



## Press Release

### Alpha Bank supports Astypalaia to become the Mediterranean's first smart and sustainable island

The Prime Minister and the CEO of the Alpha Bank Group attended the presentation of Alpha Bank's educational program "Circular Economy in Practice" at the Primary School of Astypalaia.

Alpha Bank is also Grand Sponsor of the "AstyBus" initiative

**Alpha Bank provides its substantial support for Astypalaia to become a model island in the field of sustainability in the Mediterranean. With the educational initiative "Circular Economy in Practice",** which it has designed and is implementing to raise environmental awareness among the island's school students, but also as **Grand Sponsor of "AstyBus",** the new "green", on-demand electric public transport service on the island, Alpha Bank reaffirms once again **its commitment to continuously increase its positive footprint** on society and the environment.

### The Prime Minister at the first smart and sustainable greenhouse

**Alpha Bank's educational initiative "Circular Economy in Practice"** served as the basis for **the first smart and sustainable greenhouse**, built in the garden of the Primary School by the school's pupils together with the Bank's educational team and the NGO SciCo (Science Communication). The greenhouse is made exclusively from plastic bottles, which the pupils collected and reused, while it is equipped with **temperature sensors as well as with air and soil humidity sensors** powered by **solar panels**, so that the greenhouse is **energy sufficient**, as well as with a **compost bin** for the reuse of waste.

**Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis** visited yesterday the island's Primary School to see for himself the **original environmental project of the children** and to be informed about the Bank's initiative to contribute to the education of the young generation of Astypalaia in the principles of circular economy.

He was welcomed there by **the CEO of the Alpha Bank Group, Mr. Vassilios Psaltis**, and the **Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Ms. Zetta Makri**, together with the schoolchildren and their teachers.

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis** spoke with the children and congratulated them on their effort:

*"With this amazing greenhouse that you have built, you have demonstrated what we are capable of. I believe that this experience is one that will stay with you and, as you get older, you will be looking for other ways, too, in which you can be part of this great effort, because, if we want to save the planet, we all need to do our bit. Small steps can sometimes help us make a big difference,"* the Prime Minister told the children.

In his speech to the inhabitants of the island, **Mr. Mitsotakis also referred to the initiative of Alpha Bank that took shape with the contribution of the pupils.**

*"At the Primary School of Astypalaia, with the kind sponsorship of Alpha Bank, the children of the fifth and sixth grades completed a very nice and quite impressive project, in which they used technology to make a smart greenhouse, demonstrating in an experiential way that technology can truly help us change our lives and that, ultimately, each one of us has a role to play in this great effort – to make the green transition a reality,"* he pointed out, adding that: *"This new generation, these 11 and 12-year-olds, will soon be the citizens of tomorrow, they will be the ones to take up the torch from us. They will be the*



*ones to innovate and it is to them that we must instill these very ideas, to educate them to view knowledge as a creative process, to realize the importance of these experiential interventions and, of course, to understand that change starts from each and every one of us.”*

**The pupils of the Primary School of Astypalaia presented to Mr. Mitsotakis and Mr. Psaltis the principles of the greenhouse’s operation and the solutions they came up with to ensure its “circular” operation.**

After his conversation with the pupils and the educational staff of the school, **the CEO of the Alpha Bank Group, Mr. Vassilios Psaltis**, stated:

*“Alpha Bank is present in the great initiative for Astypalaia to become a model island for the green transition. As the only bank on the island, we support the local community and economy and we actively support the ‘AstyBus’ initiative for a functional and environmentally-friendly public transport network, while we also contribute to raising environmental awareness and to putting the circular economy in the daily life of the inhabitants of Astypalaia and especially the children, the future citizens of our country. The active participation and the smiles of the pupils and the teachers at the Primary School of Astypalaia fill me with optimism about the success of the project.”*

## **The three strands of Alpha Bank’s initiative in support of sustainability and green growth in Astypalaia**

### **“Circular Economy in Practice”: An Alpha Bank educational initiative for strengthening the environmental culture and awareness of the young generation**

The model project “Circular Economy in Practice”, created by Alpha Bank with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and in collaboration with the non-profit organization SciCo, consists of a **cycle of educational workshops** in the schools of Astypalaia. The workshops were initially addressed to the pupils of the Primary School and will resume with the beginning of the new school year, taking the character of a broader educational and training program for lower and upper high school teachers and students. During the first cycle of workshops, the content focused on the **availability of natural resources** and the **alternatives available for ensuring their conservation** as well as on the **use of technology** for their more efficient use.

### **“AstyBus” with the support of Alpha Bank**

Alpha Bank is the **Grand Sponsor of “AstyBus”**, a new on-demand service of electric vans to operate in Astypalaia, which is expected to offer greater **ease of travel for both local residents and tourists**, as its itinerary will be configured according to the needs of the passengers, **at preferential prices**.

**“AstyBus” is implemented by the State in cooperation with the Volkswagen Group.** During his stay on the island, **the CEO of Alpha Bank** also visited the **ASTYBUS Hub**, the service’s management and charging facility, where he was given a tour by Volkswagen executives and **had the opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Volkswagen Group, Dr. Herbert Diess**.

### **Alpha Bank, the only bank in Astypalaia, supports the financing of e-mobility on the island**

It should be noted that Alpha Bank also participates in the State-subsidized initiative e-astypalea with the consumer loan **“Alpha Green Solutions – Electric car/bicycle”**, which provides the ideal financing solution for the purchase of an ecological means of transport on particularly favorable terms and is available exclusively to the island’s permanent residents.

During his visit to Astypalaia, **Mr. Psaltis, accompanied by Alpha Bank’s General Manager of Retail Banking, Mr. Isidoros Passas, visited the Bank’s local Branch**, which also happens to be the only bank branch on the island. The two Management Executives spoke with the Branch Manager and Employees, focusing on the support Alpha Bank provides to the local economy and society, both through its Corporate Responsibility actions and by making full use of the new banking tools, with the aim of providing personalized services of high added value to Customers.