

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

CELLAR HALL

Regional Growth Conference 2021 Conference Program

JUNE 3-5, 2021

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

CELLAR HALL

09:30 – 10:30 **CONFERENCE OFFICIAL OPENING**

Registration – Coffee

10:30 – 10:50 **WELCOME ADDRESSES**

Konstantinos Magnis, Director, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, “PELOPONNISOS” Newspaper
Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of Western Greece

10:50 – 11:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Margaritis Schinas, Vice President for Promoting Our European Way of Life, European Commission (v)

11:00 – 11:40 **FIRESIDE CHAT**

Guest of Honour: **Gianna Angelopoulou - Daskalaki**, President, Greece 1821-2021 (v)

Moderator: **Athanasios Ellis**, Editor-in-Chief, Kathimerini English Edition

11:40 – 12:10 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Nikos Dendias, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Moderator: **Alexia Tasouli**, Journalist, OPEN TV

12:10 – 12:40 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

European Prospects: Sustainable Growth Targeting

Makis Vouridis, Minister of Internal Affairs (v)

Moderator: **Nikos Rogakos**, Journalist, ANT1 TV

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12:40 – 13:10 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Future of European Regional Development

Carsten Rasmussen, Head of Unit, DG for Regional & Urban Policy, European Commission (v)

Moderator: **George Evgenidis**, Political Correspondent, Liquid Media SA

13:10 – 13:40 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Dimitris Avramopoulos, EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship (2014-2019)

Moderator: **Fanis Papathanasiou**, Journalist, ERT TV

13:40 – 14:45 **SESSION 1**

European Strategy and Development Goals

The planning for the deployment of available EU and national resources is expected to be completed in 2021 (NSRF 2021-2027, Recovery & Resilience Facility, National Recovery Plan, “Antonis Tritsis” Programme, Operational Programmes). The session will focus on answering crucial questions about the recovery facility and the cohesion policy, the role of Greek Regions in the new programming period and the ways in which Municipalities will deploy the available resources and will enhance their capacity to implement co-financed projects.

Video projection by Data Consultants: “Sustainable Regional Development: Challenges and Available Funding for Local Administration”

Dimitris Skalkos, General Secretary of Public Investments & NSRF

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of Western Greece

Dimitris Papastergiou, President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece - KEDE

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the Association of Greek Regions - ENPE (v)

Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) (v)

Eleni Marianou, General Secretary of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Moderator: **Yannis Kantelis**, Journalist, SKAI TV

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14:45 – 15:55 **SESSION 2**

The New Code of Local Authorities and the Bill of Law of the Ministry of Interior on the Transfer of Responsibilities to Municipalities and Regions

2021 will be a turning point for the institution of local authorities. The Ministry of Interior, in line with the Local Administration Authorities [OTA] (1st and 2nd Level), plans to transfer responsibilities, along with support in terms of resources and staff, to them. This session will host views regarding the new, emerging state of affairs in the relationship between the central government and local authorities, the boundaries of responsibility among central administration, decentralised regions, regional administration and first level local administration

Scientific Associate: Ministry of Interior

Michalis Stavrianoudakis, Secretary General of Interior and Organization

Costas Zachariadis, Commander of Internal Affairs, SYRIZA

Dimitrios Kafantaris, Secretary General of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece - KEDE

Spyridon Spyridon, Managing Director, Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government

Panayiotis Liargovas, President and Scientific Director, KEPE

Theodoros Papatheodorou, Professor, University of the Peloponnese, fmr. Deputy Minister

Apostolos Katsifaras, Former Governor of Western Greece

Intervention by **Panos Sakellariopoulos, Chairman, Economic Committee & Deputy Regional Head of Economic Policy and Financial Control of the Region of Western Greece*

*Moderator: **Yannis Christakos**, Journalist, MEGA TV & General Manager, DNews*

15:55 – 16:40 **LUNCH BREAK**

16:40 – 17:40 **SESSION 3**

Perspectives on Covid Recovery: UN SDSN Report, Lancet Commission on Covid-19 & the 10-Year Recovery Plan for Greece

Theodoros Skylakakis, Alternate Minister of Finance (v)

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor & Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, Columbia University (v)

Vitor Gaspar, Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF (v)

Phoebe Koundouri, Prof. Athens University of Economics & Business, President EAERE,

Fellow World Academy of Art & Science, Chair UN SDSN Europe (v)

*Moderator: **Christos Konstas**, Financial Editor at Ethos Media & liberal.gr*

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17:40 - 18:50 **SESSION 4**

Economy Restart and Financial Policy Challenges in the Post-Covid ERA

Christos Staikouras, Minister of Finance

Effie Achtsioglou, Commander of Finance, SYRIZA (v)

Athina Chatzpetrou, CEO, Hellenic Development Bank (v)

Vasiliki Lazarakou, President of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission

Nikos Vettas, General Manager, Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research,
Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business

Philippos Sachinidis, Former Minister of Finance, Kinima Allagis

Moderator: **Nikos Filippidis**, Journalist, MEGA TV

18:50 – 20:15 **SESSION 5**

Regional Governance and Regional Growth

Socio-economic growth and the elimination of inequalities at regional level are key issues, both for Greece and for the EU. At a European level, interest in regional growth is evident and continuously increasing since the 1980s, while more and more powers are decentralized to the regions. In this context, it is necessary to review the role of Local Administration Authorities (OTA) (1st and 2nd Level) and their relations with the central government. In our country, the next step seems to be the acquisition of greater independence from the centre for local administration authorities. The questions arising concern how the above can be achieved, the steps to be taken by the central government and the identification of the services, features and initiatives that need to be undertaken by Local Administration Authorities so that they can handle the additional responsibilities of their upgraded role.

