

Members of ActionAid Hellas General Assembly

1.

Name: Mrs. Alexandra Mitsotaki

Occupation: AAH Chair, AAI Board member

Alexandra studied Political Sciences in the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and Law at the Paris V University. She holds a Masters Degree in Developmental Law. She lives in Paris and speaks fluently English, French, German and Greek.

She worked at OECD first at the Direction of Education and later at the Development Center of the organization where she specialized further in development issues and fighting poverty in the developing countries.

In 1998 driven by her understanding towards poverty in the developing countries she founded ActionAid Hellas. Since then she dedicates all her time voluntarily to promote the organization which she Chairs since 2007 in Greece.

Since 2003 she is an active member of the Actionaid International Board of Trustees and has contributed to the drafting of the new strategy. She has been a member of the Governance and Board Development Committee helping develop the governance of the countries-members of the organization and is currently member of the Finance & Funding Committee.

2.

Name: Mrs. Ero Varsami

Occupation: Doctor MD, AAH Vice Chair

Ero holds a degree in Medicine from the University of Athens, is a specialized doctor in Microbiology – Biopathology and has done special studies in Paris and London on Data & Techniques on Molecular Biology and in Boston & New York on TB Infections. She has served as Consultant at the Biochemical division of “Evangelismos” hospital and as deputy Head of the Immunology department at the “Sismanogleion” Athens General Hospital.

Active membe of different NGOs, she has been a founding member of the Doctors of the World (Medecins du Monde) in Greece and served as Chair for 4 years. She is a founding member of the Athens Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims and member of its Board from 1990 – 2007.

Ero has participated in different missions abroad, as head of the mission or simple member of the MDM – Greece, in North Iraq (Kurdistan), Azerbaitzan, Georgia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Turkey, Honduras, India, N. Korea, Kosovo, Iran, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, Sri Lanka.

In Greece her contribution has been essential in opening a Polyclinic for excluded populations, Mobile Units for Primary Health Care and Epidemiological Data for excluded populations, Hospitality and Health Care Camp for Refugees and Shelter for Refugees. Since 2007 she has been offering her experience and knowledge to ActionAid Hellas as vice Chair. She has visited the organisation's programmes in Malawi.

3.

Name: Mrs. Bianca Glavani

Occupation: Finance & development consultant, AAH Treasurer

Bianca holds an Economics degree from the University of Zurich and studied in INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France where she received an MBA in 1982.

She has served as a Consultant for OECD Development Centre, France where she completed a number of reports for a program in collaboration with the IFC, analyzing the strategies and considerations of financial intermediaries when providing development finance in the form of equity instruments.

As a finance consultant and head for the past 25 years of the Athens Office of the GISE, an independent group of international consultants who advise government agencies and large institutions on questions relating to the world financial system, she has a vast experience in financing and development. which led to her election as Treasurer at the ActionAid Hellas Board. She is member of the ActionAid Hellas Board since 2007 and member of the Finance & Audit Committee. In 2011 she was elected Treasurer of the Board.

4.

Name: Mrs. Antigone Lyberaki

Occupation: Professor of Economics, AAH representative at the AAI Assembly

Antigoni holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Athens, a M.Phil. in Development Studies from the University of Sussex, UK and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

She has been a Lecturer at the University of Crete, a Visiting Professor at Queen's College CUNY, N.Y., a Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics at the University of Athens and holds the Chair in Economics at the Department of Economics & Regional Development at the Panteion University of Athens.

Antigoni has done background research in preparation of the new Investment Incentives Law for the Greek Ministry of National Economy, has been Advisor to the General Secretary for Industry at the Greek Ministry of Development and has offered her expertise in the Business Environment Simplification Task Force set up by the Commission of the EU to report on SME policy. She has also served as scientific coordinator & editor of the Greek National Action Plans for Employment 2001, 2002, 2003 for the Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and has been since 2003 member of the Board of Directors of the Migration Policy Institute in Athens.

She has published research in the areas of industrial policy, Small & Medium Enterprises & Flexible Specialisation, globalization, labour markets and the economic effects of international migration and regional development. For the last years she has focused on issues of poverty, migration and the position of women.

She is a member of the Actionaid Hellas Board since 2007. Since 2010 she represents ActionAid Hellas at the ActionAid International Assembly. During this period she had the opportunity to travel to the countries where ActionAid has programmes (Malawi, Nepal, India, South Africa) and see the organisation's work. She participated at the Participatory Review & Reflection Process in Nepal in 2009 and has contributed to the governance group for the strategy drafting.

