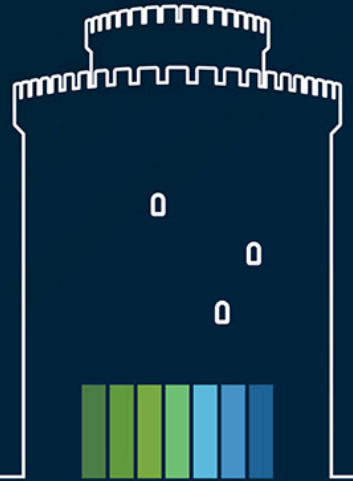




BEYONDCSR · BLUE HERITAGE PROJECT · 90th TIF
AGENDA · SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Thessaloniki 2030

The Blue Heritage Hub Blueprint: AI, Innovation & Regeneration in SE Europe & the Mediterranean. Can Northern Greece be the New Dubai?

7 September 2026 · NOESIS, Thessaloniki · Arrival 09:30 · Programme 10:00 – 14:30

Venue: NOESIS, 6th km Thessaloniki–Thermi Road, Thermi 570 01

Convened by BeyondCSR · In strategic partnership with NOESIS and the Technology Transfer & Innovation Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

WORKING FORMAT

Four and a half hours, action-oriented. Nine thematic panels. Each intervention runs to a strict five minutes — panel length is scaled to the number of speakers. These are not academic papers: every panel closes with one concrete proposal for the Commitments Registry.

09:30	Arrival & Registration
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome & Framing · Dr. Eri Toka — President, NOESIS · Head of the Technology Transfer & Innovation Unit, AUTH · Pavlina Proteou — Founder & CEO, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project
10:05 – 10:20	Opening Addresses · Stavros Kalafatis — Deputy Minister of Development, responsible for Research & Innovation · Prof. Nikolaos Papaioannou — Deputy Minister of Education · Yannis Papageorgiou — Head of the Prime Minister's Office for Northern Greece

10:20 – 10:50	PANEL 1 Economic Diplomacy & International Networks <i>Putting Thessaloniki on the Global Map</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>Which international networks already exist — and what is needed to convert them into investment and jobs?</i> KEYNOTE: Alexandra Palli — President, CSR Hellas · Deputy Regional Governor of Attica • Anna Kalliani — President, Hellenic-British Chamber of Commerce • Mary Voziki — Vice President, Greek-French Chamber of Commerce • Litsa Panagiotopoulou — Member of the Board & Treasurer, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce • Giorgos Zagkliverinos — Secretary General, SEVE — Greek International Business Association • Emmanouil Vlachogiannis — Honorary President, Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce & Industry (EVETH) • Katerina Tzitzinou — Director of International Relations, SBE — Federation of Industries of Greece MODERATOR: Sofia Papadopoulou — Journalist, Athens-Macedonian News Agency (ANA-MPA)
10:50 – 11:15	PANEL 2 Geopolitics & the Strategic Role of Thessaloniki <i>The City as a Geopolitical Asset</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>What is the real strategic weight of Thessaloniki in an Eastern Mediterranean under realignment — and who is competing for it?</i> KEYNOTE: Kostas Gkioulekas — Deputy Minister of the Interior, responsible for Macedonia-Thrace FIRESIDE CHAT: Prof. Spyros Litsas — Vice-Rector, University of Macedonia · Jean Monnet Chair in International Relations, Geopolitics, Order & Security MODERATOR: Pavlina Proteou — Founder & CEO, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project
11:15 – 11:35	PANEL 3 Ports, Infrastructure & Supply Chains <i>The Gateway of Southeast Europe</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>What currently prevents Thessaloniki from operating as a genuine Balkan transit hub?</i> • Panagiotis Anastasopoulos — President, ELIME (Greek Ports Association) • Stavros Karamperidis — Assoc. Professor of Maritime Economics, International Hellenic University • Dimitris Tsitsamis — President, Logistics Association of Northern Greece · Senior Innovation Manager, ThPA MODERATOR: Marios Dafnomilis — Strategic Foresight Advisor on AI, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project
11:35 – 12:00	PANEL 4 Blue Economy & Ocean Governance <i>From Protection to Value Creation</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>How does marine protection stop being a compliance cost and become a productive sector?</i> • Spyros Vougias — President of the City Council, Municipality of Thessaloniki • Elena Tsolka — Head of Grants & Institutional Relations, HELMEPA / INTERMEPA • Prof. Christina Boutsouki — Professor of Marketing · Head of School of Economics, AUTH MODERATOR: Pavlina Proteou — Founder & CEO, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project
12:00 – 12:20	Break, Coffee & Guided Tour of NOESIS

