

Good evening to all, and thank you, _____. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), we are beyond delighted that you are all here in Vamvakou, a village very near and dear to us as the place where our founder, the late Stavros Niarchos, had his roots and as the home of the Vamvakou Revival project.

Vamvakou, and Greece more broadly, are the perfect place to be having a conversation on The Great Reset.

We hear a lot about Greece as the birthplace of democracy, of Socrates, Herodotus, Archimedes, and Hippocrates, as if a straight unbroken line of history runs from those remote times through to today. We hear less about all the ruptures, stops, starts, and sudden shifts in direction along the way.

From our earliest history, Greece has reset itself and started anew again and again, from a cultural reboot after the Late Bronze Age collapse of Mycenaean society, to the new start that the Greek War of Independence ushered in 200 years ago, all the way through to today, as Greek society continues to rebuild and emerge from a deep and punishing financial crisis.

And Vamvakou, of course, is undergoing a reset of its own. From a peak of 200 families in its heyday, the village was down to just a handful of residents a few years ago. SNF is proud to support the effort to bring new life, new activities, and new opportunity to the village.

Even if triggered by broader forces like a pandemic, a major reset is not a passive occurrence, but comes from active and conscious efforts—of deliberation and diplomacy, planning and preparation, exploration and execution. It takes openness to new ideas, a belief that things do not always have to be as they are now, and hard work.

This is what we see in the SNF partners that have come together here today: the Tällberg Foundation, which is always seeking new types of thinking and leadership, and the Vamvakou Revival team, which is bringing to life a new model for the future of rural areas.

We are more than thrilled that these organizations are collaborating with one another; collaboration is the beating heart that animates all of SNF's grantmaking work.



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

Our Co-President, Andreas Dracopoulos, has asked me to relay the following personal message from him:

“It is with great pleasure and with great appreciation that we welcome you all here to Vamvakou—in a way welcoming you to the birthplace of our foundation. I specifically want to thank the Vamvakou team for staying the course, living the dream, pushing forward with steady passion and not afraid to push the limits, all necessary to fulfill the dream—their dream, our dream. And sincere thanks to, above all, my good friend and our foundation’s collaborator, Alan Stoga, for sharing our vision in so many ways, and, through his leadership of Tällberg, embracing a common mission of how to try to make even a small positive dent in today’s very challenging socioeconomic—and not only—global environment, where our own humanity is being tested every day, and where we need all good forces to join together to try to alleviate the pain around us and try to inspire and empower the next generation, to provide hope that things can, and indeed will, get better for all. Again with many thanks and much appreciation to all of you for being here for this event, and hope you enjoy every moment. Thank you, Andreas.” So with that, here’s to our hosts, the Vamvakou Revival team, to the organizers of the wonderful event, the Tällberg team, and to all of you for making the effort to be here.