

DAY 1 - THURSDAY, MARCH 16

AUDITORIUM

09:00 – 09:30 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

09:30 – 09:50 **OPENING | PLENARY**

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

09:50 – 10:10 **OPENING ADDRESS | PLENARY**

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece

10:10 – 10:30 **OPENING REMARKS | PLENARY**

Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission

10:30 – 10:50 **OPENING DISCUSSION | PLENARY**

Foresight & Regions

Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission

10:50 – 11.00 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**

11:00 – 13:00 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

The Future of Regional Cohesion Policy

Interconnecting coastal regions to multiply value - From energy to goods, 90% of the global trade is conducted via blue roots, which is the next step of macro-regional strategies drafting, synergies development, and networks of value and ideas establishment in light of the ongoing poly-crisis?

Knowledge Partner: The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Moderator

- ✓Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, CPMR

Speakers

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

Paolo Calvano, Regional Minister of EU affairs, Emilia Romagna

Maria Demertzis, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Stéphane Perrin-Sarzier, VP Finances, Ressources Humaines, Moyens Généraux, Europe et International, Région Bretagne

Valle Miguelez Santiago, Regional Minister for Enterprise, Social Economy&Self-employment, Murcia Region (Spain) | CPMR Vice-President for Transport

Younous Omarjee, MEP, Chair of REGI Committee on Regional Development

13:15 – 14:30

SESSION 1

The Role of Local Administration in Development and Resilience

Regional and local administration 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 broad, from civil protection to building the environment and from environmental protection to social welfare. In the recent past, a series of reforms have been implemented. Despite these changes, there are still a number of financial and institutional constraints regarding a series of responsibilities. Given the digital transformation of Public Administration due to the pandemic, the need for interventions that provide solutions to the existing problems that local administration faces are 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.

Moderator

✓ Yiannis Christakos, Journalist, MEGA TV & General Manager, DNews

Speakers

- ✓ Stelios Petsas, Alternate Minister of Interior
- ✓ Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of the Region of Western Greece
- ✓ Athanasios Papadopoulos, President of PEDDE and Mayor of Kalavryta
- ✓ Dr. Spyros Spyridon, Manag. Director, Hellenic Agency for Local Development & Local Government
- ✓ Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper
- ✓ George Galanos, Assistant Professor of International & European Studies, University of Piraeus

14:30 - 15:30

SESSION 2

The Future of Greece 2035

In association: Special Secretariat for Foresight, Presidency of the Government & Hellenic Development Bank of Investments S.A.

Moderator

✓ Myron Flouris, Associate Director, Business Development, EY

Speakers

- ✓ Dimitris Skalkos, Sec. General, Public Investments & NSRF, Ministry of Development & Investments
- ✓ Yannis Mastrogeorgiou, Special Secretary for Foresight, Presidency of the Government
- Prof. Dr. Haris Lambropoulos, President, Hellenic Development Bank of Investments S.A.
- ✓ Christos Tarantillis, Professor, University of Athens

15:30 - 16:00

LUNCH | NETWORKING

Conference program updated Feb. 8

16:00 – 17:10

SESSION 3

ESGs and SDGs Based Transition of the Economy

Non-financial parameters with financial value - How environmental and social responsibility, as well as cohesive corporate governance, can improve access to financing, regulatory compliance, and business growth in the era of stakeholders capitalism?

Knowledge Partner: SDSN Europe & Alliance of Excellence for Research & Innovation on Aephoria

Moderator

✓ Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, AUEB, DTU, ATHENA RC, UN SDSN, President EAERE

Speakers

✓ Vassiliki Lazarakou, Chair, Hellenic Capital Market Commission, Member of Bureau, OECD
Marianna Nathanail, Head of Office & Institutional Relations Officer for Greece & Cyprus, EIB
✓ Dimitris Sakipis, Director, ESG Leader, PwC Greece

17:10 – 17:50

IN DISCUSSION

17:50 – 18:50

SESSION 4

18:50 – 19:50

SESSION 5

Women Entrepreneurship: Celebrating Success & Overcoming Obstacles

Closing the gap of opportunities - Women are heavily under-represented in entrepreneurship. Based on OECD, women, especially young, have only 60% chances, compared to men, to start a venture. How technology helps us to overcome those systemic obstacles and foster the growth of inclusive entrepreneurship?

