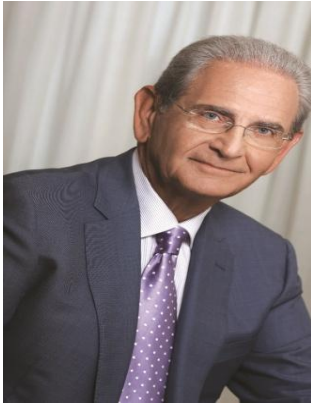


Innovation ID ²⁰¹⁶

Short Bios

Name:
Nikos Efthymiadis



Short bio:

Nikos Efthymiadis is Chairman of KEPA. He is also the chairman of REDESTOS - Efthymiadis Agrotechnology Group, established 1935, a leading business group in Greece and Southeast Europe in the field of Agricultural technology, supplies and services. His social activities are the following: • Chairman of the STABILITY PACT / Business Advisory Council for Southeast Europe, Brussels • President of the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece – FING • President of the Thessaloniki Technology Park • President of the Northern Greece Businessmen’s Cultural Association • Vice President of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in S.E. Europe – CDRSEE • Chairman of the Business Information and Clearing Center – BICC • Mr. Efthymiadis is also Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Thessaloniki.

Name:
Xavier Le Mounier



Short bio:

Xavier Le Mounier works for the European Commission and more specifically, since January 2012, at the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (or DG GROW). He is running actions to stimulate social innovation (e.g. the Social Innovation Europe platform, the European Social Innovation Competition and the forthcoming Challenge Platform for Social Innovation), to support the modernisation of workplaces in Europe (with the European Network for Workplace Innovation) and to foster the uptake of design-driven innovation (notably with the Design for Europe platform). Prior to this, Xavier worked ten years with the European Commission in the field of international cooperation, for which he was based in Africa. Xavier has a background in political science and economics.

Name:

John Mathers



Short bio:

John Mathers is the CEO of the Design Council and leads it into the next chapter of its rich history that dates back to 1944. He has been working for over thirty years in the brand and design industry, leading a number of marketing, brand and design consultancies in the UK and Internationally, as well as a number of roles within FMCG and retail, including Head of Brand at Safeway. He joined the Design Council from an International CEO role at the Holmes & Marchant group and previously had ten years at the helm of the Brand Union (was Enterprise IG), WPP's flagship brand design agency. Over the last ten years, he has been actively committed to the development of the design industry, serving as President of the DBA (Design Business Association) for three years as well as being involved in various ways with the Design Council and the broader design community.

Name:

Dimitris Dimitriadis



Short bio:

Dimitris Dimitriadis is a skillful manager with an expertise in new media design. Experience and know-how in sustainable mobility solutions design. By combining broad experience in bicycle sharing with expertise in new media concepts and product development. Currently explores new design approaches and business models in the "re-emergence of community" wide known as Sharing Economy. He is passionate about Internet of Things and trying to "save the world" by designing bike sharing systems. He is naturally optimistic, he believes in fairness at work and that if you work really hard and you are kind amazing things will happen.

Name:

Daniele Pozzo



Short bio:

Daniele Pozzo has a Master Degree in Management and Industrial Engineering. He is an Expert in Innovation management projects for SMEs and Large Enterprises. He has strong expertise in project management, customer management, product positioning analysis, technology scouting and intelligence activities, operation management, inventive problem solving methods (TRIZ Theory), technology transfer activities, patent scenario analysis, support in IPR protection and management.

Name:

Jan Stavic



Short bio:

Jan Stavic is educated at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration + Advanced Management Program from INSEAD, France. Apart from Norway, he has have lived for shorter or longer periods in America, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Malaysia. For 25 years he held a number of senior marketing and management positions in Norwegian and international companies, such as Unilever, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Jordan and EAC KiMs (Malaysia). For 15 years he was ceo of Norwegian Design Council until retirement in 2014. Now he is engaged as special advisor / Director International Relations for the new organization, The Norwegian Centre for Design and Architecture.

Name:

Pantelis Angelidis



Short bio:

Pantelis Angelidis is an innovator entrepreneur. A Telecommunications Engineer by education, he is active in telemedicine and Digital Health for 20 years. He is the founder and president of VIDAVO, an innovative eHealth SME in Greece and he has patented two telemedicine devices. He is the President of the Alexander Innovation Zone S.A., the managing organization responsible for the entire plan, development and realization of the initiative of the Thessaloniki Innovation Zone. Dr. Angelidis was a visiting scholar of MIT Media Lab in 2009-10 and again in 2015. He is an Ass. Prof. on eHealth at UOWM and a visiting lecturer at UB Medical School. He is a Marshall Memorial fellow and an alumni of the Bodossaki foundation. His main interest lies in turning research results into sustainable businesses focusing on technologies for preventive health and active aging.

Name:

Christina Melander



Short bio:

Christina Melander is programme director for the Danish Design Centre's focus on design and business development, which explores the potential of design methods to meet businesses' needs to develop new products, solutions and markets. Christina is committed to disseminating knowledge about how design helps drive important positive changes and why companies that use design strategically do better, create more jobs and generate more growth. Therefore, Christina is passionate about initiating and carrying out projects aimed at not only conveying good stories but inspire real-life action. Currently, Christina is involved in Measuring the value creation of design, Design for Europe, which is a new European platform for design-driven innovation, and Scaling By Design, which deals with methods for scaling small design-driven companies.

Name:
Vassilis
Papakonstantinou



Short bio:

Vassilis Papakonstantinou works at the Eugenides Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of science and technology in Greece. He sits on the Board of VIORYL SA, a chemical engineering and biotech company and Fasmatech SA, a startup company developing mass spectroscopy technology. He holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering from NTUA and Ocean Systems' Management from MIT.

Name:
Panos Remoundos



Short bio:

Panos Remoundos has a bachelor degree in Political Science and a master degree in IT Management. Since 2005 is working in the design, implementation and audit of EU territorial cooperation projects with a focus in the areas of culture, sustainability and innovation. In 2013 was a co founder of the NGO 'Creativity Platform', an initiative created with a bottom up approach with the aim to research and support the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS) of Thessaloniki. Flagships projects like 'Creative Brunch', 'Agro Design Cluster' and 'Handpeak' -among others- designed in order to enhance the capacity of professionals from the creative sectors and to build the tools that support the collaboration and outreach of creative with other sectors (eg. agri-food and tourism).

Name:

Maria-Louiza Laopodi



Short bio:

Maria-Louiza Laopodi is the Project Manager of the program ‘stART – Youth culture initiatives in Greece’ of the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki, in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Stiftung. She has trained as an interior architect and cultural manager in Belgium and the UK. She has successfully managed tenths of projects for arts & culture non-profits by bridging the creative and executive gap since 2002. She has also worked in design and construction and made people happy by delivering custom made interior spaces. She is fighting for cultural sustainability through innovation and blogging and organizing events about Cultural Entrepreneurship. She founded and failed a startup and is interested in collaboration platforms and disrupting traditional processes efficiently for social and economic growth.

Name:

Simos Bensasson



Short bio:

Simos Bensasson has a degree in Architecture from the AUTH and one in Computer Science from the University of London. He worked as an architect in Zambia, Spain and later as an entrepreneur in the UK, where he founded two companies in the IT domain. In 1990 he joined the European Commission where he conceived and implemented, amongst other things, “the networks of excellence” and the “Future and Emerging Technologies Programme”. Retired from the EC in 2010, he moved to Greece and taught European politics at the American College of Thessaloniki until 2014 when he was elected member of the City Council. He has since been working on the setting up of “OK!Thess” - an effort led by the City and encompassing public and private institutions in Thessaloniki to help cement a coherent innovation ecosystem.

