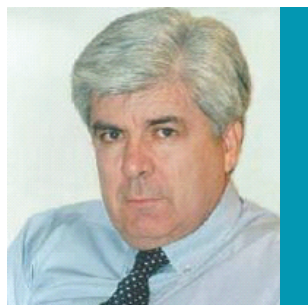


CVs & Conference Speakers' Views

In this section you will find the conference **speakers' CVs**, as well as their views regarding agricultural entrepreneurship and the topics of the conference.

The speakers have diverse and complementary experience and background in areas such as politics and institutional bodies, in Greece and Europe, entrepreneurship and rural sector unions, media, academia and education, while they are 'front-line' people, in direct link with the rural sector and agricultural entrepreneurship.



Professor Athanasios TSAFTARIS

Minister of Rural Development and Food

Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.). Member of the Board of Directors of Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CE.R.T.H.). Director of the Institute of Applied Biosciences. Chairman of the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Prof. Tsiftaris holds two Doctor Degrees one from the A.U.Th. in the area for Quantitative Genetics and Plant Breeding and the other from the North Carolina State University, U.S.A. in the area of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. He participates in many Committees, Scientific Organizations and Associations in Greece, EU, OECD and UN. He is a member of Advisory and Management committees for research and technology, both in the EU and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology.

Positions Held

- Researcher, North Carolina State University, U.S.A.
- Member of Greek National Research Council
- Member of Working Groups and Scientific Committees, in Greece, EU, OECD and UN
- Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Greek National Agricultural Research Foundation
- Member of EU Evaluation Committee in Agricultural Research Policy Programmes
- Chairman of Greek Bioethics Committee
- Secretary General of Research and Technology
- Director of Institute for Applied Biosciences, former Institute of Agrobiotechnology
- Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Science dissemination and Technology Museum "NOESIS"

Publications

- More than 200 research papers and chapters published in international journals and books. Three of these are published in the Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.

Research programmes

- He has been awarded with a large number of research programs from EU, U.S.A. and Greek authorities

Current Initiatives

- He submitted the initial proposal for the creation of "Alexandria Innovation Zone"
- Scientific Responsible of the proposal for the first food cluster in Greece, the Bio-Agrofood cluster.

Prizes

- Honorary Medal for Gallantry of Phoenix by the President of the Hellenic Republic
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science of the University of Sheffield

Foreign languages

- English
- French



Argyris PEROULAKIS

Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Greece

Born in Chania, Crete

Studied Mechanical Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a Masters' Degree in "Télématique et Organization" in Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Works in the European Commission since 1989 and speaks French and English.

September 2010 – to date: Head of the Sector "Communication / Partnerships & Networks" to the Representation of the European Commission in Greece – Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Greece.

November 2009 to September 2010: Advisor on policy and management issues related to the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), as detached from DG Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities, to the cabinet of the Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religion.

November 2007 to November 2009: Advisor on policy and management issues related to the Operational Program "Administrative Reform", as seconded from DG Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities, to the General Secretariat of Public Administration and E-Government of the Greek Ministry of Interior.

June 2001 to November 2007: Policy officer and program manager in the DG Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities, Unit 'European Social Fund Interventions in Greece, Cyprus and Poland'.

June 1996 to June 2001: Program manager and financial coordinator in DG Regional Policy, Unit 'European Regional Development Fund Interventions in Greece'.

January 1989 to May 1996: Program manager and information officer in DG Information Society, Unit 'Regional Telecommunications'.

Prior to the European Commission he worked, for 2 years (1985-87), in a private engineer office with main duties the design and development of information systems for clients.



Leonidas ANTONAKOPOULOS

Head of the European Parliament Information Office in Greece

Political Scientist, he studied Public Law and Political Science in Athens Law School and has Post-graduate Degrees in Political Science from Strasbourg's University Law School as well as from the European Studies Institute of Brussels University. He is an official of the European Union since 1990, and has a long working experience in Public Information and Political Communication..

Since November 2010:

Head of the European Parliament Information Office in Greece

July 2006 - October 2010 :

Press Counsellor of the European Parliament Information Office in Greece.
Directorate General for Communication of the European Parliament in Greece.

October 2005 - July 2006:

Head of Communication and Media Services.
General Communication Office of EP, Brussels.

July 2000 - September 2005:

Head of Information and Communication Unit.
European Commission, Directorate General of Development and Co-operation, Brussels

January 1995 - September 1999:

Head of Commissioner Christos Papoutsis Private Office,
European Commission, Brussels.

