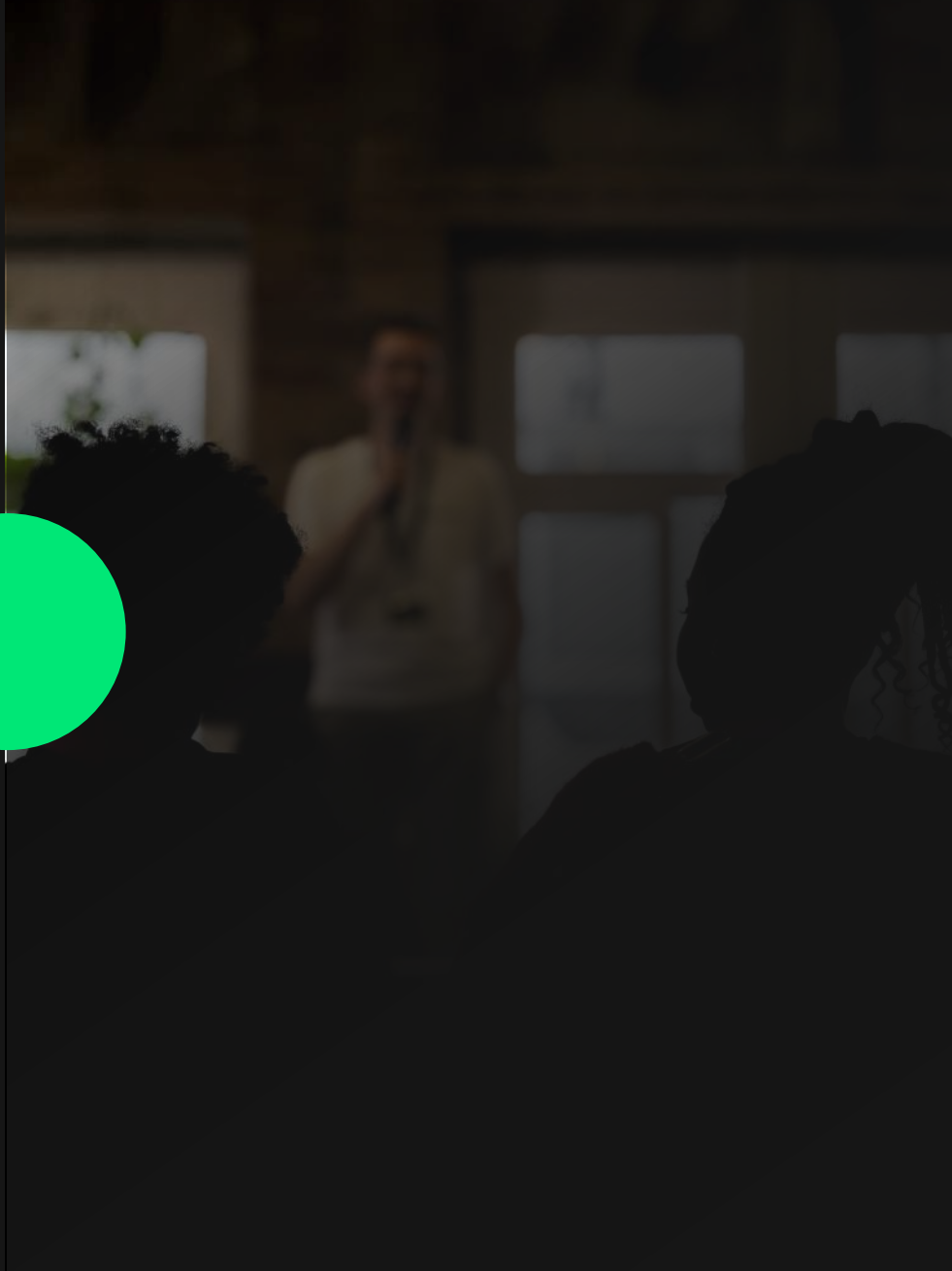
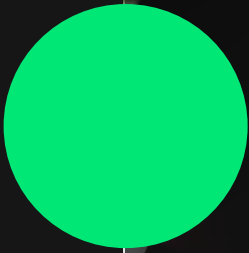


2025



AGE AFR-GR Entrepreneurship **summit**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MOTION: BUILDING THE AFRICA–GREECE CONNECTION

Highlights and outcomes from the AGE Summit 2025

The Africa–Greece Entrepreneurship Summit (AGE Summit) 2025 successfully united visionary leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, academics, and policymakers from Africa and Europe for two transformative days of dialogue and action on 17 and 18 October.