Name:
Grigoris Zarotiadis



Short bio:

Grigoris Zarotiadis studied economics in Johannes Kepler University of Linz – Austria. During his PhD he spent a year in UMIST (University of Manchester – Institute for Science and Technology). Currently, he is Associate Professor in the School of Economics and Political Sciences in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Additionally he is Vice President of the Association of Economic Universities of South and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region, as well as of the Institute for Social Research Dimitris Mpatsis. His research covers the fields of international economics, economic development and economic growth.. At the same time he is keeping in touch with actual economy, being an Independent, Non - Executive Member of the Board of DROMEAS S.A., a Greek manufacturer of office furniture, partition walls and filing systems.

Name:
Anna Whicher



Short bio:

Anna Whicher is head of policy at PDR (the International Design and Research Centre at Cardiff Metropolitan University). She delivers training and projects on design in the public sector and coordinates European projects on design policies and programmes. She is a board member of BEDA (the Bureau of European Design Associations) and an advisor to the Design Council on Design for Europe. She has worked in the UK Parliament and for Siemens in Paris.

Name:
Aleck Alexopoulos



Short bio:

Aleck Alexopoulos is a Chemical Engineer (Diploma Aristotle University, MS & PhD Purdue University) and has been working as a Researcher at CERTH in a wide variety of problems in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering over the last 20+ years. He has published 25 peer-reviewed and 39 conference papers with an H-index of 13 and over 500 citations.

He has been passionate with weightlifting and powerlifting for three decades and has been an avid student of Sports Science. Six months ago he founded ErgoSensePro to promote a new theory of movement and work production and transform it into a product that could be used by coaches and athletes to develop training programs that maximize the performance of athletes.

Name:
Anna Chlioura



Short bio:

Anna Chlioura is CoFounder and Marketing manager of Elektronio, a clean tech firm from Thessaloniki, which makes premium electric bicycles with revolutionary design. Her vision is to bring sustainable mobility to a whole new audience beyond the traditional cyclist and makes Elektronio's motto #reimagineyourvehicle go viral. She graduated from the department of Journalism and Mass Communication of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki with specialization in new media of communication. She also worked as journalist in media and communication positions. Last year, she was awarded for Elektronio in several startup contests. At the moment, she is attending an intensive educational program for entrepreneurs, as Elektronio is one of the semifinalists in MIT Enterprise Forum of Greece Startup Competition 2016.

Name:

Lazaros Petrides



Short bio:

Lazaros Petrides is the Managing Director of EventReception, an innovative SaaS company that helps Hotels, Event Venues & Caterers bring their Wedding and Social Event Reception Services into the 21st century, thrilling their own clients and guests.

Lazaros has co-founded EventReception following an 8yr career as the GM, CEO and COB of the Nepheli Events & Conference Hotel Thessaloniki SA.

Short bio:

Name:

Christodoulos Spagakakos



Christodoulos Spagakakos is the founder & CEO of BAeTI, a training platform for engineers of building automation. He received his Master's degree on building energy management and renewable energy sources from TEI Western Macedonia and his Bachelor of Science degree in Automation Engineering from TEI Thessaloniki. Christodoulos is a senior executive with year-after-year verifiable success achieving revenue, profit and business growth objectives in rapid-change environments. He has proven experience with highly engineered systems, highly successful in building relationships with upper-level decision makers, seizing control of critical problem areas and delivering on customer commitments. During the 3 years Christodoulos was a training center coordinator for Schneider Electric, trainer for building automation and project manager for hotel business.

Name:

Lansie Sylvia



Short bio:

Lansie Sylvia is the Director of Engagement for Here's My Chance, a creative agency that works exclusively with nonprofits and socially responsible businesses, she leads the agency's external communication strategy, works with clients on communication projects, and builds new community partnerships. She currently serves as HMC's Project Director for Next Stop: Democracy!, a public art project to improve the voting experience in Philadelphia, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Lansie is also the founder of Philly Give & Get, a volunteer-run organization that promotes nonprofit partners. Before receiving her M.S. in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice, Lansie completed an AmeriCorps Year of Service in Providence, Rhode Island.