Scientific Associate: **Greek Observatory for Regional Policies**

Rodi Kratsa, Governor of the Ionian Islands (v)

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of Western Greece

Alexandros Kachrimanis, Governor of Epirus (v)

Panagiotis Nikas, Governor of the Peloponnese

Fanis Spanos, Governor, Region of Central Greece

Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, Member, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Younous Omarjee, Chair, Committee of Regional Development, MEP

Prodromos Prodromidis, Senior Research Fellow, Centre of Planning and Economic Research (v)

Moderator: **Dimitris Aspros**, CEO, Data Consultants

20:15 – 20:30 **NETWORKING BREAK**

20:30 – 21:10 **FIRESIDE CHAT**

Fofi Gennimata, President, Movement for Change (Kinima Allagis)

Moderator: **Maria Nikoltsiou**, Journalist, ALPHA TV

21:10 – 22:00 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL @ Achaia Clauss** for all registered participants

22:00 **END OF DAY 1**

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08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATIONS - COFFEE**

09:00 -10:00 **SESSION 6**

Sustainable Funding and Investments: Priorities/ European Policies

Content Partner: UN SDSN Europe

Philip Owen, Head of Unit in DG Clima (v)

Phoebe Koundouri, Prof. Athens University of Economics & Business, President EAERE, Fellow World Academy of Art & Science, Chair UN SDSN Europe (v)

Ketan Patel, co-founder and CEO, Greater Pacific Capital (v)

Dr. Nikitas Pittis, Chief Economist of AssetWise Capital Management (v)

Debora Revoltella, Chief Economist, European Investment Bank (v)

Moderator: Ilias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens News Agency

10:00 – 11:00 **SESSION 7**

Investment Restart: Bringing Theory into Practice

Louka Katseli, Professor, University of Athens; BoD Chair, National Bank of Greece in Cyprus

Manolis Bazigos, CEO, Bazigos SA, BoD member, Hellenic Production

Platon Marlafekas, President, Achaia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Grigoris Panonidis, CEO, Iliator Consultants

Konstantinos Tsiakataras, Deputy Managing Director & Partner, Diadikasia Business Consulting (v)

Moderator: Lena Paraskeva, Journalist, STAR Central Greece

11:00 – 12:00 **SESSION 8**

Attracting Foreign Direct Investments

Foreign investments are undoubtedly a significant development lever that will help in the recovery of the Greek economy. The inflow of Foreign Direct Investment will help unlock significant projects in Greece, create production units as well as new jobs that will limit unemployment. However, there are obstacles to be resolved and counter-incentives that inhibit the attraction of foreign investment (e.g. bureaucracy, corruption, frequent changes in tax laws, lack of a stable political environment etc.) with the objective of creating an attractive environment for foreign investors.

Alexis Charitsis, Commander of Development and Investment, SYRIZA Party

Ioannis Kaltsas, Head of Division for Lending Operations in Greece, European Investment Bank (v)

Michail Katrinis, MP, Kinima Allagis; Shadow Minister for Economy and Growth

George Galanos, Assistant Professor, Department of Int. & European Studies, University of Piraeus

Moderator: Ilias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens News Agency

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12:00 – 13:30 **SESSION 9**

Sustainability and Impact Investing

The term “impact investing” refers to investments in companies and organisations making an impact. Impact investing is currently an international trend, aiming at ensuring a positive social or environmental footprint, as well as financial performance. Impact investing allows companies and organisations to upgrade their profiles and their corporate responsibility. This session aims to inform attendees and the general public about impact investing and the significance of the “moral aspect” of entrepreneurship for addressing international social and environmental issues.

Eleni Andreadi, Director of Sustainability for the Sani/Ikos Group (v)

Stefan Brunnhuber, Board of Trustee, World Academy of Arts and Science (v)

Andrei Geica, Co-founder, Partner, Impact & Policy, Sporos Platform

Kostis Tselenis, Founder & President, Hellenic Impact Investing Network; MP, swiss impact office

Vasilis Rallis, Co-Founder and President Europe EarthIndex (v)

Yiannis Georgakellos, Communication & Corporate Affairs Director, Athenian Brewery (v)

Savvas Peltekis, Managing Director TÜV HELLAS (TÜV NORD) & Executive VP Process Technology
TÜV NORD Industrial Services

*Moderator: **Phoebe Koundouri**, Prof. Athens University of Economics & Business, President EAERE,
Fellow World Academy of Art & Science, Chair UN SDSN Europe (v)*

