



We are [Social Hackers Academy](#), a registered NGO that is using technology education to empower Greece's most vulnerable communities.

In order for a solution to be financially sustainable we believe it must consider the market.

Today most humanitarian work exists in a vacuum. Organizations hire people in impoverished communities to manufacture necklaces and shirts and then sell them abroad for "sympathy dollars." But often times consumers buy these products to support the cause, not because the product is superior to other substitutes. As a result these organizations can't scale or provide employment to the masses.

We are different.

Through the process of a comprehensive education programme in software engineering, we give refugees and people from vulnerable groups the tools they need to not only acquire employment in Greece but also, if they wish, to become entrepreneurs with access to capital through the Social Hackers organisation.

We are currently targeting the following areas:

- **Quality Education**
 - We teach directed, work applicable skills to a high level in a relaxed and communal atmosphere
- **Gender Equality**
 - We target women with an introductory course to computing with a pathway to our full time course
- **Decent Work and Economic Growth**
 - We have built connections with local technology companies who are eager to employ our graduates in well paid positions with career progression potential.
- **Reduced Inequalities**
 - Vulnerable groups are often forced to take low paid, degrading work which do not provide social mobility.
- **Good Health and Well-Being**
 - Long term unemployment is one of the leading causes of depression in the western world. By giving our students a goal to work towards, we can help lift them from depression and encourage healthy behaviours.

These are five of the seventeen areas highlighted by the UN as [development goals](#) for the next fifteen years.

The organisation is funded by Greek businesses and independent benefactors who care about our mission. Those who understand that the only way to improve the current situation is to work together and lift up those who cannot lift themselves.

Currently, we are supported by the following institutions, businesses and people:

- **Apostolos Apostolakis**
 - Founder of e-shop.gr and e-food.gr. He is currently a partner at venture capital fund *VentureFriends*.
- **Panos Papadopoulos**
 - Founder of *BugSense*. Serial investor in over 15 successful technology start-ups based throughout Greece. Partner of venture capital fund *Marathon.VC*.
- **Michael Thomas**
 - US Based entrepreneur and journalist. Most recently he has written for The Atlantic and Fast Company.
- **Google**
 - We are supported by *Google For Nonprofits* who provide us with essential resources to increase our reach and impact.
- **HackYourFuture**
 - We are partnered with Europe's largest code school who provide us with technical and strategic help for the school

We believe that if we give good, hard working people the tools to succeed, even in a political or social atmosphere that is stacked against them, then we can empower disenfranchised people to become employable and successful individuals.

Help us change people's lives through hard work, determination and code.

Damian Vavanos // Co-Founder // CEO



Chris Owen // Co-Founder // CTO

