



## Press Release

### Alpha Bank: Job Shadowing with students of the “Margarita Vocational Training Center”

*For the third consecutive year, Alpha Bank Executives welcomed students from the Center to their teams, putting into practice the Bank's commitment to equal access to employment*

For yet another year, Alpha Bank, true to its commitment to support equal access for all to employment, organized a job shadowing event in collaboration with the special charity association “Margarita Vocational Training Center”. Under this initiative, students from the Center had the opportunity to **spend one day working in various positions at Alpha Bank** and to learn more about how it operates by working alongside Alpha Bank employees. This initiative serves not only to provides the Center's students with information and hands-on work experience but also to match their profiles with possible job opportunities at the Bank.

Specifically, as part of this year's program, five **students with neurodevelopmental disorders and their accompanying staff from “Margarita” visited Alpha Bank's Head Office in Athens**, where they were welcomed by the **Corporate Responsibility and Human Resources teams**. At this first introductory meeting, the students discussed their interests and career aspirations with the Alpha Bank's Executives.

Immediately afterwards, they had the opportunity to meet with the **Chair of the Alpha Bank's Board of Directors, Dimitris Tsitsiragos**, who gave them useful advice on how to prepare themselves properly for their future careers. *“It is a great pleasure to meet students from the ‘Margarita Vocational and Training Center’. Our job shadowing collaboration with the Center, now in its third year, is a tangible expression of our commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities. It demonstrates that the institutional role of a bank must also include connecting with society and supporting those most in need. We are proud to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable future,”* said Mr. Tsitsiragos after the meeting.

For the remainder of their visit to Alpha Bank, the students were each assigned **a support task in the Bank's Mail Handling, Library, and Canteen Departments, as well as in the Office of the Chair of the Board of Directors**, where they had the opportunity to learn more about the requirements of each job under the guidance of the Bank's employees.

This Job Shadowing initiative was organized by Alpha Bank for the third consecutive year, while the collaboration with the “Margarita Vocational and Training Center” regarding the integration of people with intellectual disabilities into the workplace, has already resulted in the **hiring by the Bank of students from the Center**. This September, one more student of the Centre, who got to know the Bank through the job shadowing program, will join Alpha Bank's Library team.

**“Margarita Vocational Training Center”** is a recognized special charity association that supports people with intellectual disabilities. One of its main objectives is to find suitable employment for its beneficiaries, with a view to their smooth and equitable integration into society. To this end, it operates a special Placement Department, responsible for implementing a 5-month fast-track pre-vocational and vocational skills training program for its beneficiaries, preparing them for their transition to the world of work. The aim is for participants to find employment in the open market after completing the program.