

The Bridge

CGBA's latest news, views and announcements



New Member Welcome

Extend a warm welcome to our newest members as they join our community

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Tech Community Spotlight

Bringing SAP Professionals Together

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By Georgia Chrysanthou

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Tanned, Rested and Ready for Business!

Μαυρίσαμε, ξεκουραστήκαμε, επιστρέψαμε!

Whether you spent the summer soaking up the Mediterranean sun, exploring the Bavarian countryside, or simply enjoying a well-deserved break, we hope it was a wonderful one. Now, as autumn sets in, it is that time of year again: back to school, back to routine, and most importantly, back to business!

We already have four exciting events lined up for the season ahead, packed with opportunities to connect, collaborate, and grow. All details can be found on our Events page [here](#).

Autumn is also budget season, and we invite you to consider supporting the CGBA with an Annual Sponsorship in 2027. As a sponsor, you will gain brand visibility across our newsletters, events, and social media, receive complimentary tickets to all CGBA events (depending on sponsorship level), and benefit from a platform to showcase your business directly to our membership community.

Sponsorship is not just an investment in visibility. It is an investment in a relationship, and the recognition as a valued partner of a respected bi-national association is priceless. Together, we grow stronger!

For more information on our sponsorship packages, please contact our Community Manager Maria Christodoulou [here](#). We would love to have you on board.

Happy September!



We Can Do Better

*Georgia Chrysanthou —
Founder & CEO, House of
Brands Creative Ecosystem*

I would like to thank CGBA for inviting me to contribute to this edition. It is an honour to share this page with people whose work I respect, and to be given the space to write about something a little different.

When I am asked to write, it is usually about the industry, the shifts, the numbers and the disruptions, or my research on the eCitizen and eConsumerism. Lately, it's women in leadership, or tech and AI. Not this time. Our association's members have already read every trend report worth reading, so I would rather say something simpler: **We Can Do Better**.

Early in my career, a CEO I admired gave me advice I have never let go of: be humble, listen to everyone, observe, smile, let people feel heard, and only when you leave the room, filter and keep what you need. So I became an observer. For many years I was often the youngest at the table, frequently the only woman on the board, and, in those early years, a single mother too. Failure was not something I could afford, so I focused on doing the job well and let recognition take care of itself. I was not there to fight or to prove anything. I was there to learn, and to excel.

My path took me through media and telecoms into managerial roles across hospitality, tourism and leisure, and eventually into senior leadership in Branding & Marcomm. Hospitality taught me the most: **service is not a department, it is a mindset**. Over two decades, in every role, one question kept coming back: what we say we are... is it what people actually get? Our teams, our clients, our partners, our suppliers. Are we as good as we think we are? The answer I keep reaching is almost embarrassingly simple. **We Can Do Better**. All of us, and I include myself first. And it is easier than we pretend.

Another CEO I admire once told me: when you become a CEO, be the first to arrive and the last to leave; make coffee for your people; smile. You are a woman, a mother and the boss. The obstacles are real, so set every one of them aside and become a better version of yourself every day. I have tried to live by that. I started as a solo entrepreneur and today, I am lucky to work with a team I love enough to make coffee for, and love watching leave together for a beer. Together we built a safe house for people and brands, and it turned out to be a home. A home needs care, a business needs direction and branding needs heart. It is still a work in progress, and so am I.

So what does "better" look like? I don't mean performance or results; those follow. I mean behaviour, culture, attitude and mindset. Whatever the title on the door (C-suite, managing director, officer, founder), the job underneath is the same: to leave the work, and the people who do it, a little better than you found them. I think of it in three roles most of us play every single day.

A better leader listens before deciding. They give credit in public and take the blame in private. They explain the why, admit when they are wrong, and protect people's time and evenings.

A better colleague shares information instead of guarding it. They say thank you, and pick up the phone instead of adding one more person in cc. They are generous with the one who is struggling and happy for the one who is thriving.

A better client (and every one of us is someone's client) gives a clear brief. They reply, even when the answer is no, especially then. They respect the work, the time and the people behind it. I say this as a client myself, to suppliers, partners and providers.

I am no zen master. I have had many lows, and I know there will be more. Being an entrepreneur is a rollercoaster. Numbers go up and down. But when you fall, you learn; and when you rise, you somehow forget the pain of the last fall and do better the next time.

We are nothing, and everything. **Nothing**, so stay humble: whatever we build, someone brilliant already built something like it and moved on. **Everything**, so stay kind: to the client who trusts us and the one who treated us unfairly, to the colleague who is thriving and the one who is struggling, to the one who left and the one who just joined. To each of them, we can be the difference between a good day and a bad one.

We are all chasing the same thing: a Sunday, a slow lunch with people we love, a life that felt like a life while it was happening. We want results that put food and rest on the tables of families, not only our own, and work that makes this place a little nicer. None of this is soft. Being kind and fair under pressure, and under anger, is the harder discipline.

We are not doing anything extraordinary. Others already did, and moved on. What is left is smaller, and better: to do ordinary things with unusual respect, and leave our corner of the world a little more human than we found it. That is enough. More than enough.

