

OPEN STAGE 17

DEI 2026 Event – Public IEK (Vocational Training Institutes)

NEXT LEVEL 5 | The New Generation of Public IEKs

Program

Moderator: Theodoros Balomenos, Director of the Office of the Secretary General for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning

12:00–12:05

Welcome address by Ms. Sofia Zacharaki, Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

12:05–12:10

Welcome address by Mr. Konstantinos Vlasis, Deputy Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

12:10–12:15

Welcome address by Mr. Mario Nava, Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

12:15–12:35

Panel 1: Choosing Public IEK for a Professional Future

Moderator: Vasileios Michailidis, Director of the IEK of Serres / Coordinator of the Regional Vocational Training Council of Central Macedonia

- **Panios Miltiadis**.
- **Pavlidis Nikolaos**, graduate of the "Weight Training Instructor" specialty, IEK Triandria, admitted via transfer exams to the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science (TEFAA), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- **Bernard Haidari**, graduate of the "Technician of Domestic Electrical Installations" specialty, IEK for People with Disabilities of Pylaia-Chortiatis, employed at the company TECHNOMAT
- **Kotridou Ioanna**, trainee in the "Technician of Aesthetics, Podology, Nail Styling and Nail Art" specialty, IEK Triandria, and holder of a degree in "Business Administration" from the University of Macedonia
- **Mavros Serafeim**, trainee in the "Automation Technician" specialty, IEK Neapoli, and holder of a degree in Physics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

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12:35–12:55

Panel 2: Public IEKs: Education and the Labor Market on the Same Team

Moderator: Antonios Katavelos, Director of the Experimental IEK of Themi

- **Argyriadou Eleni**, HR Manager at Makedonia Palace Hotel and instructor in tourism specialties
- **Christos Moraitis & Maria Moraiti**, owners of the food company CONDIDO
- **Christos Agorastos**, Representative of the SAKAKAKIS Group
- **Dr. Ioanna Kosmopoulou**, Director of the Agios Pavlos General Hospital of Thessaloniki
- **Georgios Proestos**, instructor at the IEK for People with Disabilities of Pylaia-Chortiatis, in the specialty of Computer and Telephone Center Operator for people with visual impairments, and Braille Typographer

12:55–13:20

Panel 3: Public IEKs: An Alliance for Development

Moderator: Olga Kafetzopoulou, Secretary General for Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning

Participants

- The Minister
- Representative of ESEE (Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship), Stavros Kafounis, President
- Representative of GSEVEE (Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants), Dimitrios Vargiamis, First Vice President
- Representative of SETE (Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises), Ilias Kikilias, General Director of INSETI
- Representative of GSEE (Greek General Confederation of Labour), Giorgos Christopoulos, Secretary of Communications and Social Media for GSEE and President of OIELE

13:20–13:30

Closing of the event