Moderator

✓ Jimmy Athanasopoulos, Chairman, Envolve Entrepreneurship

Speakers

Danae Bezantakou, CEO, Navigator Shipping Consultants
✓ Maria Gianniou, Co-Founder, Women Act
✓ Myladi Stoumbou, Regional Director, Innovation & ScaleUps, Central & Eastern Europe, Microsoft

19:50 – 21:00

SESSION 6

Addressing Challenges for Entrepreneurship in Times of Global Poly-Crisis

Safeguarding Greek entrepreneurship in the ear of Poly-crises. From the Covid-19 Pandemic to the Invasion in Ukraine and from the energy crisis to inflation, Greek entrepreneurship faces several challenges in parallel. How Government and social stakeholders address them?

Knowledge Partner: Union of Hellenic Chamber

21:15 - 22:30

NETWORKING | COCKTAIL RECEPTION

DAY 1 - THURSDAY, MARCH 16

ACHAIA

09:00 – 09:30 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

11:00 – 11:30 **DISCUSSION**

How to bring the Social Security System from the 50s to 2022? A Reform's Success Story

A combination of disciplined innovation, digital governance, and public-private partnership can reform one of the most long-lasting pathologies of the Greek government, the social security system and the pension issuing delays.

Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

11:30 - 12:30 **SESSION 7**

The Regional Dimension of Poverty in Greece

In a period of numerous financial changes (2017-2021) how balanced was growth among Greece's regions? Which disadvantages are monitored in specific regions of the country? A discussion based on a latest study conducted by the Regional Policy Monitor

Knowledge Partner: Regional Policy Monitor

Moderator

✓ John Papageorgiou, Journalist, Regional Policy Monitor Director

Speakers

✓ Panos Tsakoglou, Deputy Minister of Labor, Professor AUEB

George Chouliarakis, Chief Researcher, Government School, Harvard Uni., fmr Alt. Finance Minister

✓ Alexandros Karakitsios, Economist, Hellenic Competition Committee, fmr Analyst, Ministry of Finance

12:30 - 13:30 **DISCUSSION**

Restoring Citizens' Trust

Moderator

✓ Myron Flouris, Associate Director, Business Development, EY

Speakers

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

✓ Thodoris Georgakopoulos, Editorial Director, diaNEOsis

Ilias Papaioannou, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, London Business School

13:30 - 14:30 **SESSION 8**

Regional Mass Media in 2030

Knowledge Partner: Secretariat for Communication & Information

Moderator

Speakers

Dr. Dimitris Galamatis, Secretary General for Communication and Information

✓ Theodoros Louloudis, Publisher, PELOPONNISOS Newspaper

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✓ Nikos Panagiotou, As. Professor, Journalism & Mass Media Communications, University of Thessaloniki

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14:30 - 15:30

SESSION 9

Local Authorities and Energy Costs of Public Buildings

Knowledge Partner: REGIONAL UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF WESTERN GREECE

Speakers

- ✓ Athanasios Papadopoulos, President of PEDDE and Mayor of Kalavryta
- ✓ Vasilis Kasiolas, Manager, Data Consultants

15:30 - 16:00

LUNCH | NETWORKING

16:00 – 16:50

SESSION 10

Renovate Urban Spaces Using Smart Platforms

Sustainability needs optimisation - How sensors, algorithms, and decentralised intelligence can transform our cities into interconnected platforms of innovation, improving urban resilience, service to the citizens, and cities' finance?

Knowledge Partner: Vodafone

- ✓ Dimitris Papastergiou, Mayor of Trikala
- ✓ Athanasios Papadopoulos, President of PEDDE and Mayor of Kalavryta
- ✓ Vagelis Gorilas, Head of Public Sector, Vodafone
- ✓ Yannis Charalabidis, Professor of Digital Governance, University of Aegean

16:50 – 17:50

SESSION 11

Sustainable Urban Development Strategies: The New Era

A sustainable urban development strategy is a tool that Greek cities can take advantage of, in order to develop new infrastructure that will ameliorate everyday life within their limits, as well as actively enhance their social economic and social cohesion. A series of obstacles and malfunctions has occurred during the implementation of these Strategies within the 2014-20 Programming Period. What kind of obstacles did occur and how did the municipalities and managing authorities cope with them? What lessons should be taken into consideration within the 2021-27 Programming Period?

