



Society Newsletter December 2022

A Message from the President of the Board of Directors

Dear members, candidates and friends,

Looking back at the last 12 months, we are proud of all that CFA Society Greece has achieved, despite another year of global economic and geopolitical uncertainty. One thing remains certain; the local and global CFA community are committed to upholding the values of the CFA charter. The ability to meet in person has renewed our focus on institutional outreach initiatives. CFA Society Greece was very fortunate to have Paul Moody, the new Managing Director of CFA Institute, travel to Athens to participate in the Delphi Economic Forum and for outreach meetings with the Hellenic Fund and Asset Management Association and the Hellenic Bank Association, during a period where international travel was still highly restricted for CFA Institute employees. Although we are a relatively small society, our professionalism and commitment to promoting the CFA charter has allowed us to continue to receive attention and support from CFA Institute.

Our 2022 Newsletter showcases some of the Society's main activities from the year. 2022 was a year highlighted by social events to bring our community back together after nearly two years of almost exclusively virtual events. We hope our members and candidates enjoyed them as much as we did. Looking towards 2023, we will continue our institutional outreach initiatives to universities, employers and critical partners and our focus will be on supporting and nurturing our candidates throughout their journey to achieving their charter.

As always, we count on your valuable support and constructive feedback to improve our programming and services to members, candidates and the financial community. I would personally like to encourage all new and old members to volunteer with CFA Society Greece; it is an immensely rewarding experience and you will assist us in furthering the development of our local financial market.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyous Christmas season, and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. May 2023 bring new achievements in your personal and professional life!

Sincerely,



Violeta Spyropoulou, CFA
President of the Board of Directors
CFA Society Greece



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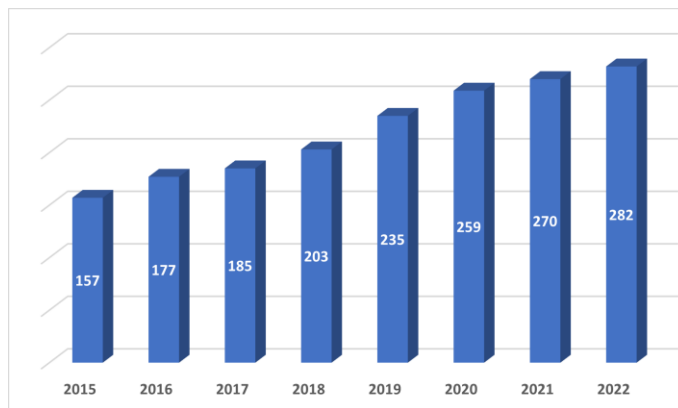
GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

19 December 2022

SOCIETY FACTS & FIGURES

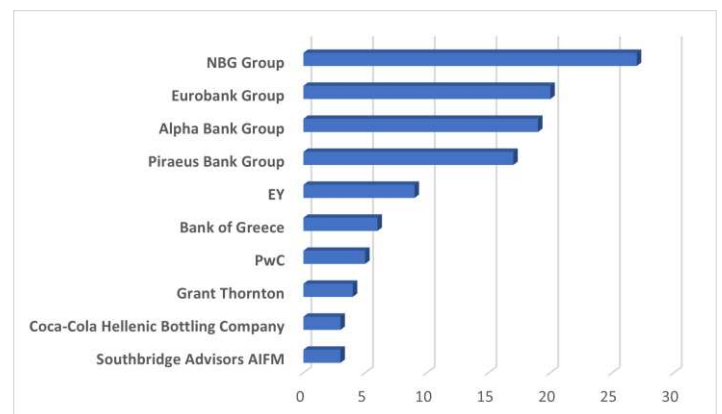
Society Membership

Membership numbers continue to grow.



Society membership, including non-charterholders
Data as at 09/12/2022.

Top 10 Employers



Banking groups (including asset management and equities subsidiaries) remain top employers. Data as at 09/12/2022.

CFA PROGRAM CANDIDATES – OUR FUTURE MEMBERS

Supporting CFA Program candidates during their journey through the CFA Program is of critical importance.

