Association Chapter of Greece (2013-present) and Expert Evaluator for the European Innovation Council (EIC). Prof. Ketikidis is the Chief Editor of the International Journal of Innovation & Regional Development (IJIRD), and Founder of the International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (ICEIRD).

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/prof-panayiotis-ketikidis-bsc-m-sc-ph-d-5378061/>

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## Michael Kratsios

Managing Director

Scale AI

4th CTO

United States

Michael Kratsios served as the fourth Chief Technology Officer of the United States at the White House and Under Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. Under his leadership, the White House reoriented U.S. national technology policy towards an explicit primary focus on ensuring continued American leadership in emerging technologies. He is currently the Managing Director at Scale AI, leading corporate strategy and helping accelerate AI applications across industries. Michael was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate and is the youngest Under Secretary of Defense in history. Prior to joining the White House, Michael invested in and advised technology companies at Thiel Capital. A South Carolina native, Michael graduated from Princeton University and served as a Visiting Scholar at Beijing's Tsinghua University.



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## **Yiannis Mastrogeorgiou**

Special Secretary

Presidency of the Government Special  
Secretariat of Foresight

Yannis Mastrogeorgiou is the Special Secretary of Foresight in the Presidency of the Greek Government. He has several years of experience in the fields of politics, innovative research and advertising. He has served as Secretary General of Communication and Media at the Presidency of the Greek Government. He has also served as the Director General of the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute of Democracy and Director of the think tank “DIKTIO for the reformation of Greece and Europe”. Moreover, he has served as Director of Communications and special advisor to the Minister of Education, as well as special advisor to the Minister of Development and to the Greek Parliament. He has worked for large multinational companies in advertising and political communication. Yannis was a Marshall Memorial Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). He studied History at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, as well as International Relations, European Political Economy and European Law at the University of the Aegean and the Athens University of Economics and Business. He is a PhD candidate at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Athens.

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## Sara Minkara

Special Advisor on International  
Disability Rights

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights,  
and Labor

U.S. Department of State

President Biden appointed Sara Minkara as the Special Advisor on International Disability Rights. In this role, Special Advisor Minkara leads the U.S. Department of State's comprehensive strategy to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities internationally. Prior to joining the Department of State, she founded and served as CEO of Sara Minkara, LLC, which promotes authentic leadership and value-based inclusion. She also established Empowerment Through Integration (ETI), a nonprofit organization committed to developing a more inclusive global society and transforming social and cultural stigmas against disability. Special Advisor Minkara is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She has been recognized for her many contributions through appointments and awards, including honors from the Clinton Global Initiative, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Forbes 30 Under 30, Ashoka, Harvard, Halcyon, and the Vital Voices "100 Women Using Their Power to Empower" retrospective. Internationally, Special Advisor Minkara has promoted disability rights, diversity, access, and inclusion in a range of countries including Lebanon, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. She speaks Arabic.



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## Vincent Müller

A. v. Humboldt Professor  
Philosophy and Ethics of AI and Director  
Centre for Philosophy and AI Research  
Friedrich-Alexander Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg

Vincent C. Müller is AvH Professor for Philosophy and Ethics of AI and Director of the Centre for Philosophy and AI Research (PAIR) at FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg - as well as Visiting Professor at TU Eindhoven, Turing Fellow at the Alan Turing Institute (London), President of the European Society for Cognitive Systems and Chair of the EU Robotics topics group on 'ethical, legal and socio-economic issues'. He was Professor at the Technical University of Eindhoven (2019-22) and at Anatolia College/ACT (Thessaloniki) (1998-2019), as well as James Martin Research Fellow at the University of Oxford (2011-15) and Stanley J. Seeger Fellow at Princeton University (2005-6). Müller studied philosophy with cognitive science, linguistics and history at the universities of Marburg, Hamburg, London and Oxford. Müller works mainly on philosophical problems connected to artificial intelligence, both in ethics and in theoretical philosophy. His publications are cited >1/day. Müller edits the "Oxford handbook of the philosophy of artificial intelligence" (OUP), wrote the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy article on Ethics of AI and Robotics and has a book forthcoming with OUP on "Can Machines Think?", as well as a book with CUP on "Artificial Minds" (with G. Löhr). He frequently presents invited talks around the world, and he has organized ca. 25 conferences or workshops, among them a prominent conference series on the Philosophy and Theory of AI (PT-AI). Currently, Müller is one of the 32 experts on the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) and he is a member of the OECD Network of Experts on AI. In 2022, he was awarded the personal science prize "Alexander von Humboldt Professor", worth €3.5M, together with a professorship and matching funds from the university (ca. €1.5M). He has generated ca. €9.8M research income for his institutions.

