

Study UK Alumni Awards

Confidentiality and Use of Data

In line with EU GDPR law, all application data has been treated as confidential throughout the judging and shortlisting process by everyone involved.

Conflict of Interest

All applications are anonymised for the judging process and judges take conflict of interest very seriously to ensure the integrity of the process, including signing relevant agreements. If judges recognise an applicant, they are required to state any conflict of interest immediately. Any judge disclosing a conflict of interest is excluded from assessing the specific application and scores are provided by other members of the judging panel only.



MATTHEW LODGE

Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

His Majesty's Ambassador Matthew Lodge received his appointment to the Hellenic Republic in August 2021. Matthew has a BA (Hons) in Modern Languages (French and Russian) from the University of Birmingham. He was an officer in the Royal Marines from 1986–1996. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1996. Matthew's first posting was to the British Embassy in Athens. He also worked on the Balkans, served in Georgia and Armenia, and had postings to Paris and the UK Permanent Representation to the EU. He later served as Private Secretary to the Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy Baghdad, Head of the FCO's Afghanistan Group, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Finland, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Minister at the British Embassy Paris, serving concurrently as Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Matthew is married to Alexia and they have twin boys.

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ANASTASIA ANDRITSOU Director | British Council Greece and Cyprus

Anastasia Andritsou is Director British Council Greece and Cyprus, contributing to the education policy agenda in the European region, developing an innovative and forward-thinking skills agenda for youth and underprivileged communities, and strengthening strategic collaborations between the UK, Greece and Cyprus. She has over 20 years' experience in education reforms, management of technical assistance programmes, EU and structural funds, and business development in the non-for-profit sector. She has private sector experience in telecommunications and smart automation technologies. She joined the British Council in 2004 as a Science and Governance Manager and implemented a major science communication programme for general audiences and schools. In 2007, she was appointed Head of Partnerships and Programmes, with responsibility for planning and implementing innovative science, arts and education projects through strategic co-operation with partners in Europe and across the world. She studied Electrical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens, holds a master's degree from the Polytechnic School of Toulouse in France and an Executive MBA from the Athens University of Economics and Business.



GIANNIS ANASTASOPOULOS Upper Education Sector Lead, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Adriatics | Microsoft Europe South

Giannis Anastasopoulos is a Graduate of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, holding a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a specialisation in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as a Master of Science in Quality Management and Technology. Early career experience includes roles as a Systems and Data Engineer, Digital Security and Quality Assurance Officer within IT and technology companies, with responsibilities spanning engineering, technical management and business administration, and a focus on emerging technologies and innovative solutions. For a decade, he served as a Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT), delivering technical adult education and professional certification programmes for IT specialists. Over the past five years, he has been part of Microsoft, initially as an Account Technology Strategist in the public and education sectors and currently as Lead for the upper education sector across Greece, Cyprus, Malta and the Adriatic region within Microsoft Europe South. The principal ambition remains the advancement of innovation, artificial intelligence and cloud computing, fostering their integration into the evolving landscape of educational, academic and research institutions.

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CHRISTOS CARRAS

Executive Director | Dinos and Lia Martinos Foundation

Christos Carras was born in London (UK) in 1962. He studied philosophy at Cambridge University and then earned his PhD from the University of Paris I – Sorbonne. Since 2000, he has been working in the cultural sector. In 2006 he became the first General Manager of the B & M Theocharakis Foundation for the Fine Arts and Music. From 2009 to 2022 he was the Executive Director of the Onassis Cultural Centre (Onassis Stegi). In 2022, he began a collaboration with AEA Consulting as a Senior Associate. He is currently the Executive Director of the Dinos and Lia Martinos Foundation and is working on the development of a major new arts centre in Athens, KYKLOS Centre for Arts and Cultures. He is also an active independent researcher and writer focusing on cultural policy. In 2023, Dianeosis published an in-depth study of the Greek cultural sector of which he was the lead author and co-ordinator. In 2024, the *Handbook of Cultural Work*, of which he was the editor, was published by Bloomsbury Visual Arts.



DIMITRIOS CHAIDAS

Founder and Managing Director | DevComm

Dimitrios Chaidas is a social entrepreneur committed to advancing sustainable development through strategic communication. He has led the strategic planning of large-scale European Union projects and collaborated with the United Nations, as well as organisations across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has served as First Vice President of the Onassis Scholars' Association and has initiated numerous sustainability initiatives in Greece and internationally. His work has been recognised with awards, including the British Council's 2024 Study UK Alumni Social Action Award and honours from the Onassis Foundation, the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the University of Oxford and the University of Edinburgh. Dimitrios is the Founder and Managing Director of DevComm and currently advises the European Commission on a project designed to help thousands of European small and medium-sized businesses impacted by complex EU sanctions regimes remain compliant and conduct lawful trade. He holds a Master of Science in Applied Linguistics from the University of Edinburgh and a Master of Studies in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford.



