

## THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

### Communication of Engagement

*Thessaloniki, October 2023*

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 of 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. TCCI as a socially sensitive employer, undertakes 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)).

### ESG

TCCI fully supports the 2030 UN Agenda and the 17 Goals for Sustainable Development.

With reference to ESG I would like to mention some of the recent actions of TCCI that include the energy upgrade of its buildings and especially the one located in the square. Morihovou 1 in the Ladadika area of Thessaloniki, but also in the neoclassical building at 29 Tsimiski st. to the extent that the current regulations and building codes allow it.

TCCI participates in initiatives and actions of other bodies such as the Municipality of Thessaloniki concerning recycling and environmental protection through tree planting. In addition, he has contributed with donations to the strengthening of the fire brigade.

During the pandemic, it contributed decisively to the financial support of the reference hospitals of Thessaloniki and supported the initiatives of the nursing staff. In April 2023 TCCI donated a considerable amount to AHEPA Hospital (for the renovation of an Intensive Care Unit), as well as to Papanikolaou Hospital.

Responding to the recent flood disaster in Greece, TCCI donated a considerable amount to the Hellenic Red Cross.

It financially supports several institutions and bodies of solidarity and social contribution.

It participates in the Network of Social Solidarity and Assistance, along with all the productive bodies of Thessaloniki, which is distinguished for its initiatives focusing on supporting vulnerable groups of society, donations of medical equipment, equipment for people with disabilities, etc.

As an employer, it is distinguished for its sensitivity to providing equal opportunities to all, supporting weak and large families. He has assigned to KETHEA (Therapy Centre for Dependents Individuals) the design and production of the newsletter it publishes periodically, and its printing is done on paper by responsible FSC sources.

It offers scholarships and excellence awards to children of its employees distinguished for their academic performance. It offers free medical testing packages to employees and financial support to the children of employees who wish to participate in summer camps.



At regular intervals it organizes training by the Red Cross for its staff (first aid and emergency response, use of defibrillator etc). Another training course is delivered on annual basis dealing with the management of emergency situations (fire, earthquake, flood, premises evacuation plan etc)



Furthermore, it should be noted that TCCI has already started and will continue to inform its member companies more intensely about the obligations and benefits arising from the adoption of a strategically important ESG policy.

Over the past three years there has been a drastic reduction of the use of paper in the TCCI's communication with other services/utilities as well as with its members through the enhancement of the web communications.

In the same period the introduction of web services reduced the need of TCCI's members to visit the Chamber thus resulting in reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

#### **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.



#### **TCCI and education**

##### ***Donations to Universities***

Since 2013 the TCCI offers two (2) scholarships for the tuition of two students that have achieved the highest academic performance at the executive MBA programme of the University of Macedonia.





### **Vocational and supplementary 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 during the pandemic mainly on a web basis due to the restrictions. In the post pandemic era training is carried out on a hybrid basis (in person and through the web)



### **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 also facilitates the exchange of innovative ideas and sustainable methods, enhance the know-how transfer and promote creative thinking and development. The Hub provides 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).
- 3) Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry participates since February 2023, as partner, in the implementation of the project COLUMBUS 10, in the framework of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme. COLUMBUS 10 is connected with Europe 2020, Industry and SME Strategies for sustainable and digital Europe, aiming at a competitiveness of the economic system that combines the needs of entrepreneurial development with the need for environmental protection and the rational use of resources. The project aims at encouraging the international mobility of young entrepreneurs and the collaboration between European SMEs, especially in the time of repositioning after the crisis due to the pandemic Covid 19 and the start of the Ukraine war, where it is very important to gain more skills to help Europe and European entrepreneurs to be competitive in the global market, as well as the adaptation to the new market processes. In this direction, COLUMBUS 10 will work to create and strengthen more competitive European startups and enterprises by developing capabilities, knowledge, innovation, business opportunities and networking of young/aspiring entrepreneurs through cross-border mobility within the EU internal market and developing the exchanges and collaborations with COSME (almost all over Europe) and EYE Global (outside Europe) countries. Activities are focused on the transnational exchange of knowledge and business opportunities from experienced entrepreneurs to new/recent entrepreneurs, thanks to the chance to spend an average period of around 5 months working inside a successful company, in a different country. COLUMBUS 10 focuses on facing the fast increase of unemployment rate caused by pandemic and economic crisis by strengthening the project’s scouting and promotional actions in those areas in which young people, women, students, unemployed and NEETs and other weak

categories are more present. Women and young people (19-30 years) continue to be a priority target group for COLUMBUS 10 consortium, as the mobility program can help them to create their own job (in many cases their first job opportunity) with stronger and transnational skills, improving their capabilities providing training and coaching on real business scenarios. The project favors the growth of innovative startups and SMEs with a green and digital vocation.



### **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. PSLO 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 the TCCI's support to the UN Global Compact principles.





## 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

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.