



Press Release

Alpha Bank supports the growth prospects of Central Macedonia with over Euro 1.6 billion in total loans to businesses in the region

The Management of Alpha Bank, led by the Group CEO, Vassilios Psaltis, on a three-day tour of Central Macedonia, visiting the Regional Units of Thessaloniki and Imathia

Yesterday, Wednesday, November 9, was the first day of the round of meetings that a team of Alpha Bank's Senior Management, led by the Group CEO **Vassilios Psaltis** and including, among others, the General Manager of Wholesale Banking, **Ioannis Emiris**, and the Managers of the Greek Branch Network Division, **Dimitrios Harizanis**, the Commercial Banking Division, **Tilemachos Georgakis**, and the Business Centers Division, **Marina Verykokkou**, is having with the business community as well as with educational and cultural institutions of Central Macedonia.

The stops of the three-day tour are **Thessaloniki**, the financial and business capital of Northern Greece, and the cities of **Veria** and **Naoussa** in the Regional Unit of Imathia. At the spotlight of the tour's schedule are meetings with business representatives from the agri-food, packaging, plastics and scientific/industrial instruments trading sectors. This is the second time within a short period of time that the Bank's Management has visited the region of Macedonia, in a move that proves its intention to actively support local businesses both in the implementation of their investment plans and in addressing the additional challenges of the current juncture.

Having established itself as the top Greek bank in business lending, Alpha Bank plays a leading role in supporting the business ecosystem and the society of Central Macedonia, as over the last three years it has **disbursed a total of over Euro 136.5 million to small businesses**, which are the backbone of the local economy and society. With its Branch Network in Central Macedonia, **Alpha Bank serves the needs of more than 55,300 small and 6,400 large companies**, while the Bank's **business loan balances** in the region stand at **a total of over Euro 1.6 billion**.

*"Central Macedonia – and, by extension, Northern Greece – has historically been an area where the 'heart' of Greek entrepreneurship has been beating strong. This tradition continues to the present day, as the region, with its highly-skilled human capital, the notable extroversion of its businesses and, of course, its unique geographic location has **significant potential as a regional and international business center, but also as a center of innovation** – something that is also attested by the vote of confidence given, especially to Thessaloniki, by global business giants through the investments they have made over the last few years. In an era characterized by complex challenges, it is **our mission to stand by the side of Greek businesses, supporting with advisory and financial tools their sustainable and extrovert development and their transition to a new production model that will add high long-term value to the economy and the society,**"* said the CEO of the Alpha Bank Group.

Central Macedonia is crucial to the national economic activity, as it produces **13.7% of the Greek GDP** – of which 8.8% comes from the Prefecture of Thessaloniki – while the region's growth potential is confirmed by the fact that in 2019 it **attracted 13.6% of the gross fixed capital formation** in the country.

This is the **second time in the last 12 months** that the Management of Alpha Bank has visited Thessaloniki and the wider region, confirming its strong commitment to stand by the side of local economies and Greek businesses, in the context of the **Group's strategic goal to channel to the Greek economy Euro 8 billion of total funds** over the coming years.



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The round of contacts of Alpha Bank's Management in Central Macedonia ends tomorrow, Friday, with the Group CEO's scheduled visits to the **Thessaloniki International Film Festival**, the **American Farm School** in Thermi and the **Deloitte Alexander Competence Center** at Technopolis in Pylaia.