

Melina Dunham, graduated in International Public Management



A graduate in International Public Management, Mélina Dunham is Program and Development Strategist at Ecogenia in Athens (Greece)

What is your role and main responsibilities?

I am currently a part of the founding team of Ecogenia, a growing nonprofit in Greece. We are a nascent initiative and our mission is to develop a year-long paid service program, much like Unis-Cité in France, for unemployed 18-28 year olds in Greece. Through the program, they work for an organization or company on a sustainability project that addresses critical community needs. As the program and development strategist, I am responsible for fundraising, stakeholder engagement and building up the programming for our pilots. The team has a very horizontal structure, though, so we all contribute to all the different aspects of the work. We are currently running a crowdfunding campaign for our seed funding, hosting a speakers series, and launching to pilot programs in different regions of Greece.

How did you secure this role?

I met one of the co-founders, Lia, at an event I hosted. It was a conversation around social impact entrepreneurship and CSR. We immediately hit it off, and a week later I was part of the team.

What is the most fascinating and/or surprising aspect at your role?

The experience of working with a startup has been incredibly formative. Being a part of a team that is so committed and motivated to build up this initiative is humbling. It has only been a bit more than a month, and I have already witnessed just how much it takes to found a non-profit.

How did your PSIA experience help you with the role?

It is hard to distill everything that I gained from my time at [PSIA](#). What's certain is that my experience, inside and outside the classroom, instilled in me the critical value of collaboration, especially for social impact work. My courses provided me the foundation I needed to work with stakeholder engagement, strategic thinking, and making the case for important development work.

What advice would you give to others?

Always say yes to a conversation or opportunity to connect with someone. Be curious!

Learn more:

- [Master in Governance and Diplomacy](#) (previously entitled Master in International Public Management.)
- [About Ecogenia](#)