



## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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### **THURSDAY, JUNE 9**

#### **AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS**

09:00 – 09:45 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

09:45 – 10:00 **WELCOME**

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

10:00 – 10:10 **OPENING REMARKS**

Stelios Petsas, Alternate Minister of Interior

10:10 – 10:20 **WELCOME STATEMENT**

Kostas Peletidis, Mayor of Patras

10:20 – 10:30 **OPENING SPEECH**

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission (v)

10:30 – 10:55 **A DIALOGUE WITH**

Kostas Karamanlis, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport

*Moderator:* Alexandra Kassimi, Journalist, Kathimerini Newspaper

10:55 – 11:20 **A SPEECH BY**

Vasilis Kikilias, Minister for Tourism, Hellenic Republic

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

#### 11:20 – 12:50 SESSION 1

##### How the New Code of Local Authorities shapes the Region's Responsibilities

*Regional and local governance authorities play a significant role in the everyday lives of citizens and businesses, since they absorb the greatest part of Business-to-Government and Citizen-to-Government transactions. The responsibilities of the Greek local and regional authorities are a heavily discussed issue. In the recent past, a series of reforms have been implemented, namely "Kapodistrias", "Kallikratis" and "Kleisthenis". Despite these changes, there are still a number of legal constraints regarding a series of responsibilities, e.g. education, social care, funding and monitoring of local and regional authorities. Given the acceleration of the authorities' digital transformation due to the pandemic, the need for interventions that will solve the existing dysfunctions regarding the responsibilities of the Greek local and regional authorities is prominent.*

*Powered by: Regional Policy Monitor (RPM) & Data Consultants*

*Presentation of the "Annual report on the stance and perception of Greek citizens on the local and regional governance authorities", a study conducted by Regional Policy Monitor in cooperation with Data Consultants.*

Stelios Petsas, Alternate Minister of Interior

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of the Region of Western Greece

Dr. Spyros Spyridon, Managing Director, Hellenic Agency for Local Development & Local Government

George Galanos, Professor of International & European Studies, University of Piraeus

Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

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

#### 13:00 – 13:10 NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE

#### 13:10 - 14:30 SESSION 2

##### The difficult road to cohesion: Correcting imbalances among and within European regions

*The EU has provided European Regions with important funding for a wide range of fundamental infrastructure projects, addressing to a great extent the economic and development problems brought about by lack of basic equipment and structures. It is now imperative that we ensure imbalances among and within regions are corrected and socioeconomic cohesion is strengthened. Addressing interregional divergences is key for the smooth development of European integration and for making European region Greener, smarter, more inclusive and competitive at the global level.*

Nicola De Michelis, Director, Smart & Sustainable Growth & Programme Implementation, EC

Austin Kilroy, Senior Economist, World Bank

Roman Romisch, Senior Economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

Ioannis Firbas, General Director, National Coordination Authority for ESIF, Hellenic Republic

Jari Nahkanen, President of the Baltic Sea Commission/CPMR; Member of the Board- Region of Oulu (Finland) (v)

*Moderator:* Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, CPMR

#### 14:30 - 15:00 LUNCH



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

15:00 - 16:15 SESSION 3

#### Digital Transformation in Local Government

*Local governments have the potential to be more agile, innovative as well as responsive to the needs of their citizens. The major challenge is to make it work for the best, achieving also the right balance among different levels of competence. The digital transformation of Greek municipalities has been in the epicenter of public discussion in the past decade, showing signs of acceleration due to the Covid-19 pandemic. How do Greek municipalities rank when it comes to offering digital services? What kind of obstacles and opportunities do the local governments have in order to reach a satisfying level of digitization?*

*Knowledge Partner: Regional Policy Monitor*

*Presentation of "Smart Cities in Greece: digital services to citizens and enterprises", a study conducted by Regional Policy Monitor in cooperation with ELIAMEP*

Michalis Angelopoulos, President of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Local Government (ITA)  
Theodoros Karounos, Director of Digital Governance, National Infrastructures for Research and Technology (GRNET)  
Sofia Loukadounou, Employee at Directorate for the coordination of gov.gr at Ministry of Digital Governance  
Dimitris Maravelias, Chair of the BoD, EETAA  
Vasilis Kasiolas, Scientific Director, Regional Policy Monitor, Data Consultants

*Moderator:* Yannis Charalabidis, Professor, Digital Governance, University of Aegean

16:15 - 16:45

SESSION 4

#### The Challenges of Employment and Social Cohesion in Regions

*Knowledge Partner: Europe Direct Region of Western Greece*

#### OPENING DISCUSSION

Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

*Moderator:* Sotiris Beskos, Publisher OPINIONPOST (Dnews, News4health)

16:45 – 17.30

PANEL DISCUSSION

*The National Recovery & Sustainability Plan and the European Social Fund include a set of proposals aimed at ensuring equal employment opportunities for all. Combating labor market inequalities and equal opportunities for women and young parents are key objectives in promoting the labor market, strengthening digital education opportunities, modernizing vocational education and training and increasing access to effective and inclusive social policies.*

Maria Syrengela, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs (v)  
Barbara Kauffmann, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission  
Kalliopi Lykovardi, Deputy Ombudsman for Equal Treatment, the Greek Ombudsman (v)  
Dimitris Troulakis, Head ESF Actions Coordination & Monitoring Authority, Development and Investments

*Moderator:* Sotiris Beskos, Publisher OPINIONPOST (Dnews, News4health)



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

17:30 – 18:15

#### SESSION 5

##### European Cities supporting Ukraine

*The invasion of Russia to Ukraine has led to a series of disastrous effects, such as the destruction of critical infrastructure, a high number of fatalities, the disruption of the country's and EU's economy, as well as the displacement of more than 4 million Ukrainians. Should the EU authorities specify and take into consideration the effects of the war on the Ukrainian regions and cities, so that they can design a recovery plan for Ukraine? Should they also consider how some EU regions are affected by the war, especially those who receive the biggest influx of refugees? What will be the consequences of the sanctions imposed on Russia on the EU regional economies and how should EU tackle them?*

Melina Daskalakis, President at City of Athens Reception and Solidarity Centre (KYADA) (v)

Maria Clara Martin, Representative, UNHCR, Greece

Christos Lazaridis, Communications Consultant, Greek Forum of Refugees

*Moderator:* Fanis Papathanasiou, Diplomatic correspondent, ERT

18:15 - 18:45

NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE

19:00 – 20:00

#### SESSION 6

##### Beyond the present: Investing in Infrastructures for Change

*Targeted infrastructure investments are crucial for building economic and environmental sustainability for the next decades. Tomorrow's infrastructure investments should be designed on a forward-looking basis, not only addressing present needs, but also guaranteeing system-wide resilience to potential future crises. Furthermore, sustainable infrastructures are key to the success of the evolving aims of green transition and climate neutrality commitments. Which investments are necessary to make so that we achieve the green mobility policy goal? Can infrastructures turn climate neutral in the short term?*

George Karagiannis, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure at Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Panayotis Papanikolas, Chairman & CEO, Olympia Odos (v)

Rodianos Antonakopoulos, CEO, Nea Odos & Kentriki Odos

Dimitris Ath. Koutras, Vice-Chairman, Executive Member of the BoD of Intrakat

Marios Tsakas, CEO, DEDA

*Moderator:* Nikos Karagiannis, Journalist, Ypodomes.gr

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

Paving the New Way

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

20:00 – 21:00

#### SESSION 7

#### Modern Challenges of Your Region

*Presentation: "The development status of the Regions of Greece", a short video by the Regional Policy Monitor (RPM) in cooperation with The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)*

*Presentation of the "Annual report on the stance and perception of Greek citizens on the local and regional governance authorities", a study conducted by Regional Policy Monitor in cooperation with Data Consultants.*

Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of the Region of Western Greece

Konstantinos Agorastos, Governor of Thessaly Region

Rodi Kratsa, Governor, Ionian Islands Region (v)

