

8th WIB Forum | June 5, 2024
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AMERICAN-HELLENIC
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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 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 AEEEX, 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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Sissy Iliopoulou, Head of Marketing and Media, Lamda Development

Sissy Iliopoulou is an experienced corporate marketing, reputation & ESG strategist and business leader. She currently holds the position of Head of Marketing & Media at Lamda Development. She has over 25 years of experience in corporate marketing, integrated communications, corporate affairs, crisis management, and sustainability. Her expertise includes corporate marketing strategy development, 360° campaigns development, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), the creation of environmental and social multi-stakeholder programs as well as building diverse high-performing teams. Sissy has worked in national and international roles across Greek multinational, American multinational, European and Greek companies in various sectors acquiring an important breadth & depth of experience in organizations management. Her last role before moving to Lamda Development was Head of Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability for North Europe at The Coca-Cola Company, with London as her primary location. She has spent almost 20 years with the Coca-Cola system holding various positions both in the Coca-Cola HBC Bottling, as well as The Coca-Company. Throughout her career, Sissy has been instrumental in helping organizations adopt a purpose-driven orientation, integrating sustainability into their business operations. She designs and implements strategies and initiatives that positively impact both company growth plans and societies. Her work in sustainability has been recognized by third parties nationally and internationally. She is member of the Women in Business Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce while in the past she has hold member positions in various associations like the Circular Economy Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Quality Net Foundation, Corporate Affairs Association, Soft Drinks Industry Association etc. Her educational background includes a diploma in Philosophy, Pedagogy, and Psychology from the National University of Athens (Kapodistriakon) and an MBA from Wales University (Aberystwyth).





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Manolis Kellis, Professor of Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence, MIT

Manolis Kellis is a professor of computer science and artificial intelligence at MIT. He leads the MIT Computational Biology Group at MIT CSAIL and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. His research seeks to understand the mechanistic basis of human disease, to develop new therapeutics that reverse disease circuitry, and to enable personalized medicine, using AI and machine learning to integrate genetics and genomics, single-cell epigenomics and transcriptomics, and high-throughput experiments, applied to Alzheimer's, Obesity, Cancer, Schizophrenia, Cardiovascular, and Immune Disorders. He helped lead several large-scale genomics projects, including Roadmap Epigenomics, ENCODE, Genotype Tissue-Expression (GTEx), and Comparative Genomics projects. He has authored over 280 journal publications cited more than 160,000 times. He received the US Presidential Award for Science and Engineering by Barack Obama, the Mendel Medal for Outstanding Achievements in Science, the NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, the Argo Science Award by the Hellenic President, the Boston Patent Law Association award, the NSF CAREER award, the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, the Technology Review TR35 recognition, the AIT Niki Award, and the Sprowls award for the best Ph.D. thesis in computer science at MIT. He has obtained more than 20 multi-year grants from the NIH, and his trainees hold faculty positions at Stanford, Harvard, CMU, McGill, Johns Hopkins, UCLA, and other top universities. He lived in Greece and France before moving to the US, and he studied and conducted research at MIT, the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab. For more info, see: compbio.mit.edu





