



Maria Spiliotopoulou

Nationality: Greek, Canadian | **Phone number:** (+32) 486041514 (Mobile) | **Phone number:** (+30) 6977069021 (Work) | **Email address:** maria@spiliotopoulou.eu | **Website:** <https://spiliotopoulou.eu/> | **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-spiliotopoulou/> | **Address:** Brussels, Belgium (Home)

● ABOUT ME

Project management, capacity building, research for sustainable and just transitions, through interdisciplinary and systemic thinking. **15+ years of experience:** cities, non-profits, universities, EU projects. Dynamic systems thinker, strong interpersonal skills, multi-cultural experience, team player fostering equity and inclusion, results-oriented, well organised, lifelong learner.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

12/2023 – 03/2024 Canada

SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership: Regional expertise; partners and stakeholders liaison; research, interviews; report and presentation

09/2014 – 01/2024 Canada

PROJECT MANAGER/EDUCATOR/RESEARCHER SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

- **Project Manager, Sustainability education projects**, [SFU Sustainability](#)

Inclusive stakeholder engagement (100s of people: focus groups, working groups; interviews); partnership building and coordination; climate literacy [library](#); capacity building; reporting, policy recommendations

- **PM/Lead researcher, Sustainable Development Goals framework** for SFU International

Inclusive stakeholder engagement, 20+ focus groups; advisor in developing a comprehensive framework

- **Researcher, Embedding Project**, SFU Beedie School of Business

Evaluation of community resilience and disaster management tools; wrote report and presentation

- **Educator, Community sustainability**, SFU's Sustainable Development Program

Instructional design and delivery of urban/local sustainability courses; capacity building assessment

- **Expert researcher, Sustainability planning and assessment**, two Canadian cities

Local sustainability transitions; foresight and backcasting with City Council, staff, community; customised monitoring/reporting tools with KPIs; evidence-based reports; presentations with policy recommendations

- **PM/Lead researcher, Sustainability teaching and learning** (seven projects)

Empirical research and evaluation: sustainability learning approaches and activities

09/2020 – 12/2021 Canada

CONSULTANT, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT BCIT ECOCITIES CENTRE

Review and evaluation of urban sustainability and climate frameworks and metrics; report and article

07/2021 – 11/2021 United States

CONSULTANT, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING CITY OF SCOTTSDALE & ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Review and evaluation of urban sustainability plans; stakeholder interviews; report and presentation

04/2009 – 01/2013 Greece

CONSULTANT/EXPERT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS SELF-EMPLOYED

- Consultant, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies, Cyprus and France ([REGIOCLIMA](#))
- External Administrative Expert, EU SWITCH-ASIA Call, EPRD, Brussels
- Social media/project manager, [BUILD UP](#) (energy efficiency of buildings)
- Environmental awareness (EU/foundation/corporate grants)
- Co-author of the initial City of Athens C40 Climate Adaptation Plan

01/2007 – 12/2009 Greece

PROJECT MANAGER, EU GRANTS & CSR PROJECTS ENGO ARCTUROS

- Development and management of dozens ESIF/ERDF Interreg, LIFE+, YiA, and CSR projects
- Partnerships with local and national governments, foundations, corporations; policy assessment

09/2004 – 08/2006 Greece

CEO'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & ACCOUNT MANAGER SKORDILIS SA

Major accounts management, marketing/advertising support, recycling systems, CSR activities

03/2004 – 08/2004 Greece

INTERNSHIP EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN GREECE, PRESS OFFICE

Newsletter, reports, articles, speeches, research, press releases, website updating (Blue Book # 258703)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

