

I&E 101: Sustainable Innovation and Ecopreneurship 2025

From Classroom to Start-up: Voices of Innovation

Introduction to Sustainable Innovation and Ecopreneurship *(tentative title)*

Tuesday, 20 January, 11:00-12:00 (CET)



Eleni Chatzi, PhD

Full Professor,

**Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic
Engineering,
ETH Zürich, Switzerland
ENHANCE European University Alliance**

Eleni Chatzi is Full Professor and Chair of Structural Mechanics and Monitoring at ETH Zürich (D-BAUG). She received her Diploma and MSc in Civil Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens and her PhD from Columbia University. She joined ETH Zürich in 2010 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2024. She is the former President of the European Academy of Wind Energy (EAWE) and the current Chair of the Swiss Community for Computational Methods in Applied Sciences (SWICCOMAS).

Her research focuses on structural health monitoring, structural dynamics, and uncertainty-aware modeling of complex engineered systems, combining physics-based simulation with data-driven and physics-enhanced machine learning approaches. Her work addresses nonlinear and non-stationary dynamics, reduced-order modeling, and multi-scale diagnostics for resilient infrastructure systems.

Prof. Chatzi has received multiple distinctions, including an ERC Starting Grant, the ASCE Walter L. Huber Research Prize, the EASD Junior Research Prize, the J.M. Ko Award, and the 2024 SHM Person of the Year award.



Panagiotis Martakis, PhD

**Founder and CEO,
irmos technologies**

Dr. Panagiotis Martakis is the Founder and CEO of irmos technologies, a cutting-edge spin-off from ETH Zurich. His company is dedicated to extending the safe operational life of aging infrastructure through advanced algorithms and cost-effective sensors. Irmos technologies counts 15 employees, experts in hardware software and structural engineering and serve clients in Switzerland, Germany, Greece and the US.

Panagiotis earned his PhD at ETH Zurich, specializing in AI-driven structural assessment for existing buildings and bridges. He has authored over 30 scientific publications in this field, presented at numerous international conferences, and has been invited as an expert lecturer at leading academic institutions such as ETH Zurich, EPFL Lausanne, and UPC Barcelona. Panagiotis is an active member of multiple engineering associations and has received numerous scholarships and awards, including the Telford Premium Prize from the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, the Onassis Foundation Scholarship, the BRIDGE PoC SNF grant, and third place in the 1st Global Competition on Structural Health Monitoring, among others.



Kyriakos Chondrogiannis, PhD

**Co-Founder & CEO
Builtstop**

Kyriakos initiated his engineering education from the National Technical University of Athens, in the discipline of Structural Engineering. He further obtained his PhD title from ETH Zurich, where he conducted his research in the field of seismic protection with the use of nonlinear mechanisms and metamaterials. Subsequently, Kyriakos received the ETH Pioneer fellowship in 2024, with the purpose of developing and commercializing the NegSV technology that was introduced by his PhD work. Builtstop, a startup promoting innovation in the construction sector, has been eagerly developing their technology ever since. They offer a breakthrough solution in earthquake engineering, aiming to protect the existing building stock, contributing to safety and sustainability of cities.

Translating Science into Solutions: The Entrepreneurial Path from Academia to the Clinic

Tuesday, 27 January, 15:00 - 16:00 (CET)



Leonidas Alexopoulos, PhD

Professor,

**School of Mechanical Engineering,
National Technical University of Athens, Greece**
EULiST European University Alliance