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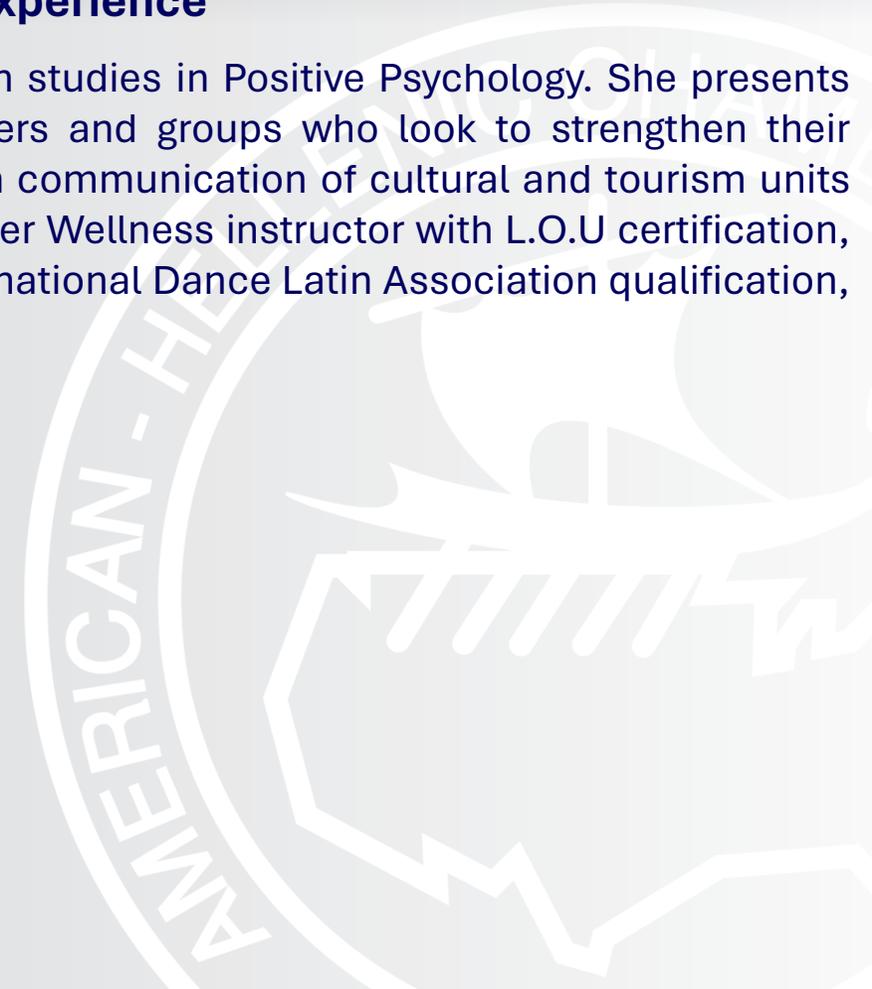
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Eleni Kontoravdi, Coordinator & Founder, The Laughter Experience

Eleni Kontoravdi is a Certified Laughter Wellness coordinator with studies in Positive Psychology. She presents experiential seminars at conferences, companies, training centers and groups who look to strengthen their mental resilience and feel the joy of laughter. She is a graduate in communication of cultural and tourism units and a real estate consultant at Monopoly Real Estate. As a Laughter Wellness instructor with L.O.U certification, Adult Instructor certified by EOPEP and a dance teacher with International Dance Latin Association qualification, she has founded the Laughter Experience wellness method.





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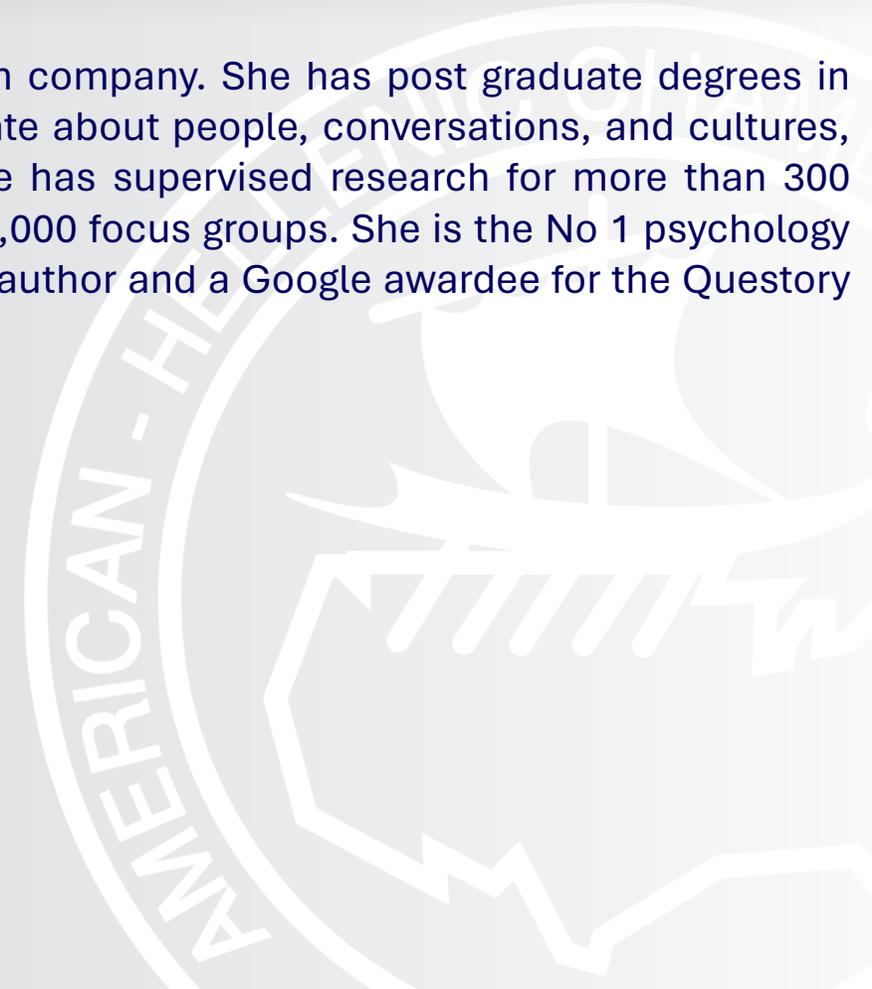
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Agnes Mariakaki, CEO, MindSearch

