



IPMED THESSALONIKI STUDY VISIT REPORT 9-10 MAY 2023



On the 9th and 10th of May 2023 the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) welcomed in Thessaloniki the delegations of its IPMED project partners, JEDCO from Jordan, FILSE SpA from Italy and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tunis from Tunisia.

Representatives of the above organizations and other stakeholders of the project from the participating countries traveled to Thessaloniki, in the framework of a two-day Study Visit organized by the TCCI, with the purpose to get acquainted with the innovation ecosystem of the Region of Central Macedonia and exchange experiences and good practices with the competent local bodies for the promotion of innovation and the protection of intellectual property rights.

In brief, the participants visited the Technology Transfer Office and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, the start-up hub “OK!Thess”, the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization, the American Farm School and BETA CAE SYSTEMS, an innovative company in the field of automation/simulation.





On the 1st day of the Study Visit, the member of the TCCI Administration Committee, who is the Supervisor of Business Development Consultancy Services, Mr. Konstantinos Moraitidis, welcomed the participants at the premises of the host organization at the city center of Thessaloniki and expressed his hopes for a fruitful Study Visit.

The Deputy Director of Statistics, Studies & Research of the TCCI, who is also the IPMED Project Manager, Mr. Antonios Boumpoulas, took the floor and presented in brief the Region of Central Macedonia, as well as the role of the TCCI in the regional innovation ecosystem and its activities in the frame of EU Projects. He also presented the agenda of the Study Visit. After the representatives of the TCCI and the Lead Beneficiary exchanged gifts, the group took off to their first visit.



The delegation first visited the premises of the Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center where they had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the University's Technology Transfer Office (TTO). Ms. Eri Toka, who is the Head of the TTO, welcomed the IPMED delegation and presented the main policies that the office follows for the management and protection of the University's intellectual property.



Ms. Eleftheria Papanikolaou, a lawyer working at the TTO, gave an overview of the legal framework for the operation of the Office, while Mr. Viron Chrisovergis presented the initiatives and cooperations of the TTO, emphasizing on the Walk AUTH Innovation Accelerator, which is an EU Co-funded project implemented by the TTO, aiming to highlight the innovation ecosystem of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and to support students, graduates and academic staff in transferring their ideas to society in business terms.

Mr. Theodosios Sapounidis, who is the owner of a national patent for a platform that will allow children & students to learn programming in a fun, engaging and tangible way, shared his experience of his cooperation with the TTO for establishing a University Spin-off company, under the name of “Ducky Code”.



Lastly, Mr. Georgios Asimopoulos, who is the Head of the Thessaloniki Regional Office of the Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (OBI), presented the activities and responsibilities of the Organization and the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy, which was recently established. He also provided some official statistical information as regards the number of Intellectual Property Rights applications and licenses in Greece.



The 1st day of the Study Visit continued with the visit to “Ok!Thess”, an innovation hub of Thessaloniki and accelerator of early-stage start-ups. The business coach, Mr. Georgios Bozios, presented the role of the organization and the services it provides to start-ups to help them grow quickly, build a sustainable and expandable business model and create links to the wider ecosystem in Greece and Southeastern Europe.



Afterwards, Ms. Mariliz Kokorotsikou, Program Manager of “Ok!Thess”, presented the acceleration program that the hub implements. At the end of the visit to “Ok.Thess”, a representative of the alumni start-up “Agroverse” shared his experience on how he transformed an idea into a company, with the help of “Ok!Thess”.

On the afternoon of the 1st day, the delegation returned to the TCCI premises and had a light meal. Afterwards, the members of the IPMED Project Team had a very fruitful Consortium Meeting that took place in the margins of the Study Visit. The members of the Team informed each other on the progress they have made as regards the implementation of the project's activities and agreed on the next steps to be made for the proper and timely implementation of the project.



The 1st day of the Study Visit ended with a dinner in a local traditional restaurant, with the compliments of the TCCI.



On the morning of the 2nd day, the participants of the Study Visit took off to Kato Scholari, an area on the outskirts of Thessaloniki, to visit the premises of “BETA CAE SYSTEMS”, an innovative company with global presence specializing in pioneering simulation solutions. The company’s Chief Communication Officer, Mr. Sam Saltiel, made a very interesting presentation about the products and services offered by the company to its global customers, such as Ferrari, BMW, Mercedes, Amazon etc. In his presentation he highlighted the most important entrepreneurship lessons they have learned over the years and he described the strategies they follow to protect the company’s intellectual property.





The next stop of the IPMED delegation was the Center for Interdisciplinary Research & Innovation (CIRI). Pr. Dimitrios Samsonidis, who is a member of the CIRI Administration Committee, presented the Center's role in the innovation ecosystem and its activities, focusing on the 24 Research and Service Laboratories of the Center, specializing in various fields, such as sustainable management of air quality, orthopedic and regenerating medicine, electromagnetic measurements etc.



The attendees also had the chance to learn about the specific results obtained by three different research groups/labs of CIRI. More specifically, Pr. Konstantinos Triantafillidis and Pr. Dimitra Lampropoulou presented the results of the "EnviGreen Lab" in the field of green chemistry and technology. Dr. Dimitrios Kontses and members of his research group presented the LC3 Lab for the Characterization of Catalytic Converters and Pr. Dimitrios Vlachos presented the work of the Sustainable Agrifood Supply Chain (SASC) group.



