


Event:  
Date:  
Place:

## Energy in Buildings Athens Conference 2023

Saturday November 11, 2023  
Grand Hyatt Athens, Hellas



<b>#</b>	<p><b>Elena Kafourou</b> Civil Engineer(USA)Bsc Systems Thinking Practitioner LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP</p>	
Title:	<p>Director and Founder at BIO-SY-MO, Athens, Greece Head of Sustainability at Ballian Techniki S.A., Athens, Greece</p>	
email:	ekafourou@biosymo.gr	•
Presentation title:	<p><b>Applications of LEED in Project's Execution</b></p>	
<p>Within the last five years, the projects aiming for sustainability certifications in Greece have increased rapidly. Even though many developers of quality projects turn to sustainability certifications nowadays, we are, as a country and construction industry, at an early stage regarding our perspective of them.</p> <p>Our main lens tends to be profit. If aiming towards a certification acted as a means to achieving highly efficient, environmentally friendly projects, as well as creating landmarks for our communities, there could be a new way of how we frame the whole process. Another important aspect that is worth examining, is how we bring about the true potential of a project. Understanding what is unique about each area and interweaving expertise through conversing and collaboration of as many as possible stakeholders, such as owners, end users, contractors, engineers, community members and even municipality links, could bring alive a whole other level of benefits and increase the profits.</p> <p>Having participated in different scales of buildings, in different building uses (i.e. homes, offices, hotel, retail stores), and working from different roles (LEED consultant, Sustainability Coordinator in construction) one can see the implications differ but the main issues do remain the same. My personal experience is that a major part is the way an owner perceives sustainability. There are clients that care for the certification just for its profit part, and there are those that deeply care for the sustainability part. The outcomes may be completely different. I believe Sustainability Professionals can have a large impact on how our industry perceives sustainability.</p> <p>Having been part of the contractor in Generali's Headquarters, located in the center of Athens, and experiencing how a project team, through great collaboration of all parts, can achieve LEED Platinum is one great example. Also, being the consultant to Metaxas Hospitality for their hotel project Santo Mine in Santorini, and seeing a client truly committed to sustainability can make an impact on the overall outcome is yet another great example.</p>		
Short CV:	<p>Elena Kafourou is a Civil Engineer with specialization in sustainability (LEED AP, WELL AP). She is the Director and Founder of a start-up sustainability consultancy company, named BIO-SY-MO, as well as the head of Sustainability Department at Ballian Techniki S.A. She has been part of more than ten projects that have earned LEED Certifications, and also the first project in Greece to pursue WELL certification.</p>	

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CV:

Elena Kafourou is a Civil Engineer that studied in the US, with specialization in sustainability (LEED AP, WELL AP). She is the Director and Founder of a start-up sustainability consultancy company, named BIO-SY-MO, as well as the head of Sustainability Department at Ballian Techniki S.A., the first construction company to create a sustainability department in the country. She has been part of more than ten projects that have earned LEED Certifications, and also the first project in Greece to pursue WELL certification. A former professional athlete in women's long jump, part of the national team for 12 consecutive years. During the last nine years she has been training as a Systems Thinking Practitioner, working in depth on developing the capabilities to drive the systemic changes required in the construction industry. At the moment, she is involved as a consultant in three ongoing projects, and as part of the construction team in three more projects all of which are aiming towards LEED certification. She is in training to become a Regenerative Practitioner, one step further than sustainability. She is very keen on personal and professional development that is shaped through hard work and commitment to greater good.