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October 2018

Health Minister Andreas Xanthos at LSE

Reload Greece Connect 2018 Conference

"Beyond Borders", International
Documentary Festival, Castellorizo

Greek Diaspora in London celebrates the
Anniversary of "OXI" Day, 28 October 1940

Philippos Mandilaras's Bizarre Stories in
London

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Greek Society Imperial College

Agenda



Health Minister Andreas Xanthos at LSE

Greek health care in the post-bailout era – Progressive reforms and less austerity

The challenges faced by the Greek public health system in a period of economic crisis and austerity along with the strategic and structural reforms required to shape the future of health system were discussed during an event entitled “Economic Crisis and Health Policy in Greece”; hosted by the LSE Department of Health Policy on 9th October in London.

Andreas Xanthos, Greece’s Minister of Health, constituted the keynote speaker, while the Professor of Psychiatry, Nikandros Bouras (King's College London), and the Associate Professor in International Health Policy, Dr. Panos Kanavos (LSE) participated in a discussion panel chaired by Professor in Health Policy Elias Mossialos (Department of Health Policy, LSE).

Equitable and universal access to healthcare has been one of the top priorities of the current Greek government, Mr. Xanthos said, noting that the economic crisis and impoverishment had a great impact on people’s health. Due to the rise in unemployment during the crisis about 2 million people lost their health insurance. To deal with this problem, the Health Ministry decided to disconnect employment from access to healthcare and provide health coverage to uninsured Greeks who were excluded from the public health system. At the same time, despite the crisis, the Greek National Health System was supported and improved. Cuts to the public health budget were suspended in 2015 and the system was rationalized and became more efficient.

However, major challenges remain and reforms in a number of areas have not been completed yet. Greece’s public health expenditure represents 5,2% of GDP, remaining below the European average of 7%, while the private health expenditure is much higher than the European average. Although the average life expectancy at birth in Greece is rising steadily, the time spent in good health has been reduced due to cardiovascular diseases and cancer as well as due to lifestyle (obesity, smoking) and socio-economic factors (unemployment, poverty, unhealthy work conditions and environmental degradation). While Greece offers universal health coverage, it ranks behind other countries in disease prevention and health education.



Greece’s Minister of Health
Andreas Xanthos

Speaking about Greece’s health policy priorities in the post-memorandum era Mr. Xanthos highlighted the following:

Universal, equitable and efficient coverage of healthcare needs

The Ministry’s main aim is a new public health system without inequality in health, Mr. Xanthos argued, stressing the need for more human capital and material resources and less austerity. We are putting patients at the centre of our health care system to create a fairer and more transparent system with evaluation of services, reduction of profligacy, corruption and exploitation of patients, he added.

Improvement of the National Health System

Among the top priorities are the provisions of primary public health care, with the introduction of the family doctor, as well as the strengthening of emergency services and of public rehabilitation structures. Mr Xanthos also stressed the need to support mental health services and vulnerable groups such as the drug addicts and refugees. The capacity of the public health system should be increased, while the private sector should act in a supplementary way by contracting with EOPYY, the unified health insurance fund, he said.

Reduction of unmet need for medical care

The reduction of unmet need for medical care is a major policy target, Mr. Xanthos said, underlining that the 20% of the people with the lowest income present higher unmet need for medical care – regrettably indicating that income inequalities lead to health care inequalities. 'Inequality in health is unacceptable', Mr. Xanthos stressed. In order to achieve the reduction of unmet need for medical care, out of pocket health payments and waiting times must be reduced. Moreover, patients' access to services – especially old people's access in remote areas- must be improved through mobile health clinics.

Prevention of diseases and health education

The new primary health care model, which includes the family doctor and the establishment of local health units, emphasises not only treatment but also prevention. Primary health care constitutes a real investment in evidence based medicine, in the efficient use of resources and in dealing with particular vulnerable groups. A series of programmes for the prevention of diseases are under way (e.g. immunization, health cheques), which aim both the general public and specific vulnerable groups, such as refugees, prisoners and drug addicts.

'We want better care for the most vulnerable in society. We need a strong, moral public healthcare system to ensure this.'



Psychiatric reform

The crisis, unemployment and pauperisation affected both the mental health indices and the function of psychiatric structures. A psychiatric reform is being implemented involving the decentralisation of treatment with the establishment of regional directorates for mental health and the support of de-asylumisation structures and cooperatives for the mentally ill.

'Inequality in health is unacceptable.'

Pharmaceutical policy

Structural reform measures have been undertaken targeting to make pharmaceutical policy more sustainable and cost-effective. They include the improvement and reliable function of: the agency for Health Assessment Technology (HTA), the incorporation of new therapeutic protocols, the creation of reliable patient records, the electronic prescribing in hospitals, the centralized tenders for off-patent medicines and the development of Diagnostic Related Groupings (DRG's) for the reliable determination of hospitalization costs.

Further, Mr. Xanthos stressed the need to reverse the brain drain noting that about 18.000 Greek doctors left Greece during the crisis looking for career opportunities abroad. In order to attract Greek doctors back to Greece, one needs to ensure decent payment and work conditions.

Only through progressive reforms and less austerity can we achieve a coherent policy which will ensure the reliability and sustainability of the Public Health System and improve the health indices of the population, Mr Xanthos concluded.



Head of the Department of Health Policy at LSE Elias Mossialos

'During the economic crisis in Greece people lost their health insurance
which was detrimental to their health.

Today there are more than 2 million uninsured.

But they can now get treatment through the public health system.

This has given people their dignity back.'



(from left to right) Associate Professor in International Health Policy Dr. Panos Kanavos (LSE), Professor of Psychiatry Nikandros Bouras (King's College London), Greece's Minister of Health Andreas Xanthos and Professor in Health Policy and Head of the Department of Health Policy at LSE Elias Mossialos



RELOAD GREECE
CONNECT 2018
CONFERENCE

Reload Greece, a UK based educational charity, are building a new generation of entrepreneurs to create businesses with a positive impact on their home countries. The organisation was founded by five young Greeks studying at London Business School, who were inspired by entrepreneurs in Greece achieving success despite the socio-economic crisis. In 2012 Reload Greece organised its first conference and several events showcasing the productive and creative side of the country through positive stories and businesses, which were flourishing during a tumultuous period.