Fanis Spanos, Governor of Central Greece

Panayiotis Nikas, Governor of Peloponnese

Alexandros Kachrimanis, Governor of Epirus **TBC**

*Moderator:* Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, Peloponissos Newspaper

21:00 - 22:00

#### COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Conference & Cultural Center, University of Patras

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

09:00 – 09:45 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

10:15 – 11:05 **SESSION 8**

#### The Road to Smart Cities: Reinventing Urban Areas

*Cities' shifting demographics along with the scale and speed of urban growth pose grand challenges to urban sustainability, the environment and our prosperity. Intelligent technologies and systems have a substantial unrealized potential to improve the urban quality of life, revolutionize our cities and transform urban environments towards more secure, efficient and green infrastructures, public services and utilities. How can we meet the opportunities arising from this transformation and secure our well-being in the post-pandemic world?*

*Knowledge Partner: E-Trikala*

Dr. Angelos Amditis, Research & Development Director & BoD, ICCS, Chairman, ERTICO-ITS Europe  
Vagelis Gorilas, Head of Public Sector, Vodafone Greece  
Giorgio Prister, President of Major Cities of Europe

*Moderator: Odysseas Raptis, CEO, E-Trikala SA*

11:05 – 12:15 **SESSION 9**

#### Intelligent Cities

*Modernizing the operation of local and regional authorities is a necessity. "Smart Cities" ensure digital benefits for citizens via investing on internet and technology infrastructure. However, the "next big step" is to achieve the combination of smart systems and big data processing, allowing a transition from smart to "intelligent cities". How can smart and intelligent city actors better work together in order to achieve the aforementioned transition? What are the constraints in the case of Greek municipalities and the Greek enterprises offering smart city solutions?*

*Workshop powered by: Data Consultants*

*Knowledge Partner: Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung*

Dimitris Papastergiou, Mayor of Trikala (v)  
George Papanastasiou, Mayor of Agrinio  
George Kapetzonis, Mayor of Dorida  
Stamatis Karmantzis, Mayor of Chios (v)  
Michael Donaldson, Barcelona Commissioner for Digital Innovation, eAdministration and Good Government (v)  
Antonis Chaziris, Transportation Engineer – Senior Research Associate, Technical University of Athens

*Moderator: Dimitris Aspros, CEO, Data Consultants*

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Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

12:15 – 13:45

#### SESSION 10

##### Engaging Citizens in the Discussion on the Future of the Region of Western Greece

*The deputy governors of the Region of Western Greece will address the challenges and concerns of the citizens based on a survey that has been conducted through social media surveys.*

Charalampos Bonanos, Deputy Head of Regional Unit of Achaia, Region of Western Greece

Lampros Dimitrogiannis, Vice Governor of Sustainable Development, Energy and Environment

Andreas Filias, Deputy Head of Finance, Region of Western Greece

Vasilis Giannopoulos, Deputy Governor Region of Western Greece

Athanasios Mavromatis, Deputy Head of Infrastructure and Transport

Dimitris Nikolakopoulos, Deputy Regional Head of Sports, Volunteering and Olympism, Region of Western Greece

Panagiotis Papadopoulos, Deputy Governor Administration and e-Government, Western Greece

Theodoros Vassilopoulos, Deputy Regional Head of Rural Development of Region of Western Greece

*Moderator:* Marina Rizogianni, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

13:45 – 14:30

#### SESSION 11

##### The Next Frontier: Tackling water scarcity

*Water scarcity, insufficient freshwater resources to meet the human and environmental demands is one of the major threats to inclusive global development. According to the World Economic Forum, the water crisis is the #5 global risk in terms of societal impact. Challenges such as population growth, ever-increasing pollution and weather disruptions caused by climate change, deteriorate the current condition, hence requiring governments to take immediate and proactive action to efficiently tackle the phenomenon.*

Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament (v)

Yorgos Stephanedes, Professor, University of Patras,

Dr. Spyros Mamalis, President, Geotechnical Chamber of Greece (v)

*Moderator:* Sotiris Papandreou, Journalist, PELOPONISSOS Newspaper

14:30 - 15:00

LUNCH

15:00 – 15:15

A DIALOGUE WITH

Dimitris Mantzios, Spokesperson, PASOK

*Moderator:* Dimitris Triantafyllopoulos, Editor-in-Chief, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

15:15 – 16:25

#### SESSION 12

##### Solid Waste Management Challenges in a Circular Economy Future

*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, General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination  
Grigoris Alexopoulos, President, Regional Association of Solid Management Agencies of Achaia (FODSA)  
George Kapetzonis, Mayor, Dorida; President, Reg. Association of Solid Management Agencies of Greece (FODSA)  
Michalis Geranis, President, Solid Waste Management Association, Region of Central Macedonia  
Charalabos Charalabidis, Business Development Manager, Representative GEK TERNA

*Moderator:* Elias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens New Agency

16:25: - 17:10

#### SESSION 13

##### Recovery Fund

*Knowledge Partner:* Europe Direct Region of Western Greece

Thanasis Kontogeorgis, Secretary General, Coordination-Presidency of the Government, Hellenic Republic  
Chris Allen, Greek Desk, European Commission (v)  
Nikos Mantzoufas, Governor, Greek Recovery & Resilience Agency, Ministry of Finance Hellenic Republic  
Takis Korkolis, Development Director, "ENA" Institute for Alternative Policies

*Moderator:* Dimitris Pefanis, Journalist, CNN Greece

17:10 - 17:50

#### SESSION 14 PART I

##### Partnership Agreement for Regional Development – The Way Forward

*Knowledge Partner:* Centre of Planning and Economic Research KEPE

Dimitris Skalkos, Secretary General, Public Investments & NSRF, Ministry of Development & Investments  
Eleni Gioti, Secretary General for Employment Development, Ministry of Employment  
Leonidas Christopoulos, Secretary General for Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures  
Ioannis Xifaras, General Secretary of Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (v)

*Moderator:* Dimitris Pefanis, Journalist, CNN Greece



## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

17:50 - 18:30 **SESSION 14 PART II**  
**Partnership Agreement for Regional Development – Challenges and Opportunities**

*Knowledge Partner: Centre of Planning and Economic Research KEPE*

Manolis Grafakos, General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination  
Evgenia Fotoniata, Co-ordinator, Economy & Society, ENA Institute (v)  
Panagiotis Liargovas, Jean Monnet Professor at the University of the Peloponnese  
Stavros Asthenidis, CEO, Information Society SA

*Moderator:* Dimitris Pefanis, Journalist, CNN Greece

18:30 – 18:50 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**

18:50 - 19:00 **A DIALOGUE WITH**

Harry Theoharis, Parliamentary Spokesman, MP.

*Moderator:* Konstantinos Magnis, Editor in Chief. PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

19:00 - 19:20 **BLUE TALK**

Sam Collins, Project Manager, Oceano Azul Foundation (v)

*Moderator:* George Papatheodorou, Dean, School of Natural Sciences, University of Patras.  
Professor of “Environmental & Geological Oceanography”, Geology Department

19:20 - 20:20 **SESSION 15**  
**Marine Environment Protection & Citizen Science**

*The workshop intends to cover the topic of marine environment protection and present the “citizen science” concept, defined as the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists. It is thus interconnected with the environmental citizenship or activism initiatives in favor of the marine environment protection. Volunteers and associations from the area of the gulfs of Corinth and Patras surrounding the Rio-Antirrio Bridge had been pioneering in the past in such projects supported by scientists and companies related to the marine element around Western Greece. This year’s Regional Growth Conference is expected to announce the restart of “blue citizenship” in this special region.*

Panayotis Dimopoulos, Professor, Vice Rector for Research & Development, Department of Biology,  
University of Patras

Yannis Freris, Director of Corporate Communication & Sustainable Development of GEFYRA S.A

