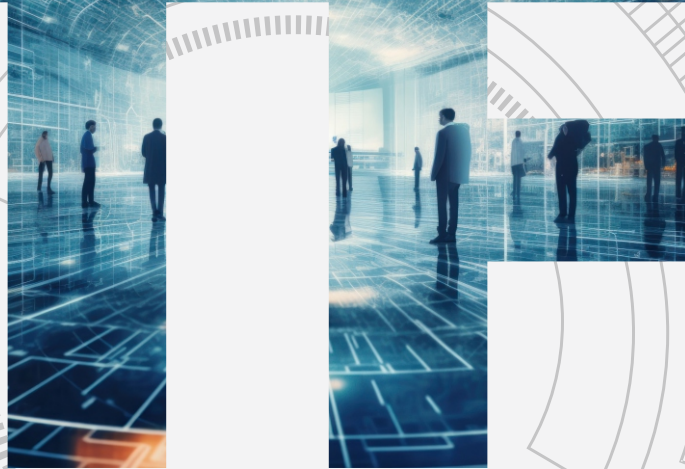
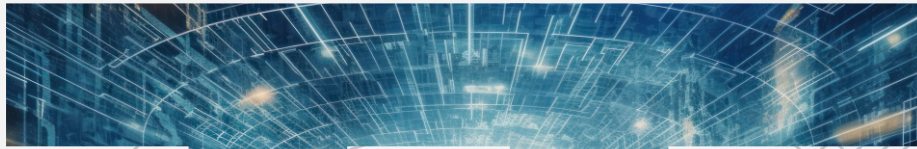




# TECHNOLOGY

## 11th FORUM 2024

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### THE AGE OF AI



25 April 2024

I. VELLIDIS

Conference Center - Thessaloniki



<https://technology-forum.eu>



# EVENT PROGRAM

## APRIL 2024

09:00-09:30 **REGISTRATIONS**

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09:30-09:45 **OPENING**

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Nikolaos Tzollas  
*Vice-Governor, Region of Central Macedonia*



Anastasios Tzikas  
*President HELEXPO S.A.*



### TECHNOLOGY FORUM MAIN SPEECHES

Moderator: Konstantinos Tramantzas

09:45-10:15

**Leveraging Public Investments:  
The Strategic Edge of Angel Investing in Tech**

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Selma Prodanovic  
*Founder of 1MillionStartups and Invest, Austria*



10:15-10:45

**Changing the grand narrative of a city**

---

Sevdalina Voynova  
*Director of Programmes at Sofia Development Association*



10:45-11:15

**Revolutionizing Ports: The Journey from R&D  
to Open Innovation**

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Dr. Dimitris Tsitsamis MSc, PhD  
*Head of Innovation Department ThPA S.A.  
Port of Thessaloniki*



11:15-11:30

**COFFEE BREAK**

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11:30-12:40

## OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGES

Moderator: Periklis Chatzimisios

11:30-11:40

### The Fundamentals of the Innovation Challenges Framework

Toli Lerios  
*Serial Entrepreneur*



11:40-12:40

## CONFLUENCE CHALLENGES



11:40-12:00

### Results and improvements from the open innovation action: "Confluence Challenges"



Alumil Representative

12:00-12:10

### Advanced Sales Forecasting



Pavlos Sermpezis  
*Exanta co-founder*



12:10-12:20

### Smart labelling for Hazardous Substances



Anastasios Dimou  
*Postdoctoral Researcher, Visual Computing Lab CERTH/ITI*



12:20-12:30

### Improved methods for painting composite materials



Olympia Kotrotsiou  
*Researcher, Laboratory of Polymer Reaction Engineering, CERTH*