5.

Name: Mr. Spyros Kapnias

Employer/Occupation: HR coach & consultant, member AAH Board

Spiros studied Economics at the Universities of Athens and Surrey.

He has had over 25 years of executive development experience. In the past Spiros has held executive level positions with local and multinational companies such as Shell, Unilever and PepsiCo (Fritolay) and more than 10 years as Business Consultant in Executive Coaching, HR Strategy, Change Management, Leadership και Talent Management.

He founded his own consultancy company (Human Resources Planning) and is the partner of Krauthammer International in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. Since founding HRP, Spiros has worked with world-class corporations in Greece and abroad covering areas such as Coaching senior level executives, HR Strategy, Change Management, Leadership and Talent development.

He has been an active member and consultant of Amnesty International from 1974-1994. In 2004 he consulted ActionAid Hellas in human resource development and has offered through these years leadership seminars to the members of the senior management team. He is a member of the General Assembly since 2008 and was elected at the Board in 2011.

6.

Name: Mrs Lydia Yiannakopoulou, member AAH Board

Occupation: Strategic Communication consultant & trainer

Lydia holds a degree in Political Science, European & International Relations from the Athens University.

She has a Consultant Certification from the Institute for Crisis Management in the US. She is a guest lecturer at the Hellenic Institute of Communication and at the post-graduate 'Media & Communication' departments of Panteion University and Athens University of Economics and Business. She has been working as a communication consultant since 1994, designing and directing integrated strategic communication programs for some of the biggest national & international companies and organizations in Greece. She has been a senior communication consultant for the Civitas / Ketchum group of companies and all of their clients for 12 years.

From 2002 – 2011 she was the General Manager of Media Training Experts, specializing exclusively in providing Crisis Communication Management preparedness services and in the personal training of spokespersons, executives and managers on speaking in public and conducting media interviews, under normal or crisis situations.

Her involvement with ActionAid Hellas begun in 1998 when the organization hired the company she was working at to give consultancy in Media and Communications and Lydia asked to be in charge of the account. In those first steps of ActionAid Hellas Lydia, together with the organisation's team, developed the communications strategy and its implementation. Ever since she has offered on a volunteer basis consultancy and support in communications strategy issues, media relations and events organization.

She is a member of the ActionAid Hellas General Assembly since 2008 and was elected to the Board in 2011.

7.

Name: Mr. Kostas Vaxevanis

Occupation: Journalist

Kostas studied mathematics, but eventually he was found in the journalism. In 1988, he began his career as a journalist. From 1991 until today he has covered the war crises in all over the world (Bosnia, Gulf, Palestine, Kurdistan, Albania, Kosovo etc.) as war correspondent of both private and state TV.

He has interviewed a number of heads of states, but also personalities of the "other side", persons that many times were wanted for years (Abdulah Otsalan, Abdul Chak, Markus Wolf, Radovan Karazic, Laila Chaled, important members of the Hezbolach and Hamas like the senior leader Abd al Aziz al Rantisi). He has collaborated with the newspapers Eleftherotypia, Kathimerini, Pontiki.

He has been producing and presenting a series of documentaries ("Pandora's Box") and he is collaborating with the biggest newspapers.

8.

Name: Mrs. Maria Houkli

Occupation: Journalist

Maria is one of the top anchorwomen in Greece.

She studied law in Thessaloniki and worked as a lawyer for a few years. She has worked in state and private channels since 1987 and for 10 years she was the anchor woman at the main state channel evening news. She has presented shows for books and for the correct use of the Greek language and has worked as a speaker on the radio. In 2007 she was elected the coordinator of the tv debate before the elections. Since September 2010 she presents the evening news at one of the biggest private channels.

She has been elected "journalist of the year" for many consecutive years.

9.

Name: Mr. Nickolaos G. Travlos

Occupation: Professor of Economics

Nicolas holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Athens, an MBA in Finance, an M.Phil. in Finance, and a Ph.D, in Finance from the New York University.

He has been an Adjunct Instructor at the New York University, Graduate School of Business, an Associate Professor with Tenure at the Boston College, Wallace Carroll School of Management, a Professor of Finance and Director for the MSc Program in Banking & Finance, University of Piraeus.