November 1990 - January 1995:

Head of Greek Department of the Press Unit.
Directorate General for Communication of the European Parliament, in Brussels.

November 1985 - October 1990:

Director of the Greek Office of Press and Information in Belgium.
Spokesman of the Greek Presidency in E.U, Council, Brussels. (1988).

August 1982 - March 1984:

Political Counsellor in the Greek Permanent Representation to the European Union, in Brussels
- European Political Co-operation
- Institutional Affairs
- Relations with the European Parliament



Tassos CHIVIDPOULOS

Deputy Head, Regional Unit of Argolida, Region of Peloponnese

Born in 1967 to farmer parents.
He lives in Dalamanara in Argolida.

Studies

He is preparing to graduate from the School of Management and Economy of the Technological Educational Institute of Patra.

He has completed Computer Programming and Analysis Studies at the Free Studies Center "Control Data".

He attends the faculty "Studies in European Civilization" of the Hellenic Open University.

He speaks English fluently.

Professional experience

- In 1993 he worked as collaborator of the Prefect of Argolida in culture, youth and sports.

- In 1994-1996 he worked as Coordinator of the International Festival of Argos. From 1996-2009 he was working at the Municipal Company of Youth and Sports of Argos and since 2009, when the company closed down, he has been employee of the Municipal Athletic Center of Argos.

From October 2009 until December 2010 he has been detached to the Political Office of the Minister of Defence Mr Evangelos Venizelos.

Political activity

In 1998 he was elected as Prefectural Counselor of Argolida.

In 2002 he was nominated Vice Prefect of Argolida.

In the elections of 2002 he was for second time elected as Prefectural Counselor of Argolida.

From 1998 to 2006 he was member of the Youth Committee of the Union of Prefectural Authorities of Greece.

In March 2005 he was elected as member of the National Council of PASOK.

In March 2008 he was for second time elected as member of the National Council of PASOK.

In October 2010 he was elected as Vice Governor of the Region of Peloponnese in the Regional Unit of Argolida.

In October 2011 he was elected as member of the Board of the Union Of Regions of Greece.

Social Activity

He has always been and still is an active member of various cultural and athletic unions of the city of Argos.

He represented Greece and PASOK in various congresses and fora and the most important among them were the INTERNATIONAL STATES' MEETING FOR YOUTH ISSUES and the WORLD YOUTH FORUM which were organized under the auspices of the United Nations in 1997 in Portugal.

From 2002 until today he has been General Secretary of the Team DIOMEDES OF ARGOS that participates in the Cup of A1 National Rank in Men's Handball.

On 2005 he was elected as member of the Board of the Handball Federation of Greece and undertook the Presidency of the Committee of National Handball Teams which preserves until today.

In 2008 he was elected for second time as member of the Board of the Handball Federation of Greece and from 2011 he is General Secretary.

From 2008 he is substitute member of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.



Olga STAVROPOULOU

President of Militos S.A. and Vice President of Hellenic Association of Young Entrepreneurs (ESYNE Athens)

Olga Stavropoulou is an active entrepreneur and a recognized mentor, specialized in the design and implementation of numerous projects and actions that enhance, advance and promote entrepreneurship, employment, mobility, lifelong learning and training. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Sociology (Northeastern University, U.S.A.) and her Master's degree in International Politics (University of Brussels) // Thesis: "Multilingualism in Europe's Information Society".

- In 2000, she founded together with her partners, the company Militos Emerging Technologies & Services, where she holds the position of the Managing Director.
- Since 2001, she acts as the National Editor of the European Commission Standard Eurobarometer
- In 2011, she was appointed Coordinator of the Hellenic Unit of the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs (Business Mentors) under the auspices of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry.
- In 2012, she was elected Vice President of the Hellenic Association of Young Entrepreneurs in Athens, Piraeus and Province (ESYNE).
- The same year, she was elected General Secretary of the Governing Committee of Women's Organisation of Managers and Entrepreneurs / Hellenic Management Association (TOGME/EEDE).
- Since 2013, she is a Member of the National Council for the Global Entrepreneurship Week.
- She is an accredited practitioner in strengths-based approach and currently she is being also accredited with the Advanced Diploma in Personal and Executive Coaching.
- In June 2013, she was selected by the Kaufmann Foundation (Research Conference on High Growth Women's Entrepreneurship) to present the abstract titled "Recognizing the positive effects of strengths-based mentoring to facilitate female entrepreneurship in Greece // Glass ceiling vs. glass feeling".
- She is the co-founder and Vice President of the social enterprise 'knowl' for Education and Lifelong Learning.



