

THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Communication of Engagement

Thessaloniki, October 2019

To our stakeholders

In my capacity as President of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), I am pleased to hereby confirm that TCCI reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its 10 Principles in the area of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

Sincerely yours
Ioannis Masoutis
President

The notion of social responsibility is not new to our Chamber. The TCCI has always been socially sensitive. First of all, TCCI is as a socially sensitive employer, undertaking various initiatives for its staff and families, such as medical programmes, awards and grants for employees' children.

Since 2009 TCCI provides free medical check up for its employees on top of the national insurance coverage.

Each year TCCI offers grants to the employees' children that have exhibited exceptional academic performance (at high school, university or foreign language knowledge)



In December 2017 TCCI bought a defibrillator device to cover the needs of its employees and visitors. On top of that, TCCI financed first aid seminars for its staff organized by the Red Cross.

Since then TCCI has been inviting two Red Cross rescuers in all its events.



In March 2019, TCCI installed a new crawler unit for the movement of the wheelchair for any disabled visitor in the staircase at the entrance of the TCCI's neoclassical building.

Furthermore, since its foundation, TCCI has been donating, each year, a significant part of its budget to various charity organizations in Greece such as "The smile of the child", "Greek Children Village in Filyro", "Greek Association of Women with Breast Cancer" OASIS, MERIMNA, etc)

The TCCI's charity initiatives do not cover beneficiaries only in Greece but also extend to other countries. The TCCI has taken initiatives to gather and deliver humanitarian aid (in kind) in order to cover the basic needs of people (food and clothing) in neighbouring Balkan countries in difficult situations. Moreover it makes regular donations to international charity foundations such as the Red Cross, MSF, Doctors of the World etc.

The TCCI participates in the Hellenic Network for Social Corporate Responsibility. <http://csrhellas.eu> CSR Hellas is the national partner of CSR Europe. The aim of the network CSR Hellas is to forward and incorporate the responsible entrepreneurship into the Greek companies and business organizations thus aiming at the improvement of their competitiveness through practices and initiatives that ensure the achievement of social cohesion. Among its other initiatives the TCCI participated actively in the European Pact 4 Youth which aimed to enhance the cooperation between business and academic communities. In this frame, CSR Hellas designed the pilot programme GEFYRA (**G**reek **E**nterprises **F**or **Y**outh **R**einforcement **A**cceleration) for the period 2017-2019, in which TCCI has been an initiator thus supporting it.

The TCCI participates actively as a principal member and offers significant financial support to the local Network for Social Solidarity, which engages companies and business organizations in collective action efforts on issues related to the UN Global Compact. Founded in 2010, the Network is particularly keen on helping people in need as well as young children. Detailed information about the actions of the network can be found at its website (www.solidaritynet.gr).

On June 21, 2018 the Network for Social Solidarity signed a memorandum of cooperation with Greek National Committee of UNESCO. Aiming at the design and implementation of synergies in the sectors of Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication in the frame of achieving, by 2030, the Targets and priorities set by UNESCO as well as the support of fragile and marginalized social groups, associations and unions engaged in this sector.



Furthermore the same Network co-financed and delivered in January 2019 a brain monitor and video recorder system Nihon Kohden EEG-1200 to the Ippokration General Hospital for the needs of children.



Center for the cureness of addicted persons (KETHEA)

KETHEA is the largest network of its kind in Greece offering services for the cureness of addicted persons and their social reintegration. Since September 2017 TCCI cooperates with KETHEA for the production (design and printing) of its quarterly bulletin

Environmental issues

On September 6 2019 the Second Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development Panorama was organized by the Global Sustain under the aegis of TCCI. The agenda comprised important environmental issues such as 'less plastic for a better future', digital transformation and sustainability, business cooperation with a social impact, performance indexes for a responsible supply chain.

Since June 2019 TCCI's bulletin (see above) has been printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council).

In this way TCCI proves its environmental sensitivity something that can be seen in many of its daily functions.

Refugees and immigrants crisis

Since the beginning of 2016 there has been a huge inflow of refugees and immigrants from middle east countries in conflict (mainly Syria). The UNHCR along with a number of NGOs were involved in attempts to facilitate their settlement in camps all over the country but mainly in Northern Greece. For the construction of the camps there was a big need for the procurement of various goods and services that had to be found at the local market. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessaloniki (TCCI) helped UNHCR by organizing the outreach to the private sector regarding their various procurement notices.

TCCI and education

Donations to Universities

Since 2013 the TCCI offers two (2) scholarships for the tuition of two students with the highest academic performance at the MBA programme of the University of Macedonia.



Training

The TCCI has a long experience in organizing and implementing training activities on a variety of business issues such as computer lessons for beginners, computerized accounting, marketing, management and organization of an enterprise, sales techniques, business plan preparation, foreign languages lessons, etc. Especially regarding the Vocational Education and Training, the TCCI has trained over the past 20 years more than 7.000 employees, executives and entrepreneurs of local businesses, mostly SMEs.