13:30 – 14:00 **ONE TO ONE DISCUSSION**

Attracting Foreign Direct Investments

Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development & Investment

*Moderator: **Aimilios Perdikaris**, General Manager, Athens / Macedonian News Agency*

14:00 – 14:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:45 – 15:30 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

George A. Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece (2009 - 2011)

*Moderator: **Charis Ioannou**, Senior Editor, TheTOC*

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16:00 – 17:00 **SESSION 10**

Digital Transformation in Business, The State, Local Authorities

Technological advances have radically changed how businesses operate. Businesses that are more prompt in adopting technology and converting it into added value demonstrably grow faster. The relevant indexes (for the available ratings of 2017, 2018, 2019) place Greece in the bottom of the EU28 list. The issue of the digital transformation of businesses essentially concerns the performance and competitiveness of the Greek economy. To reverse the present situation and achieve the digital transformation of public and private businesses, strategic planning is required, as well as specific goals and interventions by the central and local governments, businesses, employees and society as a whole. Greek businesses have to become digitally competitive and directly adopt advanced digital practices across their activities, while the same must also be pursued by the State and citizens.

Ioannis Tsakiris, Deputy Minister of Development

Anna Michelle Asimakopoulou, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Anastasios Tzikas, President TIF-HELEXPO SA, President, Technopolis Thessaloniki SA (v)

Andreas Filias, Educator, Deputy Head of Administration and e-Government, Region of Western Greece

Leonidas Christopoulos, Secretary General of Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures

Moderator: Efi Barbatsi, Journalist, Alpha TV

17:00 – 17:50 **SESSION 11**

**Mediterranean Dimension of the EU
Conference on the Future of Europe**

Content Partner: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor, Region of Western Greece

Rodi Kratsa, Governor of the Ionian Islands (v)

Nasser Kamel, Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean

Moderator: Constantinos Tsoutsoplides, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece

17:50 – 19:10 **SESSION 12**

Regional Policy and Infrastructure / Transport

Over time, infrastructure has been one of the most powerful industries in the Greek economy, enhancing the growth prospects of the regions. In this decade, 2020-2030, the question is, first, how to maintain existing projects and increase their life-cycle and, second, how to invest in "green" infrastructure, namely in projects with a small environmental footprint, to protect the environment. Modern infrastructure projects should increase the capacity for recycling, promote the use of alternative energy sources and serve society and the economy. During the session, the plans of the State and companies for infrastructure projects serving the above will be discussed.

Kostas Karamanlis, Minister of Infrastructure

Dr. Asaf Hajiyev, Secretary General, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (v)

Panayiotis Papanikolas, Executive Director, Greece for Vinci Concessions S.A.;

Chairman & CEO, OLYMPIA ODOS S.A.; Chairman & CEO, GEFYRA S.A.

Rodianos Antonakopoulos, Chief Executive Officer, NEA ODOS SA & ODOS KENTRIKIS ELLADAS S.A.

Christos Panagiotopoulos, Chairman, Executive Member of the BoD, of AKTOR S.A.

Aristotelis Spiliotis, Secretary General of Black Sea Trade & Development Bank

István Ujhelyi, Member, European Parliament, vice-chair of Committee on Transport & Tourism (video)

Moderator: Ioannis Politis, Journalist, Action 24 Channel

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19:10 – 20:10 **SESSION 13**

The Role of Ports in Regional and Sustainable Growth

The implementation of business plans in country ports will significantly contribute to restarting the economy at a Regional and National level. Their transformation into “smart ports”, through the incorporation of innovative technologies for automating procedures and services and the adoption of “green” good practices, will ensure their sustainability and substantial development. A prerequisite for achieving the business objectives of ports is the implementation of approved infrastructure in accordance with their business plans. Furthermore, the synergies to be developed among national ports for creating a strategic network that will attract new markets are also deemed important, as they will increase the efficiency of ports and create new jobs. Integrating sustainability principles into project implementation and port operation can improve their performance in ESG criteria and thus enhance their competitiveness by unlocking additional sources of funding and attracting support from international financial institutions through new mechanisms (such as sustainability loans, green bonds, etc.)”

Kostas Katsafados, Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy

Socratis Anagnostou, Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) of Volos Port Authority S.A.

Panayiotis Tsonis, CEO, Patras Port Authority (OLPA)

Maria Christantoni, Sustainability Officer of the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund **(v)**

Nektarios Demenopoulos, Dep. Man., PR, IR & Company Announcements Dpt., Piraeus Port Authority

Moderator: **Amalia Katzou**, Journalist, CNN Greece

20:10

END OF DAY 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 4**ACHAIA HALL**08:30 – 09:15 **REGISTRATIONS - COFFEE**09:15 – 09:40 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION****Stelios Petsas**, Alternate Minister of Interior on Local Government Affairs*Moderator: Yannis Christakos*, Journalist, MEGA TV & General Manager, DNews09:40 – 10:40 **SESSION 15****Waste Management & The Circular Economy**

Contrary to the “business as usual” model, the model of the circular economy proposes a different method of production. According to this, most of the waste remains in the productive procedure as raw material for other end products or services. Through the circular economy model and the new legislative provisions and the sustainability strategies promoted both nationally and across Europe, states are required to reduce the generated waste and to develop more eco-friendly management and use methods.