Panagiotis Georgakopoulos, Civil Engineer, M.Sc., Physicist, Mathematician, M.Sc.,  
Member of Scientific Committee of SAVE COAST

Anastaisa Miliou, Scientific Director, Archipelagos

Georgios Kanellis, Representative of the Union for the protection of natural & cultural environment of Corinthian & Patraian Gulfs

*Moderators:* George Papatheodorou, Dean, School of Natural Sciences, University of Patras.  
Professor of “Environmental & Geological Oceanography”, Geology Department

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 9**

**WORKSHOP HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS**



Μηχανισμός Στήριξης Επιχειρηματικότητας  
Περιφέρειας Δυτικής Ελλάδας

1st Conference on Entrepreneurship Development

Entrepreneurship Support Mechanism (ESM) in the Region of Western Greece

Agenda	
13.00 - 13.15	OPENING SPEECH, Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of Western Greece
13.15 - 13.30	ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF WESTERN GREECE, Alkistis Stathopoulou, Head of ROP Western Greece
13.30 - 13.45	BUSINESS SUPPORT THROUGH ESM, Anastasia Zacharaki, Deputy Project Manager of ESM
13.45 - 14.05	ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN WESTERN GREECE, Antonis Klapsis, Assistant Professor, University of Peloponnese
14.05 - 14.25	Discussion
14.25 - 15.15	Lunch-break
15.15 - 15.35	PERFORMANCES OF GREEK REGIONS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THE CASE OF THE REGION OF WESTERN GREECE, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Argyris Peroulakis, President of the Board of the National Documentation and Electronic Content Center
15:35 - 15:55	DATA DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING: FIRST RESEARCH INSIGHTS FROM YOUNG GREEK HIGH GROWTH FIRMS, Victoria Daskalou, University of Patras
15.55 - 16.15	ACTIONS TO SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP & NEW DEVELOPMENT LAW, Natassa Pyrgaki, Head of Development Planning Department of Western Greece
16.15 - 16.30	HOLISTIC NETWORKING FOR CREATIVE SMES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE SPACES OF CREATIVE BUSINESSES, Panagiotis Lymbereas, Project Manager CREATIVE@ HUBS
16.30 - 16.50	DIGITAL ACTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND THE SUPPORT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN WESTERN GREECE, Dimitrios Michalopoulos, Head of Quality, and e-Governance Department of "Regional Development Fund / Region of Western Greece"
16.50 - 17.10	OPEN INNOVATION PLATFORMS AS TOOLS FOR REGIONAL POLICY: THE CASE OF THE REGION OF WESTERN GREECE, Spyros Politis, Business Consultant
17.10 - 17.45	Panel discussion - Companies supported by ESM
17.45 -18.15	Discussion
18.15 -18.30	CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE, Maria Andrieliou, Moderator
18.30 -19.00	Coffee-break

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 9**

**ROUNDTABLE ROOM** || CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

16:00 – 18:30    **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
[Western Greece 2030](#)

*Presentation: "The development status of the Regions of Greece", a short video by the Regional Policy Monitor (RPM) in cooperation with The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)*

Chistina Alexopoulou, Member of Parliament Achaia  
Iasonas Fotilas, Member of Parliament Achaia  
Dionisios Kalamatianos, Member of Parliament Ileia  
Konstantinos Karagkounis, Member of Parliament Aitoloakarnania  
Nikos Karathanasopoulos, Member of Parliament Achaia  
Dimitrios Konstantopoulos, Member of Parliament Aitoloakarnania  
Athanasios Moraitis, Member of Parliament Aitoloakarnania  
Andreas Nikolakopoulos, Member of Parliament Ileia  
Mario Salmas, Member of Parliament Aitoloakarnania  
Aggelos Tsigkris, Member of Parliament Achaia  
Giorgos Varenenos, Member of Parliament Aitoloakarnania

Moderators: Konstantinos Flamis, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper &  
Giorgos Anastasopoulos, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper



## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

08:30 – 09:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

#### 09:00 – 09:50 SESSION 16

##### How sustainable Blue Economy contributes to EU Climate Neutrality:

*Focus on Lessons Learned by Maritime and Coastal Regions* Maritime (and coastal) regions are at the forefront of the growing and worsening impacts of climate change. However, they are also major players/actors and enablers for a climate neutral and prosperous Europe/future. In this respect, sustainable blue economy is key to deliver the European Green Deal reach EU climate objectives. The session will revolve around the role of the blue economy and the measures implemented by regional authorities to deliver the ecological and climate transition. It will encompass different areas, such as offshore renewable energy, maritime transport, skills, and coastal resilience showing the importance of an integrated approach.

*In Cooperation:* CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Commission

Christos Economou, Acting Director Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, DG MARE, EC  
Luca Chiodini, General Directorate, Agriculture, Hunting & Fishing, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy  
Christina Deligianni, Public Policy Officer, EPLI Institute for Sustainable Development (v)  
Yolanda Piedra, Maritime Cluster of Balearic Islands, Kingdom of Spain  
Representative Government of Autonomous Republic of Adjara (v) (TBC)

Moderator: Stavros Kalognomos, Executive Secretary, CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Commission

#### 09:50 – 11:00 SESSION 17

##### The Green & Digital Transition for Shipping and Ports: A challenge and an opportunity for Greece

*Shipping is a key pillar of the modern national and global economy. Internationally, shipping represents 80% of world trade, while Greek shipping is the first in total fleet capacity worldwide. In the effort to achieve zero carbon dioxide emissions, the reduction of the environmental footprint of shipping is prominent since, according to experts, the contribution of shipping to global carbon dioxide emissions is currently 2.9% and is increasing. The solution that appears is the production and use of new fuels with zero or minimal carbon footprint and this great opportunity stems from the fact that these new fuels can be produced in Greece, using energy from RES produced in our country, through the application of know-how that exists in Greek research and academic institutions.*

*Knowledge Partner:* UN SDSN & Climate KIC Greece

Maria Christantoni, Sustainability Office, Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (v)  
Alexandros G. Charalambides, Cyprus University of Technology  
Sofoklis Makrides, Professor, University of Patras  
Leonidas Ntziachristos, Professor in Mechanical Engineering, Aristotle University Thessaloniki  
Professor Yannis Ioannidis, ATHENA RC, co-chair GCH(v)

Moderator: Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business | President EAERE

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### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

11:00 - 11:40 **SESSION 18**  
**Regional Media in Greece:**  
**Conversion from Media Businesses to Businesses Creating Informational Content**

*A Presentation: on the Present and Future of Regional Media.*

Dr. Dimitris Galamatis, Secretary General for Communication and Information  
Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

11:40 - 11:55 **A SPEECH BY**  
**Turning Greece into an Investment Powerhouse**

Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development & Investments (v)

11:55 - 12:20 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**

12:20 - 12:50 **A SPEECH ON**  
**Unlocking Greece's untapped energy potential**

Kostas Skrekas, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic (v)

12:50 – 13:10 **A DIALOGUE WITH**

Spilios Livanos, Head of the Delegation, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

*Moderator:* Dimitris Triantafyllopoulos, Editor-in-Chief, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

13:10 – 14:10 **SESSION 19**  
**Hydrocarbons and Green Transition. Resolving the Paradox**

*Amidst a global energy transition, oil and gas industry faces tough opposition from the public as well as decision-makers trying to meet decarbonization goals and net-zero commitments. However, despite shifts and obstacles, oil and gas are still an important part of the energy landscape, with its demand remaining increased. Can renewables serve the projected growth in global energy demand in the next few years to come?*

Aristofanis Stefatos, CEO, Hellenic Hydrocarbon Resources Management

Dr. Avraam Zelilidis, Professor, University of Patras

Helene Chraye, Head of unit RTD C1 (Clean Energy Transition), European Commission (v)

Ioannis Chomatas, Asset Development Division Director, DESFA

*Moderator:* Elias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens News Agency

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## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

14:10 – 15:10      **SESSION 20**

**The role of Renewable Energy Sources in Boosting regional development.  
How can electricity interconnections further develop and what are the benefits?**