12:30-12:40

### Q&A

12:40-13:40

### LIGHT LUNCH



13:40-15:35



## INNOVATION FOR SOCIETY AWARDS (IFS 2024) NEW CHALLENGES

Moderator: Simeon Veloudis

13:40-14:00



### Innovation for Society Awards process description

Stavros Mantzanakis  
*O.S.L.O., Region of Central Macedonia (TBC)*



14:00-14:10



### Transition of production and management of product samples to the new digital age

Dimitris Loulas  
*Head of Project Management Office in AKRITAS S.A.*



14:10-14:20



### Corrosion Potential Determination in Extruded Aluminium Profiles

Giannis Tsoulfaidis  
*Corporate Production & Safety Director, ALUMIL S.A.*



14:20-14:30



### Digital Moisture Measurement Tools for Seedcotton Mass

Iraklis Alatsidis  
*General Manager, BIOS AGROSYSTEMS S.A.*



14:30-14:40



### New Ecological Material for the impregnation of Aquaculture Nets to replace antifouling

Magdalini Diamantidou  
*Marketing & Project Coordinator of DIOPAS S.A.*



14:40-14:50



### Bridging the Gap: A Challenge to Transform Junior Programmers into High-Performing Developers

Dr. Alex Papadimitriou  
*Managing Director, Infoteam HELLAS MIKE*



14:50-15:05



### Q&A

15:05-15:35

### COFFEE BREAK



15:35-17:00



## INNOVATION FOR SOCIETY AWARDS (IFS 2024) NEW CHALLENGES

15:35-15:45



### Energy mix management planning aimed at reducing the company's carbon footprint

Efthymis Valais  
*Assistant Technical Director, Isomat S.A.*



15:45-15:55



### Factory Avatar

Georgios Mavridis  
*Operations Director, K&N Efthymiadis S.A.*



15:55-16:05



### Automatization and productivity enhancement with a focus on automated assembly components

Elena Maravelia  
*Investment Project Manager, Olympia Electronics S.A.*



16:05-16:15



### Mobile Tenant App: Enhancing Tenant Experience and Energy Efficiency

Semira Maria Evangelou  
*Senior Software Engineer, Siemens S.A.*



16:15-16:25



### Dynamic and Collaborative Truck appointment System in Container Terminals and Warehouses

Dr. Dimitris Tsitsamis MSc, PhD  
*Head of Innovation Department Thpa S.A. - Port of Thessaloniki*



16:25-16:40

### Q&A



16:40-17:00

### COFFEE BREAK



17:00-18:30

## OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGES: ROUND TABLE

17:00-17:45

**Moderator: Toli Lerios**

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**Round table 1: The tactical perspective of Open Innovation: how business, research, and academia turn policies into added value**

1. Simos Diamantidis  
*President, Greek Exporters Association*
2. Dimitrios Tzovaras  
*President, CERTH*
3. Nikos Efthymiadis  
*President, Thess INTEC*
4. Kyriakos Yakinthos  
*Vice-Rector of Research & Innovation, AUTH*
5. Theofilos Mylonas  
*President, SEPVE*
6. Alumil representative

17:45-18:30

**Moderator: Stavros Mantzanakis**

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**Round table 2: The strategic perspective of Open Innovation: defining national, regional, and local policies**

1. Dimitrios Papastergiou  
*Minister, Digital Governance of Greece*
2. Stelios Aggeloudis  
*Mayor, Thessaloniki Municipality*
3. Nikolaos Tzollas  
*Vice-Governor, Region of Central Macedonia*
4. Anastasios Tzikas  
*President, HELEXPO S.A.*
5. Panagiotis Ketikidis  
*President, Alexander Innovation Zone*



18:30-19:00

## Unveiling Innovation Funding: A Catalyst for Breakthroughs

18:30-18:50

### Loggerhead: First Climate-Focused Venture Capital in the Greek Ecosystem for Deep Tech Startups Locally and Globally

Dr. Vangelis Kosmidis  
*CEO and General Partner, Loggerhead Ventures VC*



Antigoni Lymperopoulou  
*Chief Executive Officer, HDBI S.A.*



Panayiotis Hassapis  
*Investment Committee Member, Loggerhead Ventures VC*



18:50-19:00

### Flow and Selection Criteria

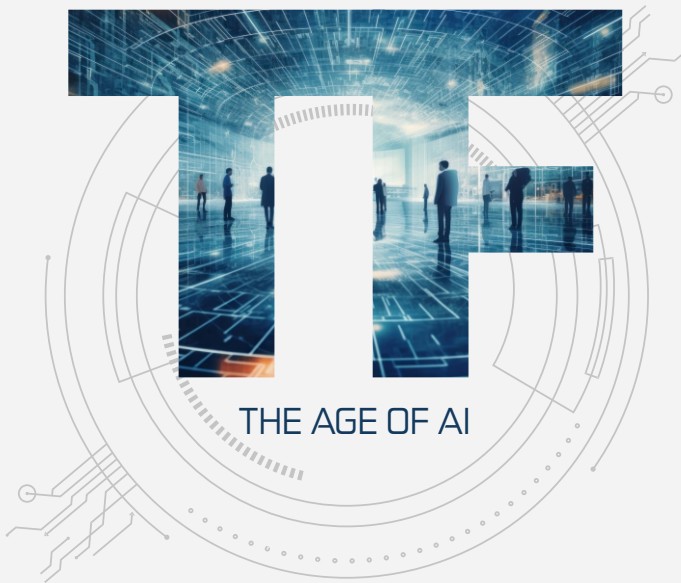
Grigoris Chatzikostas  
*General Partner, Loggerhead Ventures VC*



19:00

### Official Launch - Cocktail & Light Snack





## **SPEAKER**

### **Selma Prodanovic**

*Founder of 1MillionStartups  
and Invest, Austria*

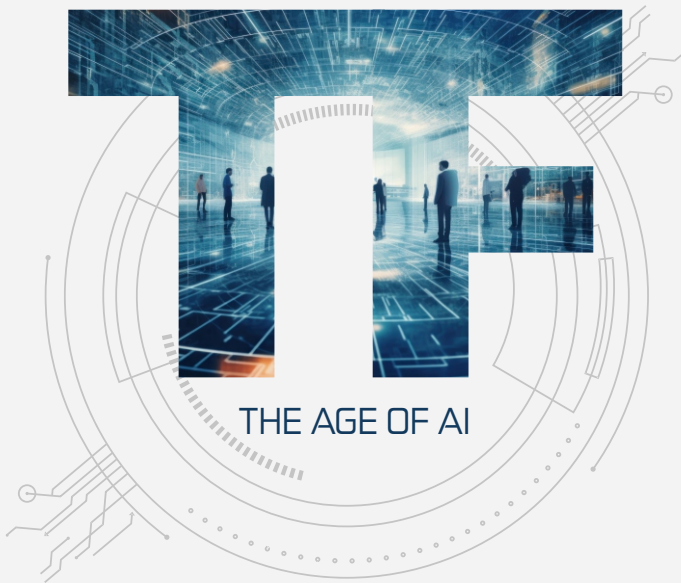
Named “Startup-Grande-Dame” by the media, Selma is a globally celebrated keynote speaker, advisor, and thought leader. In 2022 and 2023, she was recognized “Europe’s Most Influential Women in the Startup & VC Space.”

As the Vice President of EBAN and the founder of the SDG platform 1MillionStartups, Selma has been a pivotal figure in shaping the startup and angel investing ecosystem across Europe over the last two decades.

Selma initiated the EBAN “Manifesto for a Gender Balanced Angel Investing Ecosystem,” hosted the insightful “Masters of Angel Investing” interview series, and teaches entrepreneurship at various universities.

Her passion for creating a better future is evident in her constant efforts to present new ways to empower entrepreneurs and angel investors, leaving a significant imprint on the industry.





**SPEAKER**

## Sevdalina Voynova

*Director of Programmes  
at Sofia Development Association*

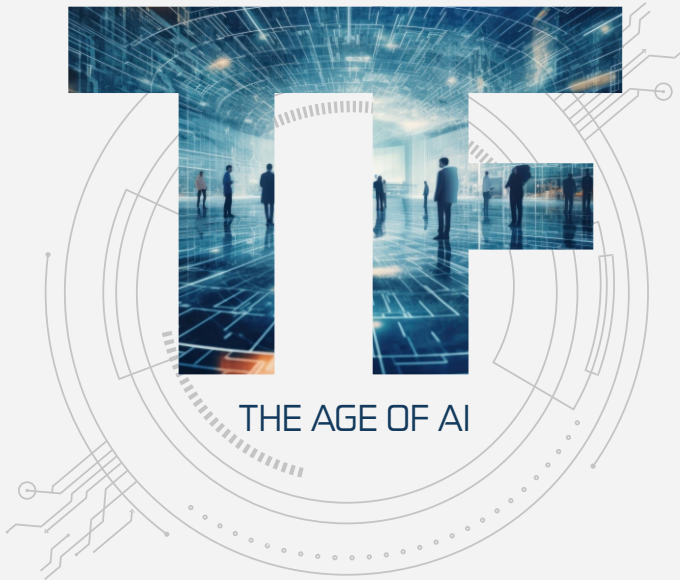
Sevdalina currently serves as the Director of Programmes at the Sofia Development Association (SDA). Established in 2010 by the Sofia Municipality, SDA has been at the forefront of urban innovations, pioneering various initiatives in Sofia. These include the inaugural innovation call for proposals, the establishment of the first public-private fund for innovation, the initiation of municipal hackathons, and the creation of the first innovation campus.

