
Social Entrepreneurship in Greece: Challenges and Prospects

SHORT BIOS

◆ **Maria Nomikou** is a Senior Consultant at the British Council, working at global level in the field of education, with expertise in women's empowerment, non-formal education, peace education, and intercultural dialogue.

Previously, she led on behalf of the British Council the Technical Assistance programme for the Greek government in implementing the Action Plan for the Social & Solidarity Economy Law.

She holds a Master's degree in International and European Policies in Education, Training, and Research, and has worked and collaborated with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the International EXPO Zaragoza 2008, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Kosovo, and others.

◆ **Stella Kasdagli** is a writer, an inclusion expert and the co-founder of WHEN, a non-profit organisation in Greece working for the economic development of women and for gender equality in the workplace. She is also the co-founder of inc.lude, a specialised agency offering consulting and training services that enable companies of any size and industry to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of their structure, culture and public profile. Stella holds a Master of Arts in Media Cultures from the University of East London.

Stella is also a published author, a translator and the facilitator of impactful workshops on professional development, gender issues and social change. She previously studied French Literature in Athens, Greece, and Media Studies in London, and has worked for 10+ years as a women's magazine and online editor. She is an IVLP alumna and a 2023 Vital Voices Visionaries Fellow, and the recipient of the Social Action UK Alumni Award. She has published ten books for the empowerment of girls, women and teens, and she lives in Athens with her husband and two daughters.

◆ **Ifigeneia Alexandra Bakella** studied Law and Human Rights at the University of Essex, where she also completed her Master's degree in Refugee Care, focusing on the psychosocial approach to refugees and other vulnerable populations.

She has been actively involved in volunteering and human rights advocacy since the age of 15, which led her to establish her own organisation, Genesis Hellas, in 2018. The organisation focuses on combating poverty and supporting vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on the homeless in Athens. With a vision of improving society and creating positive change, she continues to work voluntarily to support vulnerable communities and to promote volunteering and empathy for all living beings while balancing work and raising her 3-year-old son.

◆ **Dimitrios Chaidas** is a Strategic Communications expert and Founder and Managing Director of DevComm. He is an award-winning social entrepreneur committed to promoting sustainable development through strategic communications. With more than ten years of professional experience, Dimitrios has led large-scale communications projects in Europe and beyond. He has advised over 10 European Union departments and agencies (including the European Commission's DG INTPA, DG ENEST, DG MENA, and FPI) on engaging millions of EU citizens and stakeholders. Dimitrios has also collaborated with EU Delegations and five UN agencies (including FAO, UNDP, and WHO) on EU-funded external actions.

In February 2024, Dimitrios received the prestigious Study UK Alumni Award in Social Action by the British Council and the British Embassy in Athens, following the completion of his Vice-Presidency of the Board of Directors at the Onassis Scholars' Association.

Dimitrios is a graduate and fellow of the University of Oxford, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Athens.