He has developed an electronic data base of the Athens Stock Exchange stock data (funded by the Commercial Bank of Greece. He is a finance consultant and serves on the Board of Directors of several national and international firms. One of the five founding faculty members of the Athens Laboratory of Business Administration, he held the position of MBA Director and Professor in Finance. Since 1998 he holds The Kitty Kyriacopoulos Chair in Finance and the position of Dean.

Numerous of his publications have been awarded, amongst others, one in Journal of Finance of 1987 was included in a list of the top twenty most influential papers in Finance and he is often cited in Finance books and in articles published in leading academic journals.

10.

Name: Mrs. Sofia Eleftheroudaki

Occupation: Entrepreneur/publishing

Sofika graduated from the Doerpfeld Gymnasium in Athens, in 1972. She studied commerce in Handelschule St. Gallen of Switzerland. She speaks fluently Greek, English, French and German. Since 1983 she is the General Director of the business "G.K. Eleftheroudakis S.A.", one of the most prestigious and successful Publishing Companies & Bookstores of Greece.

11.

Name: Mrs. Ileana Makri

Occupation: Jewel Designer

Ileana holds a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Deree College in Athens.

In 1977 she transferred in N.Y. During her stay in the USA she took classes of Philosophy. She returned to Athens in 1985 and worked initially at the magazine "Prosopa" before opening the exclusive department store "Mageia". From 1992 to 1995 she was in charge of the Public Relations at INTRACOM. In 1996 Ileana graduated from the International Gemological American Institute in California, where she studied Jewelry Design. Upon her return in Athens she started her career as Jewelry Designer and exhibits her work at "Mageia". Her jewelry is exported in the USA since 1998 and Japan since 2005.

12.

Name: Mr. Ioannis Spanudakis

Occupation: Finance consultant

Ioannis holds a B.sc. in Chemistry from the University of Athens and a Ph.D. in Materials Science from the University of London.

He started his professional career as a Special Advisor of the Greek Ministry of Technology & Development. In 1984 he joined The DOW Chemical Company, holding marketing positions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and serving as Global Business Director from 1996 to 2001.

In 2001 Ioannis was appointed by the Greek Prime Minister as Managing Director & Member of the 17member Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for "Athens 2004" Olympic & Paralympic Games (ATHOC). During his tenure he participated in the Interministerial Committee in charge of Olympic Preparations (headed by the Greek Prime Minister) as well as in the Government – ATHOC Project Management Team monitoring the construction progress of all Olympic Projects. He is now Managing Director of the Organization of Football Games Prognostics.

13

Name: Ms. Katerina Virvidaki

Employer/Occupation: senior Law Student, University of Athens

Katerina is a brilliant Law graduate who has received the Homer Davis Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in social commitment to support collective action.

She has coordinated the symposium "Bioethics" held by the UNESCO corporate schools, and the debate contest "Is political crime justified in a liberal democracy" held by the European Law Student Association. She has offered voluntary work at the independent organization "The OMBUDSMAN" and participated in the Human Rights Committee at the Model United Nations conference (MUN) held by Harvard University & the University of Edinburgh on "Combating Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children".

14.

Name: Mr. Vasilis Vasilikos

Employer/Occupation: Writer

Vasilis holds a Law degree from the University of Salonica and a degree from the Drama School of Yale University and the School of Radio and Television in N.Y in TV direction. He has been deputy director in various foreign productions, director of documentaries and a script writer. Deputy CEO of the National television ET1 (1981-1984), a member of the Council of the Athens Municipality (1994-1996), and Greek ambassador in Unesco (1996-2004), he has received many literature awards.

Honorary lecturer of the University of Patra, member of the International Parliament of Writers based in Strasburg, he is one of the Greek writers whose work has been most translated. Some of his books have been published in Braille.

15.

Name: Mr. Anthony Gortzis

Occupation: Communications & marketing consultant

Anthony holds two degrees in Law and in Business Administration and post graduate studies in Business Administration, Marketing and Econometry in UK. He also holds an MBA from Harvard University.

He has worked as a marketing specialist in Unilever in London and as Marketing & Media Director in Unilever in Greece. In 2000 he was appointed President of the World Federation of Advertis. Since 2002 he is the Director of the Communications & Marketing consultant company 'Theme' and the Crisis Management company 'Reputation Capital'.

In 2004 he was elected Secretary General of the Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Piraeus. Since 2005 he is president of the Board of Directors of One Team, Communications & Marketing company. In April of 2005 he was elected president of the Greek Institute of Business Ethics. He served as member of the Actionaid Hellas Board from 2007-2011.

