

## REPORT FROM THE GLOBAL THINK TANK FOR GREECE by AIESEC - Repo(we)rGreece

**AIESEC**, the world's largest student organization organized on March 17<sup>th</sup> the **Global Think Tank4Greece**, a full-day event in which over 500 students participated from over 50 countries at DERE – the American College of Greece campus, exchanging ideas on how to help the country regain its footing. The event ended with a presentation by Repo(we)rGreece followed by an open discussion, with over 20 groups of students taking the stage to suggest ways on how can Greece regain its credibility.

**Repo(we)rGreece** founder Alexandros Costopoulos introduced the international grassroots campaign, explaining the importance of reclaiming our credibility in order to reposition Greece and reconnect with our key-audiences and friends. Following a half-hour of small group discussions, team leaders presented each group's findings.

The underlying theme of these presentations was the idea that the constructive, result-oriented values and mentalities espoused by the Repo(we)rGreece campaign must become national, affecting any and all, in order for the country to raise its standing internationally. Greece must abandon its traditional tendency towards factionalism and conflict and instead unite, instilling in its youth honest values, an optimistic mentality, as well as analytical and creative ways of thinking. The students emphasized again and again that Greece must both empower and invest in its youth, offering scholarships and creating opportunities for employment. It is the country's young people that can best initiate and drive change. Such sweeping change is only possible through independent initiatives, and cannot be driven by the government. The students who took the stage suggested that the Greek youth tackle the country's image crisis, explaining more accurately the riots, protests and all other negative stereotypes that abound, to the international community via the social media. The youth know how to best capitalize on today's technology and therefore have the ability to propagate positive news.

Still, AIESEC students stressed that it is not only a matter of mentality; Greece must streamline its bureaucracy, better enforce its legal system and deflate its public sector to ultimately attract investments.

Perhaps the most powerful message came from a student representative from Canada, who stressed that it's time to move beyond discussion, criticism and bitterness and finally start acting.