Since 2012, Reload Greece has grown and developed steadily and today the organisation actively engages a community of over 20,000 Reloaders. To date more than 4,000 people have been educated through Reload Greece programmes, more than 130 high calibre business and academic mentors have volunteered more than 1,400 mentoring hours, over 100 startups have been accelerated, over £4million has been raised in funding by the startups supported and more than 130 jobs have been created.

The organisation's model of entrepreneurship successfully harnesses the power of the Diaspora through programmes and events which support aspiring young entrepreneurs throughout their entrepreneurial journey.

The annual RG conference has now been established as the preeminent networking, knowledge-sharing platform for the next generation of entrepreneurs and the Greek diaspora who reside in London. The 5th annual conference RG Connect18 brought together international entrepreneurs, CEO's, academics, investors and policy makers to explore what practical steps can be taken to harness the energy that has been injected into the Greek economy with the advent of the EquiFund, one of the European

Investment Fund's largest investments in Europe for one country. Four of the funds appointed to deploy 400€ million into early stage start-ups with a connection to Greece were speaking and exhibiting at RG Connect18.

The Young Entrepreneurs Programme (RG YEP), a 3-step pre-accelerator programme, inspires, coaches and nurtures young professionals and entrepreneurs to develop early stage business ideas into viable startups. During the first IGNITE stage of the programme, successful entrepreneurs and leading business and academic mentors inspire and support participants at workshops taking place at leading Universities. During the second ACCELERATE phase of the programme, the best business ideas receive 6 weeks of intense 1:1 mentoring sessions and specialised masterclasses and at the final PITCH phase each team pitches their idea to win awards and prizes. This year's Young Entrepreneurs Programme is expanding internationally with Ignite workshops in the U.K., Germany, the Netherlands, Greece and the U.S.

The annual RG Challenge, Reload Greece's intense accelerator programme supports 15 startups to become investment ready. The 11-day programme is packed with inspiring presentations, investment readiness workshops, dedicated 1:1 mentoring sessions and pitch training. Participants are immersed in the UK entrepreneurial ecosystem with inspiring talks from international speakers, they learn how to create a successful pitch deck and they pitch to investor judges at the prestigious Dragons' Den final event.

Hear more about Reload Greece's work at www.reloadgreece.com and if you would like to get involved in their work as a mentor, participant or volunteer please email info@reloadgreece.com

RG Connect18 connects the international entrepreneurial community to drive positive change for Greece!

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RG Connect18, the fifth annual Reload Greece conference, took place in London on Saturday 6th October. The event brought together innovative entrepreneurs, leading CEOs, esteemed academics, investors from the US, the UK and Greece, and policy makers to forge connections, exchange views and drive positive change. Over 330 people attended the conference, over 660 people watched live via the live stream.

RG Connect18: 'Where Challenges meet Solvers' showcased those who are embracing challenges and the ways in which they are approaching them. Forty-five international speakers participated in sessions across three tracks, 'Inspire, Learn, Connect'. The day was packed with inspiring keynotes, practical workshops, thought provoking panel discussions and startup pitches and valuable opportunities to network. RG Connect18 highlights include:

Venture Capitalists, Niko Bonatsos (Managing Director, General Catalyst) and Chrysanthos Chrysanthou (Partner, Kindred Capital) took part in the 'Building The Next Greek Unicorn' session moderated by David Rowan (Founding UK Editor in Chief, Wired Magazine). Mr Chrysanthou said "When assessing whether to invest in entrepreneurs, we look for Founders who will be world class in their field, who are insanely ambitious and who are obsessed with solving a problem". The speakers' advice for startups included "never give up, have a mentor and build a great network."

George Chouliarakis, Alternate Minister of Finance in Greece, discussed 'Greece Beyond the Programmes'. "We have met our primary and medium fiscal targets, we now have space for some targeted tax cuts to support growth objectives, including those to help young people into the job market."

Michael Tsamaz, CEO of OTE, one of the largest telecommunications companies in Europe, shared his story and experience of building a culture that develops leaders. Mr Tsamaz stated: "Successful leaders need a growth mindset and a good attitude. To develop leadership - take responsibility, have

passion, faith and commitment and always treat others as you wish to be treated."

Four of the Greek Funds deploying more than 200 million Euros in early stage ventures participated in sessions and several Funds also exhibited at the event. Partners from Uni Fund, Metavallon VC, Marathon VC and Big Pi Venture Capital Funds and the European Investment Fund's Head of Division Mandate Management, Ioannis Tsakiris, and George Kametas, Head for Business Banking Segment, National Bank of Greece participated in an 'EquiFund Update' session. Mr Tsakiris said: "In total around half a billion Euros are available through nine VC & private Funds to be invested in Greek high growth SME's". Discussions highlighted that the EquiFund will also "need to look to the diaspora to find opportunities for investment" and when discussing the type of companies they will be investing in, the Funds stated that they look for "team, ambition, product and stage".

James A. Robinson, Professor of University of Chicago and co-author of 'Why Nations Fail' and Elias Papaioannou, Professor of Economics at London Business School discussed 'An Institutional Bailout for Greece'. Mr Papaioannou said: "The solutions will come from interacting with the people and learning from them. The focus has to be engage as opposed to segregate."

Francisco Veloso, Dean at Imperial College Business School joined a discussion on 'Where Do Good Ideas Come From' with Ella Goldner, Co-Founder & General Manager, Zinc and Dimitris Papastergiou, Mayor of Trikala, Greece, moderated by Michael G. Jacobides, Chair of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at London Business School. Mr Veloso said: "Four elements are important in driving the entrepreneurial system - talents, opportunity, experimentation and community".

Ten Reload Greece alumni start-ups pitched to a panel of judges and networked with attendees. The judges awarded innovative startup Entomics the top prize of office space at Central Working and marketing support. Entomics, who won the Reload Greece accelerator programme RG Challenge18, is a technology company within the rapidly growing insect bioconversion industry converting low

nutrient inputs into high value feeds and they are looking to move manufacturing and engineering to Greece. Their CEO, Fotis Fotiadis said "Winning this award and participating in RG Connect18 has been amazing because it's enabled us to meet with startups, mentors and more importantly investors."

