



ACFE[®]

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS

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Chapter of the Year Greece Chapter

How many educational/training events did the nominee hold in 2020?

ACFE Greece hosts multiple events, an Annual Conference, and participates as an official supporter of events organized by other associations that provide educational opportunities and networking amongst members. All events that we organize are free except our Annual Conference. Our chapter offers enough CPE hours to satisfy the ACFE CPE compliance requirements. In 2020, our Annual Conference focused on technology and it took place over a week and had 70 speakers, 25 sponsors, and 650 attendees.

We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of International Fraud Awareness Week with a Virtual Fair, organized by professionals in the fight against fraud. The agenda included subjects such as: spotting anomalies, patterns and trends, investigating in the cloud, whistleblowing, and more.

In addition to (6) monthly meetings, our annual conference, and supporting International Fraud Awareness Week, we also supported (informing our members and securing a preferential pricing) events hosted by local chapters of IIA, Transparency International and International Compliance Association. We were also invited as honorary guests to exclusive events of the National Transparency Authority and the Independent Procurement Authority.

How does the nominee share information with members and/or the public?

For communicating information relevant to chapter administration (meetings, general assembly, elections e.tc) our board of directors email our members through our dedicate chapter email address. We send e-blast campaigns via Mailchimp for our events to our database of contacts which is around 2,000 individuals who have participated in our events and want to be informed of our activities. We have accounts on LinkedIn and Facebook that we post events and chapter info and everything is also uploaded to our website.

For the annual conference we have contracted with Eventora, and all communication (including registration, invoicing and CPE Certificate was done through them.

Briefly describe the outreach/community service projects in which the nominee has been involved that have resulted in a recognized improvement in the community.

The chapter decided to celebrate with a nationwide campaign in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of International Fraud Awareness Week. We signed up as official supporter of Fraud Week and sent out a general calling to the Prime Minister, government officials, other associations, law enforcement bodies and municipalities in Greece to participate in the first day

(Sunday) and the last day (Saturday). Both days were available through the ACFE Greece Chapter's YouTube channel that was created specifically for Fraud Week.

Answering our call to action against fraud, the Thessaloniki (second major city and LEGA member) Mayor invited us to host the closing of the Conference inside the City Hall with press coverage from the National TV. Although due to COVID-19 limitations at that time, we were unable to use the venue and went virtual. The results were amazing. The conference started with an interview of the chapter president with the Minister of Finance, followed by esteemed speakers such as the Chair of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission, the Governor of Hellenic National Transparency Authority, the General Manager of SEV - Hellenic Federation of Enterprises, the Director of the Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police, and more.

ACFE Greece was invited to participate as a content partner in the Delphi Economic Forum V: Action with Vision. The theme was "Fraud Governance as a disruptor of Financial Crime." We participated in a panel discussion with CFEs moderated by a well-known journalist exploring how the vision in fighting fraud can be put into action. This is an honor as Delphi Economic Forum engages political, economic, business, academic, and other thought leaders in an effort to address emerging challenges, influence the national and regional agendas and promote sustainable and socially responsible growth policies for Europe, the wider Eastern Mediterranean, and Greece.

We decided to promote culture as part of the outreach to community through a collaboration with the Museum of Ancient Greek Technology for our annual conference that discussed Anti-Fraud Technology. Initially, we were invited to participate to Athens Museum Day in March 2020 with a small theatrical play. This was first played by local actors to the opening of our 2019 annual conference. Although everything was ready, due to COVID-19 situation the live event was cancelled. The chapter decided to financially support the Museum by purchasing all gifts to speakers (70+) from their e-shop. The chapter also offered a prize to members (one every day) participating in the Annual Conference from the Museum collection.

The chapter president met with the Chair of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission to discuss how ACFE Greece can help provide knowhow in the development of a Guidance to supplement the recent Law in Corporate Governance as to Fraud Governance.

The chapter actively contributed by participating in the open consultation of a bill for Internal Audit in the Public Sector that specifically addressed fraud.

What has the nominee done to promote the CFE credential to ACFE members in the chapter's geographic area?

We pride ourselves to have a considerably high ratio of CFEs/Total Members – 80%. We promote the CFE credential in every opportunity we get, and this is shown to our membership growth (from 150 members in 2017 to 365 now – more than doubled membership in 3 years). Despite the pandemic, in 2020, the chapter continued broadening membership base and showed a 16% raise in new members. Recently we coordinated with the ACFE to gather info on expired members from the beginning of the year and offer support or listen to any complaints they might have and resolve them. The president reached out to them personally (by phone & email). The response was highly appreciated and many decide to renew.

