

THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Communication of Engagement

Thessaloniki, October 2015

In my capacity as President of the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) I hereby confirm our belief in the UN Global Compact and its 10 principles.

The notion of social responsibility is not new to our Chamber. 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 it 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)

TCCI’s charity initiatives do not cover beneficiaries only in Greece but also extend to other countries. 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.

TCCI participates in the Hellenic Network for Social Corporate Responsibility. <http://csrhellas.eu> 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.

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).

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 15 years more than 4.000 employees, executives and entrepreneurs of local businesses, mostly SMEs.

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

1. Project EGNATIA - VAE, European Territorial Cooperation Program Greece - Bulgaria 2007 – 2013 (<http://www.egnatia-vae.eu>). Implementation period: 14.03.2011 - 13.07.2013. The main project's objective was the support and promotion of entrepreneurship through the development of human resources. The TCCI was involved in training and consulting (face-to-face & on-line) activities for entrepreneurs and unemployed young people/women from the Region of Central Macedonia. Furthermore, the TCCI participated in the organization of business matchmaking events in Greece and Bulgaria, for the enhancement of entrepreneurial cooperation between the two countries.
2. Project VALO (Life Long Learning Program - Leonardo da Vinci). Implementation period: 01.01.2012 - 31.12.2013. The project aimed at maximizing achievements and increasing sustainability of project results and outputs thanks to the creation of a new certified (by the organization ECQA) job role, entitled "Valorisation Expert". The TCCI was mainly involved in dissemination & training activities, as well as in the organization of the certification procedures. More information is available on www.valo.it.teithe.gr & www.ecqa.org.

Initiatives for the support of young entrepreneurs

Innovation Festival

In May 2010 TCCI organized the 1st Innovation Festival entitled FUTURE CITY, which aimed to bring the citizens closer to new ideas, closer to an ecological way of living and closer to the future. With distinguished speakers, from leading entrepreneurs to academia, from all over the world, we managed to attract thousands of young people in parallel events (speeches, workshops and exhibitions) and helped them explore the future trends.



Donations to Universities

Since 2013 the TCCI offers two (2) scholarships to students attending the MBA programme of the University of Macedonia.

Furthermore its has offered financial aid to the 2nd high school of Oreocastro in Thessaloniki in order to help a team of students under the name 'Pegasus Impetus Team' participate in an international contest for the design of a Formula One car named "F1 in schools" and helped them prequalify.

TCCI has also helped a team of students from the mechanical engineering department of the Aristotle's University of Thessaloniki to build a prototype F1 car and participate in an international contest in Milan.



In 2010 TCCI became a member in the Consortium of the Senseable City Lab of M.I.T. During our two-year cooperation with the Lab we had the opportunity to bring innovative ideas to our city in an attempt to increase the attractiveness of Thessaloniki through the use of new technologies.

Environmental issues

TCCI has organized two international symposia in 2007 in order to help the municipal authorities in the solution of the traffic and pollution problem of the city of Thessaloniki by inviting experts (architects, city planners, traffic engineers etc) from other cities with similar characteristics that have managed to solve such problems (Dublin, Manchester, Valencia, Hamburg, Frankfurt etc)

Last year TCCI donated two heavy duty 4-season tents to the special rescue unit of the fire department to be used in international rescue operations. The Mayor of Thessaloniki was present at the ceremony of delivery.

This year TCCI donated a substantial amount for the purchase of fuel to be used by the organizations of volunteers that patrol in the forest surrounding Thessaloniki in order to prevent any fires during the summer.



TCCI renovated in 2003 its neoclassical building at 29 Tsimiski st, Thessaloniki and upgraded its energy efficiency to the standards of a modern building. This year TCCI proceeds to the upgrading the energy efficiency rating of its second building at 1 Morichovou st., Thessaloniki, by installing bioclimatic facades, new lighting systems, new energy-efficient glass panels and computerized heating/air conditioning controls.

Anti-Corruption

TCCI supports all events of Transparency International in Greece by reaching out to the business community as well as hosting events at its premises.



The Millennium Development Goals

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

TCCI hosts the Private Sector Liaison Office to the World Bank Group since 2004, which informs 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 TCCI's support to the UN Global Compact initiative.

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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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 determination to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact.

Dimitrios Bakatselos
President