We are all in business, and we are all part of the society around it. So let us **just do it better**.



*PS — I don't always get this right, and my team will happily confirm it. But it is what we try to wake up to every morning at **HOB**.*

New Member Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new member, **bbf:**

It's a pleasure to have you with us!

About: “bbf: is a leading real estate development company specializing in premium residential and commercial properties across Cyprus, Greece, and Canada. With a portfolio of over 185 projects delivered across 4 countries and more than 15 years of market expertise, we are committed to shaping modern urban environments that redefine how people live, work, and connect.

At bbf: we develop land with a clear vision — to create high-quality, future-oriented spaces that integrate architecture, functionality, and long-term value. Our portfolio includes seafront high-rises, distinctive urban landmarks, and thoughtfully designed residential communities, each crafted to elevate lifestyle standards and enhance everyday experiences.

Driven by a deep understanding of urban systems and evolving market needs, we focus on building sustainable, vibrant ecosystems where living and working coexist seamlessly.

Through large-scale developments that combine innovation, infrastructure, and strategic planning, we contribute to the long-term growth of cities and communities.

Our approach is defined by precision, quality, and a commitment to excellence — delivering spaces that not only meet today's expectations but shape the future of modern living.”

The company will be represented by **Tasos Stavrou**.

➤ More info: **www.bbf.com**

bbf:



Photo Source

Meet The New Board Of The CGBA



For our Bridge Issue #26, we sit down with Andreas Paraskeva, Principal | Financial Reporting and Advisory Department of K. Treppides & Co Ltd Group to ask him our 7 Questions.

1) How long have you lived in Cyprus and where were you before moving here?

I was born and raised in Cyprus, so this island has always been home to me. Growing up here has given me a strong appreciation for our culture, values and community, and I am proud to contribute to its ongoing development both professionally and personally.

2) What do you enjoy most about Cyprus?

The warm weather and relaxing coastal environment make life truly enjoyable, the safety and peace of this beautiful island.

3) What do you miss about Germany?

I have never been to Germany or lived anywhere else. Cyprus has always been my home country.



TREPPIDES



www.treppides.com



Andreas Paraskeva

4) Which is the biggest challenge in your job?

One of the biggest challenges is balancing multiple priorities while maintaining focus on long term objectives. It requires discipline, adaptability, and effective time management to ensure that daily responsibilities are met without losing sight of strategic goals.

5) If you had not chosen this career path, what would you have become instead?

I have always been drawn to entrepreneurship, so I believe I would have pursued building and growing my own business. The opportunity to create value, solve problems and turn ideas into reality is something I find both exciting and rewarding.

6) What are your interests outside of work?

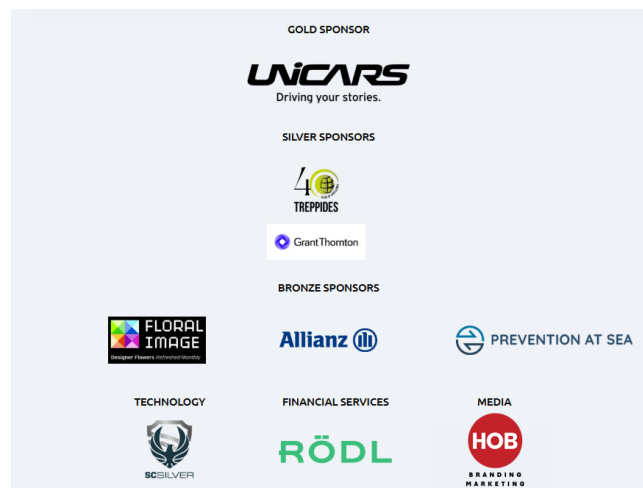
Outside of work, I enjoy following football, staying active through fitness, and spending quality time with my family.

7) Your favourite quote is?

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge".

THANK YOU!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of our current annual and event sponsors. Their contribution plays a vital role in helping us offer varied networking opportunities, as well as an array of interesting events that benefit our members.



Promote your Event



Strictly
18+

General Admission: €25 (includes 1 beer & souvenir mug)

Table for 6 persons: €300 (1 food platter, 1 beer tower (3.5ltrs) 6 beer mugs as gifts)

The most anticipated beer event of the year is back!

Bring your team together for an unforgettable Oktoberfest celebration designed to inspire connection. Whether you are hosting a company outing or simply looking for a unique team-building opportunity, Oktoberfest offers the perfect setting to enjoy quality time outside the workplace.

📅 9th - 11th
October

🕒 **Fri-Sat:** 18:30-00:30
Sun: 18:00-00:00

📍 Anaïs Lawn
Area

Experience authentic Bavarian cuisine, live entertainment with the famous band DIE KIRCHDORFER®, and a variety of interactive games and activities, all within a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

CGBA Members can experience the magic of Oktoberfest with an exclusive **20% discount** on the admission fee.