Through sharing stories of success and by focusing on the contribution young, solutions oriented individuals are making to enhance growth, RG Connect18 informed, inspired and empowered. Using Greece as a case study but approaching every challenge with an international perspective, RG Connect18 explored what solutions can be applied to some of the most tough business challenges. Chrysanthos Chrysanthou, Partner, Kindred Capital said: "To develop a long term sustainable ecosystem

in Greece you need a lot of different ingredients. Events such as RG Connect bring all of the different players together to network, support each other through mentor sessions and see the best examples of what is being done to influence everyone in the right direction." Katerina Kanteraki from Greek Fund Metavallon said: "RG Connect has a big impact on the start-up ecosystem. Reload Greece's role is more important than ever to serve as a bridge between what's happening in Greece and the brain power outside of Greece." Marcos Veremis, Co-Founder of Upstream and Partner at BigPi Venture Capital said: "Reload Greece is an important catalyst in bringing together Greeks from abroad and Greeks back in Greece to combine forces and change the future of the country."

Photos courtesy: Reload Greece





Yiorgos Mylonadis

Yiorgos is an Adjunct Professor of Strategy & Entrepreneurship at London Business School where he lectures senior executives and MBA students. He specialises on business ecosystems, digital strategy, entrepreneurial communities, social enterprises, and methodologies for strategic thinking. A native of Greece and the United Kingdom, he has held appointments on the faculties of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Athens Laboratory of Business Administration (ALBA) before joining London Business School in 2000 where he created Developing Strategy for Value Creation - the School's first Executive Education Strategy Programme. He has led large, multi-year advisory and teaching programmes for many firms including Nestle, IBM, Emirates, Oracle, GEA, Xstrata, Nokia, and Mars. He served as an advisor to the Reload Greece founding team since 2012 and as a Trustee of the Reload Greece Foundation until May 2018.

Adjunct Prof. Yiorgos Mylonadis, London Business School, talks to @GreeceinUK about Greek entrepreneurship

1) RELOAD GREECE recently organised in London a very successful conference titled RG Connect18: Where Challenges Meet Solvers. The aim of the event was to bring together a community of international entrepreneurs, investors, academics, students, policy makers and other key stakeholders to discuss and plan the next big steps in entrepreneurship. How have you collaborated with RELOAD GREECE for the realisation of this conference?

My involvement with Reload Greece started in 2012 when I helped the co-founders of what was then a spontaneous movement organize their first conference. We later joined forces with the founding team to transform the movement into an organization. We continued to run conferences while we established a governance structure, assembled a Board of Trustees, and recruited the CEO, who, in turn, hired the operating team. Three years ago, I helped establish an advisory board to provide guidance to the CEO about the conference. With Reload firmly established, in May this year I stepped down as a Trustee to make room for new people to contribute to the growth of the organization. I believe that Reload serves an important role in building a community of entrepreneurs amongst the Greeks of the diaspora. It has been an exhilarating 6 years!

2) Interest in Greek entrepreneurship from the part of Greek State, young people, society and other stakeholders has soared, largely after the financial crisis broke out in our country. Why do you think

this was not the case before crisis? Did it have to do with Greek legislation and red tape conditions, with the structure and character of Greek businesses and economy, with the mentality of Greek society, or with international factors (for ex. lower development of technology).

It is important to remember that successful startups took root in Greece well before the crisis. However, any crisis forces people to question existing practices – such as the State-supported model of business – and look for new solutions. The inflow of Jeremie funds catalyzed this search and led to the growth of a vibrant ecosystem around start-up firms.

3) *Is entrepreneurship the result of talent, mindset, ideas and intuition or is it the result of education, academic performance, hard work and patience? Can anyone become a start-upper or entrepreneur? Finally, among the young entrepreneurs who launch a new business who are likely to succeed?*

Entrepreneurship starts with spotting a problem that needs a better solution than those currently available. It then proceeds with finding ways to accomplish more than is typically thought possible with the resources at hand. All the qualities you mention are useful but they do not guarantee success. Success in entrepreneurship involves copious amounts of trial and error or, as the saying goes, "you have to kiss many frogs to find a prince(ss)". This requires a lot of persistence, often amidst adversity: diverse teams with the grit and willingness to seek out and use feedback, resolve conflicts, while also keeping the eye on the prize – which they need to clearly define.

4) *It seems that Greek entrepreneurship has sprung*

out of the high level of youth unemployment in Greece. Some argue that because entrepreneurship is driven by necessity, the vast majority of new businesses are in the low risk and low innovation HORECA (hotels, restaurants, catering) sector. Would you agree with this perception?

Innovative businesses require more capital investment, which implies more risk. Greece did not use the opportunity of the crisis to reduce the very high levels of institutional uncertainty in the key areas of education, tax regulation, and justice. In addition, HORECA requires a physical presence in Greece while other types of business are more mobile and can be attracted to countries with more favourable institutional environment.

5) Entrepreneurship has to do with detecting, recognising and discovering opportunities in the environment for which someone creates a solution or creates a need that afterwards fulfills it. What new needs/opportunities would you think the crisis has created that Greek start ups could build on? How successful are Greek young people in detecting and exploiting these opportunities?

Greece needs to focus its entrepreneurial energies in solutions that can be scaled to global levels. This requires both entrepreneurs and Venture Capitalists to adopt a global mindset and to up their game. The company Beat provides a good example. It started at about the same time as Uber aiming to solve a global problem. However, its limited funding curtailed its growth prospects. It was bought out for 40m Euro while Uber is planning for this year an IPO in the \$100B range. This is not to downplay the great achievement of Beat but to illustrate the extent of the challenge Greek startups will have to manage in order to become global players.

6) Universities undoubtedly play a great role in promoting entrepreneurial ideas. However, Greek Universities are often not very well networked with institutions and big companies abroad to promote students' innovative ideas, especially in technology. Suppose a Greek startup has a new innovative algorithm similar to Google's. How is the startup supposed to gain recognition? How can this be tackled?

The short answer is, apply to join RG Challenge - Reload Greece's accelerator programme. However, your point about Greek Universities is spot-on. Entrepreneurial companies live and thrive within vibrant ecosystems. Large businesses and Universities are key to these ecosystems. The areas



around Cambridge University in the UK, Stanford in the USA, or the city of Basel with its pharmaceutical companies are good examples. Greek Universities are hampered by their antiquated governance. This makes them to be inward-looking and to lose sight of the international competition. In the area of technology, recent examples are Imperial College's White City campus and MIT's newly established \$1B College of Computing. Would Greek Universities even consider these institutions as competitors? Probably not but, then, the competition between a Greek startup and one located in London or Cambridge, MA looks truly unequal!

7) What would you say is the prevailing profile/features of a young Greek start upper/entrepreneur in Greece and abroad? Are there differences?

A startupper in Greece who has been "trained" in the difficult regulatory and, recently, social and economic environment of Greece has the benefit of being agile and resilient. On the other hand, they are likely to be less exposed to global needs and markets and lack skills for partnering or selling to large corporates. Fortunately, the Greek diaspora is very well rooted in major markets and could provide a good way of addressing these deficiencies.

8) Greece has been experiencing for the last years a severe Brain Drain. How would you think this could be reversed?

It will be reversed when Greece realizes that it is competing in an international arena for talent. It would then seek to compare its performance to that of its competitors and set targets for improvement. For example, in 9 years since the start of the crisis, Greece has yet to establish a target for improving its standing on widely used indices for competitiveness,

ease of doing business, corruption, social justice, etc. These targets need to have wide acceptance by Greek society, including a wide spectrum of political parties.

9) Do you think that Greek society can ever overcome the instinctive fear of open markets to become a business-oriented society or will public sector employment stay as the preferable professional option for Greek families and young Greeks?

It is certainly feasible. Israel has many characteristics similar to Greece and – as hard as it is to believe this today – until relatively recently “entrepreneurship” was considered a dirty word in what is now an entrepreneurial hothouse. However, bad habits are hard to die. It will take an amazing success story or two together with a determined effort from the Greek institutions to set establish new role models for today’s youth. We need our Richard Branson and our Steve Jobs. The recent influx of the Equifund

capital, if used to establish globally competitive Greek startups, could provide a boost in that direction.

10) Overall, do you believe that the crisis has assisted in spurring youth entrepreneurship? Would you think that Greece is currently ideal for innovation to grow? Taking into consideration the existing conditions, what steps and in what order should a young aspiring entrepreneur who wants to start something of his/her own take?

A young aspiring entrepreneur should hook up with a community of like-minded people, such as Reload Greece or the multitude of high quality similar organizations in Greece. In such a fertile environment, they can recruit people to work on their idea or join forces with others who they find inspiring. At best, they will have the time of their life. At worst, they will extract lessons that they can use in their next endeavor. So, go on and try it!



"BEYOND BORDERS", International Documentary Festival, Castellorizo

IRINI SARIOGLOU (Dr) was born in Istanbul in 1972. She is Ass. Professor of contemporary history at Istanbul University (Modern Greek Studies) and General Secretary of the Hellenic History Foundation in Athens. She specializes in contemporary Greek and late Ottoman/modern Turkish history (19th -20th century). Her filmography includes: Zappeion High School for Girls (Script-Research-Narration-Translation), The Ten Day Diary (Concept-Research-Script-Narration-Translation), The Exiled (Concept-Research-Script-Narration-Translation), The Silent School (Co-Directing-Script-Research), Imvros and Tenedos islands: A tale of memories (Co-Directing-Script-Research), Mikis Theodorakis' Nea Smyrna, On the edge of the Aegean, Castellorizo (Co-Directing-Script-Research). She is the Director of the International Documentary Festival "Beyond the Borders".

1) *You are the soul and the driving force behind the Castellorizo's International Festival. How did you come up with the idea of the International documentary festival 'Beyond Borders'?*

The Hellenic History Foundation is indeed the organizer and the instigator of the International Documentary Festival of Castellorizo "Beyond Borders", which is held annually during the last week of August under the auspices of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and the Municipality of Castellorizo/Megisti. It was established in 2016 following the completion of our own production (On the edge of the Aegean, Castellorizo), a history documentary on Castellorizo island which won the First Prize in 2016 at the Greek Documentary Festival of London. We were really very impressed by the rich history as well as the cultural heritage of Castellorizo and we were keen to organize a special screening of our documentary on the island itself. So after a brainstorming session we came up with the idea to establish this Festival (instead of organizing just one simple documentary screening) and at the same time have the opportunity "to bring the world to Castellorizo island and take Castellorizo island to the world", as we plan to travel every year with the award winning films.

2) *What other cultural activities are included in the festival apart from the documentary contest, and why did you choose Castellorizo for hosting it?*

The Festival has several other cultural activities such as book launches, painting and sculpture exhibitions, cinema workshops for children and adults, free diving lessons, theatrical performances, dancing groups etc. Our aim is to establish Castellorizo as a



meeting place for the creators of history and socio-political documentaries and to attract important representatives of cinema and culture from all over the world. The usefulness of the Festival is not limited to the local community and its summer visitors. At a nodal point between East and West, very close to Lycia coastline the Festival also anticipates a further cultural cooperation between Castellorizo and Kas. We chose Castellorizo mainly because of its uniqueness as a place, its rich history and impressive beauty.



3) *How challenging is it to organise an international festival at a relatively unknown tiny island at the edge of Greece's borders, with difficult transport, poor infrastructures and restricted resources?*

Well it is not the easiest thing in the world... Having said that, I think our secret is our passion, our love and our determination to establish a high quality International Documentary Festival on the edge of the Aegean. It is a magic scenery and I think everyone falls in love with the island once they have a chance to travel to Castellorizo.

4) *How challenging was it to spread the news for an international documentary competition at Castellorizo so as to attract international interest for documentary submissions?*

Well, as the Hellenic History Foundation we have partners from all over the world. Our newest partnership this year was with the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) of the University of London. This is why in late October we were invited by IHR to screen the award winning films of Beyond

Borders at Curzon cinema. The director of Beyond Borders international development, Michel Noll is a very experienced advisor not just on international productions but also on international documentary festivals. Although he is based in Paris, every year thanks to his invaluable connections we manage to get impressive publicity in Europe.

5) How have you come to develop cooperation and partnership with Institute of Historical Research, University of London?

This year the, during the 3rd Beyond Borders - International Documentary Festival of Castellorizo, our academic partner of honor was the Institute of Historical Research. It is a partnership that will develop further in the years to come. During this year's Festival we also held an international panel on fake news. We had the honour to have as main speakers the Head of IHR Professor Jo Fox, Razia Iqbal from BBC as well as Markus Nickel from RAI, and Panagiotis Tsolias from ERT (the Hellenic Broadcasting Cooperation) which was this year's media of honor.

6) You have recently screened at Curzon cinema, University of London Huseyin Tabak's film "The Ugly King". How did the audience receive this documentary about a Kurdish filmmaker from Turkey? Wouldn't they probably expect a documentary having to do with Greece, may be a Greek historical or cultural personality?

Beyond Borders is an international film festival. Every year we receive more than 190 documentaries from all over the world. The jury selects about 20 of them to compete during the Festival. Approximately 10 of them are Greek productions and 10 foreign films. Beyond Borders awards 2 prizes, courtesy of the Hellenic Parliament. The jury members are also Greek and foreign experts on documentaries. So the decision really depends on the jury members.

7) How do you plan to "bring Castellorizo to the world"?

We aim to screen all the award winning films, every year across the world. In April 2018 we were invited to Australia to screen Beyond Borders award winning films. In October we travelled to London and we will shortly be traveling to Cyprus and France to screen once again the award winning films of our 'boutique Festival'.

8) After three successful festival organizations would you say that the festival has met its aims and fulfilled your expectations?

I don't think so...We have a long way to go... So many of our dreams have yet to be materialized...

9) How do you think has the Festival influenced Castellorizo's inhabitants' life?

Well, the first year we did not have any other side events or cultural activities. Just the screenings. And I think that was quite boring for the inhabitants and particularly for the children. The last two Festivals we managed to incorporate so many side events and finally Beyond Borders has become something the inhabitants and the children of Castellorizo really look forward to experience I think...

10) What is your vision for the future of the International Castellorizo Festival?

I really hope in the coming years Beyond Borders can grow further and travel worldwide to make the island and its rich history known to the world.

11) The Castellorizo Documentary Festival constitutes just a part of the Hellenic History Foundation (IDISME)'s activities. Could you please tell us more about the IDISME's activities and its aims?

The Hellenic History Foundation (H.H.F.) was founded in 2008 by a team of researchers with the aim of preserving, documenting and disseminating Greek and European history. The basic objective of H.H.F. is to collect, archive, and study historical sources and artifacts. Its activities include the publishing of scientific and literary books and the creation of history documentaries, as well as the organization of scholarly meetings.

H.H.F. works with reputable research centres, both in Greece and abroad, to form an ever-expanding network of collaborators. With more than 45,000 members across Greece the Hellenic History Foundation is trying hard to increase awareness on the importance of history, heritage and culture. There is no membership fee for people who become members of HHF. Our only source of income is through our publications and documentaries. Our aim is to make history the most popular subject in Greek schools.

photo credits : Giorgos Detsis



Greek Diaspora in London celebrates the Anniversary of "OXI" Day, 28 October 1940

On Sunday October 28, 2018 Greek communities of London celebrated the National Day of OXI (NO), 28 October 1940. The Anniversary of "OXI" commemorates the rejection by Greece of the ultimatum of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who demanded the free pass of Axis forces to Greek territory. That simple but determined "NO" ("OXI") was symbolic and significant. It represented the sentiments and principles of the entire Greek people. This word marked the beginning of Greece's involvement in the Second World War, an involvement which was to cost Greece dearly, from every point of view.

The Greek-Orthodox Diaspora of United Kingdom and Ireland has this year honoured "OXI Day" with multiple celebrations and speeches in Greek and Cypriot schools and community schools and doxologies in all Greek orthodox churches of UK.

The Orthodox Cathedral of Divine Wisdom officially celebrated the Anniversary of "OXI" on Sunday 28 October 2018, with a Doxology officiated by His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain. Members of the Greek and Cypriot diplomatic missions and armed forces representatives appointed to the missions in the UK attended the Doxology.

After the Doxology, the Archbishop's Encyclical on the Anniversary of "OXI" of 28 October 1940 was read to the congregation, by which a short account of the historical events and concluded, "To these and many other regions that were defended and claimed with sacrifice and rivers of blood by the Greeks fighting during the period of 1940-1945, we today pay tribute to in joy and pride for their struggles and we must determinedly claim our own pages of glory, and fulfill our debt to wrench our Homeland from of the multiple crises that we have so unwisely ushered in during the last few years. Writing pages of glory of peaceful and creative Epics, we can show to 'ourselves and to others' that we are worthy descendants, and the followers of the Legends and Heroes of OXI".

The Address of the Day was delivered by the Ambassador of Greece in Great Britain, Mr Dimitrios Caramitsos-Tziras. The key points of his speech are as follows:

«Today we are here to bow our heads in respect to the memory of the heroic fighters of the 1940s.

The Greek nation took the decision to resist against the violation of the values of democracy, freedom and independence, for which our ancestors fought and which they delivered to the world heritage.

Greece's "NO" ("OXI") is not only commemorated as an act of resistance of a small and weak country that managed to delay the advance of the Axis. The epic acts of 1940 have become engraved on our collective memory as the act of a people who, despite the adversities of the time, honoured their historical tradition and their place in the world.

Being conscious of their history and with a vivid national conscience, Greeks continued their struggle and gave to the world bright examples of resistance, altruism and self-denial. The latter should be attributed to our traditions, customs and heritage, which we are invited to pass on to the next generations.

As in the past, Greece today again faces contemporary major challenges. One challenge is the recovery from the economic crisis and the enhancement of the image and role of our country abroad. Another challenge is the safe navigation of our country in the unstable and dangerous international environment. In the first instance, sufficient conditions for a positive course are in place given the organized recovery plan. The stability and economic recovery of the country will also help improve its international image.

On the second challenge and following the latest developments in the southeastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans, it is necessary to further promote our country as a reliable security and stability pillar in the broader region and strengthen its "soft power", by leveraging our culture, tourism and history, aspects that we have promoted, but we should make further use of. In order to maintain our role, we must remain staunch advocates of democracy and the rule of law, and reject irredentist claims.

Greece, together with Cyprus and other countries in the region have forged wide ranging partnerships



and are islands of stability and security in a wider, vulnerable area.

Additionally, Greece and the United Kingdom are associated with strong historical ties, which were reaffirmed this year with the official visit of Prince of Wales to Greece, as well as the visit of the Greek Prime Minister to London.

Besides, the importance we attribute to the role of the Greek community in the United Kingdom is great. It is no coincidence that, even in the most difficult times of the Greek State, the Greek community has remained strong, and strengthened its support to the motherland.

I would like to thank you all for your active participation in the Greek affairs and I ask you to continue our warm cooperation».

Following Greek Ambassador's speech, the Cypriot Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Overseas Cypriots Mr Photis Photiou, who visited London and attended the service, addressed the gathering and pointed that both Greece and Cyprus are facing nowadays great challenges especially in their foreign affairs. Pointing in particular to the unresolved Cyprus issue, Mr Photou commented that history has proved that only united are we able to fight the threats and challenges we face.

The congregation was also hailed by the Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos.

The commemoration ceremony of the National Day closed with the congregation singing the National Anthem.

Philippos Mandilaras's "Bizarre Stories" in London

On Sunday 14 October 2018 a presentation of the new book of the renowned Greek author, Filippos Mandilaras, titled 'Allokotes istories' ('Bizarre stories') took place at Chapham Library, London. The event was organised by the Greek Lending Library of London (ekivil) with the support of Dr. Anastasia Misirli, Head-Teacher at the Greek Preschool London. In the context of this presentation Filippos Mandilaras read stories of his book and engaged children in the creation process. The children, divided into teams, created their own stories under the guidance of the author and were called to present them via pantomime. The author also visited the Greek Primary School of London and the Community School of Aghia Sofia in London, where he replied to children's questions.



Filippos Mandilaras was born in Athens in 1965. He studied Modern Literature at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne, Ethnology and Anthropology at E.H.E.S.S. in Toulouse, while at the same time he attended Creative Writing lectures at Aleph-Ecriture in Paris.

After returning to Greece he was engaged with child and adolescent literature under the capacity of author, translator, editor and edition advisor. Meanwhile, he got actively engaged in Creative Writing for children and adolescents.

In 1998 he published his first book and he has up to date published around 80 titles for children and seven novels for adolescents and young adults. His literary works have received many awards. In 2014 he was awarded the National Literary Award for adolescents and young adults' literary works. Worth mentioning are his series of books for preschool and early school age kids titled 'My First Mythology' and 'My First History', written with rhyme. The series met with great success in Greece and sales exceeded 600.000 copies, while the series on mythology has been translated into eight languages.

@Greece in UK met Mr Mandilaras in London and had an interesting discussion with him on his work, on creative writing and on children's ability to use creatively their imagination.



Philippos Mandilaras with Anastasia Misirli

1) Mr Mandilaras, how did your involvement with creative writing start?

In the beginning, my interest was purely focused on writing, due to my involvement with the movement of OULIPO. Then, I was intrigued by its playful aspect and the “exculpatory” impact of the outcome. Later, when I engaged children into this activity, I found out that writing is closely linked to the freedom children seek when they are dealing with their “verbal material”; Writing allows them to improvise and to develop their creativity, to learn how to love the words and eventually to liberate themselves. So, I started working with them because I like their enthusiasm and also because along with them, I also learn how to be unpredictably creative.

2) You insist on the freedom of children writing without being subject to rules of grammar and spelling. What

are the benefits, in your opinion, that children can derive from this procedure?

They can enrich their “verbal material”, create without commitments and break the borders in order to experience ‘the fear of flying’ in the world of imagination, so that at the end they become able to set their own limits. This procedure is very significant as it allows children to master their “verbal material” and be able to express themselves accurately and not replicate existing standards.

3) A few years ago, at an interview with Apostolos Pappos and Foteini Vardaka at Elpinex you pointed out that you are particularly interested in creative imagination and you are trying to entice children to this. Could you please tell us how you perceive the notion of creative imagination for kids and adults as well. Is there actually any difference?

Children older than 8 can more easily move round the area of imagination because they are not far away from the age when they distinguished imagination from reality. As they get older, they hesitate more to reach that area, either because they consider it ‘childish’, or because they feel confused as they attempt to rationalize everything. So, the area of imagination is transformed into an area of artistic creation. There, you need tools in order to find your way. Someone must give those tools to you and teach you how to use them. This is a teacher’s task in any artistic activity (and non-artistic as well, in my opinion): to assist a child or an adult to bring into the open the content of one’s imagination -to create.

4) On the occasion of ‘Allokotes istories’ (‘Bizarre stories’) you came to London and got involved in creative writing activities with children, inciting them to trigger their imagination. How do you experience your involvement in such events with children? Which is your main aim during these events?

I have fun and I have really great time even when children are scared and reticent to accept the challenge. I recognise that this is not an easy process for them as such activities usually require them to be passive or obedient followers of the animators’ instructions. I really like the explosion of creation that, sooner or later, will occur; the unexpected outcome and their joy (or even their enthusiasm) when they finally make it. I would like to think that I offer those children stimulation so that they become active-minded and creative children and later active-minded and creative adults.



5) *'Allokotes istories'* is the result of cooperation with Eleni Katsama. Could you tell us more about this cooperation? What has been the driving force of this cooperation and what was the initial concept?

Writing is sometimes fun; a game. We wanted to bring forward this dimension of writing in the *'Allokotes istories'* and later in the *'Atithases istories'* (*'Untamed stories'*) that were recently published. It is not necessary to look for highly intellectual ideas and pompous expressions every time we write. We also need sometimes to have fun with our material and since we are all reasonable creatures, the outcome is always meaningful (the meaning may vary among readings or among readers). In *'Allokotes istories'* one author provides the other with words which do not match in terms of their meaning, and the latter

produces a story within a short time, in order for the unconscious to come to the surface, the coherence between ideas to remain and the story to have a surprising effect.