Following many setbacks over the pandemic years and the switch to multiple exam periods, it is a major accomplishment for our Society to offer the CFA Program Preparatory Courses once again, in collaboration with the Hellenic Banking Institute. The new generation of prep courses are offered virtually, for all three levels of the CFA Program. Part of the benefits to candidates (11 Level I candidates, 4 Level II candidates and 4 Level III candidates) is the mentorship offered by new CFA charterholders. Four mentors (two for Level I & one for Levels II & III) assist the candidates in managing their study plan, encouraging them through difficulties and providing guidance and tips for success.

Candidate numbers in our geographic markets (**Greece: 305** and **Albania: 21**) are showing signs of recovery following the pandemic.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

14th Annual Forecast Dinner

The 14th Annual Forecast Dinner was held virtually for a second year, on 17/2/2022, with keynote speaker Jim Reid, Managing Director & Global Head of the Fundamental Credit Strategy & Thematic Research at Deutsche Bank and guest speakers, Konstantinos Kazas and Diamantis Giannakopoulos, CFA from our Platinum Sponsor, Grant Thornton Greece. More than 100 participants from the local and international investment communities joined the online event.



Screenshot of guest speaker Jim Reid.

AI and Big Data in Investments

On 10 March 2022, we hosted our only webinar of 2022, AI and Big Data in Investments with guest speaker Larry Cao, CFA. During the webinar, Larry covered some of the benefits of using AI and big data in investments that AI and big data pioneers have found, the latest status of adoption across the industry for these technologies and the main hurdles that investors have come across in applying AI and big data and the most effective approach to overcome them. He also shared some live use cases in production at various investment firms in equities, fixed income, and asset allocation. The event was well-received by 19 members, although only 28 people attended in total.

Cocktail Reception for HR Executives

After a 2-year delay due to the pandemic, on 12 May we were finally able to host our cocktail reception for HR and talent acquisition representatives to promote the benefits of hiring a CFA charterholder. Despite the ongoing covid-related risks and demonstrations taking place at the time of the event, representatives from AIMS International Hellas, Alpha Bank, Alpha Trust, Baker Tilly, BCG, Deloitte, NBG, Eurobank, Eurobank Asset Management,

Euroxx, Searchlight Executive Search, KPMG, Piraeus Bank, PwC and Triton Asset Management attended the reception at the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

Easter, Summer and Christmas Parties

After 2 years of meeting virtually, we were grateful for the opportunity to host three social events for CFA Society Greece's members and candidates. Our Easter and Summer parties were hosted at Balthazar and our Christmas party was hosted at 48 Urban Garden. These social events reminded us of the importance of meeting in person with colleagues and friends.



Summer Party 2022



Christmas Party 2022

ESG Investment Integration and Analysis: A Deep-dive into ClearBridge's ESG Perspective

We hosted our first in person educational event since the pandemic on 13 September, a live-talk with Ryan Virag, CFA, Managing Director, Client Portfolio Manager at ClearBridge Investments on "ESG Investment Integration and Analysis: A Deep-dive into ClearBridge's ESG Perspective". During his talk, Ryan Virag discussed why process rooted in direct company engagement, driven by in-house fundamental investment teams is favoured over relying solely on third party

data or "ESG-only" teams for investment decisions. He also touched on examples of key ESG issues over the years, to current time, illustrated through company examples, the effects of ESG greenwashing and how to meet fast moving regulatory and client demands in Europe. A lively and interactive Q&A session followed.

Career Coaching Workshop on Career Direction, Repositioning and Advancement

To support our members' career development and soft skills learning, we offered a career coaching workshop with Maria Giarmeniti, Career and Executive Coach and Head of Talent Management in an Executive Search firm, AIMS International Hellas. Members had the opportunity to attend the workshop virtually or in person.

Charter Award Ceremony

The 19th Charter Award Ceremony took place on 5 December 2022. We celebrated the achievement of 33 new charterholders (23 were in attendance) who earned the CFA charter between October 2021 and November 2022.



23 new CFA charterholders.

CFA Society Greece President, Violeta Spyropoulou, CFA, congratulated the new charterholders and spoke about the local and international opportunities that lie ahead for the new charterholders and the distinguishing ethical practices of CFA charterholders. Guest speakers Alexander Singer, CFA, first President and founding member of CFA Society Greece spoke about the evolution of the Society and the local recognition of the CFA charter and Theofanis Mylonas, Chairman and CEO of Eurobank Asset Management, gave his outlook for the Greek asset management industry and highlighted the importance of working with charterholders.

