

## **Dr. Evina Gontikaki**

Dr. Evina Gontikaki is Assistant Researcher (Researcher, grade C) at the Institute of GeoEnergy (IG) of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas. She studied Biology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and received a M.Sc. in Oceanography from the University of Southampton – National Oceanography Centre, UK. She was then awarded a scholarship by the Marie Curie Early-Stage Training Network ECOSUMMER (FP6) to conduct her PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of Aberdeen, UK, and the Scottish Association for Marine Science, UK. Following her doctoral studies, she remained at the University of Aberdeen (2010-2017) as a Research Fellow funded by the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland (MASTS). In 2018, she returned to Greece holding an Individual Fellowship by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) and joined the group of Prof. Nicolas Kalogerakis at the School of Chemical and Environmental Engineering of the Technical University of Crete. She was appointed as Assistant Researcher at the Environment and Circular Economy Division of IG-FORTH in October 2021.

EG is interested in the structure and function of marine microbial communities, and their role in delivering vital ecosystem services, such as carbon and nutrient cycling, and in alleviating the adverse effects of anthropogenic pressures on marine ecosystems through the biodegradation of pollutants. To that end, she is employing state-of-the-art techniques in biogeochemistry (stable isotope tracer experiments, GC-c-IRMS) and molecular biology (amplicon sequencing, shotgun metagenomics) as well as microbiology. She is specialising in deep-sea ecosystems and, in recent years, has focused on the effect of hydrostatic pressure on the biodegradation of hydrocarbons by pelagic and benthic deep-sea microbial communities of the North Atlantic and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.