09/2014 – 06/2021 Vancouver, Canada

PHD, URBAN SUSTAINABILITY Simon Fraser University

Level in EQF EQF level 8

09/2002 – 09/2003 France

MA, ENVIRONMENTAL, TERRITORIAL PLANNING LAW University of Strasbourg

Level in EQF EQF level 7

09/2001 – 06/2002 France

DIPLOMA, EUROPEAN STUDIES, EU LAW University of Strasbourg

Level in EQF EQF level 6

09/1995 – 09/2000 Greece

BA, INTERNATIONAL & EUROPEAN STUDIES / POLITICAL SCIENCE Panteion University

Level in EQF EQF level 6

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **GREEK**





Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1
ITALIAN	B1	B2	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● DIGITAL SKILLS

Digital Skills - Test Results

 Information and data literacy	ADVANCED Level 6 / 6
 Communication and collaboration	ADVANCED Level 6 / 6
 Digital content creation	ADVANCED Level 6 / 6
 Safety	ADVANCED Level 6 / 6
 Problem solving	ADVANCED Level 6 / 6

Results from [self-assessment](#) based on [The Digital Competence Framework 2.1](#)

My Digital Skills

Full Office 365 | Evernote | SharePoint | Google Drive | WordPress | Zoom | NVivo | Zotero | Teams | QGIS | Slack | Webex | Asana | Tableau | Trello | Mendeley | Canva | LinkedIn

● PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

03/2025 – 04/2025

Sustainability Fundamentals for businesses, Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management, Belgium

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

06/2023 – 06/2023

Curriculum Development training: the Piedmont / Ponderosa Model

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

02/2023 – 03/2023

Designing Resilient Regenerative Systems: Beyond Systems Thinking, ETH Zurich

11/2022 – 11/2022

Behavior-Centered Design for the Environment

05/2022 – 08/2022

Designing Resilient Regenerative Systems: Worldviews, ETH Zurich

06/2022 – 06/2022

Equity-Centred Design For Climate Action training, SFU Sustainability and RADIUS

05/2022 – 05/2022

Rethinking Course Design: Workshop for Faculty, Simon Fraser University

09/2021 – 04/2022

Faculty program "Conversations Around Indigenizing Curriculum", Simon Fraser University

10/2021 – 11/2021

Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education, University of British Columbia and EdX

09/2021 – 11/2021

San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety training, Provincial Health Services Authority

01/2018 – 04/2018

Certificate Program in University Teaching and Learning, Simon Fraser University

● PUBLICATIONS

2025

[**Sustainability in Higher Education Across Canada – the SHEAC group**](#)

Pivnick, J., & Spiliotopoulou, M. (forthcoming, 2025). Sustainability in Higher Education Across Canada – the SHEAC group. New Directions For Teaching And Learning Special Issue “Pedagogies for a Sustainable and Resilient Future”, Wiley Publications.

2023

[**Toward Sustainable Communities, Solutions for Citizens and Their Governments, Fifth Edition**](#)

Roseland, M., Stout, M., & Spiliotopoulou, M. (2023). Toward Sustainable Communities, Solutions for Citizens and Their Governments, Fifth Edition. Gabriola Island, B.C.: New Society Publishers.

2023

[**To what extent is sustainability addressed at urban scale and how aligned is it with Earth’s productive capacity?**](#)

Vigier, M., Ouellet-Plamondon, C. M., Spiliotopoulou, M., Moore, J., & Rees, W. E. (2023). To what extent is sustainability addressed at urban scale and how aligned is it with Earth’s productive capacity?. Sustainable Cities and Society, 104655.

2022

[**Sustainability planning, implementation, and assessment in cities: how can productivity enhance these processes?**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2022). Sustainability planning, implementation, and assessment in cities: how can productivity enhance these processes?. Discover Sustainability, 3(1), 1-19.

2022

[**Achieving community happiness and well-being through community productivity.**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2022). Achieving community happiness and well-being through community productivity. In Cloutier, S. (Ed), Linking Sustainability and Happiness: Theoretical and Applied Perspectives, Springer Nature.

2021

[**Urban Sustainability via Urban Productivity? A conceptual review and framework proposal.**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2021). Urban Sustainability via Urban Productivity? A conceptual review and framework proposal. Local Environment, 1–20.