Manolis Grafakos, Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment**Christos Kavalopoulos**, General Director, Greek Mining Enterprises Association (v)**Ioannis Segkos**, Mayor, Chersonissos-Crete, Secretary General, Network of Solid Waste Management Associations- Fo.Di.S.A. Network (v)**Georgios Papanastasiou**, President, Env. & Energy Committee, Central Association of Local Authorities**Grigoris Alexopoulos**, President of the Solid Waste Management Association of the Prefecture of Achaia**Intervention by Lampros Dimitrogiannis*, Dep. Head of Region for Energy, Natural Resources&Spatial Planning*Moderator: Angeliki Gypaki*, Journalist, Eco Zen10:40 – 12:00 **SESSION 16****Local Governance - Community-Led Local Development**

As the second pillar of the common agricultural policy (CAP), the EU’s rural development policy is designed to support rural areas of the Union and meet the wide range of economic, environmental and societal challenges of the 21st century. A higher degree of flexibility enables regional, national and local authorities to formulate their individual multiannual rural development programs based on an European ‘menu of measures’. Contrary to the first pillar, which is entirely financed by the EU, the second pillar programs are co-financed by EU funds and regional or national funds. 2021 marks 30 years since the launch of the LEADER Community Initiative in Europe and Greece. Greece’s countryside is gradually strengthened and becoming more resistant to challenges through “Community-led Local Development. Promoting ‘locality’ in the New Programming Period is an important advantage of CLLD, through the use and enhancement of the role of Local Action Groups. The European Commission’s aim is to dismantle the barriers between funds and so boost synergy and coherence at both local and regional level.

Co-Organizer: : ACHAIA – DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A**Giannis Oikonomou**, Deputy Minister of Rural Development & Food**Athanasios Papadopoulos**, Mayor of Kalavrita, President of Achaia - Development Agency S.A.**Georgios Mathioudakis**, Policy Coordinator, Conception & Consistency Rural Development, DG Agri (v)**Marion Eckardt**, President, European Leader Association for Rural Development (v)**Michalis Skordas**, President of Greek Network LEADER**Iro Tsimpri**, General Director, Achaia - Development Agency S.A.*Moderator: Gogo Katseli*, Journalist, Eletheros Typos

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12:00 – 13:00 **SESSION 17**

New Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Sustainable Growth

The primary sector is a key pillar for the European and Greek economy. In the Greek economy, it contributes 4.1% (2017) of GDP and, together with processing, exceeds 8%. If appropriate strategies and investments are applied, this percentage can increase more than twofold, opening new horizons for an effective recovery of the Greek economy. The COVID-19 health crisis, combined with the climate crisis and the degradation of the environment, indicate that agricultural growth cannot be based on practices of the past. The EU, comprehending today's challenges and the requirements for safe and sustainable food production systems, issued the "Farm to Fork" strategy, which is at the heart of the "European Green Deal". The EU aims to accelerate the fair transition to sustainable food production and distribution systems with a neutral or even positive environmental footprint. In the session, participants will analyse the challenges and prospects of the new strategies for the primary sector, food and sustainability.

Spilios Livanos, Minister of Rural Development, Hellenic Republic

Petros Kokkalis, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Norbert Lins, Member, European Parliament, Chair, Committee of Agriculture & Rural Development (v)

Serkos Haroutounian, President, ELGO

Nikos Efthymiades, Chairman, Redestos (v)

Moderator: Aimilios Perdikaris, General Manager, Athens / Macedonian News Agency

13:00 – 13:30 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

The European Union and the Day After the COVID-19 crisis

H.E. Ernst Reichel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Hellenic Republic

Moderator: Maria Nikoltsiou, Journalist, ALPHA TV

13:30 – 14:10 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Anna Diamantopoulou, President, To DIKTIO; fmr EU Commissioner; fmr. Minister (v)

Moderator: Thanos Siafakas, Journalist, ERT TV

14:10 – 14:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:45 – 15:15 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

**Conference on the Future of Europe
Let's decide together on the Europe we want**

Vangelis Meimarakis, Head of the EPP Group Greek Delegation in the European Parliament (v)

Moderator: Ioannis Politis, Journalist, Action 24 Channel

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15:15 – 15:45 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

A New Era for the US-Greece Relations

H.E. Geoffrey Pyatt, US Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic

Moderator: Apostolos Mangiriadis, Political Correspondent for SKAI TV and SKAI Radio

15:45 – 17:15 **SESSION 18**

University of Patras: Its International Role in Culture and Education

In the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, the way university teachers, researchers and students carry out their individual tasks has severely been impacted and this will probably continue in the years to come. Going global is an alternative way to revitalize Greek academia; in this respect, University of Patras will make the most out of new and interesting perspectives including programs of studies offered in languages other than Greek, active participation in the IAPP-Greece initiative to bring together Greece and US institutes, the establishment of the Center of Greek and Chinese Ancient Civilizations, an initiative spearheaded by the Hellenic Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, and the exciting opportunity to set the first UPatras campus outside the country offering joint programs of studies.