16.

Name: Mr. Stavros Ignatiadis

Occupation: Finance consultant

Stavros holds a degree in Economics from the University of Athens.

Since 1992 he has been Director General, senior consultant and CEO of different companies and has offered his consultant services to both the private and public sector. Since 2002 he is partner at Estimate Consulting. Stavros has been Secretary General and member of the Executive Board of the National Committee of UNICEF in Greece from 1990-1998 and helped ActionAid Hellas providing valuable advice at its first steps.

He is member of the National Committee of Internet Governance, member of the Board of Trustees of Information Society as well as member at a number of Chambers in Greece. He served as Treasurer of the Actionaid Hellas Board from 2007-2011.

17.

Name: Mr. Christos Michaelidis

Occupation: Journalist

Christos is a well known journalist. He has been publishing articles in major newspapers and has held shows in various radio stations.

18.

Name: Mr. John Havres

Occupation: Lawyer

John is a well experienced lawyer practicing law in Athens.

19.

Name: Miss Caroline Otieno

Occupation: student

Caroline is a dynamic young lady aged 20 from the BAMA organization in Kenya. She was one of the child orphans who was able to obtain her academic levels through BAMA and the support from ActionAid.

She has worked at the administration of the BAMA organization for 2 years. She was able to obtain a scholarship from the Greek MFA to study in Greece. She spent a year in Thessaloniki learning the language (she speaks Greek already fluently) and she is studying Statistics at the University of Piraeus. Caroline delivered the plates collected through our hunger free campaign to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

20.

Name: Mr Vasilis Makrakis

Occupation: Professor of Information and Communication Technologies.

Vasilis is a Professor at the Pedagogical department of the University of Crete. He has a degree in Economics and in Anthropology and holds a phd in international education with specialization on computers in education.

He mobilized professors and students at the University of Crete to join the 1Goal campaign in 2010 and has expressed his interest to have a regular close collaboration between the University and ActionAid. He has expertise in sustainable development, application of technologies in the educational community and multicultural environments. He has been involved in more than ten national and international projects mostly as project leader dealing with global education, e-learning, ICT teacher capacity building, Education for Sustainable Development. He is the author of a number of books.

He holds a UNESCO Chair in the field of Information and Communication Technologies in Education for Sustainable Development.

21.

Name: Mr Panagiotis Mamalis

Occupation: Professor of mathematics

Panagiotis is a professor of mathematics and supervisor at the Leondios High School. He is very active in matters of volunteerism and development. He has developed and coordinated innovating programs of class management in collaboration with the department of Science and Education of the University of Patras.

He has shown great interest in ActionAid's work throughout the past 6 years and has encouraged systematically the participation of his school's students to AA's programs not only through the activities of our educational department but also to support fundraising activities.

22.

Name: Mr Kyriakos Pissaris

Occupation: private employee

Kyriakos was born in Thessaloniki where he currently lives. He holds a degree from the department of physical education and sports from the University of Thessaloniki. He has worked since 1996 in the private sector in a multinational company.

As an amateur photographer he has travelled to different countries in the development world trying to record the conditions people and especially children live in. He has been a warm and active AA supporter since 2005 and has travelled to visit the child he sponsors and AA's work in the community in Nepal. He has since presented his trip with much enthusiasm to AA staff and sponsors. He is very active and we believe he can contribute in mobilizing the public in Thessaloniki. He is also one of the 42 volunteers who went to Kenya to help a community of HIV positive habitants to develop a water project.

23.

Name: Mrs Yiota Theodorakakou

Occupation: private employee

Yiota has worked in a shipping company. She is a volunteer in AAHellas since 2001. Through all these years she has shown great devotion to the organization and excellent understanding of the issues of AA. She is reliable and willing to support all our activities. She has a low profile but is very popular among our volunteers and staff. She participates to all our events and mobilizes other volunteers to participate.

She is one of the 42 volunteers who went to Kenya to help a community of HIV positive habitants to develop a water project.

24.

Name: Miss Olgiana Panitsa

Occupation: student

Olgiana is a 19 year old student studying Engineering at the University of Athens.

She has been for more than a year an active member of the activista team and has participated in different activities of AA mobilizing other young people.

She has particularly contributed to the "1Goal Education for All" campaign and participated in the action at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the delivery of the 88.000 petitions to the Deputy Minister.