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**George Nikolaou**

Head

Chubb Business Services

EMEA

George is the Head of Chubb Business Services EMEA that was recently established in Thessaloniki. He is leading the growth of the strategic technology hub of Chubb in Greece that, in collaboration with other centers in Mexico, India, UK and USA, develops business solutions for underwriting and claims among insurance processes, as part of the company's digital transformation. Prior to joining Chubb upon his recent return to Greece, he had steered the founding and growth of Technology Innovation startup companies in diverse industries, including Financial, Life Sciences and Legal Tech, where Artificial Intelligence is central to their value proposition. His career started in the US where he held leadership positions in IBM Consulting and moved to Greece for top tier companies in Gaming, Technology, Banking and Payments industries. George holds a Computer Engineering degree from MIT and enjoys sailing and downhill skiing.



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## **Litsa Panayotopoulos**

Education, Innovation and  
Entrepreneurship Committee Chair  
American-Hellenic Chamber of  
Commerce

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

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## Constantinos Papadias

Founding Executive Director  
Research, Technology and Innovation  
Network (RTIN)  
ACG

Constantinos B. Papadias, PhD, is the founding Executive Director of ACG's Research, Technology & Innovation Network (RTIN), as well as a Professor of Information Technology at Deree and Alba. He is also the Scientific Director of the recently established American College of Greece Research Center (ACG-RC). He is currently Adjunct Professor at Aalborg University in Denmark and the University of Cyprus. He was Dean (2014-2019) and Professor (2006-2019) at Athens Information Technology, Technical Manager (2001-2006) and Researcher (1997-2001) at Bell Laboratories, Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University (2006-2011) and Columbia University (2004-2005), post-doctoral researcher at Stanford University (1995-1997) and researcher at Institut Eurécom (1992-1995). Professor Papadias' teaching and research interests include wireless communications, signal processing, antenna systems, and machine learning, among others. He has published over 220 papers and 4 books, holds 12 patents and has received over 10,000 citations as well as several recognitions for his work. He has attracted research grants whose total value exceeds 25M€. Professor Papadias is a Fellow of the IEEE and the European Alliance of Innovation.



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After a 4 years' period working for an Oil & Gas Company in the IT & Security domains, Panagiotis joined EY in 2008. He is highly experienced member within EY's Consulting Practice, specializing in Technology services and Cyber Security. He is the Deputy Cyber Security Services Leader for Central, Eastern, Southeastern Europe and Central Asia (CESA), while he is leading the EY EMEIA Microsoft Cloud Security Center of Excellence located in Athens and the Microsoft Alliance in Greece. He holds a BSc degree in Informatics, a MSc degree in Information System from Athens University of Economic and Business, while he is CISSP, CDPSE, and CISA certified. He is a frequent speaker in conferences, and business events, while he an occasional lecturer at the Athens University of Economics and Business.

## **Panagiotis Papagiannakopoulos**

Partner

Consulting Services

EY Greece

Deputy CESA Cybersecurity Services Leader

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**Christos Pavlou**

Senior Product Manager

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Global  
R&D

Chris is an AI & ML Executive at HPE with a strong background in driving business innovation and leading cross-functional teams. Throughout his career, Chris has held key leadership positions in renowned organizations, where he has successfully built and managed high-performing teams of data scientists, engineers, and researchers. He possesses a deep understanding of cutting-edge AI and ML technologies and has a proven track record of leveraging these technologies to deliver impactful solutions. Skilled in product management, technical project management, and strategic planning, Chris is proficient in delivering innovative solutions in the fields of machine learning and product development. He holds a Bachelor in Electrical and Computer Engineering and has strong communication and leadership abilities.



