

Resilience and Sustainability of Industrial heritage in COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 era. What is next? The case study of Technopolis City of Athens, former Gasworks of Athens

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Key words

Resilience, Sustainability, Industrial heritage, COVID-19, post-COVID era, Crisis Management, Digital Creativity, Adaptability

Abstract

This paper indicates the management models that have been implemented to an industrial heritage site, the former Athenian Gasworks known today as Technopolis S.A., throughout times and the imperative need of “change management” as a response to the COVID-19 crisis in order to keep the site alive. This analysis will provide the reader not only with the information on Technopolis as a company but also with a general insight how it functions as well as the role of the Industrial Gas Museum and a hub of entrepreneurship called Innovathens. It will also explain the measures taken in order for Technopolis to remain active during the pandemic, how creativity, collaborations and a spirit of resilience succeeded in keeping the site alive and what is yet to be done.

***Konstantinos Bitzanis, CEO of Technopolis City of Athens**

Born in Athens. Studied Industrial Engineering with postgraduate studies in Regional Planning. Twenty years of professional experience in upper management level positions in the Greek Industry. From 2009 till 2011 Director of the Industrial Museum of Hermoupolis. From 2011 CEO of the multicultural place Technopolis City of Athens and from 2017 till 2019 President of the City of Athens Cultural, Sport and Youth Organization (OPANDA). Has published several articles and studies about economy, industrial policies and culture.

**** Maria Florou, Director of the Industrial Gas Museum**

Maria Florou has graduated from the department of History and Archaeology in the University of Thessaloniki, Greece and has a master degree in Museum Studies/University of Leicester, UK. In the past she has worked in archaeological excavations and in educational programs in art museums. Since 2004 she worked as an assistant curator in Technopolis City of Athens in the Department of Visual Arts. In 2011, she participated in the museological team of the Industrial Gas Museum (IGM) and since then she is Head of the IGM at Technopolis, in Athens. Since 2018, she is also in charge of the Educational Program Kids4theCity, a programme dedicated to citizenship and public awareness of the protection of the city's monuments. She has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Cultural, Sports and Youth Organization, City of Athens (2018-2019). She has participated in conferences and projects for the promotion of the Industrial Archaeology and Heritage and for the use of Oral History in museums. She is also very interested on audience development and communication strategies on historical sites.

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