*Renewable energy is being considered a new, promising source of growth and jobs as well as the primary means of making decarbonization of the energy system possible. Governments are shifting their priorities to investing in renewable energy and green interconnection projects, hoping that this will help mitigate climate change, stimulate economic growth, create jobs and achieve energy security. Will renewable energy meet expectations?*

Alexandra Sdoukou, General Secretary for Energy and Minerals Resources

Yannis Yiarentis, Chairman BoD & CEO, DAPPEP

Dr. Sotiris Kapellos, Chief Operating Officer (ELPE Renewables), Hellenic Petroleum Group of Companies

John Karydas, CEO, Renewable Energy Sources, Copelouzos Group

Manolis Perrakis, Procurement & Development, TERNA Energy SA

*Moderator:* Nikos Filippidis, Anchorman, MEGA TV

15:10 - 15:30

**A DIALOGUE WITH**

**Economic Diplomacy: Accelerator of Entrepreneurship**

Yannis Smyrlis, Secretary General for International Economic Affairs & Chairman of Enterprise Greece

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV

15:30 – 16:00

LUNCH

16:00 - 16:20

**A DIALOGUE ON**

**Financial Tools for Strengthening SMEs and Startup Businesses**

Ioannis Tsakiris, Deputy Minister, Public Investments & Structural Funds, Ministry of Development & Investments

*Moderator:* Christos Konstas, Financial Editor [www.newmoney.gr](http://www.newmoney.gr); Editor in Chief Banks.com.gr

16:30 - 17:00

**A DIALOGUE WITH**

Costas Zachariadis, Commander of Internal Affairs, SYRIZA

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV

17:00 - 17:30

**A DIALOGUE WITH**

Alexis Charitsis, MP SYRIZA Party, fmr. Minister of Interior

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV



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## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

17:30 - 18:20

#### SESSION 21

##### The Role of International Trade for Greece's Investments

*Knowledge Partner: Centre of Planning and Economic Research KEPE*

Joanna Szychowska, Director, DG TRADE, Services & Digital Trade, Investment & Intellectual Property, EC (v)

Panagiotis Liargovas, Jean Monnet Professor at the University of the Peloponnese

Nicholas Samaras, President, Hellenic -Swiss Chamber of Commerce

Damjan Manchevski, Member, Management Board, MASIT ICT Chamber of Commerce;

Director of Strategic Accounts & GM Balkans, MAK SYSTEM

*Moderator:* Christos Konstas, Financial Editor [www.newmoney.gr](http://www.newmoney.gr); Editor in Chief Banks.com.gr

18:20 - 18:40

#### A DIALOGUE WITH

Pavlos Marinakis, Secretary of Nea Dimokratia

*Moderator:* Christos Konstas, Financial Editor [www.newmoney.gr](http://www.newmoney.gr); Editor in Chief Banks.com.gr

18:40 - 19:30

#### SESSION 22

##### Tackling Inequalities in times of the energy crisis and green & digital transition

*Knowledge Partner: ENA Institute*

Yannis Psycharis, Professor of Regional Economic Analysis, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences

Olivier Vardakoulis, Economist, Finance and Subsidies Coordinator, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe (v)

Manolis Terrovitis, Principal Researcher, Information Systems Management Institute, Research Center Athena (v)

*Moderator:* Panagiotis Skevofylax, Managing Director, ENA Institute

19:30 - 20:20

#### SESSION 23

##### Foresight of Greek Cities and Regions: A long-term view

*Adaptability and resilience are traits indispensable to any government, organization or firm willing to thrive in the post-pandemic world, which is growing more heterogenous, unstable and volatile. Cities and regions cannot escape this reality. The pandemic unveiled our limitations in planning ahead. Cities should now explore potential long-term futures and develop proactive policies to diminish their vulnerability to unforeseen large-scale shocks. In an increasingly complex and unpredictable environment, cities have to develop new tools in order to shape resilient local economies and mechanisms and reposition themselves for future roles at the national and international level.*

Yannis Mastrogeorgiou, Special Secretary for Foresight, Presidency of the Government

Epaminondas Christofilopoulos, Head, UNESCO Chair on Futures Research, FORTH

Dimitris Dimitriadis, Futurist & Member, Special Secretary, Strategic Foresight, Presidency, Greek Government (v)

Yannis Psycharis, Professor of Regional Economic Analysis, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences

Tuomo Kuosa, Content Director, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Futures Platform Oy

*Moderator:* Sotiris Beskos, Publisher OPINIONPOST (Dnews, News4health)



## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

08:30 – 09:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

09:00 - 10:15 **SESSION 24**  
**Digital Skills and Employability**

*The current workplace increasingly asks for employees with highly digitally skilled knowledge who produce and distribute ideas and information. As such, understanding the factors behind differences in the level of various 21st-century digital skills is of decisive importance. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented humanity with a huge challenge to our known infrastructures – education systems, healthcare provision, social support, businesses, and community cohesion. At the same time, we have all been forced to learn new digital skills. New skills to continue learning, teaching, working, running a business, communicating with loved ones, and even discerning what information we can trust. During Digital Skills & Employability session, we'll discuss and present how digital skills and digital tools unlock and amplify the subjects of STE(A)M Education and Digital Social Innovation, how they solve real world problems and add value by boosting citizens' employability at local, national and EU level*

*Knowledge Partner: Patras Codecamp*

Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece  
Vassilis Delis, Policy Specialist to the Vice – President of the European Parliament  
Panagiotis Kampylis, Digital Transformation Policy and Data Analyst at the Greek National Documentation Centre  
Nikos Lambrogeorgos, Client Executive, Public Sector Greece, CISCO  
Stelios Mantas, Consulting Director, Deloitte Greece  
Ioannis Maghiros, Head of Human Capital and Employment Unit at JRC-Directorate B at European Commission (v)  
Dimitris Panopoulos, PhDc, Labour Market Data Analyst, Head of Public Policy Research & Documentation Unit, Greek Social Innovation Coordinator, M.O.L.  
Konstantinos Agrapidas, Director General for Labour Relations, Health & Safety at Work & Intergration into Work, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Hellenic Republic

*Moderator:* Spiros Sirmakessis, Professor, Dept Electrical Engineering & Computer Engineering, University of the Peloponnese

10:15 – 11:20 **SESSION 25**  
**Taking Greece's Digital Transformation to the next level**

*During the past two and a half years, a wide range of the Greek public sector got digitized, making a long-overdue technological upgrade possible. Bureaucracy was reduced, administrative procedures were simplified and digital public services skyrocketed. However, digital transformation of the Greek society and economy is an ongoing process. Greece's digital readiness is to be boosted through the implementation of 450 projects described in the Ministry of Digital Governance's Digital Transformation Bible. Which are the fundamental interventions aiming to take Greece's digital transformation to the next level? What kind of multi-stakeholder cooperation could contribute to more efficiently implementing the government's digital transition strategy?*

Nikos Papathanasis, Alternate Minister of Development and Investments, Hellenic Republic  
Christos Bouras, Rector, University of Patras  
Leonidas Christopoulos, Secretary General for Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures  
Aris Peroulakis, President, National Documentation Center EKT (v)  
George Xirogiannis, Deputy Director General, SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises  
Efsthathios Efsthathopoulos, VP for Administration, Academic Affairs & Student Affairs, Hellenic Open University

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV



## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

11:20 – 12:20

#### SESSION 26

##### Greek businesses at a crossroads: Towards a 5G-enabled future

*5G-enabled applications will be a significant transformative force for the corporate world, as advanced digital technologies will reshape the way firms operate and will lead to brand new business models. The evolution of 5G technology in Greece will most likely signal a new growth trajectory for the country. According to a recent survey, 5G technology can lead to infrastructure networks investments of almost 1.5 billion euros and applications development investments of 2.7-5.0 billion, until 2030. Is Greek economy ready to adapt? What policies ensure that the path towards a 5G-enabled future will be smooth for every business*

Maria Boura, Executive Advisor on 5G, Strategy and Leadership matters, Co-founder of the Women Leadership Hub  
Antonios Cassano, Business Development & Innovation Director, Uni Systems  
Nikos Plevris, Head of Vodafone Cloud & Connectivity Department, Vodafone Greece (v)  
Athanasios Misdanitis, Commercial Director, SpotlightPOS  
Ioannis Tomkos, Professor Information Technology, University of Patras  
Giorgos Markatatos, Chairman, ΣΕΚΕΕ (Digital Transformation Innovators) & CEO Regate S.A.

