

# CIRRICULUM VITAE

Mrs Mary Pitsikaki

President of Businesswomen's Development Association of prefecture of Heraklion Region of Crete Greece

Appointment as Ambassador.

Maria Pitsikaki is president of Businesswomen's Development Association of prefecture of Heraklion, which was founded in 2004. Its purpose is to promote and strengthen women's entrepreneurship, the professional training and education of its members, counseling, promoting friendship and cooperation, the participation in national and European projects, the reports of the products of its Association's members. It provides FREE advices to its members in legal, accounting, financial and banking matters. It also records businesswomen in every municipality in the prefecture of Iraklion.

Maria Pitsikaki, in order to properly inform both women entrepreneurs and members of women's associations, as far as the rural women of the prefecture, monitors developments in European projects and is being educated in them.

She is one of two women who represented Greece in 1982 at the Conference of the EU in Italy about the rural women's position and problems.

She studied Painting, Hagiography, Journalism. She has had 32 solo in Greece and abroad, and 28 team exhibitions in which she has won second prize for painting.

She owns the newspaper "Riza" ("The root") that has received praise from the Association of Journalists and Travel Writers of Greece. At the moment, this newspaper is in electronic form under the name [www.rizaonline.gr](http://www.rizaonline.gr) and presents the morals, the customs and the traditions of Crete.

She has written three books of which the two are for children and the third with the title "Old and delicious" includes 960 traditional Cretan recipes in 54 sections, and in front of each section is written in Cretan dialect the customs and traditions of Crete. Her next book "KANTADA" is being printed at the moment with 1200 cantades (greek songs), a hymn to the woman. Also, another book on plants and herbs of Crete in Cosmetology and Pharmacology is ready to be printed.

She owns the Center of Art and Culture "XATHERI" built at the foot of Psiloritis in the village Krousonas of Malevizi. In XATHERI there are located and guesthouses now. Taking advantage of the European Programme LEADER and OPACH made her dream come true. Cherishing the traditional cuisine, she offers traditional plates, leisure for mind and body, Cretan flavour and yet cosmopolitan with the permanent exhibition of her works and sounds of good music in a great match.

In Ksatheri accepts children from schools, teach them the traditions, how the Cretan "xompliasta" cookies are made and cooks her books recipes.

She is a member of the Governing Council of the Federation of Tradesmen and Artisans of the prefecture of Heraklion.

She is married and she has one son and one grandchild.