



Press Release

Alpha Bank is present in Crete with a broad range of initiatives supporting culture, tourism, society, infrastructure and entrepreneurship

D. Tsitsiragos: "The bank supports culture and sustainable development, standing by everything that means Progress"

With initiatives and actions that highlight the leading role of Crete in the country's development and progress, Alpha Bank consolidates its presence on the island by supporting the local society and economy, as well as the island's cultural activity.

In a statement made earlier today, the Chair of Alpha Bank's Board of Directors, Dimitris Tsitsiragos, stressed in a statement that the Bank stands by everything that means Progress. "We stand by major infrastructure projects and the local economy, the tourism industry, small and large businesses, and initiatives and actions aimed at enhancing education and the daily life and well-being of the local community."

Inauguration of a periodic exhibition in Rethymno

Alpha Bank and the Contemporary Art Museum of Crete inaugurated the periodic exhibition "WOMEN. Greek Female Artists in Conversation through Time", whose aim is to showcase the woman's significant contribution to artistic creation in Greece, from the late 19th century to the present day. The exhibition, which follows in the line of Alpha Bank's long tradition of supporting and promoting Culture in many diverse ways and is scheduled to run until September 7, 2026, presents a total of 67 works created by 53 women artists. The works come from the Alpha Bank Art Collection and are exhibited alongside contemporary works, including works created by Cretan female artists.

In his speech during the exhibition's official inauguration, the Chair of Alpha Bank's Board stressed the contribution of Greek female artists to art and the Bank's continuous support of culture and cultural activities.

"During many periods of our history, women artists were faced with difficulties and prejudices that often held back their potential and restricted the recognition and acceptance of their artistic output. Yet despite these obstacles, they continued to create, to inspire and to open new paths for future generations. It is those new paths that our Bank wished to promote, with its long-established activity of collecting and showcasing important works of art," said Mr. Tsitsiragos.

Alpha Bank's significant and consistent support of Arts and Culture over time was also underlined by **the Director of the Contemporary Art Museum of Crete, Maria Maragkou**, in her address during the inauguration ceremony, in which she underlined the imperative need for art institutions to work together in order to conserve and promote the work of Greek artists. Held at the Contemporary Art Museum of Crete in Rethymno, the prestigious inauguration event was attended by distinguished personalities from the field of Art, representatives of local organizations, and senior executives of the Bank.

Together with the local community

In addition to the inauguration of the exhibition, the Bank organized, together with the non-profit



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organization “People Behind”, an action in the framework of its “**e-economy for all**” initiative. This took the form of an in-person training seminar in digital banking and the security of online transactions, for members of the Mastabas District Open Protection Center for the Elderly in Rethymno, as well as an online seminar (webinar) for parents of Alpha Bank employees, during which a presentation was made of the **E-banking Walkthrough** service, informing, educating and guiding customers in the use of the Alpha Bank e-banking service.

In tandem with the above, and in collaboration with the Secondary Education Directorates of the Regions of Rethymno and Lassithi, middle and high schools of the two Regions participate in the 8th cycle of the program “**Circular Economy in Practice**”. This is an innovative educational initiative of the Bank, carried out in collaboration the non-profit organization “Science Communication” (SciCo), for providing teachers with in-person and online trainings in sustainability, the circular economy and green entrepreneurship.

At the next step, in workshops held in the schools, the students will familiarize themselves with the basic principles of the circular economy and of environmental protection, using experiential methods and new technologies. As part of their activities under the program, they will also have the opportunity to get to know local businesses that are models of green entrepreneurship, as well as to use the “design thinking” method to identify challenges and opportunities that are of local relevance and design their own green solutions, developing business plans based on the principles of the sustainable economy.

Supporting Cretan businesses

As the bank of entrepreneurship, Alpha Bank has taken the lead in supporting Cretan businesses with advisory and banking services. With over 2,000 companies trusting the Bank for further growing their business activity, Alpha Bank is currently managing over Euro 1 billion in financing, covering the investment and cashflow requirements of businesses by means of the appropriate financing tools. It should be noted here that during the last three years, major projects are carried out locally, funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and co-financed by the Bank, involving the construction of new hotel complexes or the expansion and renovation of existing ones, thus further enhancing Crete’s tourist appeal.

Moreover, Alpha Bank organizes informative workshops for SMEs, the most recent of which were held in Heraklion and Chania with the participation of the Hellenic Development Bank (HDB). More than 110 entrepreneurs from the two Regions were brought up to date by senior executives of the Bank on leveraging the financing instruments of the RRF and the HDB for supporting investment plans in an advanced stage of preparation and had one-to-one discussions with specialist consultants about the future growth of their businesses.

Participation in major infrastructure projects

With the aim of developing the infrastructure of Crete and strengthening the local economy, Alpha Bank is actively supporting major road construction projects that modernize the road network of Crete, with a particularly positive impact on mobility and the level of service offered to the island’s residents and visitors.

The Bank will allocate close to Euro 500 million funds for financing the Northern Road Axis of Crete (BOAK). In particular, it will meet 25% of the loan requirements for the 187 km long Kissamos - Chania - Heraklion section of the BOAK motorway, while it also acts as Mandated Lead Arranger for the financing of the 32 km long Hersonissos - Neapolis section, currently under construction, covering 50% of the project’s loan requirements.