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV

12:20 - 12:40

NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE

12:40 – 13:20

#### SESSION 27

##### The Role of Development Banks in Spearheading Green Investments

*Scaling up sustainable investments is key for upholding a robust green recovery. Rising difficulties in mobilizing finance in the post-COVID19 world makes the strengthening of national and international development banks an indispensable necessity. What's the role of development banks in scaling up investments, securing at the same time an environmentally responsible development?*

Nikos Papathanasis, Alternate Minister of Development and Investments, Hellenic Republic  
Dmitry Pankin, President of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)  
Antonios Papageorgiou, Senior Loan Officer, Investment Team for Greece and Cyprus, European Investment Bank (EIB)  
Oana Simene, Policy Officer, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

*Moderator:* Constantinos Davlos, Journalist, SKAI TV

13:20 - 14:30

#### SESSION 28

##### Boosting Entrepreneurship in Regions

*SMEs have long served as the backbone of Greek economy. Traditionally however, a gap between urban and rural SMEs remains, as the latter lag behind as regards innovation, smart business models and overall development potential. Can digitization overcome limitations brought about a limited market? Can digital economy allow rural SMEs unleash their full growth potential, making location an irrelevant trait?*

Platonas Marlafekas, President, Chamber of Achaia  
Achilleas Barlas, Head of Unit-Innovation in SMEs, Technology Transfer Consultant, PRAXI Network (v)  
Zoe Paschalidi, Associate, Advice for Small Businesses, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)  
Lena Tsipouri, Professor Emeritus, Department of Economic Sciences, University of Athens  
Lina Tsalabasi, President Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs  
Theodoros Tsoumpelis, Secretary General of Chamber of Achaia & CEO, Dynacomp SA

*Moderator:* Sofia Beretanou, Journalist, 9.84 Radio



## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

14:30 – 15:30

#### SESSION 29

##### Greek regions under the prism of SDGs: 2022 SDG Index and Dashboards report

*The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a comprehensive strategy to be implemented by all countries. Valid measurements and data availability are vital in order to turn SDGs into practical problem-solving tools. The National Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 states that local and regional authorities in Greece are responsible for the implementation of SDGs, with a big share of policies, services and actions related to SDGs taking place at regional level. However, the regional authorities that implement the above are often unaware of the impact they have on the achievement of SDGs. Aiming to address this challenge, UN SDSN and Data Consultants produced a report that measures the progress of the 13 Greek regions towards achieving the SDGs.*

*Scientific Partners: Regional Policy Monitor and UN SDSN, AE4RIA*

*Powered by: Data Consultants*

*Presentation: "Greek regions under the prism of SDGs: 2022 SDG Index and Dashboards report", a study conducted by UN SDSN, Regional Policy Monitor and Data Consultants*

Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Development and Investments (v)

Petros Kokkalis, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Vasilis Kasiolas, Scientific Director, Regional Policy Monitor, Data Consultants

Professor Yannis Ioannidis, ATHENA RC, co-chair GCH (v)

Moderator: Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business | President EAERE

15:30 – 16:00

LUNCH

16:00 – 16:50

#### SESSION 30

##### Beyond disruption: rebooting social protection and welfare systems in the EU

*Standing mega-trends such as rapid demographic changes, digitalization and technological change, climate crisis and green transition as well as the increase in non-standard forms of work significantly transform European and global labour markets and reshape social protection systems and welfare systems. How social protection and welfare systems should be reformed and reinforced so that they can address ongoing and upcoming challenges? What policies are necessary so as to mitigate social risks and ensure inclusion?*

*Knowledge Partner: Diktio – Network for Reform in Greece and Europe*

Domna Michailidou, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs (v)

László Andor, Sec. Gen., Foundation for European Progressive Studies; fmr Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (v)

Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, (v)

Jozef Pacolet, Member, High Level Group Future of Social Protection in the EU & of the Welfare State in the EU, EC

Moderator: Elias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens New Agency



## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

16:50 – 17:50

#### SESSION 31

##### Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the framework of the Programming Period 2021-2027

*The workshop includes the presentation of the Strategic Agenda for Innovation in Tourism, which is the main output of ADRION - INNOXENIA PLUS project and, a debate regarding the post COVID era and how it can be supported by the Transnational Cooperation Programmes, in the view of the new Programming Period.*

*Knowledge Partner: Adrion-Innoxenia Plus*

Sofia Zacharaki, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Hellenic Republic  
Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece  
Chrysostomos Stylios, Manager, Institute of Industrial Systems, Research Center "ATHENA"  
Konstantinos Tzamaloukas, Responsible for ADRION INNOXENIA PLUS, Region of Western Greece  
Dr. Athanasios Kalogeras, Research Director, Industrial Systems Institute, Research Centre ATHENA  
Adela Franja, Project Officer, Joint Secretariat INTERREG ADRION Programme (v)

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

17:50 – 18:50

#### SESSION 32

##### Reshaping Tourism: Combining quality with sustainability

*Greece's resilience and recovery, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, is largely attributed to its strong tourism industry, which in 2021 accelerated job creation and supported economic growth. In the post- pandemic era, Greece has to work in order to develop an innovative and resilient national tourism product, combining quality with sustainability. Enhanced connectivity, green infrastructures, training and upskilling of employees as well as the establishment of a more agile regulatory model are key prerequisites for making Greece an even more attractive destination.*

Olympia Anastasopoulou, Secretary General for Tourism Policy and Development  
Elena Kountoura, Member, European Parliament (v)  
Alexandros Angelopoulos, CEO, Aldemar  
Yannis Tsakalos, CEO, AQ Strategy  
Katerina Saridaki, Director, Capsule T Accelerator

*Moderator:* Maria Nikoltsiou, Anchorwoman, Alpha TV

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

Paving the New Way

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

**ACHAIA HALL** | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

18:50- 19:50

### SESSION 33

#### Cultural initiatives in the post-pandemic European regions

*As Europe exits the pandemic era, one should examine all the possibilities available in order to revitalize those affected. Although cultural sector suffered heavy losses during these pandemic years, one should acknowledge the driving force and the developmental capacity that art and culture have in the European continent and the ability to reshape countries and regions by offering a series of opportunities for those involved.*

**Knowledge Partner:** *The Friends of Music Society*

Nicholas Yatromanolakis, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports, responsible for Contemporary Culture

Themis Christophidou, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (v)

Stephan Clambaneva, Design Innovation Director, IDSA - Member of the Board of Directors

Vassilis Karamitsanis, President, Animasyro

Nikos Erinakis, Director of Research, ENA Institute

Moderator: Alexandros Charkiolakis, Director, The Friends of Music Society

19:50 – 20:00

### A SPEECH ON

#### The relevance of Greek: From Patras to Ecumene

Ambassador (retired) Alexandros P. Mallias

20:00

END OF DAY TWO

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

*Paving the New Way*

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## FRIDAY, JUNE 10

### WORKSHOP HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

12:00 – 12:45 **WORKSHOP A**  
[Presentation of the 'Smart Cities' funding programme by the Ministry of Digital Governance](#)

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

*\*by invitation only*

14:30 – 15:30 **WORKSHOP B**  
[CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission \(BBSC\) Statutory Meeting](#)