Name:

Andreas Baresel-
Bofinger



Short bio:

Andreas Baresel-Bofinger is a private investor. He is co-founder of the Hellenic Business Angels Network – HeBAN. He is Managing Partner of Wilhelm Bofinger GmbH & CoKG in Germany. Andreas serves as Advisory Board Member at the InnovationFarm Stage One Accelerator in Thessaloniki. He is also a start-up mentor in projects, such as the FP7 FRACTALS. Andreas is part-time Lecturer at the Business Administration and Economics Department of CITY College. In his position as Project Manager at the South-East European Research Centre (SEERC) in Thessaloniki he has been involved in fostering the investment and growth readiness of innovative SMEs and start-ups in the region of South-East Europe. Andreas holds a BA in Accounting and Finance and an MSc in Information Systems.

Name:
Yiorgos Bontzios



Short bio:

Yiorgos Bontzios sets the vision and the long term targets of FieldScale. He supervises all operations and he is responsible to keep the engine moving inside and outside of the company. Yiorgos holds a MSc and a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering both from the Aristotle University of Greece. He is the principal inventor of one patent; has published over 20 papers and 4 books. Yiorgos has worked in various positions and developed several software tools as a Freelancer. He loves playing with his two kids.

Name:
Jorge Cerveira Pinto



Short bio:

Jorge Cerveira Pinto is currently Director of AiD (Association for Design Innovation) based in Portugal and non-executive Director of Agencia INOVA (National Portuguese Agency for Innovation). Internationally he works as consultant for several organizations, including the European Commission, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Since 2010, he has been collaborating with Lisbon city hall in the development and implementation of its economic policy, especially schemes to support Lisbon start-up ecosystem. In 2015 Lisbon was considered "European Entrepreneurial Region of the Year" and the Municipality approach and support to start-ups was referenced by Wired Magazine and the Financial Times journal as "world best practice".

Name:
Nikolaos Tsoniotis



Short bio:

Nikolaos Tsoniotis holds an M.Eng in Electronic Eng. & Telecommunication Systems. Following his studies he has worked as a Telecommunication Systems R&D Engineer & Operational Unit Leader for more than a decade. He is a serial entrepreneur experienced in startup ventures. His current roles include Product Management, EU Project Management and “SKG Startapers” community ambassador & “AgriEnt Accelerator” technical advisory.

Name:
Panagiotis Ketikidis



Short bio:

Panagiotis Ketikidis is the Vice Principal for Research, Innovation & External Relations of CITY College - An International Faculty of the University of Sheffield, and the Chairman of the Management Committee & Academic Director of the Doctoral Programme at the South East European Research Centre (SEERC). He has over 25 years of experience in management, education, research, and competitive research funding with various networks established as a result of this experience. Professor Ketikidis has been listed in the Marquis’s Who’s Who, Publications Board in Science and Engineering, Eleventh Edition 2011-2012. He is a member of the International Faculty Administration Board of CITY College which provides steer and leadership on the academic and development strategy of the College (1993-present).

Name:

Babis Papadopoulos



Short bio:

Babis Papadopoulos is a career Diplomat (Economy & Commerce) and an active business developer for tech startups. He spent 7 years (2007-2014) working at the Economic Office of the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC, USA. He serves as biz dev advisor (pro bono) with various Greek tech startups going global. After his assignment in the US was over Babis returned to Athens, Greece where he works at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is a founding member of MIT Enterprise Forum Greece, where he coordinates the judges' and mentors' network, while mentoring teams for the chapter's startup competition (2015 and 2016). He also belongs to the mentors' pool of Orange Grove (Dutch Embassy), and works with many more initiatives and entities which support the Greek startup ecosystem.