

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



STEFANOS DIMOULAS
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Stefanos Dimoulas is an internationally recognised dancer, actor and advocate for LGBTQI+ equality. As the first Greek dancer in Forbes 30 Under 30 and being named Changemaker by the European Parliament, he has enriched Greece's dance cultural presence through groundbreaking productions and EU-funded projects. His TEDx talk and work as a judge on Dancing with the Stars have championed inclusivity. Stefanos reflects that his UK education taught him true professionalism and the value of diversity and inclusivity, where people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, disabilities and orientations collaborated. This shaped his commitment to equality and excellence in the arts. Stefanos is focused on expanding his acting career while continuing his broader creative pursuits. He is dedicated to helping people of all ages succeed in the performing arts through his mentorship programme, part of his non-profit organisation, Culture Select. He plans to balance his time between Greek television and the UK or abroad, enhancing his multicultural perspective and fostering collaboration. Stefanos holds a Bachelor of Arts in Arts from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



PHILIP MODINOS
Royal Academy of Music
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Philip Modinos has been an influential private producer of opera in Greece since 2012, with his current company – Hellenic Opera Corporation – running since 2016. During this time, Philip has created 400 contracts and 150 apprenticeships, held a monopoly in grand opera in Thessaloniki and Larissa from 2015–19, co-produced in Germany and been the recipient of Create Europe and Erasmus awards with international partners. Philip believes that he has received a first-class education in the UK, receiving instruction on artistic matters and also gaining a deep knowledge of academia around classical music, as well as business skills in the music profession. He is currently planning a transition into creating animated films based on famous operas, looking to create a new format for the art, which could perhaps be streamed as episodes. He is also a member of the board of the soloist's union in Greece, looking to improve worker conditions for opera singers. Philip holds a Master in Arts (Singing) from the Royal Academy of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Music (Piano, Conducting, Singing) from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



IRODION SAVVAKIS
King's College London

Irodion Savvakis is the CEO of fyi.news, a cutting-edge platform revolutionising how news is consumed by the digital generations. Integrating technology with reliable journalism and a creative and easy-to-understand approach, fyi.news is setting new benchmarks for accessibility and credibility in digital media. The platform is steadily expanding its reach and engagement rates, while its approach to a variety of issues has been praised positively and has featured in notable mainstream media in Greece. While completing his UK education, Irodion developed his vision to transform traditional media. Immersed in diverse ideas, rigorous debate and real-world practice, he has developed a bold mindset, essential in challenging outdated norms. Today, he is leading fyi.news towards becoming a global media company for transparent journalism, empowering audiences with knowledge in a simple, understandable and trustworthy manner. Irodion holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy from King's College London.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



Dr GEORGIA KALANTZI
University of Southampton

Dr Georgia Kalantzi, Co-founder and CEO of AlongRoute, is a visionary leader revolutionising maritime operations with AI-powered marine weather forecasting. She is driving safer, greener oceans by optimising weather-based routing, aligning them with IMO decarbonisation targets and reducing emissions globally. She has a substantial background in the private sector in roles bridging academic research and industry innovation. Georgia reflects that her UK education provided a foundation of critical thinking and sound technical expertise. The focus on integrating space-based observations into wave modelling has been instrumental in shaping her pioneering work in maritime technology. She aims to promote net-zero maritime operations and advance sustainable ocean practices for a cleaner planet. Georgia holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Oceanography from the University of Southampton.



KONSTANTIA KONTODIMOU
London Business School

Konstantia Kontodimou is an advisor at Oliver Wyman, providing expertise on innovative airline projects across the US and Europe. She is also a PhD candidate and research associate at the National Technical University of Athens, focusing on optimising aviation operations with advanced AI technologies. She believes that her UK education shaped her global outlook, embodying the mission of her UK university to influence global business practices. Based in Athens, she consults on transportation projects worldwide. Looking ahead, she aims to inspire students in Greece to pursue studies in the UK, while as President of the London Business School Greek Alumni Club, she strives to expand the London Business School Greek Friends Scholarship Fund. Konstantia holds a Masters in Management from the London Business School.



ELENI MANOUSIADI
University of Essex

Eleni Manousiadi co-ordinates the Blue Growth Accelerator (under the H2020 project DOORS), leading activities that support marine-based start-ups in the Black Sea region. Her work promotes innovation and sustainable growth in Blue Economy sectors, positively impacting around 20 start-ups. Eleni believes that her UK education played an instrumental role in developing her analytical skills. Her studies provided her with critical thinking, project management and cross-cultural communication skills, which are vital to leading impactful international initiatives. She aims to expand her work in fostering collaboration for sustainable innovation and scaling up entrepreneurial efforts in marine industries. Eleni holds a Master of Science in Economics and a Master of Science in Statistics and Finance from the University of Essex.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



Dr MARIANNA KAPSETAKI
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
University College London

Dr Marianna Kapsetaki is a neurosurgery resident, neuroscientist and classical pianist. She teaches at the University of Crete. She is also Collaborative Academic Staff Member at the Hellenic Open University and an editorial board member for four journals. She has taught at University College London and has extensive experience in mentoring and supervising students worldwide and reviewing manuscripts. She has published 12 first-author papers and has delivered more than 100 talks. The impact of her work has been widely recognised through hundreds of international awards and scholarships. She has performed at hundreds of concerts and been featured numerous times in the press. She has conducted one of the largest studies on spatial memory in stroke survivors and has published articles on eating disorders in musicians that have been widely cited. Marianna feels that her UK education enhanced her knowledge and provided an organised, technologically advanced and supportive environment, which enabled her to flourish. After Neurosurgery specialty training, she is planning to subspecialise in functional neurosurgery. Marianna holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine and a Master of Science in Performing Arts Medicine from University College London.



