

Spiros Pengas

Deputy Mayor for Tourism and International Relations

Spiros Pengas is Deputy Mayor for Tourism and International Relations and an elected local council member of Thessaloniki since 2011.

During his leadership he helped change the cultural and tourism profile of Thessaloniki, turning it into a cosmopolitan, multicultural city that is more open to the world. Under his tenure, the city hosted a number of international events for the first time, including the "15th Mediterranean Biennale of Young Artists" and "Womex- World Music Expo." He implemented innovative actions and programs embraced by residents and visitors of the city, such as the Thessaloniki Food Festival, the institution of children's sleepover events in museums, and the renovation of four children's libraries, in collaboration with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Spiros was born and raised in Thessaloniki. He graduated from the German School of Thessaloniki and studied Political Science and International Relations at the Universities of Freiburg and Munich. He then worked in the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Brussels. Returning to the city, he took over his family's business, the Galerie Dora Penga, expanding it from a local business selling imported handmade carpets from the Middle East and Central Asia into a national company. In 2003, he founded the nonprofit "Eastern Paths" to promote cultural education activities, including guided trips to the countries of Asia.

Spiros realized through various methods and tools the Mayor's vision for an extrovert and open to the world city. He is responsible for 'Cities Diplomacy' an awarded by Greek Hospitality Awards 2016, project and various spin off and ideas (Thessaloniki Food Festival, Thessaloniki Mystery City, Study in Thessaloniki) that significantly contributed to the visibility of the city and helped to attract students, visitors and potential investors.