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**Costi Perricos**

Global Artificial Intelligence and Data  
Lead Partner  
Deloitte UK

Costi Perricos is the Global Lead for the Office of Generative AI in Deloitte UK. He has over 20 years of experience in technology, with expertise in Data, Analytics and Information management, as well as the delivery of large and complex technology programmes. Costi's experience spans both the Private and Public Sectors, but he has focused on the Public Sector for the last 15 years. Within the Public Sector he has worked in both central and local government, helping organisations deliver IT enabled transformation programmes, and procure large and complex information technology solutions. His background in information management has served well in helping his clients with their increasingly demanding analytics and AI - based requirements.

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**Ioannis Pitas**

President

AI Doctoral Academy; Professor

Department of Informatics

AUTH

Prof. Ioannis Pitas (IEEE fellow, IEEE Distinguished Lecturer, EURASIP fellow) received the Diploma and PhD degree in Electrical Engineering, both from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece. Since 1994, he has been a Professor at the Department of Informatics of AUTH and Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Information Analysis (AIIA) lab. He served as a Visiting Professor at several Universities. His current interests are in the areas of computer vision, machine learning, autonomous systems, intelligent digital media, image/video processing, human-centred computing, affective computing, 3D imaging and biomedical imaging. He has published over 920 papers, contributed to 45 books in his areas of interest and edited or (co-)authored another 15 books. He has also been member of the program committee of many scientific conferences and workshops. In the past he served as Associate Editor or co-Editor of 13 international journals and General or Technical Chair of 5 international conferences. He delivered 120 keynote/invited speeches worldwide. He co-organized 33 conferences and participated in technical committees of 291 conferences. He participated in 75+ R&D projects, primarily funded by the European Union and is/was principal investigator in 47 such projects. He is the coordinator of the Horizon Europe R&D project TEMA, AUTH principal investigator in H2020 R&D projects Aerial Core, AI4Media (one of the 4 H2020 ICT48 AI flagship projects) and Horizon Europe R&D projects AI4Europe, SIMAR. He is chair of the International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA) <https://www.i-aida.org/>. He was chair and initiator of the IEEE Autonomous Systems Initiative <https://ieeeseasignalprocessingsociety.org/>. Prof. Pitas led the big European H2020 R&D project MULTIDRONE: <https://multidrone.eu/>. He has 36500+ citations to his work and h-index 90+. According to <https://research.com/> he is ranked first in Greece and 319 worldwide in the field of Computer Science (2022).



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## Lazaros Polymenakos

Partner

Consulting Services

EY Greece

EMEIA Consulting Artificial Intelligence  
Leader

Dr. Lazaros Polymenakos (Diploma NTUA '89, MS MIT '92, Ph.D. MIT '95) is a Partner for Ernst & Young Technical Consulting and the EMEIA Consulting Artificial Intelligence Leader. He works on AI projects in NLP, Vision, and Dialog for EY clients at EMEIA and globally, and for the development of innovative EY new solutions/assets. The focus of his research is on deep learning, advanced machine learning, speech, NLP, dialog, and knowledge representation. Throughout his career, he has defined, driven, and attracted funding for research and development initiatives, managed large and geographically dispersed teams, and successfully delivered research innovation and solution implementation projects. Before joining EY, he held Senior Research manager positions at Amazon Alexa AI for Alexa Dialog, and at IBM T. J. Watson Research Center for Implicit Learning Dialog and for Cognitive Dialog Systems, developing in both positions state-of-the-art solutions using Deep Learning and Generative AI architectures. He also held academic positions at Deree College, Athens Information Technology (AIT), and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), reaching the level of Associate Dean at AIT. Dr. Polymenakos' research and academic work has led to more than 50 publications in international scientific journals, more than 70 papers in peer reviewed international conferences, and an edited book on Artificial Intelligence. He has 13 international patents, he is a member of IEEE, and has served in the organizing committee and review boards of several international journals, conferences, and workshops (Fred Jelinek Summer School 2020, Neurips Dialog Workshop 2018, DSTC6 &7 challenges on dialog systems, WebSci-09, AIAI-07, PIMRC-07, AIAI-06, ICSLP-06).