2021

[**Making the SDGs Relevant for Cities: Using the Community Capital Tool in British Columbia.**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2021). Making the SDGs Relevant for Cities: Using the Community Capital Tool in British Columbia. In King, L. O., & Iyer, S. (Eds), Promoting the SDGs in North American Cities. Springer Nature.

2020

[**Urban Sustainability: From Theory Influences to Practical Agendas.**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2020). Urban Sustainability: From Theory Influences to Practical Agendas. Sustainability, 12(18), 7245.

2020

[**Theories and concepts influencing sustainable community development: introducing the concept of community productivity.**](#)

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Roseland, M. (2020). Theories and concepts influencing sustainable community development: introducing community productivity. In Phillips, R. (Ed), *The Research Handbook on Community Development*, Edward Elgar Publishing.

2018

Sustainability in North America: the Canadian experience.

Roseland, M., & Spiliotopoulou, M. (2018). Sustainability in North America: the Canadian experience. In Brinkmann, R., & Garren, S. (Eds), *The Palgrave Handbook of Sustainability: Case studies and practical solutions*. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

2017

Sustainable Community Planning and Development.

Roseland, M., & Spiliotopoulou, M. (2017). Sustainable Community Planning and Development. In Abraham, M. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Sustainable Technologies*. Amsterdam, Oxford, Cambridge: Elsevier.

2016

Converging urban agendas: Toward healthy and sustainable communities.

Roseland, M., & Spiliotopoulou, M. (2016). Converging urban agendas: Toward healthy and sustainable communities. *Social Sciences*, 5(3), 28.

2015

Tomorrow's City Today: prospects for standardising sustainable urban development.

(contribution)

Joss, S., Cowley, R., De Jong, M., Müller, B., Park, B. S., Rees, W. E., Roseland, M., & Rydin, Y. (2015). *Tomorrow's City Today: prospects for standardising sustainable urban development*. London: University of Westminster.

2011

Policy papers on climate adaptation strategies for Cyprus and for PACA Region (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), France.

Spiliotopoulou, M. (2011). Policy papers on climate adaptation strategies for Cyprus and for PACA Region (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), France. Athens: project REGIOCLIMA.

2011

Memorandum on Wild Animals in Captivity in Greece: Legal framework & recommendations (Greece & EU).

Georgiadis, L., Avgerinou, M., Spiliotopoulou, M., & Petridou, V. (2011). *Memorandum on Wild Animals in Captivity in Greece: Legal framework & recommendations (Greece & EU)*. Thessaloniki: ARCTUROS.

2010

Report on regional climate change adaptation Strategies – South Europe.

Spiliotopoulou, M., & Deliyannis, A. (2010). *Report on regional climate change adaptation Strategies – South Europe*. Athens: project REGIOCLIMA.

2009

Strategic Plan of the City of Athens against climate change (C40).

(Co-author of the initial plan)

Spiliotopoulou, M. (co-author) (2009). *Strategic Plan of the City of Athens against climate change (C40)*.

2005

Le droit communautaire de l'évaluation des incidences sur l'environnement: Le cas français.

Spiliotopoulou, M. (2005). *Le droit communautaire de l'évaluation des incidences sur l'environnement: Le cas français*. Athènes-Bruxelles: Sakkoulas-Bruylant.

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

07/2023 Portland, Oregon

Raising Our Game: Using the Community Capital Compass to Advance Sustainable Community Development. Community Development Society Conference.

Presenter

05/2022 New Westminster Secondary School, B.C., Canada

Sustainability and Climate Action. Invited lecture and workshop.

Presenter, workshop facilitator

03/2022 Seattle, Washington

The Climate Action Student Collaborative. Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference.

Presenter

10/2021 (virtual)

Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in British Columbia. Invited lecture, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil.

Presenter

09/2021 (virtual)

Localizing the SDGs in British Columbia, Canada: two case studies. International Conference on Sustainable Development.