The chapter also voted to establish a fund of 500 Euro to be used for payment of membership dues to ACFE Global for any certified member that had a financial difficulty. We also collaborate closely with Fraud Education Center, the Authorized Training Organization and secure discounts on the CFE Exam Review Course for government employees and postgraduate students. Several organizations circulated the information along with promotional material for the CFE credential to all employees/students and explained the importance of the CFE at internal events to raise awareness. The CFE Exam Review Course is operated at least twice in Greece with good attendance rates. A representative of the chapter is present (now virtually) to welcome new ACFE members and provide them with an application form to register for the local chapter.

What has the nominee done to promote the CFE credential to the next generation of fraud fighters?

We have been proactively reaching out to local colleges and universities, sharing the benefits of ACFE and chapter membership through conversations and a chapter brochure customized for students and growing our student membership. As part of this initiative, we extended 15 free invitations to postgraduate students in each university that offered support to our annual conference, VIP invitations for faculty members and, offered a virtual booth to showcase their University. The results were very good. Five of the top universities in Greece signed up and circulated our conference in the student body.

Also, we promoted the Anti-Fraud Educational Partnership and we now have 3 active partnerships in Greece. We also collaborated closely with Fraud Education Center, the Authorized Training Organization and secured discounts on the CFE Exam Review Course for postgraduate students that attend the Fraud Examination Course operated under the Anti-Fraud Educational Partnership. We are happy that this was a successful tactic that resulted in new certified members.

What kind of networking opportunities does the nominee provide for members?

We hold certain networking opportunities each year in order to get together and interact. In January 2020, we offered a networking event with our New Year's event with a lot of surprises and gifts for members. We hosted a cocktail in a unique venue with great food, wine and good mood. The attendance was high with more than 170 in attendance. We included a welcome ceremony for new members where we gave them each an ACFE pin and a business card case with ACFE Greece logo. All members also received a 2020 branded yearly calendar as a thank you for their support.

We planned a lot of things but as with everyone the pandemic changed everything, so the chapter decided to host the entire Annual Conference (a week-long) with only member volunteers. This gave everyone the chance to contribute and interact with other members and the board. In total 30 volunteers assumed different actions (from sponsorships, graphic design, presentations, etc. This created a lot of enthusiasm and a sense of being a team, the winning team! Lots of Zoom meetings during late hours and weekends that led to more members volunteering. All in all a great experience for everyone. During our Annual Conference we offered networking opportunities through the chat and a booth.

What unique benefits does the nominee offer to the members?

We offer excellent networking and quality educational events with no extra local fee. There are opportunities to be part of the chapter leadership mainly through the Ambassadors positions. We

provide gifts to members from our sponsors. We collaborate with companies and share job opportunities and projects from international organizations to our members.

Has the nominee been of any help to other chapters?

Cooperation with other chapters is constant. Our chapter leadership is always present in Chapter Leaders Meetings (European) and has assisted other ACFE chapters in various ways including providing advice through one-on-one conversations with other chapter presidents on best practices on events, membership management, chapter growth, speakers, board elections and engagement. We offer discounted member price to anyone that is a member of ACFE Global participating in our annual conference. We also extend complimentary invitations to attend our annual conference to other chapter leaders in our region. We provide support to anyone that wishes to establish a new chapter. This year we collaborated closely with Republic of North Macedonia members to increase members in the country and establish a chapter

What qualifies the nominee for the Chapter of the Year award?

We pride ourselves on being innovative by always searching new ways to engage members and always raising the bar. We never stop to think about the difficulties we face while operating in a country tormented by a financial crisis since 2008. ACFE Greece is a big family of professionals that has its foundation on continuous teamwork. This award is not a one-year effort but more a 13-year journey of continuous growth with concrete steps to maintain a chapter that is highly recognized both in Greece and in our region for its success.

We believe that a chapter that with the strength of its members have managed to elevate awareness of the ACFE brand name. We have not charged a local chapter fee more 13 years. We organize free member meetings at the best places in town, hosted mostly free educational events open to anyone interested to attend, organized a high attendance, week-long bilingual virtual conference with the support of only member volunteers.

The Greece Chapter has a growing positive economic outcome which has given financial stability and independence which has provided members quality support with an office, a part-time secretary. We now have a presence not only in Athens, but also in Thessaloniki, the 2nd major city in Greece. We have forged strong ties to the community and earn the respect of both public and private organizations. The ACFE Greece Chapter is the perfect candidate for this Award and we would be honored to join those that have already earned the Chapter of the Year award.