

# **Proposal for the establishment of an entity with the proposed name: "Node: Networks of Global Hellenism"**

## **1. The landscape (rationale)**

Greece possesses substantial assets. The brilliance of its culture, the global dispersion of its population with their academic talents both in Greece and abroad, a very strong shipping sector, promising energy reserves, thriving tourism, the glamor of the foundation of the Olympic idea and an enhanced regional geostrategic position

Nevertheless, despite the progress made during the last decades, especially after WW II, and recent efforts the modern Greek state enters the third century of its existence facing serious economic, social and geostrategic challenges, in an uncertain global economic and socio-political climate. The pandemic and a new international recession follow more than a decade of economic and social crisis, with its multifaceted effects. Lately, longstanding problems with neighboring Turkey have escalated, too.

Addressing such issues demands new initiatives that will combine the widest possible mobilization of the resources of Hellenism and national consensus.

Concerns about this situation and a long-standing discussion among distinguished Hellenes in Greece and abroad have led to this proposal for establishing an organization with the name "Node: Networks of Global Hellenism. This initiative coincides with the symbolical 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the War of Independence of Greece from the Ottoman Empire.

## **2. The mission**

The "Node" will operate as a non-profit organization with international outreach and complete independence from political parties. It aspires to serve as a platform for raising awareness and mobilizing the international human capital of Hellenism and to facilitate the networking and the creation of synergies among prominent individuals and organizations of Hellenism in Greece and the World. "The Node" hopes to inspire the conception of inventive proposals for major projects with a strong developmental, technological, social, cultural and geopolitical footprint in selected sectors that Hellenism has a comparative advantage, such as shipping, culture, and the sciences.

The global shipping industry faces huge technological and environmental challenges which necessitate investments that will exceed the amount of 3,5 tr. USD until 2050. The Greek shipping community taking into account its size will need to spend tens of billions on highly-skilled scientists, technology developers and professionals and on the procurement of new vessels with new sophisticated equipment, or the modernization of older ones.

The efficient provision even of a modest percentage of such goods and services by dynamic Greek businesses collaborating with 'Hellenic brains' of the highest quality could provide an excellent opportunity and incentive for their development generating substantial beneficial spillovers for other sectors of the economy, as well. An immediate priority is the preparation of a brief prefeasibility study for the consideration with the Node in the role of the catalyst of the prospects for the creation of a high-standard Science and Technology Maritime Park with emphasis on environmentally-friendly shipping, high-tech port infrastructure, digitization, robotics and nanotechnology applications, artificial intelligence, green fuels, optimization of the energy efficiency of vessels, decarbonization technologies, floating platforms, equipment for the ocean economy, etc.

The second main pillar will capitalize on the diachronically precious legacy of ancient Greek culture. Democracy, the most enduring contribution of Greek antiquity to world culture, is facing unprecedented challenges. To address growing political and societal challenges, new institutions and policies of global governance are urgently required. The values of ancient Athenian Democracy could provide very useful inspiration

Another promising field, taking into account the tens of thousands of Greek specialists in life sciences, health, biotechnology, care for the elderly, etc., is the creation of a Life Sciences and Biotechnology Park. The Node could initiate a relevant discussion. Besides utilizing the outstanding capacity of the international health sciences community of Hellenes, such a project would enhance the prospects of Greece becoming a top destination for silver tourists and digital nomads.

The organization also aims to set up a data base of prominent and distinguished Greeks abroad and to encourage the development of a comprehensive cross-party National Plan for the better utilization of the potential of the Greek Diaspora and the repatriation especially of people who emigrated during the last decade.

A large annual meeting in Greece devoted to Hellenism, following the model of large annual international meetings such as the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, is also envisaged.

The "Node" is also expected to play the role of an incubator for the scientific and professional development of talented young Greeks who excel in academic and professional entities abroad and constitute the great hope for the future.

### **3. Road map**

The Founding Conference of the entity is planned to take place in Athens hopefully before the end of the year. Distinguished academics, high-ranking executives of research and technological institutes, businesspeople, managers, public figures, artists and other prominent Greeks of the diaspora and from Greece itself will be invited to participate and explore their interest in joining the Node as founding Members.

Close cooperation will be sought with any relevant organization or initiative that has already demonstrated activity that aligns with the mission of the Node.

### **4. Perspectives**

The most substantial achievement of the organization will be the amalgamation and cross fertilization of ideas and the broader "osmosis" between academics, executives, scientists and businessmen of the country and corresponding prominent members of the diaspora.

At the same time, it is hoped that the "Node" will succeed in advancing proposals to state authorities and other stakeholders in the format of prefeasibility studies concerning a number of visionary and large-scale projects in strategic sectors such as culture, education, health, development of new technologies, climate change, innovation and energy security that will facilitate Greece's participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> and eventually 5<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution.