

**BULLETIN** Issue 1, 2026  
Period: August 2025 - January 2026



# **WISTA**

## **HELLAS**

**WISTA Hellas Events**

**WISTA Hellas Pitta Cutting 2026**





The cutting of the vasilopita is a cherished tradition, and there is more than one way to celebrate it. The event of 28th of January marked the start of the new year and offered an

opportunity to discuss plans and targets in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

In the historic heart of Athens - where modern cocktails meet the vibrant energy of the city's commercial life - our members came together once again to connect and network. Mindful of our diverse membership, we always aim to respect tradition while embracing contemporary ideas.

The Board of Directors was truly overwhelmed by the unprecedented level of participation, and we would like to warmly thank all our sponsors who generously donated gifts for the lottery. A special thank-you also goes to the members who assisted with the lottery and to **Mrs Ioanna Topaloglou** who once again baked the vasilopita for the BoD, keeping the spirit of the tradition alive.

Combining tradition with progress, TOGETHER we evolve and advance the goals of the association.

**SPONSORS: Monte Bianco Villas, Polis Hamman-Polis Loutron, M&M Aesthetics, APIVITA SA, Alpha Lines, Hotel Klostrá Santorini, Andreas Psarakos, Frou Frou Beauty Hall, MS PASCHALIS\_COLLECTION, APRIATI, Sissy Koukeri, Elnavi Magazine, Christofilopoulou Greta, Hellenic Maritime Museum, Ναυτικά Χρονικά - Naftika Chronika.**

## WISTA Hellas Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony







## Where Substance, Leadership, and Collaboration Illuminate Shipping

**Athens December 8, 2025**

The WISTA Hellas Gala Dinner 2025 was a celebration of meaningful leadership, collaboration, and real impact in shipping. It was a night that highlighted substance over show and actions that genuinely empower women in the industry.

The WISTA Hellas Leadership Award 2025 was presented to **Mrs Metaxia Psaltis**, Chief Operating Officer of Neda Maritime Agency Co. Ltd., long-standing WISTA Hellas member, and the first woman Vice President of INTERCARGO. Her career reflects leadership built on integrity, collaboration, and consistent support for professional growth. In her speech, she emphasized that leadership is defined by action, collective effort, and trust, warmly thanking her team, partners, and family.

The President of WISTA Hellas underlined that the Leadership Award follows strict and unchanging criteria, honoring professionals who truly excel in leadership, meritocracy, and inclusion in the workplace.

A particularly moving moment was the presentation of the Special Recognition Awards to two Coast Guard officers, honoring women whose dedication and courage protect human life at sea:

- **Lieutenant Anastasia Abraham**, for her long-standing contribution to personnel training and the promotion of human rights.
- **Ensign Athanasia Vrekou**, for her outstanding work in search and rescue operations.

The awards were presented by **Vice Admiral Mr Tryfonas Kontizas**, Chief of the Hellenic Coast Guard, who praised WISTA Hellas for recognizing the vital role of women serving on the front lines. The evening concluded with meaningful dialogue and connection, reflecting the strength, unity, and influence of the WISTA Hellas community.

**The WISTA Hellas Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony Video Is Online!**

Watch the evening unfold: <https://lnkd.in/dqHCwVRQ>

WISTA Hellas warmly thanks its sponsors: **Bureau Veritas Group, Hill Dickinson LLP, Seenergy Maritime Holdings Corp., Lockton P.L. Ferrari, UK P&I Club, UK Defence Club, International Registries, Inc., DAC Beachcroft**, for their ongoing support that makes such

meaningful initiatives possible and strengthens the association's efforts to support and empower women in shipping.



## Members' Gatherings

### WISTA Hellas November Gathering







Empowering Knowledge – By the Members, For the Members.

WISTA Hellas was delighted to join fellow maritime professionals at the **American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Hellenic Safety Center** for an insightful discussion on the IMO Conventions Update and the MEPC Extraordinary Session Outcome.

The event featured a distinguished all-WISTA Hellas member panel, composed of exceptional professionals who excel in their technical and leadership roles—a true testament to the expertise and talent within our network.

In an industry where technical positions are often male-dominated, it is particularly inspiring to see women leading the conversation with authority and clarity. Our panelists shared their vast knowledge on complex regulatory and environmental topics, breaking them down into clear, practical insights for our diverse membership.

This session was part of our continuing initiative, “By the Members, For the Members,” with the topic chosen through a member-wide poll earlier this year.

