

**15/06/2022**

Ten awards from NBG

for innovation and technology

The award ceremony for 10 new innovative teams and businesses signalled the close of the Innovation & Technology Competition, organized by NBG for the 12th consecutive year under the NBG Business Seeds program. The “Innovation Day” that was held today in the Melas Building is yet another proof of NBG’s commitment to actively support and promote innovative businesses, technological progress, and the digital transformation of the economy.

**Mr Gikas Hardouvelis, Chair of the Board,** stated at the opening of the event: “The success of NBG Business Seeds shows that the combination of innovative technology and entrepreneurship may become the key driver of change in Greece’s economic model. This is exactly what the Greek economy needs to cover more swiftly the gap that separates it from other European economies. At NBG we have faith in the potential of Greek productive forces, and especially young people. We invest systematically and consistently in innovation and technology. These are our tools for facilitating the lives of our customers, people and Greek society as a whole.”

**Mr Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Development and Investments**, in charge of Innovation and Technology, honored the event with his presence and stated: “I would like to congratulate NBG for organizing the 12th Innovation & Technology Competition, thus promoting the growth of entrepreneurship and innovation. It is particularly important that such actions take place, rewarding and supporting young talented scientists and entrepreneurs. Congratulations to all participants and winners of the competition. Greece has the human resources that can – combined with an enhanced export orientation of the innovation ecosystem and its friendlier investment climate – lead innovation and entrepreneurship in SE Europe.”

Next, **Mr Ioannis Tsakiris, Deputy Minister of Development and Investments**, gave a welcome speech and stated that “the diverse support and funding of investments in innovation and technology generate multiple benefits for the economy. They promote the transfer of know-how and technology, digital adaptation and productivity in Greece, while strengthening both Greek innovation and the ability to participate in international value chains. In recent years, Greece has made significant progress and its structural and digital progress together with the strong commitment of the government are beginning to show results”.

**Ms Christina Theofilidi, General Manager of NBG Retail Banking**, likewise noted: “Today’s event marks 12 years of NBG’s presence in the innovation ecosystem through its funding, promotion, showcasing, information, coaching and networking actions. In 2010, we launched NBG Business Seeds, a holistic program to support innovative entrepreneurship, and have achieved a series of first-class results. Among other things, we organized the first innovation competition, welcoming more than 7,000 participants and awarding prizes worth some €600 thousand. We responded to the invitation by the Greek government to participate actively in the “Elevate Greece” initiative, and feel proud and grateful to have worked with 13 public universities and 4 research centers. But innovation concerns and affects us also in respect of the operation of our Bank. Under our digital transformation program, NBG Business Seeds is a lively and dynamic channel for identifying and promoting innovative projects. Through its significant actions, NBG supports innovation, while transforming itself, looking forward to the future and the challenges that lie ahead”.

**The prize winners**

**First prize** for €20,000 in cash was awarded to Deepmed regarding an AI diagnostic system for

staging various cancer types by detecting metastatic regions on lymph nodes through digital microscope slides.

**Second prize** for €10,000 in cash was awarded to Geo, a company that constructs drones to be used by agronomists and farmers, by which the health of plants and crops is recorded with a view to increasing production, and reducing cost and the use of pesticides.

**Third prize** for €6,000 in cash was awarded to AidPlex for inventing Scolionsense, a smart wearable device tracking the treatment of scoliosis and reducing the likelihood of need for spinal surgery.

**Third prize** was awarded to Metabio, a platform for patients, healthcare institutions, biobanks and research centers aiming at optimizing the development cycle of medicines, reducing drastically the cost of primary production and increasing the value of biospecimens.

Other cash prizes of €1,500 each were also awarded to six teams:

* Cognitivplus for an advanced AI reading and analysis solution for legal texts and documents that can speed up exports and improve document analysis, enabling professionals and businesses to take faster and better decisions.
* Elektronio Patin-e, a micro scooter model that focuses on safety and comfort and serves transport needs in the urban environment.
* Kryptonio Wallet for a “keyless” cryptocurrency wallet that frees users from worries of managing private keys or safely storing homepage taglines.
* myTeam for an application that helps sports clubs, coaches, athletes and parents digitize and optimize their daily activities.
* Oviview for an online human resource management platform, which enables quick and easy filtering of candidates in the early stages of evaluation. Using the computer camera and microphone, it makes parallel real-time participation of candidates and employers unnecessary, recording each interview in deferred time, while providing employers the opportunity to rank, take notes, and access the skills of candidates.
* Shiplemon for a shipping management platform. The platform is linked with delivery service companies and helps users choose the best way to send their parcel by comparing prices, delivery times and reliability.