

## THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### Communication of Engagement

*Thessaloniki, October 2021*

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.

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 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.

The TCCI participates actively as a principal member and offers considerable 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](http://www.solidaritynet.gr)).

### **The SARS-COV2 Pandemic**

During the SARS-COV2 pandemic the TCCI has offered free PCR tests for its employees on a regular basis.

Furthermore, due to the numerous special needs brought about by the SARS-COV2 pandemic and the pressure exerted on the national health system, the Chamber donated 300,000 Euros to three general hospitals of Thessaloniki.



Regarding the impact of the crisis on the economic and social environment, TCCI within its statutory role of the advisor to the Government, has carried out a series of surveys to measure the needs of the economy, of the enterprises and of the consumers, and proposed a series of actions to be taken in order to tackle the problem.

### **Environmental issues**

The TCCI financed tree plantation schemes of the Municipality of Thessaloniki (photo below).



Since June 2019, TCCI's bulletin 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**

The UNHCR along with a number of NGOs were involved in attempts to facilitate the 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 acting as a focal point for 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.

### **Social Issues**

#### **Open House**

Over 450 people visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thessaloniki in the frame of Open House statute 23 and 24 November 2019.

The Open House, is one of the most important international statute for the promotion of architecture. It was organized for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive time as the TCCI neoclassical building was chosen not only for its style but also for its historic importance. It was built in 1929 and maintains the same style and internal decoration.

#### **Donation to the fire department**

TCCI along with another two chambers financed the water proofing insulation of the administration building of the Fire \department \headquarters in Thessaloniki.



### ***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 22 years more than 8.000 employees, executives and entrepreneurs of local businesses, mostly SMEs. This effort continued over the past two years mainly on a web basis due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

## **EU programmes and Projects**

During the past 3 years, the TCCI is successfully implementing, in collaboration with other partners, the following EU projects:

- 1) IPMED “IP Capacities for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the MEDiterranean Region” project is implemented in the framework of the European Programme ENI CBC MED. It aims at contributing to the innovation potential of start-ups, MSMEs and young and women entrepreneurs, as promising and critical groups of the Euro-Mediterranean region, through enhancement of Intellectual Property Rights support and capacities. Specific objectives of the project are: a) to enhance public authorities’ capacities to valorise start-ups, young and women entrepreneurs by facilitating their access to IPR and commercialization schemes, b) to set/up upgrade specialized IP support services and resources and c) to strengthen IP knowledge and awareness of start-ups, MSMEs, young and women entrepreneurs. Project’s partnership is formed by Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (Jordan), the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Greece), Finanziaria Ligure per Lo Sviluppo Economico (Italy), Agora Institute (Spain) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tunis (Tunisia).
- 2) CREATIVE HUB “ Development of a Creative Hub for offering support to fashion graduates, young artists start-ups and development mechanisms to the fashion sector of the cross-border area” project is implemented in the framework of the European Programme INTERREG V-A GREECE-BULGARIA 2014-2020. The general objective of the project is to address the common cross-border challenges of the fashion sector by establishing the Creative Hub, a Fashion Centre of cross border character and impact that will act as a unique center bringing together all stakeholders involved in the fashion and fashion related industry (footwear, leather, jewellery), providing them with new training skills and professional competences. It will also facilitate the exchange of innovative ideas and sustainable methods, enhance the know-how transfer and promote creative thinking and development. The Hub will provide a great range of services including networking, consulting services, technological services, training seminars – business workshops. Project’s partnership is formed by the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Greece), Hellenic Fashion Industry Association (Greece), Gnosi Anaptixiaki NGO (Greece), Textile & Clothes Branch Organization (Bulgaria) and Association Savremie (Bulgaria).

## **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

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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.