The Study Tour continued with a visit to the Center for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH), which is one of the most important public research centers in Greece. Two executives of CERTH's recently established Technology Transfer Office (TTO), Mr. Nikolaos Katsiadakis and Ms. Katerina Papadopoulou welcomed the participants. Mr.Katsiadakis gave an overview of CERTH's activities and its 5 Institutes, while Ms.Papadopoulou presented the responsibilities of the TTO and its policies for the management of intellectual property.

The visit to CERTH was concluded with a short stop to the Competence Center "I4byDesign", which was established in 2021, with CERTH as one of its main shareholders. The General Manager of "I4byDesign", Mr.Fokion Tziourdas, informed the group about the services provided to companies by the center, such as consulting, education/training, networking, innovation management etc.



The last stop of the Thessaloniki Study Visit was the American Farm School, where the participants enjoyed a delicious meal prepared with the farm's high-quality products. Ms. Kiriaki Zinoviadou, who is a professor at the Food Technology Department of the School, presented the different kinds of olive oil produced by the School and the group had the chance to participate in a Greek olive oil tasting.



Then, the Director of the farm, Mr. Theodoros Kalitsis gave the participants a tour around the farm and informed them about the innovative activities and products of the American Farm School.



Overall, the Thessaloniki Study Visit was a great opportunity for all the participants to network with many of the project's stakeholders in the Region of Central Macedonia and learn more about their IPR policies and strategies.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

PARTNERS' AND STAKEHOLDERS' DELEGATIONS

	Name	Surname	Role	Organization	Country
Mr.	Konstantinos	Moraitidis	Member of the Administrative Committee of the TCCI as Supervisor for Business Development Consultancy Services	TCCI	Greece
Mr.	Antonios	Boumpoulas	Deputy Director Statistics, Studies and Research - Project Manager	TCCI	Greece
Mrs.	Stavroula	Angelidou	Head of Public Relations and Press Dpt. – Project Team member	TCCI	Greece
Mr.	Mutea	Solaiman Ali Ghenemat	Deputy CEO - Project Coordinator	JEDCO	Jordan
Mrs.	Lana	Taiseer Al - Zou'bi	Head of Agreements Dpt. - Communication Manager	JEDCO	Jordan
Mr.	Ahmad	Jaser Hamad Altarawneh	Legal Advisor	JEDCO	Jordan
Mr.	Nidal	Mahmood Malo Alein	Stakeholder	100 Jordan	Jordan
Mrs.	Maysa'	Akram Abderahim	Stakeholder	Ministry of Industry and Trade and Supply	Jordan
Mrs.	Maria	Nives Riggio	Vice General Director and General manager for Public Finance, Projects and Enterprise Creation	FILSE	Italy
Mr.	Pietro	De Martino	Incubation Manager – Project manager	FILSE	Italy
Mrs.	Silvia	Pedemonte	Companies Tutor – Project Team member	FILSE	Italy
Mr.	Giuseppe	Nasorappis	Stakeholder	SIIT	Italy
Mr.	Andrea	Ottolia	Stakeholder	Genova University	Italy

Mr.	Aymen	Zarmdini	Deputy Director of the Financial Department – Project Management	CCIT	Tunisia
Mrs.	Nadia	Naceur Ep Medini	Head of Communication Dpt – Project team member	CCIT	Tunisia
Mrs.	Nadia	Boulabiar	Head of International Relationships and Agreements Dpt. – Project Team member	CCIT	Tunisia
Mr.	Mohamed	Anis Dridi	IT manager	CCIT	Tunisia
Mrs.	Afifa	Benezzine	Stakeholder	National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research	Tunisia

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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Mrs.	Afifa	Benezzine	Stakeholder	National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research	Tunisia

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Local Innovation Ecosystem Entities Participating in the Study Visit

	Name	Surname	Role	Organization	Country
Mrs.	Eri	Toka	Head of the Technology Transfer Office	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Mrs.	Eleftheria	Papanikolaou	Lawyer at the TTO	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Mr.	Viron	Chrisovergis	TTO Executive	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Mrs.	Theodosios	Sapounidis	AUTH Spin – off owner	Ducky - Code	Greece
Mr.	Georgios	Asimopoulos	Head	Thessaloniki Regional Office of the Hellenic Industrial	Greece

				Property Organization (OBI)	
Mr.	Georgios	Bozios	Coach	Ok!Thess	Greece
Mrs.	Mariliz	Kokorotsikou	Program Manager	Ok!Thess	Greece

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Local Innovation Ecosystem Entities Participating in the Study Visit

	Name	Surname	Role	Organization	Country
Mr.	Sam	Saltiel	Chief Communication Officer	BETA CAE SYSTEMS	Greece
Mr.	Dimitrios	Samsonidis	CIRI Administrative Committee Member - Professor	Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation (CIRI) - AUTH	Greece
Mr.	Konstantinos	Triantafillidis	Professor	Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation - AUTH	Greece
Mrs.	Dimitra	Lampropoulou	Professor	Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation - AUTH	Greece
Mr.	Dimitrios	Contses	Researcher	Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation - AUTH	Greece
Mr.	Dimitrios	Vlachos	Professor	Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation - AUTH	Greece
Mr.	Nikolaos	Katsiadakis	Technology Transfer Officer	Centre for Research and	Greece



				Technology Hellas	
Mrs.	Katerina	Papadopoulou	Technology Transfer Officer	Centre for Research and Technology Hellas	Greece
Mr.	Fokion	Tzourdas	General Manager	I4byDesign	Greece
Mrs.	Kyriaki	Zinoviadou	Professor	American Farm School – Perrotis College	Greece
Mr.	Theodoros	Kallitsis	Director	American Farm School	Greece