Co-organizer: University of Patras

Dionissios Mantzavinos, Vice Rector for Academic & International Affairs

Pavlos Kontos, Professor of Philosophy, University of Patras

Spyros Pandis, Professor, University of Patras

Apostolos Dimitropoulos, Secretary General, Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs

Rongjun Zhang, Vice President of Xi'an Shiyou University for International Cooperation (v)

Prof. Peter Adams, Thomas Lord Professor of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University (v)

Moderator: Michalis Vasilakis, Journalist, Peloponnisos Newspaper

17:15 – 18:15 **SESSION 19**

Art, Culture and Cultural Entrepreneurship

How can Arts and Culture be combined with Entrepreneurship? What are the prospects? What are the challenges? The session will present the initiatives of various organisations involved in arts and culture, in terms of entrepreneurship at a regional and European level.

Co-organisers: Region of Western Greece - Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship, Research and Innovation

Nicholas Yatromanolakis, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports

George Didaskalou, Secretary General of Culture at the Ministry of Culture and Sports

Alexandra Mitsotaki, Co-founder & President, World Human Forum

Georgia Manolopoulou, Boarding Member of Diazoma & Member Council Europeana

Prof. Dr. Julius Heinicke, Chairholder of the UNESCO "Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development" (v)

Eleni Kipreou, Art Consultant and Curator

Moderator: Fokion Zaimis, Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship, Research & Innovation,
Region of Western Greece

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18:15 – 19:20 **SESSION 20**

From Smart to Intelligent Municipalities

Modernising the operation of Municipalities and public governance in general through e-governance tools has become a necessity. “Smart Municipalities” ensure digital benefits for citizens while aiming to increase the services rendered in order to minimise bureaucracy and ensure the interoperability of e-systems in the public sector. The key questions arising concern: The current situation and the lag brought about by the debt crisis in our country, compared to Northern European countries. The combination of smart systems and big data processing, to allow a transition from smart to intelligent cities. The deployment of available funding tools (Recovery and Resilience Facility, NSRF 2021-2027, “Antonis Tritsis” Programme), to ensure that this digital transition is made quickly and with targeted actions. Using the experience gained from the COVID-19 crisis and the fast-tracked digitalisation of part of the public sector as a model for the regional level.

Content Partner: Municipality of Trikala

Dimitris Papastergiou, Mayor of Trikala (v)

Yannis Charalabidis, Professor of Digital Governance (v)

Chelsea Collier, Founder, Digi.City (v)

Ivo Cré, Director Policy & Projects - Coordinator Access at POLIS (v)

Paris Deligiannakis, Head of Public Sector at Vodafone Business Greece (v)

Dimitris Serpanos, Director, Computer Technology Institute and Press (CTI)

Vasiliki Kalampokidou, Vice President System Certification TÜV HELLAS (TÜV NORD)

Moderator: Nikos Ypofantis, Journalist, SKAI TV

19:20 – 19:50 **ONE TO ONE DISCUSSION**

Theodoros Skylakakis, Alternate Minister of Finance

Moderator: Christos Konstas, Financial Editor at Ethos Media & liberal.gr

19:50 **END OF DAY 2**

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

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08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATIONS - COFFEE**

09:00 – 10:10 **SESSION 21**

Climate Crisis & Sustainable Growth

The term “climate crisis” is currently used to express the necessity for change in the existing production and consumption model. The term “crisis” has now replaced the term “change” in order to highlight the current situation for the environment and the impact of human activity on it. As the dominant “business as usual” model leads us to an economic, social and ecological impasse, the adoption of a new, holistic model of action is imperative. The sustainable growth model is a different approach to human activity and its relationship with the environment and people. Sustainable growth ranks high on the public dialogue agenda, especially during this decade, 2020-2030, the so-called “decade of action”. The state, the private sector and citizens are all asked to act immediately and in accordance with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, in order to take the necessary steps towards the gradual adoption of this new model.

Scientific Associate: Climate-KIC

Ambassador Sergio Piazzi, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (v)

Panagiotis Dimopoulos, Prof. & Vice Rector, Research & Development, University of Patras,
President, Natura 2000 National Committee

Demetres Karavellas, Director, WWF Greece (v)

Phoebe Koundouri, Prof. Athens University of Economics & Business, President EAERE,
Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science, Chair UN SDSN Europe (v)

Peter Schmidt, President of the NAT Section, European Economic and Social Committee (v)

Christos Zerefos, Secretary General, Academy of Athens; Climate Envoy for Greece (v)

Moderator: Sara Siamplici, Journalist, MEGA TV

10:10 – 10:40 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage

George Kremlis, Chief Adviser to the PM, for Energy, Climate, Environment & Circular Economy (v)

Moderator: Sara Siamplici, Journalist, MEGA TV

11:00 – 12:00 **SESSION 22**

Sustainable Businesses & Corporate Governance

Xenia Kazoli, Co-founder, Corporate Governance Hub (v)

Ioannis Delatolas, Key Account Manager, ATHEX Group Listings Division (v)

Alexandros Katsiamboulas, Group Environment, Social & Governance Performance Director, TITAN (v)

Konstantinos Pistiolas, SEVPDE board member / AGRINO board member

Moderator: Amalia Katzou, Journalist, CNN Greece

SATURDAY, JUNE 5
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12:00 – 12:20 **NETWORKING BREAK - COFFEE**

12:20 – 13:40 **SESSION 23**

Managing Innovation, Technology & Entrepreneurship

The transfer of technology and innovation hubs from large urban centres to the region is currently an international trend and yet another challenge for Greek regions. Regional universities and research centres are exemplars of development and innovation and can become reference points for pursuing the above objective. The key components for upgrading the Greek regions to technology and innovation hubs are: developing new and modern fields of research, creating suitable infrastructure, digital inclusion, developing appropriate incentives that will boost innovation businesses in the regions and the role of the State - also expressed through local authorities - which must facilitate the effort and eliminate the obstacles that often arise.

Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Technology (v)

Athanasios Katsis, Rector, University of the Peloponnese

Jimmy Athanasopoulos, Libra Group, Social Responsibility; Chairman, Envolv Global Entrepreneurship

Efstathios P. Efstathopoulos, Vice President, Administrative, Academic & Student Affairs,

Hellenic Open University, Professor of Medical Physics, University of Athens (NKUA)

Konstantinos Moustakas, Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering Depart., University of Patras

Melina Taprantzi, Social Entrepreneur, Founder of Wise Greece

Moderator: **Yannis Kantelis**, Journalist, SKAI TV

13:40 – 15:00 **SESSION 24**

The Role of Energy in Regional Development *

Today, more than ever, modern societies are based on energy to support development and prosperity. Energy infrastructure has always been a development lever for the regions. The modern challenge is to reconcile economic growth with the sustainable management of natural resources and, in this light, the session will discuss current developments on the plans for energy investments in the Greek regions.

Kostas Skrekas, Minister of Environment and Energy (v)

Sokratis Famellos, MP in Charge of Energy and Environmental Issues, SYRIZA Party (v)

Maria Spyraiki, Member, European Parliament (v)

Ioannis Margaris, Vice Chairman, Independent Power Transmission Operator (v)

Ioannis Chomatas, Asset Development Division Director, DESFA

Marios Tsakas, CEO of DEDA

Aristofanis Stefatos, Managing Director, Hellenic Hydrocarbon Management Company (HHRM SA)

Moderator: **Christos Koutras**, Journalist, SKAI TV & **Yiannis Ntsounos**, Journalist, SKAI TV

15:00 – 15:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

15:45 – 16:00 **ONE-TO-ONE DISCUSSION**

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Nikos Mantzoufas, Governor of Recovery and Resilience Coordination Agency

Yannis Papadogiannis, Journalist, Business Daily

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

CELLAR HALL

16:00 – 17:10 **SESSION 25**

Renewable Energy Sources as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development

Climate change brings the need to support energy policies to the forefront, internationally. Greece, like all European countries, aims to achieve environmental sustainability. The Renewable Energy Sources industry is a key sector of the Greek economy, which will contribute in the transition to sustainable growth. Adopting EU objectives, Greece has set a binding target for 35% of total energy produced to come from Renewable Energy Sources, thus drastically reducing carbon emissions to the environment.

Dimitris Tsalemis, Director General for energy, Ministry of Energy and Environment (v)

Dr. Athanasios Dagoumas, President, Regulatory Authority for Energy – RAE (v)

Yiannis Yiarentis, Chairman BoD & CEO, RES Operator & Guarantees of Origin SA (DAPEEP S.A.)

Ioannis Karydas, Chief Executive Officer Renewables, Copelouzos Group

Grigoris Marinakis, General Manager, Voltalia

Konstantinos Natsis, Director of Construction Department, PPC Renewables (v)

Yioula Tsiknakou, Head of the Hydroelectric Projects Department, TERNA ENERGY (v)

Spyros J. Kiartzis, Manager New Technologies & Alternative Energy Sources, Hellenic Petroleum SA (v)

Moderator: **Christos Kolonas**, Journalist, TA NEA Newspaper

17:10 – 18:10 **SESSION 26**

Sustainable Tourism

The tourism sector, the powerhouse of the Greek economy, suffered a heavy blow from the COVID-19 pandemic. With tourism in dire straits, the state and local administration must shape a friendlier environment to allow for its rapid recovery. A survey of the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE) shows that Greece has the capacity to improve its comparative position and recover somehow faster than other markets. Through this crisis, can the tourism industry prepare its restart and set the foundations for the post-COVID-19 era? For this, a new model of sustainable tourism growth is required. Through substantial upgrades to the quality and safety of small and large hotel units, this model will increase the industry's competitiveness as a whole and will render Greece a year-round tourism destination.