A heartfelt thank you to our outstanding panelists:

- Marina Christoulaki** – Operations Fleet Manager, NAVARONE S.A.
- Anna Apostolopoulou** – Global Director, Floating Offshore Installations, Lloyd’s Register
- Carola Yannouli** – General Manager, OCEANKING SA
- Dr. Efi Tsolaki, PhD** – Chief Scientific Officer, ERMA FIRST

Special thanks to **Mr Stamatis Fradelos**, Vice President Regulatory Affairs at ABS, for his valuable opening remarks, and to **Mrs Katerina Elikonida Maroudi**, Regulatory Manager at BIMCO, for her expert moderation.



WISTA Hellas October Gathering



WISTA Hellas Celebrated European Cyber Security Awareness Month by joining a thought-provoking discussion on “Cybersecurity Protocols for Vessels and Ports”!

This was a truly collaborative effort:

-Hosted by **Tototheo Global**, a company with many active WISTA Hellas members.

-Featuring panelists **Eftihia Benaki** (IT Manager / CySO, Minerva Marine Inc.), Commander **Christos Kostelidis** (Hellenic Coast Guard – Directorate for the Verification of Safety & Security Management of Ships and Port Facilities), **Katerina Panagou** (Account Officer, Transaction Banking, Eurobank — recommended by our Eurobank members), and **Theofano Somaripa** (CIO, Newport S.A. and WISTA Hellas member)

-Expertly moderated by **Aggeliki Koliopoulou** (Senior Sales Executive, Tototheo Global and WISTA Hellas member)

Together, they shed light on the pressing cybersecurity challenges facing the maritime industry at every level, explored emerging trends, and discussed effective strategies for resilience and preparedness.

We are especially thankful to the **Hellenic Coast Guard** for accepting our invitation and for maintaining an open channel of communication with our community.

A big thank you as well to our hosts, **Tototheo Global**, for their warm hospitality and generous sponsorship, and to all our members who joined us at short notice and actively contributed through their comments and questions, keeping the interactive spirit of our meetings alive.



## WISTA Hellas September Gathering





Our association's September gathering, held on the last day of summer, marked the beginning of a new season of discovery and connection. Members came together at the **National Observatory of Athens** to celebrate knowledge and reflect on the importance of the stars for navigation.

We learned about the benefactors who returned to Greece and dedicated their resources to building the Observatory—an act of vision that supported the nation’s strength in navigation and provided weather predictions essential for agriculture. Walking among the ancient ruins surrounding the Observatory in the heart of Athens, we felt connected both to their legacy and to each other, widening our horizons and strengthening our bonds.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all members who supported this initiative, and to the dedicated astronomers who not only guided three eager groups through the Observatory but also gave us the chance to observe Mars through their telescopes.

The evening was a reminder that—truly—the sky is the limit!

## Race for the Cure WISTA Hellas Team



We are incredibly proud of all our members who took part in this year’s **Race for the Cure**, whether as part of our team or representing their companies. Raising awareness and spreading the message that prevention is better than cure is vital. Even more important is ensuring that all women have access to preventive screenings.

As a society, we stand together with all women who are bravely battling cancer. Our Association would like to emphasize the importance of embedding these values within the workplace. While we continue striving for professional excellence, we must always remember that our shared humanity is a value that should never be overlooked.

## WISTA International

### WISTA International AGM & Conference







This year's **WISTA International AGM & Conference 2025** left us with unforgettable moments and invaluable insights!

With nearly 450 participants — a record-breaking attendance — the event was truly international in scope, offering our WISTA Hellas delegation of over 30 members a dynamic platform to exchange ideas and strengthen global connections.

Alongside the productive sessions, we enjoyed a variety of social events where we reconnect with long-time friends and make new acquaintances. It was truly an inspiring and rewarding experience for all!!

## **WISTA Hellas Education and Training**

### **Alba Women in Leadership Executive Programme**



For the fifth consecutive year, the **Women in Leadership Executive Programme**, held in collaboration with **Alba Graduate Business School**, brought together professionals from across the maritime industry, both WISTA Hellas members and non-members, reaffirming our shared commitment to empowering women professionals in shipping through tailor-made educational opportunities.

We were delighted that the WISTA Hellas Treasurer, **Samantha Lourandou**, and **Marina Papaioannou**, a representative from our sponsor DNV, both alumni of the programme, joined this year's final session to share their valuable insights and congratulate the participants on their dedication and commitment.

As always, participants' feedback plays a crucial role in shaping the programme, and we are pleased to see how the input of past participants has helped enhance this year's curriculum. We look forward to seeing this new group stay connected and apply the knowledge and leadership skills gained throughout their professional journeys.

A heartfelt thank you to our partners at **Alba Graduate Business School**, our sponsors — **Britannia P&I Club** and **DNV** — and every participant for your trust, engagement, and enthusiasm. Together, we continue to strengthen the foundations of inclusive leadership in our industry.