Dr. Leonidas Alexopoulos is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and co-founder of Protavio, a biotechnology company specializing in multiplex proteomics and the development of advanced in-vitro diagnostic solutions. His work lies at the intersection of systems biology, biomedical data science, and translational innovation, aiming to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and clinical impact. He received his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University in 2004. He subsequently completed postdoctoral research in Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School and in Biological Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2008, he returned to Greece as a faculty member in NTUA's School of Mechanical Engineering, where he currently directs the Biomedical Systems Laboratory (BioSys Lab). His research has been supported by numerous national and European grants. Dr. Alexopoulos is strongly engaged in innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship. He is a founding member of the MIT Enterprise Forum (Greek chapter), advisor to several startups and innovation programs, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Bioclusters. He also serves on the Sectoral Scientific Council of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property (TES/ESETEK), contributing to national policy for spin-off creation and development. At NTUA, he teaches in the graduate program "Translational Engineering in Health and Medicine," where he has introduced courses on biotechnology entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation. Through his combined academic, scientific, and entrepreneurial experience, Dr. Alexopoulos remains committed to advancing biomedical research toward real-world clinical and societal benefit.

Sustainable Business Models

Wednesday, 4 February, 15:00-16:00 (CET)



Panagiotis Partsinevelos, PhD

Professor,

**School of Mineral Resources Engineering,
Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece
EURECA-PRO European University Alliance**

Dr. Partsinevelos is a Professor in the areas of Space Informatics including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Satellite Remote Sensing and Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAVs) in the Technical University of Crete. He received his PhD in Spatial Information Science & Engineering from the University of Maine, part of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) of USA and in a NASA sponsored center of excellence Remote Sensing Laboratory. He holds a Dipl. Eng. degree in Surveying Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens and has worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Academic and Research Computer Technology Institute in Greece and as a GIS expert in the public sector. Besides his scientific publications, editorial positions and research projects as a coordinator, Dr. Partsinevelos has contributed significantly to the fields of innovation and technology transfer. Notably, he has served as the national representative of the Galileo and Copernicus Masters competitions in the realm of space innovation. Dr. Partsinevelos directs the Space Informatics Research Team, SenseLab, comprising of more than 30 multi-disciplinary researchers.

Financing Green Ventures

Tuesday, 10 February, 15:00-16:00 (CET)



Iordanis Kalaitzoglou, PhD

Professor,

Audencia Business School, Nantes, France

Dr Iordanis Kalaitzoglou is currently a Professor in Finance at Audencia Business School, as well as a visiting Professor in Finance in SOAS University of London and University of Wolverhampton. His research focuses on Market Microstructure and Energy Finance and he has published in international journals and he is also an active member of the European Capital Markets Cooperative Research Centre and of the Hellenic Association of Energy Economics (a member of the International Association of Energy Economics). He is also (co-)supervising 5 PhD candidates on Intraday Risk, Behavioral Finance, Energy markets and International Energy Relations.

The Future of Sustainable Innovation and Ecopreneurship

Monday, 16 February, 15:00-16:00 (CET)



George Arampatzis, PhD

Associate Professor,

**School of Production Engineering and Management,
Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece
EURECA-PRO European University Alliance**

George Arampatzis is an Associate Professor at the School of Production Engineering and Management (PEM) of the Technical University of Crete (TUC), teaching “Rational Energy Management in Production Systems”, “Heat Transfer” and “Fluid Mechanics”. He received his Diploma in Chemical Engineering in 1991 and his PhD in 2000 from the National Technical University of Athens. His interests focus on the Green, Digital and Social Transition of key community systems and his research framework is structured around four pillars, which are drivers of sustainable and resilient development: Circular Economy, Process Engineering, Energy and Environmental Systems Management and Intelligent Digital Technologies. He is the founder and scientific coordinator of the Digital and Industrial Innovations Research Group ([indigo](#)) of the Technical University of Crete, involving more than 20 researchers (faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates and students). He is the founder, representative and General Manager of the spin-off company [Viridiance Insights](#). He is a founding member and Coordinator of the “[In-Crete](#)” [Innovation Alliance](#), bringing together all academic/research institutions of Crete and private enterprises, with the aim of promoting circular economy actions in Crete. He is the founder and the mentor of the “[InnoGo](#)” [Student Group](#), which consists of ten students and is active at the Technical University of Crete. The group participates in national and European competitions with significant distinctions. He is Principal Investigator of 17 Research Projects, mainly funded by the European Commission, with a total budget for the indigo group of €6.4 million to date. Of these, he is Coordinator of 3 projects and Technical and Scientific Manager of 2 projects. His research activities to date have resulted in 62 publications in peer-reviewed international journals (39 in the last 5 years), 97 papers in scientific conference proceedings (58 in the last 5 years), 6 educational books (2 in the last 5 years) and 5 chapters in edited volumes (2 in the last 5 years). His published work has received 2380 citations (1611 in the last 5 years) with h-index 22 (18 in the last 5 years) and i10-index 44 (35 in the last 5 years) (Google Scholar 20/07/2025). He is a member and active participant in several European networks, such as [ICT4Water](#), [BRIDGE](#), [CCRI](#), [ECOSYSTEX](#) and [SUSAN](#). He is responsible for the Lighthouse Mission Process [Automation and Industry 4.0 of EURECA-PRO](#) (a partnership of 7 European Universities for responsible consumption and production).