*Coordinator: CPMR BBSC*

Tulcea County (Romania)  
Region of Western Greece (Greece)  
Region of Ionian Islands (Greece)  
Government of Autonomous Republic Ajara (Georgia)

17:00 – 18:30 **WORKSHOP C**  
[Culture and Creative Regional Ecosystems \(CCRE-S3\) meeting](#)

Francisco Vigalondo, Representative in Brussels at Aragón Exterior, Region of Aragon  
Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece



## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

### Mediterranean dimension of the EU: Proposals for the future

*The Mediterranean basin is not only a historical crossroads of civilizations and culture, but also a continuous source of tension and instability. How can we replace competition and rivalry with increased connectivity and balanced socio-economic development? What is the role of the EU, national and regional authorities in this process and how can the civil society contribute to it? This one-day Forum will explore four game changers that can facilitate the fostering of an area of peace and prosperity with their transformative power. These game changers include both top-down mega policy projects, emanating from the EU and/or national levels of policymaking, as well as bottom-up dynamics, stemming from and involving the civil society. Not only do they stimulate regional growth and cohesion within the EU, but they also build bridges rather than fences with other countries in the Mediterranean in pursuit of cooperative solutions to common problems. From the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) to the European Green Deal, each game changer will be discussed in a separate session with contributions by high level experts from the policy-making community, academia, and civil society.*

*Co-organized: European Parliament's Liaison Office in Greece & The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy*

09:00 – 10:20

#### SESSION A

##### Recovery and Resilience Facility: A New Economic Paradigm?

Franc Bogovič, Member European Parliament

Elias Papageorgiou, Lending Operations & Financial Instruments, Investment Team for Greece and Cyprus, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Alekos Kritikos, Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP, Former senior official, European Commission;  
Former Secretary General, Ministry of the Interior

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

Moderator: Spyros Blavoukos, Associate Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business  
Head of European Programme 'Arian Condellis', ELIAMEP

10:20 – 10:50

#### SESSION B

##### A Green Transition for the Mediterranean

Xenia I. Loizidou, Research Fellow, Mediterranean Programme, ELIAMEP

Maria Spyraiki, Member European Parliament (v)

Cyrus Engerer, Member of the European Parliament (v)

Moderator: George Papakonstantinou, Journalist, SKAI

10:50 – 12:00

#### SESSION C

##### Rethinking Geopolitics and Migration in the Mediterranean

Theodoros Papatheodorou, Professor, University of the Peloponnese;

Deputy Minister of Education and Religions of Greece (2012-2013)

Dr. Angeliki Dimitriadi, Research Fellow GPPi | Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP (v)

Ronald Meinardus, Senior Research Fellow, Head of Mediterranean Program, ELIAMEP

Moderator: George Papakonstantinou, Journalist, SKAI

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

*Paving the New Way*

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

12:00 - 12:20 NETWORKING BREAK

12:20 – 12:40 A CONVERSATION WITH

Konstantinos Tsagkaropoulos, Governor at Greek Seamen's Pension Fund (N.A.T.)

*Moderator:* Gogo Katseli, Journalist, Eleftheros Typos

12:40 – 12:50 A SPEECH BY

Ioannis Plakiotakis, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy (V)

12:50 - 14:00 SESSION 34

#### Ports as drivers of regional development

*Port development and productivity is crucial for lasting local economic development as well as regional connectivity. It is imperative that we ensure that ports will meet the challenging requirements of today, adopting innovative supply-chain solutions, smart and green business models as well as proactive and sustainable infrastructural planning, enhancing this way their role as primary drivers of socioeconomic development.*

Nektarios Demenopoulos, PR Manager, COSCO

Dimitris Iatrides, Executive Director, Hellenic Ports Association

Taxiarchis Sardellis, General (ret) Senior Vice President, BlackSummit Financial Group

Thanos Pallis, Professor Port Economics & Policy, University of Piraeus, President, IAME)

Panagiotis Tsonis, CEO, Patras Port Authority

*Moderator:* Lina Basta, News Director, IONIAN TV

14:00 – 14:30 A DIALOGUE ON

#### Changing Dynamics in the Mediterranean: Overcoming the shifting sand of Regional Alliance

Dimitris Avramopoulos, fmr European Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs & Foreign Minister of Greece

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

14:30 - 15:00 LUNCH

15:00 - 15:30 A DIALOGUE ON

#### The World in turmoil - Lessons from the Ukraine War

George A. Papandreou, former Prime Minister of Greece, President of Socialist International

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



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### AUDITORIUM | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

15:30 - 16:20

#### SESSION 35

##### Climate Emergency and Entrepreneurship

*What needs to be done in order to avert a climate catastrophe? Passivity is violating human dignity and the right to live. In what ways does the climate crisis threaten business? Can businesses grow in such difficult conditions? What is the modern competitive advantage? Is green investing profitable? What is the role of SCR in tackling the climate crisis?*

*Knowledge Partner: diaNEOsis*

Prof. Yannis Maniatis, f. Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
Constantinos Cartalis, Professor, University of Athens | Head of diaNEOsis research on Climate Change in Greece  
Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business | President EAERE

*Moderator:* Thodoris Georgakopoulos, Editorial Director, diaNEOsis

16:20 - 17:20

#### SESSION 36

##### Financial Tool for Innovative Entrepreneurship and the Role of Diaspora

Andreas Katsaniotis, Deputy Minister of Diaspora Greeks  
Haris Lambropoulos, President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments  
Dr Paris Kokorotsikos, CEO, Euroconsultants; Advisory board Member, IASP, Visiting Professor, Hellenic University  
Sotiris Siagas, Venture Stories Partners, CEO | Chairman, TECS Capital, Partne  
Kostantinos Drougos, CEO, OASIS Carbon Management | Adviser to Greek House Davos

*Moderator:* Ioanna Sapfo Pepelasis Professor Emerita, Athens University of Economics and Business

17:20 - 17:30

#### A CONVERSATION WITH

Michael Katrinis, Head of Parliamentary Group - "PASOK" - MP of Ilia District

*Moderator:* Konstantinos Magnis, Editor in Chief. PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

17:30 – 18:20

#### SESSION 37

##### Digital Diplomacy 4.0: Navigating Statecraft in the Digital Age

*Digital transformation has fundamental impacts on diplomatic relations and diplomacy itself. The number and influence of actors involved in global affairs is multiplied, dissemination of information and misinformation is accelerated while cybersecurity has become absolutely vital to national security. During COVID-19, international relations went digital at an even greater extent. Is digital transition changing the core function of diplomacy? How are states to respond to emerging challenges and how are to harness opportunities ahead?*

Johan Borgstam, Ambassador of Sweden to Greece  
Vassilis Ntousas, Head of European Operations for Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund US  
Ambassador Tassos Kriekoukis, Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Athens

*Moderator:* Basil Gavalas, Head of international relations, DIKTIO Network for Reform in Greece & Europe

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

*Paving the New Way*

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

**AUDITORIUM** | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

18:20 - 19:15      **SESSION 38**

[1922: A Fire That Still Burns...](#)

Athanasia Anagnostopoulou, Professor of History at the Panteion, Member of Parliament Achaia

Vassilis Tzanakaris, Author, Historian (v)

*Moderator:* Konstantinos Magnis, Editor in Chief. PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

19:15                      END OF CONFERENCE



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

09:00 – 10:00

#### SESSION 39 PART 1

##### The Pandemic Footprint and the Protection of the Population

*For the last two years, the National Healthcare System has been extensively tested due to the pandemic and the countless losses that it has endured during this time. The pandemic set a new foundation for many areas of the global scientific community and imposed its own terms as a result. It taught us new techniques that provided us with the ability for immediate safeguarding of the Public Health, while also facilitating the upgrade and renewal of our national health units. The pandemic's lessons will become the legacy of the future and the starting point for coordination and planning for any upcoming pandemic. Health "readiness" is now intertwined with our National Health Care System, and we owe this to our scientific health staff. With our health competence we managed to get our lives back...*