Presenter

09/2021 (virtual)

Urban sustainability via holistic urban productivity? International Conference on Sustainable Development.

Presenter

11/2020 (virtual)

Making the SDGs Relevant for Cities: the Community Capital Tool in British Columbia. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference.

Presenter

09/2019 Montreal QC, Canada

Sustainable Community Development through the conceptual lens of productivity. 4th ICPP/Public Policy International Conference.

Presenter

06/2019 Montreal QC, Canada

Sustainability Communication which practices what it preaches. 4th ICPP/Public Policy International Conference.

Presenter

06/2019 Vancouver B.C., Canada

Sustainable Community Development through the conceptual lens of productivity. Congress 2019.

Presenter

09/2018 Burnaby B.C., Canada

Urban sustainability planning and performance assessment. Invited lecture, Simon Fraser University.

Presenter

04/2018 Burnaby B.C., Canada.

Local sustainability planning and performance assessment. Faculty of Environment Graduate Research Day, Simon Fraser University

Presenter

06/2017 Winnipeg, Canada

Sustainability planning and performance assessment in the City of Maple Ridge, BC. Community Indicators Consortium.

Presenter

05/2017 Vancouver, Canada

Studying sustainability planning and performance assessment in Canadian communities. C2UExpo

Presenter

06/2016 Athens, Greece

Sustainable Community Development through the lens of urban productivity. 6th Urban Studies & Planning International Conference.

Presenter

05/2016 Burnaby B.C., Canada

How ready are students to use online educational material? SFU's 15th Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium.

Presenter

10/2015 Vancouver B.C, Canada

Sustainable Community Development through the lens of urban productivity. Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics & United States Society for Ecological Economics

Presenter

04/2015 Seoul, S. Korea

Eco-City Frameworks at a Crossroads: Developing Requirements for International Eco-City and Sustainable Neighbourhood Standards. 4th International Urban Research Symposium, ICLEI World Congress

Organiser, facilitator, and presenter

02/2015 Vancouver B.C, Canada

Eco-City Frameworks at a Crossroads: Developing Requirements for International Eco-City and Sustainable Neighbourhood Standards. Leverhulme International Network's 3rd Vancouver Workshop

Organiser and presenter

06/2012 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Training on the new portal BUILDUP SKILLS. 2nd European Exchange Meeting of the BUILD UP Skills project

Co-organiser and presenter

12/2011 (virtual)

Recommendations to adapt the legislation of the PACA Region (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) to climate change impacts. Project REGIOCLIMA

Presenter

06/2007 Athens, Greece

La situation de l'environnement en Grèce et le rôle des ONG. Greek-French Environmental Conference, House of Europe "Byron".

Presenter

05/2000 Athens, Greece

The political refugees and other emigrants during and after the Greek Civil War. 31st EUROFOR conference.

Presenter

05/1999 Granada, Spain

Circulation of immigrants in the Southern Balkans and causes of tension. Integration policies in Greece. 27th EUROFOR conference.

Presenter

● **VOLUNTEERING**

01/2022 – 12/2023 Canada

Sustainability in Higher Education Across Canada working group, co-founder and co-facilitator

2015 – 2023 Vancouver, Canada

Regalia Assistance in Convocations at Simon Fraser University

01/2019 – 06/2021 Vancouver, Canada

Co-founder and Facilitator of the Community Planning and Development Lab, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University

01/2017 – 12/2019 Vancouver, Canada

Organiser and coordinator of PhD Talks, SFU's School of Resource and Environmental Management

01/2012 – 12/2012 Athens, Greece

TEDx Athens: organisation of TEDx Athens Adventures

2018 – 2019 Vancouver, Canada

Faculty Chair, Social Innovation Seed Fund Adjudication Committee, RADIUS & EMBARK

2010 – 2013 Greece

Blue Flag-awarded beaches Inspector

2009 – 2014 Greece

Fundraising for the "Children Support Centre of Elefsis"