Under the theme “**Entrepreneurship in Motion**,” the summit emphasized collaboration, resilience, and sustainable development as the foundations of a shared future. Through keynotes, panel discussions, power talks, and hands-on workshops, **over 100 participants and more than 20 speakers from Greece and Africa** explored how to turn uncertainty into opportunity — and how Greece and Africa can jointly build an inclusive, future-ready entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Over **100 participants**, supported by **20 team members**, engaged with **22 speakers**, including:

- 4 keynote speakers
- 12 panelists
- 3 power talk speakers
- 3 workshop facilitators

The Summit featured **2 stages** and spanned **2 full days of discussions**, connecting ideas, opportunities, and partnerships across continents.

As the first international summit bridging Greece and Africa, the **AGE Summit 2025** was organized by **Youthmakers Hub**, a multi-award-winning

organization based in Greece, which since 2019 has been the first entity specializing in bridging Africa and Europe through European programs, and **Interafbase**, a company engaged in the import and export of goods and services between Greece and Africa.

The AGE Summit was organized with the support of **Panteion University, Kenyatta University, and the AfriqEurope Project of the University of Peloponnese**. The event was also aligned with the celebrations of the **United Nations’ 80th anniversary**, symbolizing a shared commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development.

The Summit was held under the auspices of the **Consulate of Kenya in Athens**, the **Consulate of Uganda in Greece**, and the **Hellenic–African Commerce Chamber**, and was proudly supported by sponsor **Eventora**.

A strong network of community partners contributed to the success of the event, including **Entrepreneurship Talks, Dataphoria, Bizrupt, Sisera, ThinkOnception, Europe Direct ELIAMEP Attikis, Time to Move Eurodesk, GrowthHub, University Opportunities, Stefanos Nastos** — all working together to strengthen cross-continental collaboration and innovation

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OPENING CEREMONY AND NETWORKING

The Summit opened with remarks from **Konstantinos Maragkos** (Youthmakers Hub) and **Julien Makalu** (Interafbase), highlighting the importance of youth-led entrepreneurship and cross-border collaboration. Moderator **Peace Odili** set the tone with a question: “What is the first word that comes to mind when you think about Africa and Greece?” Answers like **bridge, entrepreneurship, and networking** captured the Summit’s spirit.

Julien Makalu emphasized the historical moment: “We are together in this space to write another piece of history between Greece and Africa.” **Konstantinos Maragkos** stressed Youthmakers Hub’s mission: “We believe in the potential of young people — by supporting them, we are actively shaping the future.”

Keynote Speeches:

Distinguished speakers — including **Vasiliki Alexandraki** (Honorary Consul of Uganda), **Dr. Ibrahim Adamu**, **Dr. Esther Kagure Munyiri**, and **Andreas Galanis** — highlighted opportunities for sustainable entrepreneurship between Africa and Greece. Themes included:

- The power of resilience in a time of uncertainty
- Enhancing cross-continental collaboration through policy and innovation
- Tourism and cultural exchange as economic catalysts

The evening culminated in an engaging **networking experience**, where participants built new partnerships and shared visions for inclusive growth.





BRIDGING CONTINENTS THROUGH INNOVATION

Panel Discussions

The first panel, “**Entrepreneurial Partnerships Between Greece and Africa**,” moderated by **Lina Valmas**, explored the opportunities and challenges of cross-border entrepreneurship. Panelists **Dr. Florence Njau** (Kenyatta University), **Dimitris Fatouros** (UNRIC), **Sofia Ukpebor** (entrepreneur), **Christos Vergados** (Co-founder, Entrepreneurship Talks), and **Amadu Jalloh** (entrepreneur) discussed the importance of **policy alignment**, **sustainable investment**, and commerce infrastructure as key enablers of successful collaboration between the two regions.

- **Dimitris Fatouros** observed: “Africa imports \$100B of food despite its arable land — there’s a huge opportunity for partnerships and youth-led innovation.”
- **Sofia Ukpebor** shared: “Through culture, music, and even hair braiding, we connect people and ideas.”
- **Christos Vergados** urged practical engagement: “Africa is a great continent to expand into. Organizing trips and webinars is key to understanding the local startup ecosystem.”
- **Dr. Florence Njau** advocated collaboration in tourism, eco-tourism, and education as pathways to reduce poverty and strengthen skills exchange.