During the past 3 years, the TCCI has successfully implemented, in collaboration with other partners, three relevant EU projects and in particular:

AEOLIX

The project AEOLIX was implemented during the period 2016-2019 in the framework of the programme Horizon 2020. The project dealt with the creation of an on-line platform supporting a collaborative IT infrastructure for operational connection of logistics information systems at pan-European level. AEOLIX Platform represented a critical step forward for supply chain visibility and interoperability through the decentralisation of information sharing. AEOLIX cloud services resulted in enhanced collaboration and interoperability across the entire transport and logistics sector, achieving considerable environmental, economic and social impacts. The Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in AEOLIX consortium as partner, implementing activities within the limits of its pilot area, which was the Regional Unit of Thessaloniki. More precisely, the TCCI was involved in the implementation of a Virtual Freight Centre (VFC) pilot project through which businesses could rent their spare warehouse space and provide logistics services to other businesses or demand such space and services to face their peak periods. About 35 local enterprises were involved in this pilot project, participating in surveys and workshops regarding their respective supply and demand needs and being registered on the VFC on-line platform for providing / demanding warehouse space and services.

BLUE_BOOST

BLUE_BOOST is a project implemented in the framework of ADRION Programme, during the period 2018-2020. It aims at unlocking and boosting the potential of knowledge/technology transfer, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation of key innovation actors of traditional and emerging Blue Growth sectors by reinforcing the relationships and interactions within and among their clusters according to an open source, knowledge sharing & community based approach. The central activity of the project is the BLUE_BOOST transnational innovation voucher scheme, through which 35 projects have been granted with innovation vouchers, in the 7 pilot partners' areas. The vouchers have been allocated to MSMEs & Start-Ups wishing to improve their position all along the value chains of Blue Economy thanks to knowledge/technological skills provided by Research, Development & Innovation bodies, skilled enterprises and Non Institutional New Innovation Agents (NIA). The project includes also important networking and coaching activities. The Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry participates in BLUE_BOOST consortium as partner, implementing activities within the limits of its pilot area, which is the Region of Central Macedonia. 5 blue businesses of the Region have been awarded with innovation vouchers, while more than 65 Blue MSMEs, R&D organisations and NIA of RCM and Northern Greece have participated in project activities organised by the TCCI. BLUE_BOOST has a clear environmental, economic and social impact on the involved Blue Growth sectors and value chains.

4helix+

4helix+ is an Interreg MED project (implementation period 2018-2020) which aims at stimulating, coaching and funding innovation within the Blue Growth sectors in the Mediterranean (MED) area. The project intends to improve the gap between the eight Mediterranean regional maritime

clusters on the one hand, and within their respective four helixes on the other. This is envisaged to be achieved through an open source, knowledge sharing and community-based approach, resulting from cooperation of blue MSMEs with so-called 'new innovation agents' and cultural and creative industries. A variety of networking/ matchmaking activities such as boot-camps, a transnational brokerage event, regional info days have been organized in the framework of the project. An innovation voucher scheme to facilitate collaboration between creative institutes/enterprises and blue MSMEs for creating new products services and processes is also implemented. The Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry participates in 4helix+ consortium as partner, implementing activities within the limits of its pilot area, which is the Region of Central Macedonia. Six blue MSMEs from the Region of Central Macedonia have been awarded with Vouchers to realize their innovative projects in collaboration with selected Knowledge Providers while a total of 45 Greek Blue MSMEs, creative institutions/enterprises and "new Innovation agents" participated in project's national and international activities. Like BLUE_BOOST, 4helix+ will have an environmental, economic and social impact on the involved Blue Growth sectors and value chains.

The Millennium Development Goals

Since its enrollment, the TCCI has always been keen on promoting the Global Compact idea and the relevant issues through its various outreach events.

The TCCI hosts and supports the Private Sector Liaison Officer to the World Bank Group (PSLO) since 2004. PSLOs inform thousands of companies, throughout Greece, about the various business opportunities arising from the WBG products and the numerous projects financed by the WB Group. The typical presentation to companies starts with the Millennium Development Goals and the TCCI's support to the UN Global Compact principles.



The World Bank Group

IBRD IDA IFC MIGA ICSID

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Συμφωνία 189 εθνών το 2000 στη Σύνοδο της χιλιετίας του ΟΗΕ Millennium Summit

Ο στόχος της μείωσης της φτώχειας απαιτεί την επίτευξη επιμέρους στόχων :

1. Εξάλειψη των φαινομένων της μεγάλης φτώχειας και πείνας
2. Εξασφάλιση της βασικής εκπαίδευσης σε παγκόσμιο επίπεδο
3. Προώθηση της ισότητας και ενδυνάμωση της θέσης της γυναίκας
4. Μείωση της παιδικής θνησιμότητας
5. Βελτίωση της υγείας στις μητέρες
6. Καταπολέμηση ασθενειών όπως HIV/AIDS, ελονοσία, κ.α.
7. Εξασφάλιση προστασίας του περιβάλλοντος
8. Δημιουργία μιας παγκόσμιας συνεργασίας για την ανάπτυξη

The TCCI will continue its efforts to set an example of a socially sensitive organization for its member companies, as well as for other institutions, thus proving its belief in the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact and its determination and commitment to the achievement of the 17 sustainable development goals.