Agnes Mariakaki is the CEO of MindSearch, a consumer research company. She has post graduate degrees in Psychology and Social Anthropology. Agnes Mariakaki is passionate about people, conversations, and cultures, with a focus on the transformative understanding of people. She has supervised research for more than 300 brands, across more than 15 countries and has carried out over 4,000 focus groups. She is the No 1 psychology influencer across social media in Greece, as well as a bestselling author and a Google awardee for the Questory app.





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Lena Papaligoura, Actress

Lena Papaligoura was born in 1985 in Athens. She studied at Panteion University (Department of Media Communication and Culture) and at the Art Theatre. From 2006 when she finished Drama School until today, she has been working non-stop mainly in theater, but also in cinema and television. She has participated in the productions of the National Theatre, the Piccolo Teatro in Milan, the Art Theatre, the Poreia Theatre, the House of Letters and Arts, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, the DIPETHE Agrini and the DIPETHE Veria and has collaborated in the theater with Greeks and foreigner directors (Arvanitakis, Gonis, Evagelatos, Theodorou, Kakleas, Kalabrianos, Kalbaris, Kokkos, Mastorakis, Mavrogeorgiou, Moumoulidis, Nanouris, Jean René Lemoine, Melleme, Paloubis, Tarlow, Triantaphyllis, Houvardas, Bob Wilson etc.) in works of classical and modern repertoire. She has also participated in Greek and foreign productions in cinema and television. In 2013, she was awarded for her performance as an immigrant prostitute in the play *Invisible Olga* by Giannis Tsiros, directed by George Paloubis, with the Merkouri award (best female performance for a young actress for 2012) and the distinction for new artist Karolos Koun. In 2015, she was awarded the third audience prize of the *Athinorama* magazine and the first readers' prize of the internet magazine *all4fun*, for her performance in the play *Katerina* based on the *Book of Katerina* by Auguste Certeau, directed by G. Lullaby. In 2023 for the film *Airhostess 737* by Thanasis Neofotistos, which premiered at the Locarno Festival and traveled to the most important film festivals in the world, it won 7 awards for best performance in a short film, including the Vimeo award at the Sundance festival, the Clermont-Ferrand Festival, and Premiere Nights Festival. In 2024 she was awarded by the Union of Greek Theater and Music Critics as well as the jury of the Koon Awards with the Commendation for Ancient Drama for her performance in the role of Sophocles' Electra, directed by Lilly Melleme.





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Eve Psalti, Senior Director Artificial Intelligence Engineering, Microsoft

Eve Psalti is a 20+year tech and business leader, currently the Senior Director at Microsoft's Azure AI engineering organization responsible for scaling Generative AI solutions with customers and partners. She was previously the Head of Strategic Platforms at Google Cloud where she worked with F500 companies helping them grow their businesses through digital transformation initiatives. Prior to Google, Eve held business development, sales and marketing leadership positions at Microsoft and startups across the US and Europe leading 200-people teams and \$600M businesses. A native of Greece, she holds a Master's degree and several technology and business certifications from London Business School and the University of Washington. Eve currently serves on the board of WE Global Studios, a full-stack startup innovation studio supporting female entrepreneurs.





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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, during 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 served as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee from 2022 and elected as ACE Vice Chair since January 2024.





