

Municipality of Thessaloniki

Press office

Strong - and substantial "presence" of the Municipality of Thessaloniki at Forward Green 2024 by hosting two important events

The presence of the Municipality of Thessaloniki during the three days of Forward Green Expo 2024, the major exhibition on Circular Economy, that took place at the premises of Thessaloniki International Fair on March 7-9, was extremely successful, including an exhibition stand and the organization of two information events, with the participation of important speakers.

Both the first day event, which was held in the framework of the LIFE-IP CEI -Greece project, entitled "**Regional Info Day for Circular Economy implementation in Greece**", and the second one, entitled "**Nutritional practices and the management of organic waste as a critical link in the chain of Circular Economy - Prevention Actions, Policies & Practices**" created the framework for highlighting critical parameters regarding the implementation of Circular Economy in the Municipality of Thessaloniki, with important announcements made by the participating speakers during the events.

Mr. Manolis Grafakos, Secretary General of Waste Management Coordination of the Ministry of Environment & Energy, announced the participation of the private sector in the implementation of recycling, with the aim of increasing the recycling rates. The expected benefits from the implementation of this new regulation, which is imminent, were then discussed by the next two speakers, the **president of the Hellenic Recycling Organization, Mr. Vangelis Karamintzios**, who discussed the contribution of the private sector in the implementation of circular economy, but also **Giorgos Dimarelos, deputy mayor of Cleanliness and Recycling** on behalf of the Municipality of Thessaloniki who analyzed the relevant planning of the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

Mr. **Dimitris Papatiriou**, head of the Department of Marketing and Communication and Local Authorities of the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation, referred to the contribution of HRRC to the rates of packaging recycling. The highlighting from Mr. Papatiriou, regarding the problem of tax evasion gave Mr. Grafakos the opportunity for another important announcement about a new legislative initiative to be implemented soon, to deal with this burning issue.

The event was also attended by Mr. **Giannis Androulakis, president of the Green Fund, Filippos Kyrkitsos, president of the Ecological Society of Greece**, while **Dr. Dionysis Boudouvas, Board of Directors by Combatt SA**.

Mr. Grafakos and Mr. Dimarellos participated also in the panel of a second event, in the afternoon of the same day, together with **Mr. Michalis Geranis, president of FODSA of Central Macedonia, Ms. Stella Psaropoulou, in charge of the "Food Trails" program, and Ms. Maria Loizidou, professor at NTUA.** Interventions were made by: **Mr. Theodoros Papadopoulos, pr. BoD of the Central Market of Thessaloniki, Mrs. Mara Angelidou, director of INcommon and Mr. Periklis Chatzinakos, representative of the PAMAK Environment Office.**

The emphasis of the participating speakers was on the need to raise awareness and educate citizens in order to maximize the results of the effort, but also on the role of the Municipalities in choosing the appropriate methods and tools for collecting organic waste and utilizing it, then, through composting for energy production.