Use Promo Code: CGBA20

For reservations: +357 25 086686 | **For more info** [click here](#)

Tech Community Spotlight

SAP Community Meetup, Cyprus: the island's SAP community, finally in one room

SAP is Europe's largest software company. Founded in Germany in 1972, it runs the core business systems of most of the world's large enterprises, with over 110,000 employees, offices in 130 countries and 36.8 billion euros in annual revenue. Cyprus has its own growing community of SAP consultants, customers and partners. In June 2025 SAP consultant Vitaly Toraman founded the SAP Community Cyprus group and started hosting informal "SAP Stammtisch" evenings, four so far, each a small circle of professionals sharing know-how.

CGBA took the initiative to bring that community together on a larger scale. On 10 September, together with Vitaly and the SAP Community Cyprus, we welcomed around 70 participants to the Crowne Plaza Limassol.



CGBA President Christian Gihir and Maxim Kulakov (Softinent Solutions) opened the evening. Tsovinar Chugaszyan and Vitaly Toraman spoke on building the SAP community in Cyprus. Witalij Rudnicki, SAP Developer Advocate, presented the many faces of AI at SAP. AgentPark showed Manufacturing Cloud, SAP with NVIDIA and AI factories. Marios Papachristodoulou (Supernova Consulting) argued that the boring AI wins, and Harshit Pandey (Sword Cyprus) closed with the 2026 roadmap to an AI-ready enterprise.

Thank you to our main sponsors Softinent Solutions, Supernova Consulting and Sword Group, and to everyone who came. This was the first event of its kind in Cyprus. It will not be the last.



The 34th German Evening

Here we go again! The 34th German Evening will welcome you bigger and better than in previous years. It's the perfect occasion to unwind after busy days and connect with friends for a great evening of delicious food, drinks, and dancing under the stars of Cyprus.



When

10th October 2026 (From 19:00)



Where

Limassol, Cyprus



Area

Poseidonia Beach Hotel



Tickets are now available:

<https://www.maritime.cy/german-evening/>

Cultural Corner

Festival Edition

Germany and Cyprus share a beloved autumn tradition at exactly the same time of year, from the end of September until beginning of October.



[Photo Source](#)

Limassol Wine Festival

Autumn marks grape harvest season in Cyprus, when families gather to pick grapes from vineyard-covered slopes and bring them to local wineries. The highlight is the Limassol Wine Festival, where locals and visitors come together to taste Cypriot wines, enjoy live music, and soak up a festive atmosphere filled with food stalls, games, and entertainment. With a winemaking heritage stretching back over 6,000 years, this is one party with serious history behind it.



[Photo Source](#)

Oktoberfest!

The Oktoberfest, held annually in Munich, celebrates German beer, food, and music. Traditional Bavarian dress is very much part of the experience, men wear their Lederhosen and women their Dirndl. What started as a royal wedding celebration in 1810 has grown into the world's largest folk festival, attracting over six million visitors every year and consuming roughly seven million litres of beer in the process. Prost!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! More information on our forthcoming events can be found [here](#)

22 SEPTEMBER 2026	Meet the Ambassador – Cyprus & Germany in a Changing World ⌚ 10:00–12:00 📍 Limassol Chamber of Commerce & Industry
07 OCTOBER 2026	“The AI Revolution: Why should you care?” – Spotlight and Networking Event with Grant Thornton ⌚ 09:00 am – 12:00 pm 📍 LOFT Nicosia, Cyprus
03 NOVEMBER 2026	Business Breakfast Networking Event ⌚ 09:00 am – 11:00 am 📍 Alasia Boutique Hotel Limassol
26 NOVEMBER 2026	Annual CGBA Christmas Gala Dinner 2026 ⌚ 7:00 pm – 11:30 pm 📍 Columbia Plaza Venue Centre

For all our ‘Get Connected’ Networking events we offer the use of nametags to enhance interaction among our guests. Registered participants can collect their personal tag from the registration desk. As part of our sustainability initiatives, kindly return your name tag to the designated box before leaving the venue, ensuring it is available again when you join us the next time! Thank you.

Step into the Spotlight

Our innovative ‘**CGBA Spotlight & Networking**’ series enables you to showcase your company, putting you and your industry on stage.

There is no fee from the CGBA for hosting such an event. However, we highly recommend that after your presentation, you offer light refreshments for guests to enjoy during the networking part. We kindly ask that you cover the cost of this catering, as we aim to avoid charging our members.

This approach allows your company to gain valuable exposure to your target audience in a friendly and mutually beneficial setting, as we work together to share these objectives and opportunities:

- **Knowledge sharing and exchange:** each event covers a different theme and topic and each speaker will have the opportunity to share their knowledge on a specific sector, or present the dynamic of their company and services offered.
- **Connecting and networking:** facilitating connections among members, industry experts and stakeholders.
- **Community Building:** fostering a community that collaborates and supports each other.
- **Visibility:** enhancing the CGBA’s visibility and awareness.
- **Membership Growth:** attracting non-members and showcasing the benefits of becoming part of our association.

This newsletter is brought to you by the editorial team **Uta Steffen** and **Carine Khoury Niemann**, design by CGBA’s Media Partner **HOB**