Andreas STEFANIDIS

President, Federation of Hellenic Associations of Young Entrepreneurs – O.E.SY.N.E, Coordinator of GEW Board

Andreas Stefanidis is also the President of the Federation of Hellenic Associations of Young Entrepreneurs – ESYNE. ESYNE is the National member for Greece, since 2002, of the European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs, YES and the Host organization of the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Greece. In 2007, Andreas co-founded a European non-for-profit organization, the Academy of Entrepreneurship, aiming to offer specialized short courses and webinars to innovative young entrepreneurs of Greece and the surrounding countries of South Eastern Europe. The Academy of Entrepreneurship has a European trademark and is supported by the Educational Association of Athens, "Hfaistos", founded in 1935.

Andreas has been teaching Financial, Managerial and Cost Accounting courses at the State University of New York at New Paltz since 2004 as a visiting faculty. He has been offering vocational seminars in Entrepreneurship and Management Accounting to young entrepreneurs in Greece and other European countries.

Andreas next vision is the creation of an innovative Business Accelerator at the existing premises of the Educational Association of Athens "HFAISTOS", for supporting innovative, knowledge based businesses of South Eastern Europe for starting up, growth and penetrate the surrounding countries.



Eleni MALOUPA

Director, Plant Production in Northern Greece, Hellenic Agricultural Organization- Demeter (HEL.AGR.O.- DEMETER)

Dr Eleni Maloupa was born in Chios, Greece. She was admitted and attended a five-year extended course, at University of Agriculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and she is bearer of the Honors Degree in Agriculture, specialized in Horticulture. She acquired a PhD on Plant Biology and Physiology. She knows English, French and Spanish. She worked in the arboricultural Institute for one year, in the institute of species variety control for 2 years and then, from 1988 since now she works in National Agricultural Research Foundation as researcher on the field of Biology and Physiology having to do with:

- Research on Soilless culture
- Research on Floricultural physiology and New Flower Crops
- Utilization of native plant species in commercial horticulture
- Collection, propagation and preservation of native species
- Development of native plant nursery and of an Educational Research Center
- Development of the Balkan Botanic Garden Kroussia

She has organized three International Symposia and other national and EU Symposia, meetings and workshops. She presents rich activity in the area of publishing. Her work has been published in international and national magazines, proceedings of Symposia, workshops and meetings. She has successfully been undertaking national and EU projects for many years and she is an official member of various co-operations and networks such as FAO, BGCI etc. Finally, she has a rich background on education of young students.

Recently she was appointed Director in Plant Production Institutes in Northern Greece in the Hellenic Agricultural Organization-Demeter (former NAGREF).



Giannis TASSIOPOULOS

Director of Newspaper "Paragogi"

Giannis Tassiopoulos was born in 1961 in Kiparissia Messinias. He has graduated from a journalist school and has a long professional experience in the area of media and journalism.

He has previously cooperated with the newspapers Acropoli, Apogevmatini, Eleftheros Tipos and Adesmeftos Tipos. He has served as the Press Officer for the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government, News Director of the radio station Athina 9.84 and editor of the newspaper metro.

Today he is the Director of the Agricultural Newspaper Paragogi and a shareholder of the companies "Nea Zoi Publishing" and "G. Tassiopoulos Co".





Teodoro SDRouLIAS

Architect – Journalist, Ambassador of the European Network Città del Bio

I was born in Velestino, Feres in 1957, where I completed my school studies. I then moved to Florence to study Architecture and Journalism.

I have worked as a freelancer, on architectural studies and on radio and television programs for several stations, until my current weekly collaboration, for a total of more than 25 years.

I have participated in many conferences and seminars under the theme of agricultural and cultural life.

I have worked as a tutor for more than 14 year and I still teach in universities, schools and institutions on subjects that deal with agricultural life, architectural thought and the constant search of our roots.

I am a wine taster and I have participated in several international and global competitions. I am the ambassador of the European Network Città del Bio and ambassador of Global Wine Capital for Greece.

Today I live in the city of Agria in Volos, which is the base of my professional activities.



Dimitrios RAFTOPOULOS

Head of Strategic Leadership Unit, Life Long Learning Research Institute, Member of the European Citizens Initiative Committee ACT4Growth General Secretary of Hellenic Center of Development and Innovation.

I am focused on SHR Management and Gender issues specializing in designing, implementing, managing and evaluating European Projects.

Holding an MBA I had dedicated my professional experience to human and entrepreneurial development. My knowledge is on the fields of combating gender issues in the working environment, promotion of employability, strengthening of professional skills as well as EU-funded programmes related to local development, employment, education, social exclusion, mental health, relevant legislation, economics and social policies.

I am a social person and I can interact well in a multicultural environment with good communicating skills gained through my work experience. Additionally I had held the position of HR Manager for the Olympic Games of Athens 2004 and worked as a consultant for several organizations of the Greek public sector. Other positions I have held are the position of Commercial Director as well as Development Director for ICT start-ups. I had been involved in many EU projects and have solid knowledge on managerial issues, building teams and on stimulating communications.

The last years I dedicated my work efforts in the Ageing Workforce area, as well in the effective usage of ICT in terms of training and development with focus on interactive and multimedia tools. Currently, I am the Head of Strategic Leadership Unit of Life Long Learning Research Institute, Chair of the Finance and EU projects Working Group of the European Centre for Women and Technology (ECWT), General Secretary of the Hellenic Centre of Development and Innovation, EU Projects Expert at the Federation Of Hellenic Associations Of Young Entrepreneurs, while I consult several BoD of ICT companies and being member of several networks and Scientific Committees.



Spiros KACHRIMANIS

President, Center for Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Spiros Kachrimanis has been involved in agri-business since 1984 and he holds an MBA from Teesside University, UK. He is the founder and chairman of C.A.E. (Center of Agricultural Entrepreneurship of Greece) and he is serving since 2004 as CEO "Elios Co-op".

He has been general secretary and key founder of Greek young farmers organization and member of the board in a significant number of organizations and enterprises of farming sector. His work in writing includes many articles and essays. Recently (2012) his book "Fertile land, infertile policy" was released by Papasotiriou publishing.



Michalis STANGOS

CEO, mscomm

Michalis is a creative entrepreneur and politically active. He is the founder and co-founder of innovative and traditional companies and organizations. He is the founder of Industry Disruptors – Game Changers, an ecosystem to enhance entrepreneurship in the Southeast Mediterranean region. He is also Curator and co-founder of Ted Med Live Athens, which took place for the first time in Greece in 2013.

Michalis is the president and CEO of an integrated communication group of companies MSCOMM.

From 2012 onwards he is the organizer and co-coordinator of the Global Entrepreneurship Week. He was the creator and chief editor of a weekly business supplement of the national daily newspaper TA NEA - "OPEN MBA". He is a member of the board of Young Entrepreneurs Association, member in the EU Business Mentor Networks, member of the Task Force of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), member of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Global Forum and elsewhere. He is an active communication consultant of the European Parliament and the European Commission. He has created www.culturallia.com, a pilot platform that supports cultural entrepreneurship.

Michalis has studied Political Sciences, Communication and European Studies at the London School of Economics, under scholarships by the Institution of Promotion of Journalism Athanasiou Vas. Botsi and the Journalists Union of Athens Daily Newspapers. He has been honoured by the Balkan Military Medical Committee.



Dimitris MICHAILIDIS

Journalist & Collaborator of Agrorama

Dimitris was born and raised in Thessaloniki where he still lives since 1950. He graduated from the Experimental School, received his Bachelor's degree in Technical and Business Administration, and his Master's degree in Environmentalism. He also holds a Master's degree as a Security Technician.

He has experience in command of units with the method of Micro-units, Personnel Administration and Human Resource Development, Procurement Management, Training Management, Vocational Training & Lifelong Learning, NGO Management, and Management of Technical and other projects.

He was Manufacturer of technical projects, professor in secondary education, Lifelong Learning Instructor, Coordinator of Animators, Responsible for Rural Information & Mobilization, European Development Projects, and a Freelancer.

He has organized more than 1800 initiatives (presentations - workshops - conferences) for rural and/or local development, Lifelong Learning, traditional gastronomy, agrotourism, entrepreneurship, innovation, collaborative actions, local pacts, volunteering, NGOs as well as many exhibitions and study visits.

Nowadays he focuses more on volunteerism (scouting, collaboration, Civil Society Organisations Observatory), in local development (pacts, training), encouragement (young farmers, entrepreneurship, agrotourism, adults education) and journalism.



Dr. Sofia PROTOPAPA

Training Director, knowl Social Enterprise for Education and Lifelong Learning

Dr. Sophia PROTOPAPA holds a Doctorate in Social Sciences and is a certified practitioner in REALISE2 strengths approach. She participates in co-funded projects by the European Commission, focusing on entrepreneurship, strengths-based mentoring and work skills. She studies the characteristics of successful individuals at an international level.

With her colleagues, she has developed the model 'feel the mentoring©' for the implementation of a formal mentoring system in organisations, and 'STARS©' a model aiming to facilitate individuals to reach personal and professional success with an emphasis on strengths.

Dr Protopapa is Training Director in the Social Enterprise knowl for Education and Lifelong Learning, Training coordinator in the Greek part of the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs, Instructor in MBA programmes, Member of IPPA (The International Positive Psychology Association), Founder of the International Success Project.



Dr. Alexandra TSADI

Chemical Engineer - The Trinity Farm

Alexandra Tsiadi is a Dr. Chemical Engineer with undergraduate and postgraduate studies in England (BSc, MSc, PhD).

In 2000 she returns to Larissa, her hometown, with her family after a 20-year absence and in 2005 she starts becoming involved with organic-biodynamic agriculture in the family farm of three generations in Agia Triada, Farsala, in parallel with her profession in the quality control of construction projects.

Since 2009 she introduces new crops in the farm, sells directly her produce and establishes 'The Trinity Farm' that enjoys recognition and respect from both consumers and the gastronomic community.

From the end of year 2010 onwards, her farm is her sole occupation.



Angelos MARKOU

General Manager, Krocus Kozanis Products S.A.

Angelos Markou was born in Patras on 1964. Graduated from DERE, the American College of Greece, holding a degree in Business Administration with major in Marketing.

He has a rich 25-year experience in sales and marketing in multinational and local companies like SKF Hellas SA, Tasty-Pepsi S.A., BDF Hellas SA, Germanos S.A., ELVE S.A. , Solid SA. He participated in the development and growth of these companies through various managerial positions with distinctions and awards, until he took over as General Manager in the company Krocus Kozanis Products S.A..

The company was formulated in 2008 from the Cooperative de safran and the Greek company KORRES AS NATURAL PRODUCTS. Main scope of the company is to promote Krokos Kozanis (safran) at the international markets and to create new products of high added value having as ingredient the krokos Kozanis. He is member of the boD of Greek Sales Institute (ΙΠΕ).

He is married with one child.



Dimitris GEORGAS

Pig Farmer, Epidavros

Dimitris Georgas was born and raised in Ancient Epidavros.

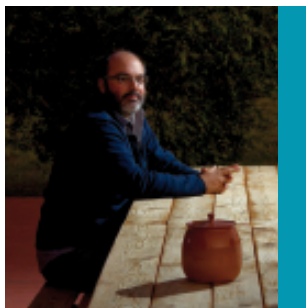
In 2003, he undertook the management of his family business, which deals with the breeding, fattening and slaughter of pigs, with an end output of 460 tons of meat per year.

Dimitris has more than 20 years of experience in the pig farming and sales of pork.

He invested in innovative technologies and has installed electronic systems for the control and management of the production process. At the same time, he utilizes the produced waste, to create biogas.

He has managed to increase the competitiveness of his business by producing well-known, high quality meat, while reducing the costs of production.

In 2012, he participated in the first European conference of young farmers, which took place in Brussels.



Frangiskos KARELAS

**President & Managing Director of Homeodynamic Development S.A.
Creator of: Eumelia Organic Agrotourism Farm & Guesthouse**

Frangiskos Karelak holds a Master of Arts in International Relations & Crisis Management (S.A.IS) from the Johns Hopkins University.

He has worked as the Head of Office of MEP and Chairman of the Transportation & Regional Policy Committee of the European Parliament.

Has been the Project Manager for Development Projects in NGO, in the Council of Europe & UNHCR.

He is the Founder & President of Homeodynamic Development S.A. the parent company of Eumelia Organic Agrotourism Farm & Guesthouse.



Sofie Tvarno

Chief Health Activist & Founder of PURE GREEK

Sofie Tvarno's mission with Pure Greek is to inspire to a happy, healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

Her vision for the company is building a globally recognized organic premium Greek produce & life style brand, one branch at the time, helping communities around Greece.

Pure Greek has with great success the past 10 years, packaged and exported Greek organic healthy products, such as extra virgin olive oil, olives, vinegar and Feta cheese.

Sofie is now expanding the Pure Greek range to include all healthy organically produced Greek products. She is constantly improving herself and she is now working on a new website for the company, which is going to work very much as an inspiration to healthy living, through her blog, recipes and videos.

Sofie is a visionary and a believer in the enormous opportunities Greece offers for Organic farming and top quality health products.