*Knowledge Partner: 6th Health Region*

Yiannis Karvelis, Administrator of 6th Health Region Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus & Western Greece  
Apostolos Vantarakis, Professor of Public Health Department of Public Health Medical School, University of Patras,  
Chairman of Panhellenic Association of Bioscientists  
George Panagiotakopoulos, Vice President, EODY  
Elena Papachatzki, Pediatrician

*Moderator:* Vasiliki Angouridi, Managing Director, News4Health

10:00 – 10:40

#### SESSION 39 PART 2

##### Health Crisis in the Future and How do we Prepare for the Next Pandemic

Mina Gaga, Alternate Minister of Health, Hellenic Republic  
Ioannis Kotsiopoulos, General Secretary at Ministry of Health, Hellenic Republic  
Yiannis Karvelis, Administrator of 6th Health Region Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus & Western Greece

Moderator: Vasiliki Angouridi, Managing Director, News4Health

10:40 – 11:00

#### A SPEECH BY

Athanasios Plevris, Minister of Health, Hellenic Republic

11:00- 11:30

#### KEYNOTE SPEECH

##### Resiliency and Mental Health in the Face of Adversity

*An in depth look at navigating a crisis, based upon Dr. Gourgouris #1 Amazon best-selling book 7 Paths to Lasting Happiness and 7 Keys to Navigating a Crisis: A Practical Guide to Emotionally Dealing with Pandemics & Other Disaster, where he will address the seven paths and keys in detail and provide both principles and "take action exercises" to learn from, and apply, in order to successfully navigate any crisis or challenge*

Introduction: Vasiliki Angouridi, Managing Director, News4Health

Dr. Elia Gourgouris, Corporate Wellness & Mental Health Expert; Best-selling Author, International Keynote Speaker; President of The Happiness Center



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

11:30- 12:40

#### SESSION 40

##### Well-Being: Improving Lives by Improving Regions

*Well-being is integrally linked to the place one lives. Ensuring lives of quality depends on a variety of factors, ranging from income to the environment of the community one lives and interacts. Improving people's life is about improving the place they live in and develop. Hence, well-being requires building better and most sustainable societies. Designing targeted public policies to upgrade regions, especially those who in different sectors lag behind is essential to respond to people's needs and meet their expectations.*

Irina Kalderon Libal, Policy Officer, Health Innovation Ecosystems, DG Connect, European Commission (v)

Stelios Kypouropoulos, Member, European Parliament

Christina Bikou, President, The Mental Health Association

Dr. Evi Hadjiandreou, Senior Global Director, Organesis INC

Lara Fleischer, Policy Analyst, Well-Being Data Insights and Policy Practice Unit, WISE, OECD

Dimitris Ballas, Professor of Economic Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen

*Moderator:* Vasiliki Angouridi, Managing Director, News4Helath

12:40 – 13:30

#### SESSION 41

##### How the regional agricultural sector can ensure food supply stability

*Ensuring sufficient food production and supply stability has become an objective of strategic importance for states and regions, regardless of economic development. Enhancing food availability and safeguarding food security is a lot about having a robust and growing agricultural sector, which is mainly flourishing in rural areas. It is hence imperative that we develop concrete, innovative policies to support the regional agricultural sector, ensuring sustainable growth and resilience to future shocks.*

Giorgos Georgantas, Minister of Rural Development and Food Incumbent (v)

Ioannis Latoudis, Political Advisor in the Parliamentary Group of the Socialists & Democrats, European Parliament

Ludovica Principato, Researcher Marketing & Sustainability, Dept. of Business Adm., Roma Tre University

*Moderator:* Gogo Katseli, Journalist, Eleftheros Typos



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

13:30 – 14:30

#### SESSION 42

##### Challenges for Civil Protection and disaster risk reduction in Western Greece

*Our cities and communities are facing increasing risks related to natural hazards and the impacts of the climate crisis. In Western Greece natural disasters have caused heavy losses of human lives and destruction. In this panel local government representatives and experts discuss the need for integrated disaster risk planning and systematic efforts for the reconstruction and recovery of areas affected by disasters. Improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of the disaster risk management system at all levels of action is an important concern for local governments. A major opportunity in the current period exists in the reform of the national system for civil protection and the setting up of special funding programs with the aim to improve capacities and capabilities to manage disaster risks at local level.*

Christos Stylianidis, Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection (v)

Michail Stavrianoudakis, Secretary General for Interior

Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece

Prof. Efthymios Lekkas, Professor, Dynamic Tectonic Applied Geology & Disaster Management, Athens University

Athanassios Karamoschos, Consultant and Expert in systems planning in local government

Representative of Region of Western Greece

Athanasios Papadopoulos, President of PEDDE and Mayor of Kalavryta

Theodoros Baris, Mayor of Erymanthos, Vice-president of PEDDE

*Moderator:* Marina Rizogianni, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

14:30 – 15:30

#### SESSION 43

##### Nature-based solution for regional and national sustainable development

*Pursuing job creation, growth, and competitiveness while tackling the global environmental crisis, is a long-standing economic and societal challenge and a top priority for the European Commission. Any region's economic competitiveness and security—in the long run—depends directly on sustainable use of natural resources. The EU intends to invest substantially in nature-based solutions to tackle the socio-economic challenges we face in the 21st century. Large-scale pilots and demonstration projects of tangible nature-based solutions should maintain or increase production of well-being and welfare at lower costs and offer potential for job-rich innovation. How could these concepts be implemented at national and regional level? Successful case study examples and potential applications will be presented*

*Knowledge Partner:* University of Patras

Panayotis Dimopoulos, Professor, Vice Rector for Research & Development, Department of Biology, University of Patras

George Papatheodorou, Dean, School of Natural Sciences, University of Patras.

Professor of "Environmental & Geological Oceanography", Geology Department

Ioannis Kokkoris, Forester-Environmental scientist, MSc, Phd, Senior Researcher, Department of Biology, University of Patras

Ierotheos Zacharias, Professor of Environmental Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Patras

Christoforos Kapopoulos, Founder and Managing Director, AquaTerra

*Moderator:* Lena Paraskeva, Journalist, STAR Central Greece

15:30 – 16:00

LUNCH



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### ACHAIA HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

16:00 - 16:40

#### SESSION 44

##### Transnational Cooperation Programs

*The aim of the interactive workshop is the exchange of views and the specialization in the directions of the new programming period of the Transnational Cooperation Programs. Representatives of the European Commission, the Greek Government, European programs, etc. will participate in.*

Giorgos Zervos, Special Secretary for European Regional Development, Ministry Development & Investments (v)  
Gianfranco Gadaleta, JS Coordinator Interreg Greece-Italy Program

*Moderator:* Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece

16:40 - 17:30

#### SESSION 45

##### Humanity and AI: Exploring a New Bond

*The rise of artificial intelligence is fundamentally reshaping human society and transforming the way we experience reality. Artificial intelligence comes with extraordinary benefits to humanity, but also with special concerns, regarding, particularly, individual autonomy as well as human interaction and rights. Should there be put any limits to AI advancement? What are the ethical concerns that need to be addressed? Can AI replace human thought??*

Yannis Mastrogeorgiou, Special Secretary for Strategic Foresight, Government Presidency  
Michalis Bletsas, Director of Computing at the MIT Media Lab (v)  
Sergios Theodoridis, Disting. Professor Chair, Aalborg University; Professor Emeritus of Signal Processing & Machine Learning, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (v)  
Dimitris Serpanos, President, Computer Technology Institute and Press DIOPHANTUS (CTI) & Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Patras  
Diana Voutirakou, Founder & General Manager, Unique Minds; Software Developer, Custom Surgical; Educational Robotics Consultant, Plaisio (v)

*Moderator:* Efi Barbatsi, Journalist, Alpha TV

17:30 – 18:30

#### SESSION 46

##### Champions under 40: Paving the Way Forward

*Entrepreneurs, Influencers, Disruptors. Four young leaders with a mission to lead discuss the way towards notable achievement and what it takes to thrive in a complicated world.*

