

Event:

Energy in Buildings Athens Conference 2026

Date:

Saturday October 24, 2026

Place:

Divani Caravel Hotel Athens, Greece



#	Matthaios Vlachakis Dipl. Mechanical Engineer AUTH	
Title:	Buildings & Construction Works Manager at TUV NORD Hellas	
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Presentation title:	DGNB Certification of Hilton Chania Old Town	
The Hilton Chania Old Town Resort & Spa provides a valuable case study of how the DGNB certification framework can support resilience in contemporary hospitality buildings. Located near the historic center of Chania and the seafront, the newly built resort combines demanding operational requirements with high standards for environmental performance, indoor comfort, technical quality and long-term asset value. The case study examines the project's assessment through the holistic DGNB methodology, which considers environmental, economic, sociocultural, technical, process and site-related quality throughout the building life cycle. From a resilience perspective, particular attention is given to energy efficiency, climate-responsive design, thermal comfort, durability, maintainability, fire safety, accessibility and the adaptability of building systems and spaces. The assessment also explores how integrated design, commissioning, documentation and quality assurance can reduce operational risks and strengthen the building's capacity to respond to changing climatic conditions, evolving regulatory requirements and future user needs. The project's enhanced thermal and acoustic insulation solutions illustrate the importance of high-performance building-envelope systems in maintaining indoor comfort and reducing energy demand in combination with a smart BMS. The LCC tool used, considers the economic aspects calculating and assessing the total cost throughout building's lifetime, including construction, operation and maintenance. As a year-round hospitality development, the resort demonstrates that resilience extends beyond structural robustness. It includes operational continuity, efficient resource use, occupant health and well-being, responsible material selection and long-term economic performance. The case study highlights how DGNB certification can serve not only as a sustainability assessment tool but also as a structured framework for delivering buildings that are adaptable, reliable and capable of maintaining their performance and value under future environmental, operational and socioeconomic challenges.		

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Short CV (EN):	
Matthaios Vlachakis is a Mechanical Engineer working at TÜV NORD HELLAS as Head of Buildings & Construction Works inspections. With over 30 years of experience, he specializes in fire safety, data centers, energy audits, sustainable building certification, technical inspections and building resilience. He is a DGNB Auditor, ISO 50001 Auditor and Class C Energy Auditor.	
Short CV (GR):	(If Greek)
Ο Ματθαίος Βλαχάκης είναι Μηχανολόγος Μηχανικός και εργάζεται στην TÜV NORD HELLAS ως Επικεφαλής Επιθεωρήσεων Κτιριακών και Τεχνικών Έργων. Με περισσότερα από 30 χρόνια εμπειρίας, ειδικεύεται στην πυροπροστασία, στα κέντρα δεδομένων, στις ενεργειακές επιθεωρήσεις, στην πιστοποίηση αειφόρων κτιρίων, στις τεχνικές επιθεωρήσεις και στην ανθεκτικότητα των κτιρίων. Είναι DGNB Auditor, ISO 50001 Auditor και Ενεργειακός Επιθεωρητής Γ΄ Τάξης.	
CV:	
Matthaios Vlachakis is a Mechanical Engineer and Head of Buildings & Construction Works Inspections at TÜV NORD HELLAS. He has more than 30 years of professional experience in technical projects, inspection and certification services, quality and energy management, and the assessment of buildings and infrastructure. His areas of expertise include fire safety, data centers, energy audits, sustainable building certification, technical inspections, construction quality assurance, and building resilience. Throughout his career, he has participated in the inspection and assessment of major infrastructure projects, hotels, office and industrial buildings, renewable energy installations, and complex electromechanical systems. Mr. Vlachakis has substantial experience in auditing Quality Management Systems according to ISO 9001 and Energy Management Systems according to ISO 50001. He has conducted energy audits in hotels, industrial facilities, and office buildings, identifying opportunities to improve energy performance, reduce operating costs, and enhance the efficiency of building systems and industrial processes. In addition, he has carried out technical, environmental, and social due diligence assessments for investments in renewable energy projects, buildings, and industrial facilities. He is also involved in the assessment of data centers according to the EN 50600 series of standards, covering critical infrastructure, availability, security, energy efficiency, and operational performance. He has significant experience in the assessment and certification of construction products under the EU Construction Products Regulation (CPR). His work includes factory production control assessments, product conformity evaluations, and inspections related to construction products. This experience contributes to ensuring that products placed on the European market meet the applicable declared performance, quality, safety, and regulatory requirements. He has participated in DGNB sustainable building certification projects, contributing to the evaluation of environmental, economic, technical, and functional building performance. His integrated approach combines engineering expertise, inspection experience, and management systems knowledge to address energy efficiency, sustainability, fire safety, and resilience throughout the building life cycle. His professional qualifications include certified Management Systems Auditor, ISO 50001 Auditor, DGNB Auditor, Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Verifier, and Class C Energy Auditor. He is also a former LEED Green Associate and is certified by the UNEP Finance Initiative in Environmental and Social Risk Analysis. Mr. Vlachakis has served on committees and working groups of the Technical Chamber of Greece for Technical Directives on sustainable development and fire protection. He is also active as a seminar instructor and technical author, promoting quality, sustainability, energy efficiency, fire safety, and technical excellence across the construction and energy sectors.	