The discussion closed with a shared vision for **mutual, non-exploitative partnerships**, stronger connectivity, and long-term collaboration between Africa and Greece.

The second panel, “**Successful EU–African Academic Collaborations**,” moderated by **Stefanos Papadosifos**, brought together **Dr. Wardah Rajab** (Kenyatta University), **Prof. Betty Tsakarestou** (Panteion University), **Dr. Edna Thangu** (Kenyatta University), **Prof. Asteris Huliaras** (University of the Peloponnese), and **Dr. Jaume Guia** (University of Girona). The discussion focused on how **education, research, and academic mobility programs** can serve as powerful drivers of innovation and mutual growth across continents.

- **Dr. Wardah Rajab** spotlighted youth-led environmental initiatives such as the Great Green Wall.
- **Prof. Betty Tsakarestou** reframed Africa as an innovation hub rather than a passive recipient of knowledge.
- **Dr. Edna Thangu** emphasized the connection between sports, education, and innovation.
- **Prof. Asteris Huliaras** addressed mobility challenges and climate impacts, calling for local solutions with global support.
- **Dr. Jaume Guia** reinforced the importance of academic networks and knowledge exchange.

The panel concluded with a clear call to action — strengthening academic and civil society partnerships for sustainable and inclusive growth.



Power Talk Sessions

In “From Vision to Reality – Digital Bridges Between Africa & Europe,” John Kourkoutas showcased digital tools that facilitate trade, education, and entrepreneurship, urging the creation of “digital bridges that connect not just data, but people and purpose.”

In “The Resilient Code – A Story of Failure as a Lesson,” Julien Makalu shared how setbacks shape leadership: “Resilience is built through adversity, not despite it.”

Finally, George Megas in “From Grant to Growth – EU Projects as Catalysts for Digital Innovation” highlighted EU funding frameworks like **Horizon Europe** and **Erasmus+**, encouraging African entrepreneurs to leverage resources and networks to scale innovation.



Workshop Highlights

In **“Marketing in an Age of Uncertainty,”** facilitated by **Dr. Esther Kagure Munyiri**, participants explored resilience in the travel industry amid pandemics, inflation, and climate crises. The session emphasized knowledge-driven decisions, policy improvements such as “open skies,” and capacity building, alongside promoting positive narratives about Africa and Greece and exploring digital, off-season, and cruise tourism opportunities.

In **“ESG Made Simple for SMEs,”** led by **Anastasis Stamatis**, delegates learned how Environmental, Social, and Governance frameworks can enhance competitiveness, profitability, and resilience for startups and small businesses. ESG was presented as a connector between continents, linking African producers with responsible European partners, and participants explored practical tools for measuring and leveraging ESG impact.

In **“Leveraging AI & Digital Tools for SME Growth: A User Experience Perspective,”** provided by **Dr. Stavros Kaperonis**, attendees were able to learn how to adapt new digital technologies to increase the success of their efforts aimed at the consumer experience. This session analyzed objectives to be taken into account for successful strategies, obstacles faced by SME and new methods developed in recent years.



Closing Reflections – Celebrating Collaboration and Looking Ahead

The **AGE Summit 2025** concluded with the announcement of **strengthened partnerships** and new commitments to deepen cooperation between Greece and Africa.

Konstantinos Maragkos announced **Youthmakers Hub's outreach in Kenya**, establishing a tangible bridge connecting not only Greece and Africa but also Europe as a whole through impact-driven projects.

Dr. Esther Kagure Muniyiri, a long-time YMH collaborator and a key figure in its Kenyan network, emphasized:

“Africa and Greece complement one another in tourism, resources, and innovation. Let us work together so that by tomorrow, we are already miles forward.”

This announcement marked a symbolic and strategic step toward expanding collaboration, innovation, and cultural exchange between the two continents. The AGE Summit 2025 set a new benchmark for cross-continental collaboration, establishing a foundation for ongoing cooperation between Africa and Greece in the fields of entrepreneurship, education, and sustainable development. Through strategic partnerships and community engagement, the Summit reinforced the role of youth, academia, and innovation as key drivers of progress. Its outcomes will continue to guide the work of organizations and institutions striving to create an inclusive, resilient, and future-ready entrepreneurial ecosystem.