6) *Our next question has to do with the educational system. Is a teacher allowed to disengage from grammar and spelling rules and any other language rules, in order to let pupils free to express themselves and create? How do you think this could be achieved? How could he keep children's imagination alive and skip the current educational system which, as you said, 'abuses children's creativity'?*

I believe that in the context of the current educational system, the role of the teacher is restricted to the teaching of rules and to the provision of encyclopedic



Philippos Mandilaras with Giota Nakou (ekivil)

knowledge, leaving aside any challenge of creativity, especially as children are getting older. The freedom to improvise is limited and depends on each teacher to stimulate children's creativity. Therefore, the freedom for creation can be given to children only by out-of-curriculum activities, inside or outside school. I'd rather this would take place inside schools, just after the teaching hours. My personal opinion and whether I believe that the children are 'abused by the system' is of little importance as the system unfortunately consists of us all, parents and teachers. Let's reflect on it, let's react, and let's contribute to its changing.

7) Having lived in Chios for almost one decade we would like to ask you whether you think that the environment one child lives in, urban or rural, influences its imagination or regardless of the environment, the educational system eventually is what influences imagination's development.

What is different for a child who grows up in the countryside is the sense of freedom he gains from his interaction with nature and the open vast horizons as well as the elimination of fear big cities' streets breed. At the same time, societies of rural areas are closer communities than those of urban areas. A child therefore growing up in a rural community is deprived of the social freedom and the variety of options a child that grows up in a city enjoys.

Nevertheless, imagination exists in every child and it depends on their parents if it will develop further. It depends solely on them and on the social entourage.

8) Given that you have studied French literature and have had many years of experience in translating books from the French or English language to the Greek, why haven't you attempted so far to write in another language or to translate some of your works?

I write in Greek because this is my language and I believe that language is one's homeland, wherever he/she may live, regardless of the language he/she may use for communicating. I know the codes of my language; its connotations; its pitfalls and its obscurities; its clearings. The fact that I know other languages does not mean that I can express myself as accurately as I want. I am familiar with a forest, its paths but not with its hidden clearings nor its obscurities. That is the reason why I do not write in other languages. And if any of my works are to be translated in any foreign language, I'd rather this is done by professionals who, eventually feel a language, foreign to me, as their homeland.

9) Do you think that your books that aim to enhance creative writing of children could be translated into other languages while serving their initial purpose and delivering all the messages you would like them to deliver?



No, I don't. My books can inspire adaptations to other languages in the same way that many of the books I have translated into Greek have been an inspiration to me. This is, for instance, the case with Julia Donaldson's books that I have translated into Greek. If you compare the texts you may understand why the Greek text is so similar to the English one without being a "verbum pro verbo" translation.

10) Do you think that creative writing can be a significant, helpful tool for children in order to learn a foreign language, such as English?

I cannot respond to this question but I know that many exercises used in Creative Writing courses for triggering the imagination and, consequently, for cultivating the language as a means for expressing, are also implemented in many foreign languages teaching methods.

11) Could you tell us what your future plans are.

I am in the process of completing the third book about "Creative Writing" in cooperation with Eleni Katsama (Bizarre stories) and we wholeheartedly enjoy it. Meanwhile, I am working on a novel but this is to be out much later. Moreover, I work on scripts... draft scripts for interactive games...and many more things that will become alive provided the flame of creativity goes on sparkling.

European Cyber Security Challenge 2018

Hellenic Cyber Security Team

15-18 October 2018

Hellenic Cyber Security Team represented Greece in the Cyber Security Challenge UK, that was held in London, from 15-18 October 2018. The Challenge was organised by the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security. The 10 members of the Hellenic Team, under the guidance of Prof. Christos Xenakis of the Piraeus University's Digital Systems Department, were called upon to solve

problems in the digital world of IT systems and to successfully complete approximately 40 challenges. The team was comprised of university students and IT graduates, as well as two high school students from Athens and Thessaloniki.

The Hellenic Team-European Cyber Security Challenge is supported by Greece's Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media.

@Greece in UK contacted Prof. Christos Xenakis and had an interesting feedback about IT systems security, the European Cyber Security Challenge and the Hellenic Cyber Security Team. We have the pleasure to publish the most interesting points of our discussion:



The growing need for IT security professionals is widely acknowledged worldwide. To help mitigate this shortage of skill, many countries launched national cyber security competitions addressed towards students, university graduates or even non-ICT professionals with a clear aim: find new and young cyber talents and encourage young people to pursue a career in cyber security.

The European Cyber Security Challenge (ECSC) leverages on these competitions by adding a pan-European layer. Top cyber talents from each participating country meet to network and collaborate and finally compete against each other.

Contestants are challenged in solving security related tasks from domains such as web security, mobile security, HW, RF and IoT security, crypto puzzles, reverse engineering and forensics, while the scoring depend on the ability to resolve them as soon as they can.

In a nutshell, ECSC is the annual European competition promoted by European Commission through ENISA that brings together young talent from across Europe to have fun and compete in cyber security.

The Greek mission, that consisted of 10 members, managed to place fifth in line, claiming a position among teams that had greater experience in this field thus, considered to be favorites. During the competition, the Greek Team faced countries that traditionally distinguished in cyber security competitions such as Germany, which was also the winner of the competition, and proved to be well prepared to face challenges at a European level.

Germany was announced the winner of the competition, while France and England placed 2nd and 3rd respectively (see the final ranking at www.ecsc.eu). Note that the Greek team received the most points in the awareness section, a category of the contest that focuses on the in-depth of knowledge of cybersecurity issues. The Greek Team also solved successfully all web security exercises, proving its extensive knowledge and experience in the field.

The presence of the Greek mission in London was particularly successful. It's worth mentioning that the talented youths of the team, the coaches and the entire support team made their best this year and proved that they can succeed, while collecting at the same time experience and knowledge from an international competition such as ECSC.

**Our Team is actively supported
by the Greek Ministry of Digital Policy,
Telecommunications and Media
and the Greek General Secretariat
for Digital Policy.**

**The responsibility for the
Greek participation lies with the
Department of Digital Systems
of the University of Piraeus.**

The preparation of the 10-member team that represented our country in this year's ECSC competition throughout its training was coordinated by Mr. Konstantinos Vavoussis, director of Secnews.gr (<https://www.secnews.gr/>) and conducted by Greunion cyber security experts (https://twitter.com/greunion_ctf), while all trainings were held at the open cybertraining platform, Hack the Box (<https://www.hackthebox.eu/>).