Charis Theocharis, Minister of Tourism (v)

Angela Gerekou, President, EOT (v)

Alexandros N. Angelopoulos, Managing Director, Aldemar Resorts

Mari Daskalantonakis, CEO, Grecotel Hotel & Resorts (v)

Ioannis Pappas, Director, Mediterranean Region at GSTC Global Sustainable Tourism Council

**Intervention by Nikolaos Korovesis Deputy Head of Region in charge of Culture and Tourism*

Moderator: **Vaggelis Giakoumis**, Journalist, ALPHA TV

18:10 – 19:10 **SESSION 27**

Health Tourism as a Tool for Regional Growth

Health tourism is a developing industry in the global economy and can also be a significant pillar and development lever for the Greek economy and, therefore, for regional growth. Health tourism will attract direct investment, as Greece has both the hotel infrastructure and the high-level medical human resources, medical services (public and private) which, combined with its cultural and natural heritage, can be a reference point for international health tourism and attract millions of visitors. This endeavour requires the collaboration of the Health and Tourism sectors. In addition to the foreign and national capital and the attraction of visitors/patients, new jobs will be created, thus allowing medical staff to remain in the country and stop looking for work abroad.

Co-Organizer: Elitour

Giorgos Patoulis, Governor of Attica, President, Medical Association of Athens,
President, Greek Health Tourism Council – Elitour (v)

Ioannis Smyrlis, Chairman, Enterprise Greece

Moderator: **Natassa N. Spagadorou**, Journalist, CNN Greece

19:10 **END OF DAY 3**

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

ACHAIA HALL

08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATIONS - COFFEE**

09:00 – 09:55 **SESSION 28**

Vaccination: The Only Path for a Restart

Pandemics are an integral part of the evolution of human civilisation. Trade routes, air traffic, contact with different population groups in short times, contact with diverse ecosystems and climate change are risk factors for the rapid spread of any epidemic. The same has happened with the pandemic facing humanity today. Absolute prevention is achieved through vaccination, which has eradicated older diseases that had left thousands of victims in their wake. Shielding individual health helps protect collective health. It is up to all of us to use the only weapon available in the scientific arsenal for eliminating the invisible enemy who has wreaked such havoc on our lives. And this is the vaccine against Sars-Cov-2. It is the only path that will lead us to a course for a restart

Co-organizer: 6th Health Region Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus & Western Greece

Vassilis Kontozamanis, Alternate Minister for Health

Marios Themistocleous, General Secretary at Ministry of Health

Yiannis Karvelis, Regional Director, 6th Health Region Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus & Western Greece

Theodoros I. Vassilakopoulos, Professor of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine University of Athens, Adjunct Professor, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Alkiviadis C. Vatopoulos, Professor in Public Health Microbiology, Department of Public Health Policy, University of West Attica (v)

Moderator: Vasiliki Angouridi, Journalist, News4health.gr

09:55 – 10:10 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Vassilis Kikilias, Minister of Health

Introduction by: Vasiliki Angouridi, Journalist, News4health.gr

10:10 – 11:00 **SESSION 29**

A Safety-Net During the Health Crisis

It has already been more than a year since the appearance of the novel coronavirus, which dealt a heavy blow to humanity at large, affecting millions and causing thousands of deaths. The global scientific community suffered an intense shock. Europe counted thousands of victims as its health systems almost collapsed under the burden of Covid 19. In Greece, events unfolded more smoothly than in other European countries, as the necessary measures to strengthen Primary and Secondary healthcare were taken immediately. Thanks to immediate action, comprehensive and swift organisation, as well as to the excellent scientific training of health professionals, within one year, Greece's National Health System managed to set up a robust network of protection for the country's citizens. The pandemic laid the foundations for a search for new methods and approaches in important areas that contribute to improving the quality of human life and, by extension, public health.

Co-organizer: 6th Health Region

Andreas Xanthos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament (SYRIZA Party), Former Greek Health Minister (v)

Panagiotis Arkoumanas, President of the BoD, Greek National Public Health. Organization

Ioannis Kotsiopoulos, General Secretary at Ministry of Health

Charalampos Bonanos, Deputy Head of Regional Unit of Achaia

Mina Gaga, President, Central Health Council, Greece

Moderator: Vasiliki Angouridi, Journalist, News4health.gr

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

ACHAIA HALL

11:00 – 12:00 **SESSION 30**

Democracy and Fake News in the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic radically changed the everyday lives of people around the world. In this unprecedented situation, the role of information was more vital than ever, as citizens were anxious to learn about developments regarding the health crisis. This session aims to carefully approach the sensitive issue of the quality of democracy and the respect for citizen rights in the COVID-19 era, in order to further analyse whether these were restricted and the role of fake news in this.

Evangelos Venizelos, Professor of Constitutional Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (v)

Theodoros Roussopoulos, Member, Hellenic Parliament (v)

George Kyrtos, Member, European Parliament (v)

Petros Tatsopoulos, Writer

Moderator: **Konstantinos Magnis**, Director, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

12:00 – 12:30 **NETWORKING BREAK - COFFEE**

12:30 – 13:45 **SESSION 31**

Social Cohesion During and After Crisis

The coordination and financing mechanisms for social cohesion in any Region - State follow the applicable economic and social challenges of their time. This session presents the new policies and the corresponding financing tools for regional cohesion at European, national and local level, as well as the innovative actions and target populations.

