

# Special Moments of 2024

## Alexander Innovation Zone



## Northern Greece in the Centre of Global Innovation in 2024

2024 was a milestone year for the Alexander Innovation Zone (AIZ), as its actions and initiatives contributed decisively to the formation of a dynamic and sustainable innovation ecosystem.

The recognition of AIZ by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) with the **Startup Ecosystem Star Award** in Paris, sealed the establishment of Northern Greece as an international hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

### OUR VISION

Scale-up  
Northern Greece:  
Thinking Global

### OUR MISSION

Make Northern Greece an  
Innovation-friendly Hub to Live,  
Work and Invest

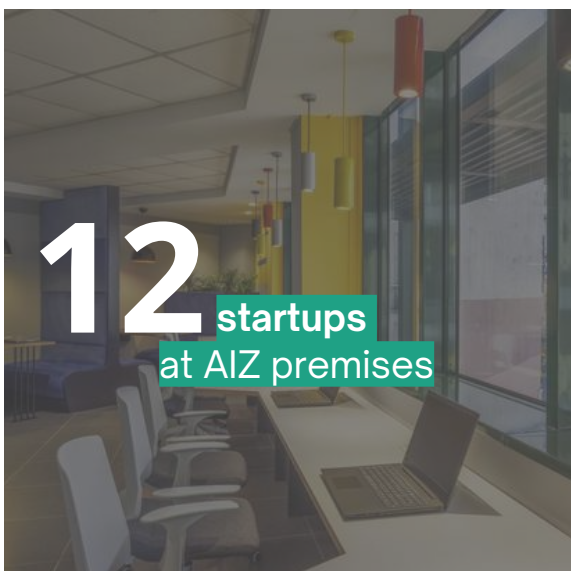


# Statistics & Indicators

## 132 ACTIONS AND EVENTS



more than 2023



→ **2<sup>nd</sup>** Year of hosting Digital Nomads at our premises

→ **30** International investors participated in the networking activities

→ **1** International award Startup Ecosystem Star Award 2024



 **380+ Students**

 **18 Schools**

 **28 Innovative Companies**

## ✓ Global Recognition

AIZ was honored with the Startup Ecosystem Star Award 2024 by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on December 4, 2024 in Paris, highlighting Northern Greece as a leading international hub of innovation and entrepreneurship. This distinction is a milestone in AIZ's efforts to promote its work globally.



## ✓ Thess InnoFood Hub

Following the issuance of the Presidential Decree for the spatial plan and development of “Thess InnoFood Hub”, within the designated Thessaloniki’s innovation zone, AIZ proceeds with the development of the very first national Innovation hub on Agro-Food, through partnerships and collaborations to address Research and Innovation in Agro-Food.

Thess InnoFood Hub seeks to bridge academia and research centers, with entrepreneurs and producers, based on the three pillars of modernization, added value and export potentiality, with effective and impactful support on innovative products and services deployment.





## Digital Nomads at AIZ

For the second consecutive year, AIZ hosted the Digital Nomads community at its premises, enhancing Thessaloniki's brand name as an Innovation-friendly destination to work, live and invest. During their presence, activities and workshops with international attraction were organized



## Productive Truancy - Innovative educational program for students

Since 2017, the Productive Truancy has brought more than 1600 students closer to entrepreneurship, cultivating the next generation with essential skills through experiential visits to over 28 innovative companies in Northern Greece.



## Next Stage: Lab-to-Market

AZK co-organized Next Stage, a program to accelerate the development of innovative and applicable ideas to the market. The Lab-to-Market Bootcamp and the pitchings of the participating teams attracted the interest of the entrepreneurial and academia ecosystem.





## International Networking and Investment Attractiveness

Fostering international partnerships by hosting missions of Trade Envoys, Ambassadors and Greek-American Investors. AIZ explored synergies to attract foreign direct investment, to enhance its presence on the global entrepreneurial map.



## Conveying startappers in Thessaloniki

For the second year in a row, AIZ organized in the city of Thessaloniki, the Greek Startup Conference 2024, in collaboration with the Startup Network Europe. The conference was held at AIZ's premises and gathered more than 80 startups from all over Europe, offering a unique opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange under the framework of an innovation ecosystem.



## ✓ Participation in the Special Standing Committee on Research and Technology in the Hellenic Parliament

The President of AIZ, Dr Panayiotis Ketikidis, presented to the Special Standing Committee on Research and Technology of the Hellenic Parliament the work made by AIZ on Thess InnoFood Hub deployment, as well as proposals for attracting investments and strengthening entrepreneurship, highlighting AIZ's role in promoting and actively contributing in national innovation.

## ✓ Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship

With initiatives such as "Woman Entrepreneurship - Gender Balanced Angel Investing", AIZ highlighted the necessity of integrating equality in innovation and entrepreneurship, encouraging and empowering the participation of women in the business and startup sector.



## ✓ Thessaloniki INNO-TECH 2024

Thessaloniki Inno-Tech 2024, a collaborative initiative of AIZ with MEP Dimitrios Tsiodras, welcomed the participation of politicians, academia and entrepreneurs and underlined the importance of bridging the gap between research and operational implementation, enhancing collaborations and adopting mutual strategies for the development of innovation ecosystems.



# Vision and Goals for 2025-2026

**Alexander Innovation Zone** is committed to pursue its efforts to promote Northern Greece as an international innovation and entrepreneurship friendly hub, to live, work and invest.

Inspired by a dynamic year 2024, the strategic goals for 2025-2026 aim to shape a sustainable future for the economy, technology, environment and society, based on the quadruple helix: the partnership between academia, businesses and private sector, public sector and civil society.

“ We strengthen the bridges of knowledge and collaboration between the key actors of the Northern Greece, aiming to promote the ecosystem of innovation in world markets. ”

Find us  
here



[www.thessinnozone.gr](http://www.thessinnozone.gr)



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