The Founder Files: Honest Entrepreneur Testimonials



Ilianna Vrouvaki, MSc

Aura Kritis, Founder and Lead Scientist

Ilianna Vrouvaki is the Founder and Principal Scientist of Aura Kritis, a natural cosmetics company driven by scientific integrity, Cretan botanicals, and a commitment to supporting people in achieving healthy, radiant skin. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Crete, where she graduated top of her class, and a Master's degree in Industrial Pharmacy – Cosmetic Technology from the University of Patras. With a background that combines academic research, cosmetic formulation expertise, and hands-on industry experience, Ilianna established Aura Kritis in 2020. She has since been officially appointed by the Greek National Organization for Medicines as the Principal Scientist responsible for supervising all cosmetic manufacturing processes. Her work has been recognized with multiple distinctions, including two awards at the Aesthetic Awards 2025 for product efficacy and natural formulation, as well as a Gold Award at the Best in Pharmacy Awards 2025 for Best Research & Development for the company's innovative Vitamin C serum. At the heart of Aura Kritis lies a clear vision: to create high-quality natural cosmetics that harness the power of organic olive oil and the unique flora of Crete, while genuinely helping people succeed in their skincare goals. Ilianna continues to lead the company with a strong focus on scientific excellence, sustainability, and the promotion of natural beauty.



Konstantinos Vassakis, PhD

Bizrupt, Co-founder and CEO

Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Management Science & Technology
Hellenic Mediterranean University
ATHENA European University Alliance

Dr. Konstantinos Vassakis is the Co-founder of Bizrupt, an initiative dedicated to cultivating an innovative and entrepreneurial culture in Crete, with a strong focus on youth entrepreneurship and sustainable development. Through Bizrupt, he contributes to community-building efforts, supports early-stage teams, and promotes activities that strengthen the local innovation ecosystem. He is also an Assistant Professor in Business Strategy and Innovation at the Department of Management Science and Technology of the Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU). His academic work centers on innovation management, entrepreneurship, and data-informed strategic decision-making.



Konrad Tudyka, PhD **MiDOSE Solutions, CEO**

Assistant Professor,
Institute of Physics
Silesian University of Technology
EURECA-PRO University Alliance

Konrad Tudyka is an Assistant Professor at the Silesian University of Technology (Institute of Physics, Centre for Science and Education). He works at the interface of measurement science and Earth/archaeological applications, with a focus on low-level radioactivity metrology, environmental dose-rate determination, and radiocarbon workflows. In 2024, he obtained the degree of D.Sc. habil. in Physics.

His research addresses practical constraints that limit chronologies and screening measurements in real materials: low count rates, background instability, mixed carbon samples, and uncertainty propagation across complex analytical chains. He develops and validates measurement strategies that improve repeatability and provide robust uncertainty control, including detector timing/coincidence approaches and characterization of photomultiplier effects relevant to ultra-low signals. His work has been published in journals such as *Radiation Measurements*, *Review of Scientific Instruments*, *Measurement*, and *Archaeometry*.