## Celebrating Achievement | WISTA Hellas Scholarship



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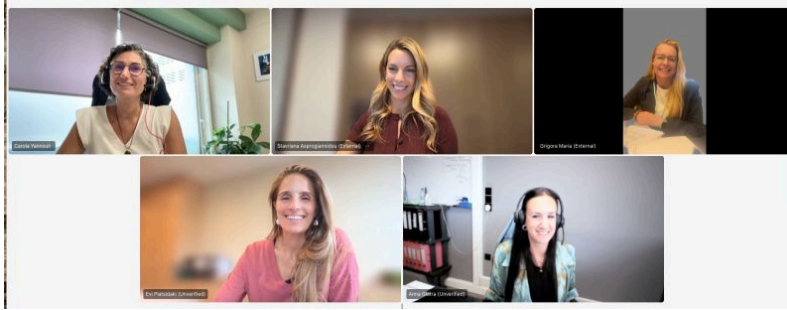
We were delighted to attend the **Graduation Ceremony of the MSc in Shipping Management at the University of Piraeus** — a milestone moment for this year's graduates and for the WISTA Hellas Scholarship initiative.

Representing WISTA Hellas was **Samantha Lourandou**, Treasurer of WISTA Hellas, who congratulated the graduates and reaffirmed our Association's commitment to supporting young professionals pursuing excellence in the maritime sector.

This moment also marked the launch of yet another WISTA Hellas Scholarship, continuing its ongoing commitment, awarded to our recipient **Mrs. Molnar** as she embarks on her studies for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Warm congratulations to all graduates — we wish you every success as you embark on the next chapter of your maritime careers.

# WISTA Hellas Mentoring Program



Together  
we evolve,  
together  
we progress

We are happy to announce that, with the guidance of our **new Mentorship Committee**, the program has re-launched dynamically and remains open for applications!

The committee has already met and processed the second round of application forms, successfully matching mentors and mentees. The interest for both roles has been overwhelming, and we are grateful for the strong engagement from our community.

Moving forward, the committee will continue meeting every two months to processing applications — and we thank them sincerely for their commitment.

- Are you ready to share your knowledge and empower the next generation of maritime professionals? Apply as a mentor.
- Are you eager to grow personally and professionally, guided by an experienced leader? Apply as a mentee.

Mentoring builds meaningful relationships that inspire, support, and help both sides grow.

**Apply here:** <https://lnkd.in/dvZgRVrc>

## WISTA Hellas Social Media

### Stay Connected with WISTA Hellas on Social Media!

Did you know that WISTA Hellas is active on social media?

Are you following us?

We're working hard to stay active and interactive—especially on LinkedIn, where we count almost 4,500 followers! Thank you for being part of our growing network.

We also invite you to visit our YouTube channel, where you can watch recordings of past panel discussions and events.

It's a great way to stay connected and informed, even if you can't attend in person.

Follow us to stay up to date on our news, events, and future initiatives.

Click the links below to join us online:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)

## National & International Presence



WISTA Hellas President **Vivi Kolliopoulou** participated as a speaker in the educational initiative "**Familiarization Sessions with the Institutions of Maritime Law**", organized by **Isalos.net** with the support of the Maritime Law Postgraduate Programs of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Department of Shipping, Trade and Transport of the University of the Aegean.

As part of the program, Vivi spoke on the panel “Marine Insurance in an Era of Volatility: From Theory to Practice”, bringing her industry expertise to the discussion and contributing valuable insights on the evolving role of marine insurance in today’s complex maritime landscape.

WISTA Hellas was proud to be represented in an initiative that fostered dialogue, education, and professional development within the maritime sector.

WISTA Hellas at the **Alexandroupolis Maritime Education Event.**

WISTA Hellas President **Vivi Kolliopoulou** attended the first day of the two-day educational event organized by the Region of Eastern Macedonia & Thrace and the Evros Chamber, under the auspices of the Port of Alexandroupolis and facilitated by the Young Executives Shipping (YES) Forum.

The initiative brought together students from across the region and from various educational levels. Its aim was to inspire the next generation to explore career opportunities in the maritime and logistics sectors and to strengthen their connection with Greece's maritime heritage.

WISTA Hellas warmly thanks its member **Aggeliki Tsolakidou** from the Port of Alexandroupolis, who ensured WISTA Hellas' participation in the event.

A special thank you is also extended to the **4th Model Vocational Lyceum** for its warm hospitality and support.





On November 13th, **Akrivi Brikou**, Vice President of WISTA Hellas, attended the presentation of our member **Theano Kalapotharakou's** new book "Women in the Route of Shipping, Advocates of Society" during the WIMA exhibition.



Akrivi joined the event not only because Theano is a valued WISTA Hellas member, but also because the publication features several members of our association. She also spoke at the event, highlighting Theano's important contribution in raising the visibility of women in shipping and showcasing their impact across the industry and society.