# AI in Action: Transforming Business, Work and Life

September 7, 2023



**Sean Ringsted**

Chief Digital Business Officer  
Chubb

Sean Ringsted is Chief Digital Business Officer at Chubb, the world's largest publicly traded property and casualty insurance company and the largest commercial insurer in the U.S. As the leader of Chubb's 100% digital business unit, Mr. Ringsted is responsible for overseeing revenue, products and capabilities with partners, including digitally native platforms and financial institutions, as well as driving digital business results with the company's traditional agent and broker partners. He is also responsible for the use of data and analytics to drive decision-making insights across the organization. Mr. Ringsted has more than 30 years of experience and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Bristol University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Biochemistry degree from Oxford University. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries (FIA). Mr. Ringsted is currently the Chair of The Institutes Future of Risk Advisory Board.



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**Jeremy Rollison**

Head of EU Policy  
European Government Affairs  
Microsoft

Jeremy Rollison is Head of EU Policy, Senior Director of European Government Affairs, within Microsoft's Corporate, External & Legal Affairs (CELA) group. Based in Brussels, he leads Microsoft's EU policy team focused on Microsoft's regulatory and legislative engagement around policy and legal frameworks for digital, cloud, and increasingly AI development and take-up for Microsoft's customers in Europe. With a background and significant expertise on data issues, he has led and managed corresponding public policy campaigns and engagements covering AI, privacy, non-personal data, cybersecurity, cloud, intellectual property and copyright. Prior to joining Microsoft, he worked in the Government Relations team at Nokia in the company's EU representative office and was previously Director of the online services association Dot.Europe in Brussels. He has close to 20 years of experience in Brussels at the company, association, and consultancy levels, engaging with EU stakeholders and regulators on issues related to the development and delivery of digital technology in the Internal Market and relevant EU regulatory policy.

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**Miltiadis Saratzidis**

CTO and Senior AI Engineer  
Eden Protocol

Miltiadis Saratzidis is a Senior Machine Learning Engineer with over 11 years of experience in Computer Vision, Machine Learning, and Robotics. He has worked in various industries such as finance, cloud computing, and automation, leading teams of talented engineers and developing novel solutions using cutting-edge technologies. Miltiadis has a strong passion for optimized software development and research, and has published papers and projects in prestigious conferences and platforms, showcasing his expertise in deep learning, natural language processing, robotics, and more. His experiences include leveraging user-generated data to build graph convolutional models, researching NLP methods for connecting users based on sentiment and interests, managing teams for novel solutions, and working as a researcher in deep learning computer vision for automation of cars.



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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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**Harry Tsavdaris**

Managing Director  
PwC Greece

Harry is the Managing Director in the Enterprise Digital in PwC Greece. He has extensive experience in the whole spectrum of government IT systems (central government, education, justice, public IT Investment plans and project portfolio management), government data centers consolidation, transformation and operation and government interoperability frameworks. He has excellent ability to lead in international/multicultural environments, rapidly self-start in multi-client/multi-national projects, participate efficiently in multi-lingual meetings, deliver presentations to high-level audiences and guide teams of IT experts. Prior to PwC, Harry was the National Technology Officer in Microsoft Greece Cyprus and Malta acting as a technology ambassador and promoting trust and confidence on the next generation technologies of the Public Sector and Regulated industries (Financial Services and Health). Before that he worked as Digital Architect responsible for the provision of advisory services to enterprise group customers and land big transformational projects. He led the internal Worldwide Community for Tax and Revenue. Prior to Microsoft, worked as the Secretary General for Information Systems in the Greek Ministry of Finance responsible for the operation, support and implementation of all IT Systems in Ministry of Finance and most of the core systems of the Greek Government, definition of the IT Strategy of the Ministry of Finance and of the IT Strategy of the Greek Government.