12:20 – 12:45	PANEL 5 Climate, Circular Economy & Water Resources <i>From Regulatory Burden to Growth Advantage</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>How do water resource management and the circular economy become a competitive advantage for Northern Greece?</i> KEYNOTE: Kostas Katsafados — Deputy Minister of Climate Crisis & Civil Protection • Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis — UNESCO Chair on Circular Economy & Green Innovation, NTUA · Vice President, RAAEY • Prof. Stratos Stylianidis — Professor, AUTH · Member of the Supervisory Board, EIT Water • Prof. Thomas Kotsopoulos — Professor, AUTH · Head of the School of Agriculture • Lina Liakou — Global Director, Resilient Cities Network • Giannis Papailiopoulos — Head of Strategic Development, ANAKEM MODERATOR: Maria Samolada — Journalist
12:45 – 13:15	PANEL 6 Research, Technology & Artificial Intelligence <i>From Lab to Market</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>Why does world-class Greek research not translate into Greek products — and what changes that?</i> • Prof. Emmanuel Tsesmelis — Head of International Relations, CERN • Evangelos Bekiaris — President, CERTH • Nikolaos Mavridis — Academic & Consultant in AI and Robotics, PhD MIT • Christos Makiyama — President & CEO, Silicon Planet — Japan • Marios Dafnomilis — Strategic Foresight Advisor on AI, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project MODERATOR: Pavlina Proteou — Founder & CEO, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project
13:15 – 13:35	PANEL 7 The City as an Innovation Platform <i>Governance, Innovation Zones & Digital Transformation</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>What prevents the innovation ecosystem from operating at full capacity — and which three decisions change that by 2030?</i> • Prof. Panagiotis Ketikidis — President, Alexandria Innovation Zone • Prof. Stamatis Angelopoulos — Rector, International Hellenic University • Nikos Tzollas — Deputy Regional Governor for Digital Governance, Region of Central Macedonia • Spyros Tzelepis — Deputy Mayor for Innovation, Municipality of Thessaloniki MODERATOR: Dr. Eri Toka — President, NOESIS · Head of the Technology Transfer & Innovation Unit, AUTH
13:35 – 14:00	PANEL 8 Entrepreneurship, Talent & Education <i>Why They Leave and What Brings Them Back</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>What exactly does a founder weigh when choosing between Thessaloniki, London and Dubai — and what keeps talent here?</i> • Prof. Nikos Theodorakis — Professor, AUTH · Scientific Director, WALK Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, AUTH • Melissa Saoudy — UAE Government Advisor · Dubai Co-Lead, CamEntrepreneurs • Vasilis Papakonstantinou — Vice Chairman of the Board, Start Smart South East Europe (former MIT Enterprise Forum Greece) • Evita Sourì — Trade Attaché, British Embassy • Dimitris Kouvelas — Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Educational Affairs, Hellenic Parliament • Danae Bezantakou — President, International Propeller Club Port of Piraeus · YES Forum • Yiannis Vasileiades — CEO, KYANA MODERATOR: Pavlina Proteou — Founder & CEO, BeyondCSR · The Blue Heritage Project

14:00 – 14:20	PANEL 9 Finance & Investment <i>Who Pays for the Roadmap</i> WORKING QUESTION: <i>Which capital is genuinely available today — and on what conditions?</i> · Konstantinos Moutsianas — Asst. Professor of Finance, University of Macedonia · Marios Papadopoulos — President, BETH — Thessaloniki Chamber of Small & Medium Industries · Dimitris Tselenis — Co-founder, Hellenic Impact Network MODERATOR: Maria Samolada — Journalist
14:20 – 14:30	Synthesis & Commitments Registry Presentation of the Shared Vision Map. Commitments recorded. Next steps towards the Blue Heritage Summit 2027.

Outputs

Shared Vision Map A visual consensus map of the co-designed priorities.	Commitments Registry Every participant commits to one specific action within 60 days.	Live Co-Design Report Submitted to the Blue Heritage Summit 2027 as a contribution to the Mediterranean Regeneration Agenda.
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