Video projection by Data Consultants:

Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (v)

Domna Michailidou, Deputy Minister of Labour

Eleni Fotopoulou, Deputy Head Officer/Head of Unit B', Managing Authority of FEAD/Greece - National Institute of Labor and Human Resources (v)

Thodoris Georgakopoulos, Editorial Director, diaNEOsis (v)

Moderator: **Tasos Telloglou**, Journalist, Kathimerini Newspaper

13:45 – 15:00 **SESSION 32**

Equality and Diversity

People are equal but also different. Equality and diversity are not contradictory, but rather complementary concepts. Representatives from different organisations active and involved in issues related to gender Equality and Diversity will present their views, policies, programmes, services, legislative measures etc., supporting and promoting the fight against prejudice and for equal opportunities. The session will also attempt to highlight an alternative - new perspective of diversity expressions, the place of each individual in the world, both in relation to others and in relation to themselves.

Co-organizers: Region of Western Greece - Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship, Research and Innovation

Maria Syrengela, Deputy Minister for Demographic Policy and Family

Stelios Kypouropoulos, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Takis Papadopoulos, Chairman Of The Board, Region Of Western Greece

Amalia Voulgari, Officer for Social Policy & Equality, Region of Western Greece

Grigoris Vallianatos, Writer, Journalist & Activist (v)

Moderator: **Katerina Gagaki**, Perception Management Specialist

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

ACHAIA HALL

15:00 – 15:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

16:15 – 17:15 **SESSION 33**

Geopolitical Challenges and Opportunities in the South-East Mediterranean

The area of the East Mediterranean is a challenging geopolitical problem for international affairs. It is an area of conflicting interests, as the energy wealth and the population movements from the countries of the Middle East, Asia and Northern Africa towards Europe often create an unstable environment. Given its geographical location and its EU membership, Greece is in the middle of these developments. This session will discuss the challenges in the area, as well as the way in which the opportunities that also arise can create a common ground for understanding and cooperation.

Content Partner: Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

Angelos Syrigos, Deputy Minister of Education & Religious Affairs (v)

Giorgos Katrougalos, Commander of Foreign Affairs, SYRIZA (v)

Konstantinos Filis, General Manager, Institute of International Relations – IDIS (v)

Panayiotis Tsakonias, Professor of Int. Relations, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (v)

Moderator: Yannis Christakos, Journalist, MEGA TV & General Manager, DNews

17:15 – 18:15 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

40 Years Greece-European Union

Content Partner: European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor, Region of Western Greece

Dimitris Papadimoulis, Vice-President of the European Parliament (v)

Nikos Androulakis, Member of the European Parliament

Manolis Kefalogiannis, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Moderator: Constantinos Tsoutsoplides, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece

20:00 **END OF DAY 3**

SIDE EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 3 | ACHAIA HALL

WORKSHOPS BY DATA CONSULTANTS

16:30 – 17:15 **Workshop A**

2021-2027: Funding opportunities for local governments in the context of social cohesion

Social cohesion holds a significant role in the 2021-2027 programming period, since it is one of the EU's five major investment priorities. Multiple funding opportunities will be in place for the Greek local governments; therefore it is crucial for them to extensively map their needs and actively claim funding for projects that will not only enhance social cohesion, but also address other local growth issues.

George Soulos, Head of European Projects Division, Data Consultants

Maria Zafiropoulou, Head of Regional Development & Social Cohesion Div., Data Consultants

Vivian Tasopoulou, Manager of Social Cohesion Dept., Data Consultants

Vasileios Kasiolas, Manager of Regional Development Dept., Data Consultants

Konstantinos Papachristopoulos, EU Project Expert, Cocrete

Moderator: **Maria Nikoltsiou**, Journalist, ALPHA TV

17:15 – 18:00 **Workshop B**

Public Contracts: Contribution of the new Public Contracts Law to local development strategies

The Greek Public Contracts Law is the main means of public policy implementation. Public Contracts contribute to the effective implementation of local development strategies and projects by promoting EU funds utilization. The new law introduces faster and simpler procedures as far as public tendering and contracting is concerned; therefore a higher funding absorption rate can be obtained by the Greek local communities if an effective management and control system of co-financed projects is put in place.

George Trantas, Professor HMEI Euelpidon Military School - Legal Advisor of H.S.P.P.A.Eirini Gkiza, Data Consultants – Head of Procurement Div.

Giorgos Taramas, Data Consultants – Manager of Co-funded National Projects Dept.

Moderator: **Maria Nikoltsiou**, Journalist, ALPHA TV

SIDE EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

18:15 – 19:45 BROADCASTING OF THE BLUE ECONOMY & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM | PANEL III

In association with the Athens Circular Forum & Sporos Platform

Moderator: Prof. Maria Lekakou, Dean of the University of the Aegean
Setting the Blue Growth Agenda

George Vernicos, President of ESC, General Secretary of SETE
A resilient Maritime Tourism sector post-COVID19 Pandemic

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business; Fellow World Academy of Art and Science; President-Elect of the EAERE; Director of Sustainable Development Unit and EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece, Athena RC; Co-chair UN SDSN Europe
Presentation of ClimAccelerator – EIT Accelerator for the Maritime sector

Eleni Polychronopoulou, President of HEMEXPO
Maritime Equipment: Circular Remanufacturing boosting exports & jobs

Suzanna Laskaridis, Director, Laskaridis Shipping – Founder, BlueCycle,
How sea protection can drive local value creation