He is also the CEO of miDose Solutions (a spin-off from the Silesian University of Technology), established in 2018 to translate laboratory developments into compact instruments for routine practice. The company's flagship technologies include μ DOSE/ μ DOSE+ for alpha/beta counting and decay-pair detection with advanced background reduction, and μ GRAPHILINE—an automated, gas-free combustion and graphitization line for radiocarbon sample preparation, designed for stepped-combustion and EA/IRMS connectivity. His work has resulted in multiple patents covering measurement and sample-handling solutions supporting both research and applied laboratory workflows.



George Avgenakis **Deliverback; Shiplemon; Loopcv, Co-founder**

Giorgos Avgenakis is an entrepreneur specializing in software companies. He is actively involved as a shareholder and/or founder in various software ventures, drawing on his business expertise and experience in the technology sector, and he was recently recognized on Forbes Greece's "30 Under 30" list. By investing in startup companies and serving as an advisor, he provides strategic guidance, financial support, and know-how, playing an active role in both the Greek and the Cretan entrepreneurial ecosystems.



Jean-Christian Hartemann, PhD Kardes®, Founder

As a young chemical engineer and biotechnologist born in France, Jean-Christian HARTEMANN was drawn to the fields of health and hygiene from a young age, influenced by his Russian grandfather - Professor and Doctor of Chemistry Guennadii KARDACHE -and his French uncle, Professor and Doctor Philippe HARTEMANN, a specialist in health safety in environmental health.

Alongside his studies, in 2019, he embarked on his own entrepreneurial path to develop new broad-spectrum biocidal products for human and animal health, as well as for industrial hygiene. After several years of collaborative research and drawing on his family's expertise, several national and international patents were filed with Dr. KARDACHE for an innovative formulation approach of new antiseptic and disinfectant products.

As part of the Peel – the Lorraine Student Entrepreneurial Hub and the start-up and Academic French ecosystem, Kardes® was able to come to life and participate in numerous competitions and events to grow on a national scale.

After graduating in 2022, and amid a deteriorating international context that directly impacted the entrepreneurial project, Jean-Christian had to halt the development of Kardes®.

Since then, he has transitioned into the field of supercritical fluids and now works for the French company SFE Process. Responsible for developing the company's activities in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors in India with a local partner, Jean-Christian has been living there since 2024 and operates in an international setting.



Charalampos Kiagias, PhD Escargot de Crete; PANACEA3, Founder and CEO

Profile. Physicist with a PhD (School of Medicine, University of Crete, awarded with Distinction), focused on photodisruption and shape modification of biological tissues using excimer lasers. Published in the Canadian Journal of Physics (special issue honouring Boris P. Stoicheff).

Professional Experience. 2010–present: Founder & Managing Director/CEO, Escargot de Crete (vertically integrated production: organic olive grove → snail cultivation/secretion → food and skincare, within a circular, low-footprint agro-ecosystem).

2016: Launch of snail-secretion-based skincare under the PANACEA3 brand.

2004–2016: Lecturer, Hellenic Mediterranean University (Rethymno) — laboratory teaching in “Physical Acoustics” and “Wave Physics”. Member of the HiPER research group.

Awards (selected). 31 awards (2023–2025), including The Beauty Awards UK 2025 (Winner).

The Beauty Awards UK: 5 PANACEA3 products shortlisted; Winner in “Sensational Serum” plus 3 additional distinctions (“Hair Care Champion”, “Best Skincare Innovation”, “Best Skincare Breakthrough”).

Greece: Best in Pharmacy (Gold/Silver), Frozen Innovation Awards (Gold/Platinum), Marinopoulos Group award (2013, Athens Concert Hall).

Social Impact. 2004–2018: Founder & President, Arkadi Geropotamos Environmental Association (successful court cases in support of environmental protection).