Knowledge Partner: Data Consultants

Moderator

- ✓ Dimitris Aspros, CEO, Data Consultants

Speakers

- ✓ Representative Managing Authority, Region of Western Greece
- Representative World Bank

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17:50 - 18:50

SESSION 12

Russia-Ukraine War: The Day After

After 3 years of a global pandemic and almost a year of war in Europe, 75 years after the end of the previous one, the EU has to reorient its narrative and policy priorities, establishing a solid geopolitical identity and addressing geopolitical risks in its neighborhood. Which are the Key priorities of the EU as a Global Actor?

Knowledge Partner: Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

Moderator

Odin Linardatou, Journalist and Head of Communications, ELIAMEP

Speakers

- ✓ George Pagoulatos, Director General, ELIAMEP | Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business
- ✓ Nicoletta Pirozzi, Institutional Relations Mngr.; Head EU, Politics Institutions Programme, Istituto Affari (v)
- Panagiota Manoli, Professor Department of Political Science & Int. Relations, University of Peloponnese
- ✓ George Papadimitrakopoulos, Research Associate, ELIAMEP

18:50 - 19:50

IN DISCUSSION

19.:50 - 21:15

SESSION 13

Future of Regions: Shaping the development profile of Greece

The role of regions in 2040 - How we shape the future of regional development towards Green, Digital, and Energy transformations? From mega infrastructure projects to renewable energy production and connectivity; tailored to regional needs, solutions are essential to multiply the impact of financing opportunities and shape their future(s) in an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient way.

Speakers

- ✓ Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of the Region of Western Greece
- Konstantinos Agorastos, Governor of Thessaly Region
- Rodi Kratsa, Governor, Ionian Islands Region
- ✓ Fanis Spanos, Governor of Central Greece
- ✓ Panayiotis Nikas, Governor of Peloponnese
- Alexandros Kachrimanis, Governor of Epirus
- Glyn Evans, Vice President, Majorcities

21:55 - 22:30

NETWORKING | COCKTAIL RECEPTION

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, MARCH 17

AUDITORIUM

08:30 – 09:00 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

09:00 - 10:00 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

The Potential of Partnership Agreement in the Greek Funding Ecosystem

Investing in cohesive futures - more than €21 billion of investments have been deployed by European Commission, in order to improve Greece's economic, social and territorial cohesion. How can competitive, innovative and export-oriented business models may boost the Greek economy?

Moderator

Speakers

Nikos Papathanasis, Alternate Minister, Development & Investments / Private, Strategic Investments & PPP's
Ioannis Tsakiris, Deputy Minister of Development & Investments
✓ Carsten Rasmussen, Head of Unit, Cyprus & Greece, DG REGIO, European Commission (✓)
Athina Chatzipetrou, CEO and President BoD, Hellenic Development Bank SA

10:00 – 10:30 **DISCUSSION**

Strategic Investment which changes the future of Greece

How a Government can boost and support strategic investments which change Greece in a challenging geopolitical environment with several crises ongoing?

Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development & Investments

11:00 - 12:15 **SESSION 14**

The Role of Recovery Fund in Regional Development and Interconnection

How can a Government boost and support strategic investments which change Greece in a challenging geopolitical environment with several crises ongoing?

*Knowledge Partner: The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and
Regional Policy Monitor*

Moderator

✓ John Papageorgiou, General Manager, Regional Policy Monitor

Speakers

✓ Theodoros Skylakakis, Alternate Minister of Finance
✓ Alexis Charitsis, MP SYRIZA Party, fmr. Minister of Interior
✓ Eleni Marianou, Secretary General, CPMR
✓ Chris Allen, Greek Desk, European Commission
✓ Nikos Mantzoufas, Governor, Greek Recovery and Resilience Agency
✓ Nikos Vettas, General Director, Foundation for Economic&Industrial Research | Professor, AUEB

12:15 - 12:30 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**

12:30 – 13:30

SESSION 15

Cohesion Policy 5.0: The Road Ahead

- ✓ Dimitris Skalkos, Sec. General, Public Investments & NSRF, Ministry of Development & Investments
- ✓ Panagiotis Korkolis - ENA Institute for Alternative Policies
- ✓ Alekos Kritikos, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

13:30 – 14:30

SESSION 16

The Future of Food and the Role of the Agricultural Sector in Food Resilience

Preventing food crises via sustainable and smart agriculture - How financing tools, innovation, and development of sustainable value chains' design can contribute to food resilience and sustainable development.