We warmly thank Theano for her ongoing dedication and wish her every success with this new publication.



Our association is always eager to engage in open dialogue on labour-related issues that extend beyond our immediate industry. Many thanks to **NAT** for inviting WISTA Hellas to join a panel on female representation in Greece's seafaring workforce.



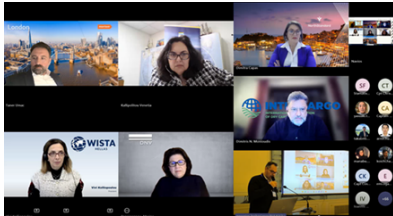
Collecting reliable data and understanding today's landscape are essential steps toward building a future where inclusivity and meritocracy truly prevail. During the discussion, our Treasurer, **Samantha Lourandou** shared our views, compared findings from the NAT and WISTA Hellas International/IMO, and provided a brief update on our association's activities over the past year.

We look forward to continuing these important conversations and contributing to meaningful progress in our sector.



During the event titled “The Power of the Sea: Perspectives and Opportunities for the Future,” **Maria Kyratsoudi**, Board Member of WISTA Hellas, shared her perspective on the importance of inclusivity, education, and a forward-looking mindset in the maritime industry. She stressed the value of initiatives that actively connect young people with shipping professionals, helping the next generation better understand the sector’s opportunities and challenges.

The discussion was moderated by **Olga D. Bezantakou**, COO of Navigator Shipping Consultants and VP Legal, whose guidance ensured a meaningful and engaging exchange of ideas, further highlighting the role of diversity and collaboration in shaping the future of global shipping.



#### **NYK Dry Bulk Safety Conference 2026.**

The online conference also featured Ms. **Vivi Koliopoulou**, President of WISTA Hellas, as a speaker, who participated in the NYK 2026 Dry Bulk Safety Conference and addressed key issues related to maritime safety, emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices within the industry.

## **WISTA International News**

### **WISTA International new brand**



**WISTA International launched new brand identity at [hashtag#WISTA2025](#) AGM!**

The new WISTA International logo represents the global reach, unity, and forward movement of women in the shipping, trading, and logistics sectors. The interconnected lines circling the

globe symbolise communication, collaboration, and progress across continents — a network that links members and ideas worldwide. The bold, modern wordmark expresses confidence, professionalism, and a shared strength of purpose, while the overall composition reflects WISTA's role as a dynamic, inclusive force driving change throughout the maritime industry.

## WISTA International new Website



We're thrilled to share some exciting news with you, **the new WISTA International website is officially live!**

With fresh branding and a brand new platform, the site is your go to space to explore:

- Who we are and what we do at WISTA International
- Our initiatives, partnerships, and global impact
- The latest news from across the WISTA network
- And much more...

**Discover it here: <https://wistainternational.com/>**

Now it's your turn!

Following the launch, we kindly invite all WISTA Hellas members to create their personal member accounts on the new website. This will ensure you stay connected and make the most of everything the platform has to offer.

Getting started is quick and easy, just click the button below to access the Member User Guide, where you'll find clear, step-by-step instructions to set up your account in no time.

**Let's all log in, explore, and be part of the new WISTA International digital experience!**

### **Member User Guide**

We would deeply appreciate it if you could complete your registration as soon as possible. It only takes a few minutes and ensures you don't miss out on anything the platform has to offer.

Need help along the way? No worries, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're happy to help!

Thank you for being an active part of our community and for your continued support.

Let's make the most of this new digital WISTA experience TOGETHER!

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## Proud for our Members

Share your achievements and accomplishments on the Bulletin with fellow Members and the industry! Send us an email to [wistahellas@wista.gr](mailto:wistahellas@wista.gr)

## Interviews - Articles

Share your professional opinion and expertise with your fellow Members and the industry!  
If you are a WISTA member, send your published journal articles to [wistahellas@wista.gr](mailto:wistahellas@wista.gr) to be published on our Bulletin.

## WISTA Hellas Upcoming Events

### WISTA Hellas February Gathering

Details to be announced soon

Don't miss out on our upcoming events!  
Stay tuned for the upcoming WISTA Hellas events for which you will be notified by email in due course or check our website [www.wistahellas.gr](http://www.wistahellas.gr)

## Social Responsibility

WISTA Hellas's initiative for raising funds to support “**ARGO**” is still on.

Please support this initiative and ARGO, by making a direct contribution to the bank account stated below.

National Bank of Greece

IBAN: GR8701101770000017760627335

SWIFT: (BIC) ETHNGRAA

Reference: "WISTA Hellas member" (and state also your name)

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WISTA Hellas | [Website](#)



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