|  |
| --- |
| **Event Title:** Women who Launch  **Time**: 19:00 – 21:00  **Venue:**  A) Main Event: Amphitheatre 1 (ground floor) Tassos Papadopoulos building, CUT  B) Networking Event: University Square  **Agenda**:   1. Welcoming speech from the High Commissioner of India 2. Welcoming speech from CUT – Dr Dimitra Milioni 3. Welcoming speech from Harbeen Aurora 4. Welcoming speech from Marina Zevedeou, President of WICCI      1. Address by Prime Minister Modi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T5JtkEvf8Q> 2. Panel discussion (1 hour):    1. Starting with a presentation by Dr. Maria Kapardis    2. Panel Coordinator: Dr Eleni Pashia    3. Panellists: 3. Dr Marlen Vasquez 4. Ms Elena Tanou 5. Ms Mary Pyrgos 6. Dr Maria Terzi 7. Mr Marios Giorgoudis, General Manager of Techisland    1. Q&A (10-15 minutes) 8. 8 minutes [video](Why%20Can't%20I%20(8%20min).mp4) “Why Can’t I?” 9. Networking |

**Speakers:**

1. **Dr Dimitra L. Milioni**

Dimitra L. Milioni, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in media studies at the Cyprus University of Technology and currently the Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies. She is also Chair of the Equality Committee at CUT. She has published on topics relating to media, audiences, journalism, communication technologies and social and political conflict. Her research interests include alternative and participatory media, protest and social movements, audience participation and critical data/algorithm studies.

1. **Dr Maria Krambia Kapardis**

Maria is currently an Associate Professor of Accounting with a specialisation in Forensic Accounting, at the Cyprus University of Technology and has served as Chair of the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management as well as Associate Dean of the School of Management and Economics at the same University. For a number of years, she was a university academic in Australia. Maria has been a visiting Scholar at Girona University, Spain March 2012; Visiting Professor at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia December 2016; and was elected Visiting Scholar, Cambridge University 09/2017-12/2017.

**Panellists:**

1. **Mrs Elena Tanou**

Elena Tanou, holds BA in Travel and Tourism Management. She has built and expanded a publicly listed international travel and tourism business Top Kinisis Travel Public Ltd over the past thirty-eight years. Former Vice President of the Nicosia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Former President of the Nicosia Tourism Board, Vice President of the Cyprus Integrity Forum, Vice President of the International Chambers of Commerce in Cyprus, Former President of the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Cyprus European Ambassador of Women Entrepreneurs and a recipient of the prestigious Madam Figaro Businesswoman of the Year Award in 2012. Member of the Board of the Business Advisory Council of the University of Cyprus and the University of Nicosia. Founding member of the Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia since 1995 and held the position of Deputy District Governor for the 2452 region 2017/18. Member of the Board of Directors of World Vision.

1. **Mrs Mary Pyrgos**

Mary Pyrgos is a Public Affairs Consultant and a trainer on corruption, whistleblowers and gender budgeting. She studied physiotherapy in Glasgow(MCSP) following that she studied French history and literature, Law for 2 years at the University of London as an external student, she acquired  a Masters Degree in environmental auditing from the University of Aberystwith, Wales and a diploma in mediation.

Mary Pyrgos founded many non governmental organisations and was President in a number of them. In 1978 she founded the movement Equal Rights - Egual responsibilities and soon after the Crisis Centre and the Association for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (SPAVO). She is also the founder and the President of the research foundation FIMONOI, and the Lobbyists and Public Affairs Association (LPAP) which are currently running a campaign for zero tolerance on corruption. She is the country editor of Cyprus at the Whistleblowers International network(WIN). She is often invited in parliamentary committees, which discuss legislation, relevant to her activities. She was very active in the preparation of the legislation on Whistleblowers, on the Authority against Corruption and the legislation on the regulation of lobbying in Cyprus. She was also appointed by the President as member of the consultative committee against corruption. In 1985   she was an honorary   candidate for the parliamentary elections.

She is a historical researcher and author of the books, *Matriarchy Patriarchy*, *The Cypriot Woman* *at a glance*, *H KYPRIA, Anne of Cyprus* and a world research *Violence in the family and the movement against violence in Cyprus.*

1. **Dr Marlen Vasquez**

Μarlen I. Vasquez is an Environmental Toxicologist. Through her work, an island-wide surveillance network for insects of medical importance has been established, which led to the discovery of the yellow fever and the tiger mosquito in Cyprus. She supports technically the delimitation and control activities, including the Sterile Insect Technique, an environmentally friendly method to combat invasive mosquito species. Her research work has attracted over 1.5M euros in the past 5 years.

She has a B.Sc. in Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, an M.Sc. in Environment and Development, National Technical University of Athens and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, University of Cyprus. She has worked in a consulting company in the Dominican Republic (2002-2003), at an NGO in Cyprus (2003), at the Medical and Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health (2004-2009) and at the GAIA Laboratory of Environmental Engineering (2006-2012) and the NIREAS International Water Research Center of the University of Cyprus (2012-2015). From September 2012, she has been working at the Department of Science and Technology and now Department of Chemical Engineering of the Cyprus University of Technology as a Special Teaching Staff and Researcher.

1. **Dr Maria Terzi**

Dr Maria Terzi is the Co-Founder and CEO of Malloc – a privacy and data security startup focused on detecting spyware and preventing unattended data recordings or transmissions in mobile devices, that has been backed by Y Combinator and received almost $2M seed investment (August, 2021).

Maria holds a BSc in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Machine Learning and Recommender Systems from the University of Lancaster, funded by EPSRC. She has previously worked at Google (Zurich), the KIOS Research and Innovation Centre of Excellence, the Cyprus University of Technology and the University of Cyprus, among others. Maria has won two Google hackathons (London 2011,2012), she was selected as a Secure and Private AI scholar by Facebook (2020) and “35 under 35” by the European Commision. Maria is also the WWCode Leadership Fellow for the Emerging Technologies (track) supporting women to excel in tech carers and in the organising team of hack{Cyprus} contributing to the evolution of the tech ecosystem in Cyprus.

1. **Dr Eleni Pashia – panel coordinator**

Dr Eleni Pashia is a Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Specialist and Trainer helping various organizations and individuals develop more inclusive mindsets and equitable environments, by creating unique learning experiences based on participatory methodologies and design thinking process combined with experiential and nonformal learning techniques.

Eleni has a background in Architecture Engineering which shifted into social sciences to pursue an interdisciplinary Ph.D in Architecture from the Sheffield University in UK, funded from the Sheffield School of Architecture. Her research combined critical pedagogy and feminist thinking on critical spatial theory and practice. She currently works at the Cyprus University of Technology as a Research and Teaching Associate.