The members of the Greek Team

Stratos Kaplanelis

Peter Mantos

Pavlos Kolios

Anastasis Tsiboukis

Dimos Poupou

Nikos Mourousias

George Tsekalis

Nikos Bantaliantis

Nikolas Kamarinakis

Thomas Rogdakakis

Coaches

Haris Mylonas

Thomas Toumpoulis

Haris Pylarinos

Great support in this effort was received by the sponsors, who made the appropriate conditions for this successful result. More specifically:

Diamond Sponsors: ADACOM, UBITECH

Diamond Transportation Sponsor: Aegean Airlines

Platinum Sponsor: Ομιλος Quest (Info Quest Technologies, Uni Systems)

Gold Sponsors: Algosystems, IDE - INTRACOM Defense Electronics

Silver Sponsors: Thales

The official nomination for the Greek participation to the contest has been assigned to the Department of Digital Systems of the University of Piraeus. More specifically, the Assoc. Professor Mr. Christos Xenakis, is a member of the steering committee of ECSC and the leader of the Greek Team.

You can find more for the Greek team and the competition at:

Website: www.ecsc.gr

Facebook: Hellenic Team-European Cyber Security Challenge

LinkedIn: European Cyber Security Challenge - Hellenic Team

Twitter: Hellenic Cyber Security Team @ ECSCGR

Email ecsc@unipi.gr

Tel +30210 4142773

Communication Manager of the Greek Team
Mrs. Stella Tsitsioulas (stet@ssl-unipi.gr)



GREEK SOCIETY IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Imperial College is one of the most recognisable universities in the world. Hundreds of students not only from Britain but from all around the world, every year attend the college courses and in this way teams and societies are being formulated. Hellenic Society, one of Imperial College societies, belongs to the oldest and most active societies in the college. With 49 members being enrolled by now, the Hellenic society has its own council with a president, a vice president, a junior treasurer, two event officers and a secretary.

'Trying to provide a home away from home.' is the moto of this society which tries to make its members feel comfortable, and especially the newcomers. The society organises many events every year from national days dinners to academic events including varied talks from entrepreneurs, scientists and intellectuals. We contacted the president of the society, [Vasiliki Kalogianni](#), to give us some insights about the activities and the purpose of the society.

When was the Greek society at Imperial College founded?

It's not easy to know! It was always active, probably with breaks for a few years. Probably even before the creation of the society, Greek Imperial College students gathered and held the traditions as we also try to do. As student numbers have dramatically risen in recent years, the need for an organised society was created and that was the beginning of the Greek society at Imperial.

What are the activities of the Greek community?

First, we try to keep the traditions! October 28, Vassilopita, Chicnopempti are some of the sure facts we try to do every year with the society. Beyond that, at times and depending on student's interest, we organise Greek nights at some Greek clubs in London, walks at Winter Wonderland and meet at the Union of Imperial for a relaxed drink and chat! We really want to help student feel intimate even





so far from home and, why not, get to know people with whom make friendships of a lifetime!

What are the goals of the Society Committee each year?

Our main goals as a committee are two; to increase the number of community members and to organise events that appeal to students. Above all, however, and beyond the accounting of the community, we want to make the Greek university students feel welcome, safe and happy!

How does the society help new students?

First, we are here to give answers to the questions of the students. We have all been here for the first time and remember how confused we were for the year that laid in front of us and it was a great relief to have someone to reply to our enquiries. Along with giving some insights, we usually offer advice - as much as we can - about everyday life, lessons and everything else that is emerged on the discussion. Finally, we try to be familiar to Greek students and spend time together, especially with whom have

recently left their homeland, so they can have a smooth transition to this chapter of their lives!

How difficult is for students to adapt to a new country like the U.K.?

Adaptation in England has its difficulties. Firstly, you are away from your family, in an unfamiliar environment where you have to speak and study in a foreign language. The weather is very different and therefore can affect the psychology; rhythms are also differentiated compared to Greece's and lastly London is a quite expensive town! Of course, how much one can be influenced from the above it is not the same for all, but it differs from person to person. However, we are here to help both sides.

November events

Lesvos – Between Hope and Despair
An exhibition of photographs by Margarita Mavromichalis.

When: 13 Nov-29 Nov 5:30-7 pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre (16-18
Paddington St, London W1U 5AS)

Lessons learned from Greek Crisis:

Reflections from G.Papandreou

When: 19 Nov 6:30-8 pm

Where: London School of Economics and
Political Sciences Venue (Houghton St.
London WC2A 2AE)

The Late Prehistoric Polities of the Thermaic
Gulf: Recent Archaeological Research at
Thessaloniki Toumba and the Anthemous
Valley

When: 20 Nov 7pm

Where: King's College London, Strand,
London, WC2R 2LS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
at 70

When: 21 Nov 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre (16-18
Paddington St, London W1U 5AS)

The Oinoussian Ball 2018

When: 24 Nov 7pm-2am

Where: The Nine Kings Suite, Royal
Lancaster London Hotel (Lancaster Terrace,
London W2 2TY)

Christmas breads and holiday hearts ... this
is the way the holiday starts!

When: 25 Nov 11 am-1.30 pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre (16-18
Paddington St, London W1U 5AS)

17th – 19th Century Icons Exhibition

When: 25 Nov 3 pm-6 pm

Where: Andipa Gallery (162 Walton St,
Chelsea, London SW3 2JL)

Louis Demetrius Alvanis – Piano Classics

When: 25 Nov 4pm

Where: Rudolf Steiner House (35 Park Road,
NW1 6XT)

Adoption, Memory, and Cold War Greece:
Kid pro quo?

When: 27 Nov 7pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre (16-18
Paddington St, London W1U 5AS)

The Ninth Andreas A David Biennial
Memorial Lecture

When: 29 Nov 9pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre (16-18
Paddington St, London W1U 5AS)

@GreeceInUK is a newsletter with a monthly roundup of news related to Greece, Greek Politics, Economy, Culture, Civil Society, the Arts as well as Greece's distinctive vibrant presence in the UK. Our ambition is to offer an accurate and rich source of information to those interested in Greece and her people.

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