NEW AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

Monthly Members Only Networking Drinks

In September we launched our new members only monthly networking drinks. Members have the opportunity to gather in small groups of 15-20 people to network on a monthly basis. The meetups will continue in 2022 in months where other social events are not hosted. The next meeting will be in March 2023.

Women's Circles

In an effort to encourage more women to join the finance profession and start the CFA Program, we started our **Women's Circle**, with the support of **Lean In Greece**, in March 2022. The Circle allows small groups of women to meet regularly to support each other, and give and get advice.



First Women's Circle Meeting.

High-Profile Member Testimonials

In the New Year, we will launch a new initiative that aims to highlight the achievements of high-profile CFA charterholders working in Greece. Members will also provide insights into what inspired them to start the CFA Program and how the CFA charter has helped their career. The initiative starts with Konstantinos Adamopoulos, CFA, Assistant General Manager – Strategic Transactions at NBG.

Meeting with Piraeus Bank CEO

All CFA charterholders working at Piraeus Bank Group attended a meeting with the Bank's CEO to discuss the Group's strategic direction. Each charterholder had the opportunity to speak about their contributions within the Group.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Delphi Economic Forum VII

We participated in DEF VII as content partners for the fourth year in a row and hosted a **panel discussion, "How ESG Practices Can Create Value for Corporations and Society"** with panellists Paul Moody, Managing Director Global Partnerships & Client Solutions at CFA Institute, Dimitris Batzis, Head of Greece, Cyprus and Malta at Schroder Investment Management and Omiros D. Sarikas, Managing Partner at Brookstreet Equity Partners. The discussion took place at on 7 April 2022 in the town of Delphi and was moderated by CFA Society Greece's President, Violeta Spyropoulou, CFA.



DEF VII panellists and moderator.

[Watch the replay of the panel discussion.](#)

CFA Institute Research Challenge Updates

The local final of the **2021-2022 Research Challenge** with Subject Company **Papoutsanis SA** was our first in person event following the pandemic. On Saturday, 26 February 2022 the University of Macedonia won the local competition and went on to compete in the EMEA subregional and subsequently the team was one of six to reach the EMEA final, creating important awareness in the region for the university and our Society. Congratulations to the team for their great achievement!



University of Macedonia, Winning Team

As always, the competition cannot be possible without the invaluable support of our volunteer industry mentors, graders and judges!

The **2022-2023 Research Challenge** competition kicked off on 11 November 2022 with Subject Company **Titan Cement International**. Seven teams from six universities will participate in this season's competition. The local final is scheduled to take place in person on Saturday, 4 March 2023. Members from the winning team will have the opportunity to work at paid internships with **Eurobank Equities** or **Grant Thornton Greece**. **Grant Thornton Greece** is also supporting the competition as a Gold Sponsor. We are excited to welcome new sponsors this year: **Deloitte Greece** (Gold Sponsor) and **PwC Greece** (Silver Sponsor). **EY Greece** will support the competition this year as a Career Development Sponsor, offering students CV and interview skills training.

President Interviewed by Euro2day

CFA Society Greece's president, Violeta Spyropoulou, CFA, spoke to euro2day.gr about the benefits of earning the CFA charter, the competitive advantages offered by the CFA program and the rising importance of ESG and CFA Institute's Certificate in ESG Investing. Read the full interview [here](#).

Outreach Efforts

To increase awareness of and interest in the CFA Program, we kicked off our **2022-2023 University Outreach Tour** virtually with the University of Piraeus, reaching 45 students. For the first time, we travelled to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Macedonia on to deliver CFA Program presentations to nearly 150 students and meet with professors to discuss CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program. We also connected with 40 students from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Our university tour will continue in 2023 with the AUEB, the University of the Peloponnese, Deree and ALBA.

We met with **Athens Exchange Group's** new CEO, Yianos Kontopoulos, and his team to prioritize our common educational and public outreach initiatives. We also held **outreach meetings** with the Hellenic Bank Association and the Hellenic Fund and Asset Management Association and met with **3 asset owners** to discuss the benefits of GIPS compliance.