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Elli Stai, Journalist

Elli Stai is a well-known Greek journalist with a successful career in both the press and broadcasting media. She has been the host of many popular talk shows and a main news anchor for most of the Greek broadcasters. She has won the Award of Best Greek News Anchor 5 times. She was born in Athens and studied Law at the Athens Law School and Political Science in Paris. She worked briefly as a lawyer but soon moved into journalism and began writing for Greek newspapers. She earned her first front-page story with an exclusive interview with Gianni Agnelli, the legendary Fiat owner. Her broadcasting career began in the public broadcasting corporation, ERT where, from 1982-1989, she anchored the flagship evening news program. She went on to work as a Brussels correspondent on European affairs for the Greek radio station FLASH. Upon her return to Athens, she hosted her own radio show for the Municipal radio station Radio Athens 98,4. In 1993, Elli Stai began working for the SKAI media group in both radio and television, where she anchored the main news program, introducing a more contemporary style of news presentation with live commentary and analysis. Between 1995 and 1997, she hosted the talk show “Ellispontos” for Mega Channel and then, for the next two years, Stai was the main presenter for the evening news at Star Channel. In 1999, she began working as a presenter for the Greek TV channel ANT1. She presented the very popular political show “Me ta matia tis Ellis” (Under Elli’s gaze). She went on to host it for seven years during which she ‘grilled’ a great number of Greek politicians, entertainers, and celebrities. For the three years leading up to October 4, 2006, she presented the evening news program for ANT1 Channel, which, during this period, dominated the Greek TV ratings. In February 2007, Elli Stai returned to the Greek TV broadcaster Mega Channel as an analyst for their evening news. She presented her own weekly news and analysis TV show called “Elli” until June 2007 when she moved to the TV station ALPHA where she appeared in political talk shows and co-anchored the main news. In December 2009, Elli Stai created her own news and opinion portal www.ellispoint.gr. In January 2011, she returned to the public broadcaster and the flagship NET television channel as the main news anchorwoman and host of the popular politics and current affairs show, Netweek. On June 1, 2013, she anchored the last main news bulletin before the sudden shutdown of the broadcaster. Since January 2014 till 2020 she was President and Editor-in-Chief of the news and web-TV portal The TOC, where she hosted the daily news show Newsroom.



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Myladi Stoubou, Senior Regional Director, Microsoft

Myladi Stoubou is an experienced digital executive, leader and strategist. She specializes in building and transforming global and diverse high-performance teams, as well as in assisting businesses to leverage opportunities from 4th industrial revolution and current exponential technologies. She has worn many hats in her professional career – started as systems engineer and a programmer, developing into a digital technology and innovation evangelist and later into a regional executive. She has been working in multinational environments for many years and has a unique ability to manage multi-disciplinary projects, to navigate non-standard challenges and to solve complex problems. She is currently working as a senior regional director for Microsoft, and she goes beyond that. She supports digital entrepreneurship as a mentor for MIT Enterprise Forum in Greece, The People's Trust and Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub. She is a women leadership advocate. Chair of the Women in Business Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and a mentor for Women Leadership Program in the European Innovation Center. She is an international keynote speaker, addressing topics like leadership, future of work, diversity and inclusion, artificial intelligence and digital entrepreneurship. She has 2 TEDx talks, and she is the author of many articles in LinkedIn as well as many prestigious sites, including Huffpost.



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Theofanis Tasis, Lecturer of Contemporary Practical Philosophy, Alpen-Adria University

Theofanis Tasis, born in Munich in 1976, is a Lecturer of Contemporary Practical Philosophy at the Alpen-Adria-Universität in Austria and a visiting professor at the Universität St. Gallen in Switzerland. With a focus on image, mortality, and the art of living, his research explores the intersection of politics, ethics, and human enhancement. He is a distinguished fellow, having held the Stanley J. Seeger Fellowship at Princeton University, the Marie Curie Fellowship at the Université Saint-Louis in Brussels, and the Erasmus Fellowship at the Freie Universität Berlin. His acclaimed works *Politics of Bios: On Irony* (Eurasia Publications, 2012) and *Castoriadis: A Philosophy of Autonomy* (Eurasia Publications, 2007) were awarded the Kautanzoglio Prize from the University of Athens. Additionally, *Digital Humanism: Iconistic Subject and Artificial Intelligence* (Armos, 2019) was nominated for the Greek National Book Award in Nonfiction 2020. His other notable works include: *En Mesi Odo* (Armos Publications, 2023), *Philosophy of Human Enhancement* (Armos Publications, 2021), *Politics of Life II: Self-Care in the Iconistic Society* (Armos Publications, 2017), *Pharmakon* (Eurasia Publications, 2011), *Physiological Findings* (Kedros Publications, 2001) – poetry collection, *Afternoons in Capitalism* (Typothito Publications, 2009) – poetry collection. He is also a respected translator, with works by Martin Heidegger, John Stewart Mill, Alexandros Nehamas, and Roberto Mangabeira Unger among his credits.



