



Transforming
trash into treasure,
with innovative ideas,
patience and resilience

Marios Vlachogiannis, 22

Background

Marios Vlachogiannis is the co-founder and Production Leader in CoffeCo. Marios is a final year student at the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Patras. At the age of 21, he co-founded CoffeCo, continuing his research efforts under the supervision of Ass. Prof. Christakis Paraskeva in the Laboratory of Transport Phenomena and Physicochemical Hydrodynamics. Marios managed to be in the Forbes' "30 under 30" list for 2019, regarding the most successful people in Greece.

Short description about the business/startup

In 2019, over 9 billion kilos of coffee were being consumed worldwide. When we brew a coffee, less than 1% of the coffee's health-enhancing compounds are being utilized. CoffeCo was founded in Patras, Greece, in 2019 and represents the first end-to-end upcycling solution in the coffee circular bioeconomy. CoffeCo can upcycle 99% of coffee waste in order to produce raw material to be used in food, cosmetics and furniture. CoffeCo's production cycle is 100% zero waste. Currently CoffeCo can upcycle up to 850 kilos of used coffee ground per week, with 12% of them being transformed to coffee additives through a patented extraction process, while the rest of the waste is being utilized for the development of a new furniture composite material. CoffeCo collaborates with key leaders in the Greek coffee industry. In July 2020 CoffeCo won the 1st EIT Food Innovation Prize in Greece.

What skills he/she found more interesting or important? Why?

Patience and Resilience are very important for a start-up because the world of business is vast and unstable.

The ability to **Manage Risk and Uncertainty** is also important because it requires investing time and effort in innovative ideas without knowing from the very beginning whether they will be successful and sustainable.



CoffeCo



UPENSKILLS