Dr STEFANIA KAPSETAKI
University of Oxford

Dr Stefania Kapsetaki is a professional pianist and Visiting Lecturer in the subject area of Biology. She is dedicated to helping the community through STEM education on the topics of cell co-operation and conflict, bioelectricity and cancer in animals. Her work has contributed significantly to academic literature and equally importantly raised awareness about cancer's ecological dimensions among the public and policymakers. She has been the co-author of peer-reviewed publications, while securing substantial funding enabled her to pursue groundbreaking studies that have implications for health and environmental sustainability. Stefania values how her supervisors at Oxford gave students space to speak and grow. She also observes that the variety of concurrent lectures was an exciting challenge that helped students discover their niche. She aims to expand her science communication efforts while continuing to perform research on cell co-operation and conflict, bioelectricity, cancer ecology and their implications for environmental sustainability. Stefania holds a Master of Science in Zoology and a Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology from the University of Oxford.



VASILEIOS PAPATSIROS
The University of Edinburgh

Vasileios Papatsiros is a driving force in Greece's transition to renewable energy solutions. As CEO of Eunice Wind, he has focused on the practical deployment of clean energy technologies, such as the EW16 wind turbine and a widespread EV charging network. His work has provided tangible benefits to thousands of citizens, contributing to Greece's energy resilience and economic growth by fostering local manufacturing and sustainable energy practices. Vasileios highlights that his UK education provided a hands-on and practical approach to solving real-world energy challenges. The emphasis on applied knowledge and system-level thinking was pivotal in shaping his ability to implement renewable energy projects effectively. The exposure to international perspectives and the UK's leadership in renewable energy innovation equipped him with the tools and confidence to lead transformative projects in Greece. Vasileios aims to expand Greece's renewable energy capabilities further by scaling sustainable technologies and fostering international collaborations. He is dedicated to fostering collaborations between industry and local communities, ensuring that clean energy technologies become more accessible and widely adopted. Vasileios holds a Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Systems from The University of Edinburgh.

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



IFIGENEIA ALEXANDRA BAKELLA
University of Essex

Ifigenia Bakella is Co-founder and Director of Genesis Hellas, an NGO focused on providing vegan meals to the homeless and supporting disaster-stricken communities. Her work impacts over 2,000 beneficiaries annually, advocating for sustainable, inclusive practices. She also leads children's volunteer workshops, reaching 15,000 students and fostering empathy and community service from a young age. Ifigenia observes that her UK education equipped her with critical analysis, practical skills and a deep understanding of human rights. The academic rigor, exposure to diverse perspectives, the inclusive environment and emphasis on empathy enabled her to lead impactful projects in Greece, bridging knowledge with real-world change. She aims to expand her NGO's reach, deepen her advocacy for human rights and inspire global communities to embrace sustainable, inclusive solutions to poverty and injustice, grounded in empathy and compassion. Ifigenia holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Refugee Care and a Bachelor of Laws in Law with Human Rights from the University of Essex.



MICHAIL MARINAKIS
University of Leeds

Michail Marinakis is an Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Digital Governance and played a crucial role in organising the 2024 FIRST Global Challenge in Athens. Collaborating with MellonLab and the Ministry, he helped unite 3,000 students from 193 countries, showcasing Greece's innovation, fostering global STEM collaboration and inspiring the next generation of leaders. He credits his UK education with equipping him with project management, collaboration and problem-solving skills. The university's emphasis on innovation and hands-on learning prepared him to lead impactful initiatives. Leeds fostered a global perspective and provided opportunities to engage with real-world challenges. Michail aims to inspire innovation, foster collaboration and position Greece as a leader in creating a sustainable future through technology and innovation while continuing to inspire the next generation of global leaders through programmes, such as FIRST Global. Michail holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management with Marketing (Industrial) from the University of Leeds.



Dr IOANNIS TSOUGOS
The University of Edinburgh
London Metropolitan University

Dr Ioannis Tsougos is a Professor of Medical Physics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly. He has led transformative educational reforms, revolutionising teaching methodologies across Greek universities, including a national 'Train the Trainers' programme that has already directly impacted the education of 6,000 medical students and professors across the seven medical schools in Greece. He has fostered inclusivity by launching an English-speaking medical degree and the innovative 'Larissa-People's University' concept, offering free educational opportunities to the community. Inspired by his studies at Edinburgh, Ioannis embraced interdisciplinary collaboration, critical thinking and advanced technological tools – such as virtual reality – to tackle educational inequalities and enhance learning, fully adopting the UK's values of public service and knowledge dissemination. He now aims to expand access to transformative and innovative education, promoting inclusivity and global collaboration. Ioannis holds a Master of Science in Clinical Education from The University of Edinburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Physics from London Metropolitan University.