Under Sevdalina's leadership, SDA has played a pivotal role in driving the innovation performance of Sofia and the surrounding region, contributing to an impressive 8.5% increase in recent years. Notably, SDA has earned its place among the top-tier Emerging Innovators + in the European Regional Innovation Scoreboard.

Sevdalina is a co-author of the Sofia Smart Specialization Strategy and other key strategic documents, and has successfully managed numerous innovation projects. Her notable achievements include overseeing the first Bulgarian project funded by the Urban Innovative Action initiative, which introduced on-demand public transport. Additionally, she played a key role in establishing the Sofia matching public-private fund for innovations.

Prior to her role at SDA, Sevdalina held positions at the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria and served as the country director of the National Democratic Institute for Bulgaria.

Educationally, Sevdalina holds an MA from Sofia University and Oxford University, along with a BA in communications. On a personal note, she is married and has two daughters.



**SPEAKER**

## **Dr. Dimitrios Tsitsamis**

*Head of the Innovation Department  
at ThPA S.A. Port of Thessaloniki*

Dr. Dimitrios Tsitsamis is an accomplished professional highly experienced in the maritime industry. Currently, he holds the position of Head of the Innovation Department at ThPA S.A. Port of Thessaloniki, where his role is pivotal in driving innovation and transformative achievements within the organization.

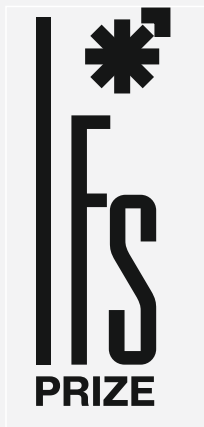
Throughout his career, he has actively participated in national and European research projects and evaluation programs, contributing to the advancement of the industry. He has also delivered lectures and published research papers on various topics related to container terminal operations and management.

A recognized leader in the field, elected as President of the Greek Association of Supply Chain Management (EEL.BE) for 2024-2025. He is passionate about innovation, education and fostering collaboration. He holds a Ph.D. with a focus on port Logistics in container terminal operations. His educational background includes a Master of Science in Computer Engineering from Manhattan College of New York and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from City College of New York.

He has fortified his knowledge and skills through certifications in change management and a multitude of advanced training programs.



## Innovation for Society Awards (IFS 2024)



The One Stop Liaison Office, serving as the innovation support mechanism of the Region of Central Macedonia, is collaboratively coordinating the execution of an additional Open Innovation policy within the region, titled the Innovation for Society Awards (IFS).

### Vision & Goals

The IFS initiative represents a continuation of prior successful endeavors and aims to establish itself as an annual flagship program, contributing significantly to the positioning of Central Macedonia as a regional leader in Southeast Europe.

The Region of Central Macedonia is deeply committed to fostering advancements in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, recognizing their profound

impact on both our economic productivity and societal well-being.

This initiative is spearheaded by the Region of Central Macedonia (One Stop Liaison Office), is co-organized by esteemed partners including SEVE (Greek Exporters Association), SBE (Federation of Industries of Greece), ThessINTEC (Thessaloniki Innovation & Technology Center), AAA (Architectural Aluminum Academy), AHK (Hellenic German Chamber), and Technology Forum.

Additionally, IFS enjoys robust support from the regional ecosystem, with backing from AZK, AUTH, CERTH, UoM, IHU, I4G, Kinisis Ventures, and Beyond Expo. The official launch of IFS 2024 will take place at the I. Vellidis conference center, as part of the Technology Forum, on April 25, 2024.

### Organizer



Co-funded by  
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