November 2026
**Issue #28**

# The Bridge

CGBA's latest news, views and announcements








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## A Little Winter, A Lot to Celebrate!
## Λίγος Χειμώνας, Πολλά για να Γιορτάσουμε!

Winter seems to have arrived almost overnight in Cyprus, bringing cooler days, cozy evenings and the first hints of the festive season. And, of course, when Lebkuchen starts appearing on Lidl shelves, you know Christmas can't be too far away!

It is also a wonderful time to look back on another successful CGBA gathering. Our recent Business Breakfast brought us together for an inspiring morning with Mr. Demetris Skourides, Chief Scientist for Research, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Cyprus. His insightful presentation, "Cyprus National AI Strategy 2032 – From AI Hype to National Impact," offered a fascinating look at the country's ambitions, the opportunities ahead and the role artificial intelligence will play in shaping our future.

And in our immediate future is a celebration! We are already looking forward to our Christmas Gala on 26 November, when we will come together to celebrate the year, enjoy good company and toast to new opportunities ahead. Tickets are now available, get yours **here.**

We hope to see many of you there and wish you a wonderful start to the festive season!

# The Rhythm of Cyprus

*By Charl Folscher*



My late mother-in-law's advice when we opened our first business was "σιγά-σιγά" (pronounced siga-siga). It was not what I expected, as I was all about speed and intensity at that stage in my career. She wisely explained, "it is not that you should do things slowly. You must move, slowly is ok, but move forward!" In German, "Gut Ding will Weile haben" — good things take time.

Early on in my career I had a need, urge, hunger to improve things. I always challenged myself to solve the puzzle and never saw it as a problem. The bigger the challenge the more excited I got. I joined the corporate world for the opportunity to solve problems. I was fortunate to solve many, from a local ERP disaster implementation to regional transformations. I think none of these successes would have been possible without my involvement in team sports.

When I got too old to play competitively, I started coaching touch rugby. Touch Rugby is a non-contact version of rugby. It is a highly competitive amateur sport, and it has national and international competitions. I realised that competitive team sports and business have many parallels. They both have systems, team dynamics, pressure, competition and a goal to win.

We had dreams of national success.
We had high levels of motivation.
We put in the effort.
We were fully committed, but we lost!

Taking on this coaching responsibility taught me about human behaviour like no other experience could. You experience pressure and failure differently. You experience your own emotions and those of each individual team member. I then drew inspiration from Nelson Mandela when he said "I never lose. I either win or learn". I researched and implemented changes to the team's psychology, competitive strategies, team dynamics, nutrition and fitness.

We started winning, and players started representing the national team. This was the start of a winning culture and we had created our first virtuous cycle. A system of continuous positive and deliberate improvements. Building a habit runs on the similar cycle: repeat, learn, adjust.

In the spirit of the upcoming New Year, many of us will be making new year resolutions. Change takes longer than the popular "21 days"! A study done at University College London followed 96 volunteers building a new daily habit. They found that it takes approximately 66 days until it feels automatic. The good news, missing a single day made no material difference.

So, if you are looking to improve your health (fitness, diet), wealth (savings, earnings) or joy (hobbies, relationships) there are many things that can assist us in being more successful. The first is to set a goal and write it down. But it is more important to think about the journey of reaching the goal! These thoughts help you to manage potential obstacles that may prevent you from reaching the goal, as well as assists you in asking the right person for support when you need it.

It is important to repeat the new activity. The more you do it, the faster you learn, but remember to manage the intensity. Naturally increase your capacity! It could take longer but it will be more sustainable.

One of my goals for the year ahead is to beat 'Mr Padel' in a game of padel. I have recruited a partner and started improving my fitness. Next thing will be to improve our skills and teamwork. After a few practice games we will be ready for the big match.
Cyprus has its own rhythm and speed: σιγά-σιγά is a way of life, embrace it! It is the magic that creates this amazing quality of life. Allowing us time to grow and improve ourselves and our communities. "Gut Ding will Weile haben."

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a year of steady progress.

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# New Member Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new members.

***It's a pleasure to have you with us!***

**About:** "GROSS GROUP GmbH is a services and software company specialising in Microsoft 365. Our areas of expertise are Modern Work, artificial intelligence with Copilot and AI, Microsoft Azure, Fabric and Power BI, Power Platform, and governance and security. The group employs 120 people, with specialists across every Microsoft discipline, and operates internationally with offices in Germany, Cyprus, France, Finland, Switzerland, the USA and Singapore. In Cyprus, we are represented by Christian Gross Ltd and CG Plus Software Ltd.

Gross Group is ISO certified and SOC 2 certified, and its applications in the Microsoft Store carry Microsoft 365 certification. We also operate SaaS platforms with more than 40,000 installations and 1.5 million monthly users."

The company will be represented by **Christian Groß.**

› More info: **https://www.grossgroup.eu**



# Cultural Corner

## *Language Edition*




*Photo Source*

### Cyprus gave the world the word “copper”

The word copper has a fascinating Cypriot connection. In Roman times, copper was known as ‘aes cyprium’, meaning ‘metal from Cyprus’, because the island was one of the ancient world's major copper producers. Over time, the name evolved into the Latin ‘cuprum’, which gave us the English word copper and its equivalents in several European languages.




*Photo Source*

### German is one of the most widely spoken languages in Europe

German is the language with the largest number of native speakers in the European Union. It is an official language in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Belgium, as well as in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. At the University of Cyprus, German is also offered through dedicated language courses, providing another little bridge between our two countries.

## 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.

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# Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! More information on our forthcoming events can be found **here**

**26 NOVEMBER 2026**
**Annual CGBA Christmas Gala Dinner 2026**
7:00 pm - 11:30 pm | Columbia Plaza Venue Centre

**17 MARCH 2027**
**'Get Connected' Networking Event**
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm | LOFT Restaurant & Bar, Nicosia

**30 JUNE 2027**
**'Get Connected' Networking by the Sea**
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm | Sands Beach Club Resto, Limassol

*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.

To host your CGBA Spotlight & Networking event, please contact us **here**

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