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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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## **Kostas Vasileiou**

Founder and President

Eduact; Coordinator

American Space in Thessaloniki

Kostas Vasileiou is a Greek educator, teacher and counselor. He is the founder and president of the Non-Profit Organization Eduact and the Coordinator of the American Space in Thessaloniki. He is an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State. He possesses 25 years of experience in teaching K-12, school administration, counseling and the facilitation of international educational projects. He has worked as a school teacher, head teacher, teacher educator and policy advisor to the following Institutions: the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA), the Behrakis Foundation, the Anticancer Society, the American College of Greece and Indiana State University. Currently, he is the Promoter of European Projects for the Directorate of Primary Education in Western Thessaloniki with a network of partners from leading Greek and American Universities, Public and Private agencies, Institutions and companies.



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## Elias Vyzas

EY Greece Head of Consulting  
EY CESA Data & Analytics Leader  
EY CESA South Cluster Technology  
Consulting Leader

Elias is leading EY's Consulting Services in Greece, Data & Analytics in the Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Central Asia (CESA) region, and Technology Consulting Services in CESA South Cluster. He is also leading EY's Center of Excellence for Data & Analytics, spanning across Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras. He has over 16 years of experience in consulting services, having led a large number of projects concerning data analytics, customer-centric strategy, digital, innovation and IT systems. He is leading highly specialized teams with strong quantitative background and industry-specific expertise, focusing on areas such as machine learning and AI, modelling, optimization and visualization. Before joining EY, Elias has worked for several years at an incubator and at one of the most successful Greek start-ups. Elias holds a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) from Imperial College in London, as well as an Engineer's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, an MSc in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and an MSc in Mechanical Engineering, from MIT. Finally, he holds an MBA from the Athens University of Economics and Business.

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**Jeremy White**

Senior Innovation Editor  
Wired Magazine

Jeremy is senior innovation editor of Wired, the influential technology and trends magazine that covers innovation and the businesses that are building the future. He is in charge of analyzing and identifying emerging trends and technological shifts that will impact consumers and businesses alike. From the Internet of Things to AI, smart homes to smart cities, flying cars to passenger drones, Jeremy has first-hand experience of emerging trends as well as personal contact with the global business leaders driving them. As Wired's senior innovation editor, Jeremy is tasked with seeking out and evaluating products at the very cutting edge of innovation and design. Jeremy also edits all the special supplements for Wired, including the luxury annual, Wired Desired. His expansive knowledge of the product world and forecasting design and tech trends has seen him be commissioned for consultancy services to some of the world's largest consumer brands on industrial design and user experience. Jeremy also appears regularly on the BBC and Sky News representing the magazine. He has been writing about technology and design for more than 15 years and is also currently the technology expert for Telegraph Luxury, the Robb Report, Boat International, and Harrods. Before Wired, Jeremy was digital editor for How To Spend It at the Financial Times, and prior to that was technology editor at Esquire magazine. Jeremy curates the live product experiences at Wired's events, charged with bringing together exclusive displays showcasing the latest developments in automotive, technology, design, and art.



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**Andreas Zampoukas**

Journalist

Andreas Zampoukas is a journalist and communication consultant. He has worked as a publishing consultant and editor-in-chief of newspapers and websites.

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**Dr. George Zarkadakis**

Chief Innovation Officer  
Syndesis Health

George Zarkadakis is the Chief Innovation Officer of Syndesis Health. He has over 25 years' experience in management consulting, media, marketing, and communications; as well as in digital strategy and innovation as a founder, advisor, and investor in technology startups. He has held positions at *Accenture*, *Silicon Graphics*, *the European Bioinformatics Institute*, and *Willis Towers Watson*, and was a Senior Fellow at the *Atlantic Council*. He holds a PhD in Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and is the author of [“In Our Own Image: will Artificial Intelligence Save Us or Destroy Us?”](#) (Penguin 2015). His most recent book is [“Cyber Republic: reinventing democracy in the age of intelligent machines”](#) (MIT Press 2020). France has awarded George an honorary knighthood for his international work on the public understanding of science. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a global thought leader on the impact of technology on business transformation, the future of work, and the future of democracy.