

HEA Becomes Involve

Now in its sixth year, the award program formerly known as the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award (HEA) has become Involve Award Greece. The program was originally founded in Greece by the Libra Group on behalf of the Hellenic Initiative in 2012. Involve, also founded by Libra Group's CSR division, integrates the Group's Hellenic Entrepreneurships Award and American Entrepreneurship Award programs. Commenting on its launch, Involve CEO Christopher Upperman said, "Our experience has shown us that entrepreneurship is vital to long-term economic growth and sustainability. We want to continue to aid the incubation of new ideas and provide a boost for early stage entrepreneurs." Involve aims to provide education for start-up and early stage businesses, and leverage partnerships that increase availability of entrepreneurship resources, in the hope that individuals are better positioned to make a competitive application for one of its awards.

Tesla R&D Plant to Open in Greece



Electric car manufacturer Tesla is set to establish a research and development facility in Greece under the name Tesla Greece. The company is expected to send its three Greek designers—principal motor designer Konstantinos Laskaris, motor design engineer Konstantinos Bourchas, and staff motor design engineer Vasilis Papanikolaou—to Athens. Tesla's R&D center is likely to be based in the state-run Demokritos Center for Scientific Research and is expected to attract at least 50 engineers. According to comments made by a spokesperson to U.S. news website Electrek, the company chose Greece because of its "strong electric motor engineering talent, and technical universities offering tailored programs and specialized skills for electric motor technology." Tesla's presence in Europe is currently limited to Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.K.

Source: The Guardian

Deutsche Telekom Extends NB-IoT in Greece



Deutsche Telekom has expanded its NB-IoT (Narrowband-Internet of Things) network in Greece, extending it to 11 locations across the country. The solution, deployed by local opco Cosmote in collaboration with Ericsson, includes a RAN designed for massive IoT, packet core IoT slice expansion, and IoT functionality verification. George Pappas, Head of Ericsson Greece, said: "NB-IoT will accelerate the development of the IoT market in Greece and open up vast opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship in many industries." Deutsche Telekom's NB-IoT network is now live across eight European markets—Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Greece—and the United States. Noting that Cosmote is the first in Greece (and one of the first in Europe) to trial NB-IoT, George Tsonis, OTE Group's Executive Director of Network Planning and Development, said, "We're poised to evolve beyond merely providing mobile broadband connectivity, to play a leading role in the rapidly developing IoT market and create through technology and innovation a better world for all."

Source: Mobile Europe

PELOPONNESE HOSTS WTFL THINK TANK

The 6th World Tourism Forum Lucerne (WTFL) Think Tank 2018 was held this March at Costa Navarino in the Peloponnese, following a proposal by Greek Minister of Tourism Elena Kountoura to host the event in Greece. An exclusive group of tourism leaders from around the world came together to discuss key issues including sustainable growth and green development, new technologies and innovation, and the industry's role in driving economic and social progress. The meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Tourism and the Greek National Tourism Organization.



Springboards to the Future

TWO NEW ACS SCHOLARSHIPS

On January 31, 2018, ACS Athens announced two new, full, four-year academic scholarships for students entering the ninth grade in September 2018. The scholarships are named in honor of Thomas Gialamas and Panagiotis Gialamas and will offer two students the opportunity to study and prepare for university at one of the best international schools in Greece. To apply for the scholarships, students must have at least a 3.5 GPA (or 18 out of 20 average), must pass the ACS Athens admissions test in English and mathematics, and must exhibit impeccable ethos and unique talent in at least one academic area (science, art, etc.).

For more information, visit: www.acs.gr/acs-scholarships

PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIPS AT AFS

The American Farm School in Thessaloniki is offering three students full scholarships—including room and board at the school's campus—for attending its general or vocational high schools. The President's Scholarships are open to students with a grade average of at least 17 (out of 20) and with English language skills equivalent to at least a B2 level (CEFR). Applicants will be tested in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and Greek.

For more information, visit: www.afs.edu.gr/scholarships/

DELTA SCHOLARSHIPS AT AFS

Under the umbrella of Action Plan Gaea, DELTA is offering scholarships for 15 young cattle farmers to acquire practical training in farm operation and management. Action Plan Gaea is an initiative by DELTA that aims to support the sustainable growth of the primary sector and animal husbandry in particular. The training programs will be offered through the American Farm School in Thessaloniki.

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GLOSSOPHILIA

BBC Languages
phrases and exercises
www.bbc.co.uk/languages/

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Duolingo
language learning app
www.duolingo.com

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Fluent in 3 Months
language resources
www.fluentin3months.com

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Forvo
pronunciation database
www.forvo.com

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italki
practice with native speakers
www.italki.com

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LearnGaelic
beginners' Gaelic online
www.learnghaelic.net

◆
Open Culture
language resources and lessons
www.openculture.com/freelanguagelessons

◆
Polyglot Club
language exchange community
www.polyglotclub.com



Harnessing Fintech's Potential

On March 8, 2018, the European Commission unveiled an Action

Plan on how to harness the opportunities presented by technology-enabled innovation in financial services (FinTech). The Plan aims to enable the financial sector to make use of rapid advances in new technologies—such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and cloud services—

and to make markets safer and easier to access for new players. The plan also includes an EU FinTech Laboratory and the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, workshops on digitization and cybersecurity, and a blueprint with best practices on regulatory sandboxes. The Commission is also proposing a pan-European label for platforms, so that a platform licensed in one country can operate across the EU, and is putting forward new rules that

will help crowdfunding platforms to grow across the EU's single market. The Action Plan is part of the Commission's efforts to build a Capital Markets Union (CMU) and a true single market for consumer financial services. It is also part of its drive to create a Digital Single Market. The Commission aims to make EU rules more future-oriented and aligned with the rapid advance of technological development.