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Michael Tsamaz, Chairman and CEO, OTE Group

Michael Tsamaz has been the Chairman and CEO of OTE Group since November 2010. Prioritizing customer experience, he led the successful transformation of the OTE Group into a modern technology company. This success, in the midst of the financial crisis, became a case study from Harvard Business School and is taught internationally at top academic institutions. Under his leadership, the OTE Group consistently implements 60% of the sector's investments, placing the Group as Greece's largest investor in next-generation networks and technological infrastructure. As a leading digital services provider, the OTE Group contributes decisively to the digital development of the country, society, and businesses. For years now, Michael Tsamaz has incorporated the principles of sustainable development into OTE Group's business strategy and operations, setting as priorities the improvement of its environmental and social footprint, as well as equal access to the digital world for all citizens. Starting in 2001, Michael Tsamaz held a number of senior roles at OTE, overseeing the course of the Group's international subsidiaries and helping to reform the Group's operations abroad. He has served as member of the Board of Directors of OTE subsidiaries, COSMOTE and Deutsche Telekom. Prior to joining OTE, he held successive C-level positions at multinational companies, in the fields of Marketing, Sales and General Management. He joined the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Federation of Industries (SEV) in July 2016 and has headed the SEV Digital Economy Committee since November 2016. In 2023 he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Department of Business Administration of the University of Piraeus. He holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of New Brunswick in Canada.



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Maria Tzelepi, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Communication and Sustainability, The Coca-Cola Company

Maria Tzelepi is Senior Director of Public Affairs, Communication and Sustainability at The Coca-Cola Company for Greece, Cyprus, and Malta. She started her career in communication in 2003, at Ogilvy Group in Greece, where she held the position of PR & Influence General Manager, in the period 2016-2021. She has significant experience in the areas of Corporate Reputation & Communication, Brand PR, and Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability, having won many awards in Communication Award Institutions for important brands and organizations. From her current role at The Coca-Cola Company, she is responsible for the social impact programs implemented by the Company in Greece in important pillars of its strategy for sustainable development, such as circular economy and recycling, protection and efficient management of water resources, nutrition, and initiatives to empower women and young people. She is a sport and wellness adorer and mother of two boys, 16 and 17 years old.



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Deppie Tzimea, Corporate Communications & Sustainability Executive Director, OTE Group

Deppie Tzimea is the OTE Group Corporate Communications & Sustainability Executive Director. She has been a member of the OTE Group's executive committee since 2001, when she joined the company as Director of Corporate Communications of the Group, reporting directly to the Chairman and CEO. Ms Tzimea oversaw the transformation of OTE's image into an extrovert and innovative customer-centric company, both internally and externally. She has thorough knowledge in all areas of communications including marketing communications, advertising and change management. Since she joined the company, she has been the head of Crisis Communications for the whole Group. Initially responsible for the organization's Corporate Responsibility strategy and implementation, she further evolved it to its Sustainability strategy, contributing significantly to its integration to the Group's Business strategy. As a result, OTE has nowadays become one of the leading companies in the field of sustainable development, contributing to the economy, society, and the environment. She was responsible for all OTE Group communications during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Before joining OTE, she held various senior executive positions in Marketing and Corporate Communications in the telecommunications industry (1995-2001). Prior to that she was a Group Account Director at Adel Saatchi & Saatchi handling 18 national and international accounts. In December 2023, Deppie Tzimea was named «Corporate Affairs and Communication Manager of the Year 2023» and «ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance Manager of the Year 2023», at the Manager of the Year Awards, which honors every year senior executives who have distinguished with their achievements. Deppie Tzimea, member of Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR), holds a postgraduate degree in Communications and Public Relations from Stirling University and is a Political Sciences & Public Law graduate from the University of Athens Law School. She has completed her training on “High Impact Leadership” in Columbia Business School and on “Exponentially growing technologies” in Singularity University.



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Eleni Vrettou, Chief Executive Officer, Attica Bank

Eleni Vrettou has more than 20 years of international experience in Banks in Greece and abroad, specializing in corporate and investment banking. She has been Attica Bank's Chief Executive Officer since September 2022. Eleni Vrettou held the position of Executive General Manager, Chief of Corporate and Investment Banking at Piraeus Bank Group. Prior to that, she worked for 14 years at HSBC Bank Plc in Greece and the United Kingdom. Her most recent position at HSBC was that of Managing Director and Head of Wholesale Banking Greece, while previously, she was Head of Multinationals and Business Development at HSBC for the CEE, CIS, Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa regions. She also held the position of Chief Strategy and Investor Relations Officer at Lamda Development. Before HSBC, she worked for Greek and international financial institutions in Athens and New York in the fields of credit and risk and investment banking (M&A). Between 2019 and 2021, she served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Piraeus Factors S.A, Piraeus Leasing and Piraeus Leases, and a member of the Board of Directors of ETVA VIPE. She is currently chairman of the Board of Directors of Attica Bankassurance Agency and an independent non-executive member of the BoD of Starbulk Carriers Corp and Motodynamics S.A.