Konstantina Theofanopoulou, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Rockefeller University Fellow, New York University  
Marianna Kapsetaki, Medical Doctor & Researcher & Neuroscientist, Imperial College London  
Ioannes Carmelo Chountis De Fabbri, Senior Political Affairs Advisor, Hellenic Parliament  
Christos Stefanatos, CEO, EV Loader  
Nasos Koskinas, Founder of POS4work Innovation Hub

*Moderator:* Lena Paraskeva, Journalist, STAR Central Greece

# Regional Growth Conference 2022

Paving the New Way

Patras | June 9-11, 2022



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

**ACHAIA HALL** | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

18:30 - 19:15

### SESSION 47

#### Generation Z: A New Species?

*Generation Z is about to surpass Millennials as the most populous generation on planet earth. The effects of its prevalence are expected to be profound, as their priorities, attitudes and behaviours are radically different than those of the Millennials. Born digital natives, Gen Z are defined by the ability to connect, to question authority, to influence. From Black Lives Matter to challenging the western capitalist model, Generation Z are shaking established notions, dismantling stereotypes and ultimately altering the way politics and the corporate world were accustomed to operate.*

Demosthenes Kollias, Policy Associate, DIKTIO Network for Reform in Greece and Europe

Vassilis Koutsoumpas, CEO, WEFOR

Erifili Gounari, Founder, The Z Link (v)

*Moderator:* Lena Paraskeva, Journalist, STAR Central Greece

19:15

END OF CONFERENCE



## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### WORKSHOP HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

09:00 – 10:00

#### WORKSHOP D

##### Financial tools for regional rural development

*Opening remarks:* Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of the Region of Western Greece

Theodoros Vassilopoulos, Deputy Regional Head of Rural Development, Region of Western Greece

Symeon Kedikoglou, Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Food (v)

Efthimios Tsiatouras, head of Unit, Investments on Agricultural Holdings, Ministry of Rural Development & Food

Panagiotis Sakellaropoulos, Authorized Advisor. Assistant Regional Governor with responsibilities for Planning,

Studies and Development Programs of Agri-food

Vassilis Papathanassiou, Administration of the Rural Development Program (RDP) for the Region of Western Greece

Giemelou Sevastiani, Head of Sector for Development of Markets and Sales, National Bank of Greece

*Moderator* Konstantinos Lambropoulos, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

10:00 – 11:00

#### WORKSHOP E

##### Households' Food Waste Problem in Greece: Key Findings of a nationwide Research

*Food waste (FW) is one of the most serious problems of modern societies and at the same time one of the greatest challenges of our time. It is now common knowledge that FW is linked to food insecurity and climate change. Published scientific findings and international literature highlight that FW harms the society, the environment and the economy. Reducing food loss and waste (FLW) to 50% by 2030, across the food supply chain, is a key goal for Agenda 2030 as presented in SDG 12. The workshop aims to present the key findings of a nationwide research regarding household food waste that took place in Greece at 2022*

*Organized by:* Laboratory of Agri-Food Business Management, Department of Business Administration of Food & Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras

Prokopis Theodoridis, Associate Professor, Marketing at the Department of Business Administration of Food and Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras

Vasiliki Boukouvala, Research & Teaching Fellow, Department of Business Administration of Food and Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras

Theofanis Zacharatos, Researcher, Department of Business Administration of Food and Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras & Scientific Associate, Region of Western Greece

Aggeliki Stamelou, Communications Manager of the organization "Boroume" (v)

Maria Voutsina, Head of Europe Direct Information Center of the Region of Western Greece

*Moderator* Konstantinos Lambropoulos, Journalist, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

14:00 – 15:00

#### HAPPINESS WORKSHOP

##### "Navigating Life's Challenges with Positive Mental Health"

*As a follow up to his keynote speech "Resiliency and Mental Health in the Face of Adversity", during this workshop, Dr. Gourgouris will help leaders and their employees prepare the future of the workforce. More, specifically, he will provide tangible solutions by taking into account the four challenges organizations now face as part of the new normal.*

Dr. Elia Gourgouris, Corporate Wellness & Mental Health Expert; Best-selling Author, International Keynote Speaker; President of The Happiness Center



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## SATURDAY, JUNE 11

### WORKSHOP HALL | CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

15:15 – 16:15      **WORKSHOP F**

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Marketing

*Following the internet revolution, retail and promotion, daily data generation led to a point where marketers could not further process, using the traditional statistical ways, the new demands of vast data volume. The use of big data analytics emerged, and the rise of AI came along with predictive analytics including machine learning and data mining solutions. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has both evolved and affected the way marketing is implemented. AI is proven to be a sophisticated way of analyzing and processing data as well as decision making. The privilege of its use is considered an asset to the business executives who understand its potential. Considering AI as a tool, it may provide massive data processing and prediction accuracy. Marketers have been in pursuit of customer satisfaction using AI tools to read web metrics and optimize reach and conversions strategies. Since consumer behavior varies, brands struggle to classify customer satisfaction factors. Thus, they invest time and money to highlight their products or services potentials, better define the market share, and classify customers' needs. Machine learning, natural language processing, expert systems, voice, vision, planning, and robotics are the main AI branches that companies use to stay ahead of the competition. Business objectives aim to attract new customers, predict consumer behavior, along with the capability to personalize and predict demand using "smart" systems which allow them to increase sales, mitigate the decision-making risk and increase customer satisfaction, customer loyalty, and sales predictions. This session discusses the stages of AI contribution to marketing providing solid case studies of AI appliances.*

*Organized by* Laboratory of Agri-Food Business Management, Department of Business Administration of Food & Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras

Dimitris C. Gkikas, Research Scientist, University of Patras, e-Business Intelligence Developer,  
OWEB Digital Experience

Nikolaos Ioannou, Board Director of Brooqly Inc.

Panagiotis Milis, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Inteso.gr

Moderator: Prokopis Theodoridis, Assoc. Professor, Marketing, Dpt. of Business Admin. of Food & Agricultural Enterprises, University of Patras



## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES – EDU ACTS

Thursday, June 9 – Saturday, June 11

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - EDU ACTS

*\*In cooperation with the University of Patras and the University of Peloponnese*

*Convinced that youth is the most dynamic part of our society the Regional Growth Conference enables dozens of young people to take part in the RGC experience by participating in the largest event on Regional Development.*

*For this year's annual conference, the RGC 2022, which will take place from June 9th-11th in Patras at the Conference and Cultural Centre of the University of Patras, will collaborate with the **University of Patras** and the **University of Peloponnese**, and will be offering **free educational activities** aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students.*

*More specifically, every year the RGC, together with the University of Patras, organizes a four-day Summer Workshop. The topic of this year's Workshop is "**Regional Governance: Policies for Nature Conservation, Sustainability and Resilience**", and it has been designed to offer an interdisciplinary approach to the above topic through lectures, presentations, group works and on-site visits in relative local business and organizations in order to offer to the students combined theoretical and empirical knowledge.*

*Furthermore, for its 3rd consecutive year of co-operation with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of the Peloponnese, the RGC will be organizing a Summer School, which will take an in depth look at "**Intelligent Cities: Technologies and Services of Smart Information Systems**". The first days of the 6-day long Summer School will be held online, while from 9th to 11th of June, it will be hosted at Achaia Clauss, in parallel with the Conference.*

*Apart from participating in educational activities, at the RGC 2022 students have the opportunity to meet important personalities from Greece and abroad, and attend keynote speeches, sessions and interviews.*

*RGC 2022 continues to innovate, embracing new trends in science and collaborating with the country's universities. Over the three days of the Conference, the participating students will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on various scientific fields and draw on the know-how of the participating professors and researchers from the Universities of Patras and the Peloponnese.*

- To view the program of the educational activities please visit our website [www.rgc.gr](http://www.rgc.gr)