Speakers

- Giorgos Georgantzas, Minister of Rural Development and Food Incumbent
- Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General, Food & Agricultural Organization, United Nations
- ✓ Alessandra de Seneen, Secretary General, INSOR & Partner BAICR cultura della Relazione
- Thanos Mavros, Partner, EY
- ✓ Effie Lazaridou, Chief Executive Officer, New Agriculture New Generation

14:30 – 15:30

SESSION 17

***title tba**

Knowledge Partner: University of Patras

15:30 - 16:00

LUNCH | NETWORKING

16:10 – 17:00

SESSION 18

The Green Transition as a Prerequisite of Sustainable Growth

Providing innovative financial solutions to niche and local needs - How Banks can develop innovative financial products covering both time-sensitive needs and long-term strategic development plans of SMEs, Infrastructure Projects, and digital transformation?

Speakers

- ✓ Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis, Sec. General, Natural Environment & Water, Ministry of Environment & Energy
- Moses Elisaf, Mayor of Ioannina
- Petros Kokkalis, Member, European Parliament
- ✓ Stathis Stathopoulos, President, Green Fund
- ✓ Susanne M. Nielsen, Human Capital Development Expert - Green Skills Expert, EFT
- Dr Jenny Leivadarou, Advisor for Green Energy and Innovation, ELLAKTOR GROUP
- Simone Tagliapietra, Senior Fellow, Bruegel

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- 17:00 - 17:30 **DISCUSSION**
Energy Security and Resilience: How Greece address the challenges of the Energy War
 The weaponization of energy by the Russians and the pressure for a sustainable future coming from climate change underlined the need for European solutions in energy resilience and security as well as reform in the Energy Market. Which is the contribution of Greece in those solutions?

 Kostas Skrekas, Minister of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic
- 17:30 – 18:30 **SESSION 19**
Renewable Energy: Increasing Energy Security in a Sustainable way
 Strategic investments towards climate resilience - How strategic investors can contribute to the green transition of the Greek economy while developing local partnerships, generating, and diffusing value to local communities?

Speakers
 Alexandra Sdoukou, General Secretary for Energy and Minerals Resources
 ✓ Yannis Yiarentis, Chairman BoD & CEO, DAPPEP
 ✓ Georgios Rokas, Chairman & CEO, R Energy1
 ✓ Anastasios Tossios, Deputy Chief Exec. Director, Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP)
 Hellenic Petroleum Group of Companies
 Copelouzos Group
 TERNA Energy SA
- 18:30 - 18:40 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**
- 18:40 – 19:30 **SESSION 20**
Unlocking the hidden Value: A Circular Solid Waste Management Model
 From Waste Management to Up-cycling - How innovative management solutions can transform the management of solid waste from energy and money-consuming into a value-adding circular process while protecting regional environmental ecosystems?

Moderator
 ✓ Elias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens New Agency

Speakers
 Manolis Grafakos, General Secretary for Waste Management Coordination
 ✓ Grigoris Alexopoulos, President, Regional Association of Solid Management Agencies of Achaia
 Michalis Geranis, President, Solid Waste Management Association, Region Central Macedonia
 Spyros Oikonomou, President, Center for Renewable Energy Sources & Saving
 Ioli Christopoulou, Partner & Policy Director, The Green Tank
- 19:30 – 20:30 **SESSION 21**
The Energy Transition from Hydrocarbons to Renewables and Electrification

 ✓ Aristofanis Stefanos. CEO, Hellenic Hydrocarbon Resources Management
 Representative of DESFA
- 20:45 **END OF DAY 2**

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, MARCH 17

ACHAIA

08:30 – 09:00 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

09:00 – 10:00

SESSION 22

Local-sensitive Health System Reform: The Case of Greece

Rationalisation of the Health System in a local-sensitive way - How can reforms of the National Health System address regional inequalities and optimise the healthcare services provided to the citizens in the Post-Covid-era.