EPAMINONDAS CHRISTOPHIOPoulos

Executive President | Metropolitan Organisation of Museums of Visual Arts of Thessaloniki (MOMus)

Epaminondas Christophiopoulos is Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Futures Research at FORTH and Executive President of the Metropolitan Organisation of Museums of Visual Arts of Thessaloniki (MOMus). An Onassis Foundation Fellow, he holds a PhD in Strategic Foresight, with additional studies in Physics, Environment and International Relations. Active in futures research since 2010, he has led numerous projects and served as Chief Scientific Officer for Foresight in the Greek Prime Minister's Office. He has published monographs, peer-reviewed articles and edited volumes. He chairs the Greek node of the Millennium Project and is a member of ESIR, advising the European Commission on transformative Research and Innovation policy.



CHRISTINA DELIGIANNI

Policy and Programmes Director | Institute for Sustainable Development, EPLO

Christina Deligianni serves as the Policy and Programmes Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development – EPLO, a joint initiative with the University of Cambridge CISL – and as the Managing Director of Verimpact, which provides innovative AI-enabled ESG and non-financial risk management platforms. She has over 25 years of professional experience in public policy, sustainability and business development across the public and private sectors. In recent years, she has contributed to major international and European initiatives in emerging technologies, the blue economy and sustainable development, working with organisations such as the European Commission, the FAO/GFCM, Growthfund and various investment funds based in London, Paris and the GCC. As an active angel investor, she has supported green and blue technology ventures globally. She holds an MA in the Humanities from the University of Chicago, where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar, and a BA in English and Greek from the University of Athens. She is fluent in Greek, Spanish and English, and has also studied Mandarin Chinese and Italian.

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Dr VASILEIA FILIDOU

Head of Strategy and Development | ATHENA Research and Innovation Centre

Dr Vasileia Filidou is the Head of Strategy and Development at the ATHENA Research and Innovation Center. She earned her DPhil in Quantum Computing from Oxford's Materials Science Department, conducting postdoctoral research at Oxford and University College London. She holds a degree in Physics, a Master of Science in Non-Linear Optics and Lasers, and she later completed a Master's in European Studies at UCLouvain. Over the past twelve years, both in UK and Greece, she has built a strong track record in securing multi-million-euro EU projects, with a major highlight being the €30M national Centre of Excellence in Robotics, HERON.



Dr VASSILIS NIKOLOPOULOS

Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer | AVOKADO

Dr Vassilis Nikolopoulos, is an active Deeptech Intrapreneur and Angel investor. He is the Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of the deeptech AI and technology startup AVOKADO. In the last 25 years, Vassilis has been working in applied research, technology transfer and innovation management procedures, focusing on the Big Data and AI algorithmic problems applied to Utilities. He co-founded the Deeptech startup Intelen, one of the most successful startups in the digital energy and utility analytics markets, having some big utilities as clients in Greece, Europe and USA. He has global recognitions in top innovation and entrepreneurship contests (US Red herring, SVASE Silicon Valley, Siemens global smartgrid, OECD eco-innovation, CeBIT top cleantech, etc.). He is a valedictorian Electrical Engineer from Dundee University, Scotland with postgraduate studies at Imperial College London, the London School of Economics, Ecole Polytechnique (X) and a PhD from the National Technical University of Athens. He has also taken various HarvardX (Harvard University) courses.

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VARVARA VASILAKI

**Head of Technology Transfer Office | DEMOKRITOS
National Centre for Scientific Research**

Varvara is an economist specialising in sustainable development and innovation, with extensive experience managing international projects in corporate and international-organisation settings. Her work spans policy analysis, gender equality and women's entrepreneurship, developed through roles in over four countries, including the UK. For more than a decade, she has supported companies and new ventures to grow, secure funding and internationalise. Currently, as Head of the Technology Transfer Office at the National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos', she focuses on technology transfer and the commercialisation of research outcomes, helping transform scientific results into viable commercial ventures and strengthening the innovation and economic impact of the organisation. She holds a Master of Science in European Tourism Economy from the University of François Rabelais and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Management from the University of Piraeus.