Moderator

Speakers

Mina Gaga, Alternate Minister of Health, Hellenic Republic

Ioannis Kotsiopoulos, General Secretary at Ministry of Health, Hellenic Republic

Yiannis Karvelis, Administrator, 6th Health Region Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus & Wes. GR

10:00 – 11:00

SESSION 23

Access to safe, effective and affordable medicines

Addressing emerging challenges in the pharmaceutical sector - How innovative policy solutions can address equal access to pharmaceutical therapies while generating space for investments in Greece and knowledge-transferring from Universities and Research Institutes?

Moderator

Speakers

Athanasios Plevris, Minister of Health, Hellenic Republic

✓ Theodoros Skylakakis, Alternate Minister of Finance

Olympios Papadimitriou, President, Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies

Theodoros Tryfon, VP, ELPEN Pharmaceutical | CO-CEO, ELPEN Group. Elpen Pharmaceutical Co Inc

11:00 – 12:00

SESSION 24

The Social and Economic impact of sports on Regional Development

Knowledge Partner: General Secretariat of Sports

Lefteris Avgenakis, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports

Dimitra Papadimitriou, Professor, Department of Business Administration, University of Patras

12:00 – 12:30

NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE

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- 12:15 – 12:40 **DISCUSSION**
Tourism
- Vasilis Kikilias, Minister of Tourism
- 12:40 – 13:40 **SESSION 25**
Upgrading the Greek Tourism Product in a Sustainable Way
Strategizing the future of hospitality in the Post-covid era - How sustainable investments can upgrade the Greek tourism product, leading to regional sustainable development?
- Speakers**
- ✓ Alexandros Angelopoulos, CEO, Aldemar
 - Katerina Saridaki, Director, Capsule T Accelerator
 - ✓ Elsa Exarhou, CEO, Branding Greece
- 13:40 – 14:10 **DISCUSSION**
Nomads: Traveling Global Talent
- Dimitris Fragakis, Secretary General, Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO)
- 14:10 – 15:00 **DISCUSSION**
Digital Transformation of the State as the Catalyser of Productivity
How 4 years of reforms both code and laws have changed the State-Citizen (inter)face, released resources, and boosted productivity? What are the next steps towards a digital future?
- Kyriakos Pierrakakis, Minister for Digital Governance
- 15:00 - 15:30 **LUNCH | NETWORKING**
- 15:30 – 16:30 **SESSION 26**
New Roads in Regional Development
Connecting the dots of sustainable growth - How we can design and upgrade the traffic infrastructure of Greece, utilizing innovative financial products, in order to increase safety, minimize costs, and unlock development opportunities?
- Opening Remarks & Discussion**
Kostas Karamanlis, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport
- Speakers**
- George Karagiannis, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure at Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
 - Rodianos Antonakopoulos, CEO, Nea Odos & Kentriki Odos
 - Alexandros Exarchou, Vice Chairman and CEO, Intrakat S.A.
 - Marios Tsakas, CEO, DEDA

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- 16:30 – 16:40 **IN DISCUSSION**
Olympia Odos as a Concession Project: Positive mobility and challenges
Moderator
 ✓ Elias Palialexis, Journalist, Athens New Agency
Speaker
 ✓ Panayotis Papanikolas, Chairman & CEO, Olympia Odos
- 16:40 - 17:40 **SESSION 27**
Blue Gates: The Role of Ports in Prosperity
 Towards a cohesive ports policy - How technology solutions can upgrade the contribution of Ports in regional development, minimizing times, costs, and energy footprint?
Speakers
 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
- 17:40 - 17:50 **NETWORKING BREAK | COFFEE**
- 17:50 - 18:50 **SESSION**
Knowledge Partner: Achaia Development Agency SA
Moderator
 ✓ Iro Tsimpri, General Director, Achaia Development Agency
- 18:50 - 19:50 **SESSION 28**
Blue Economy: Designing a Holistic Policy Approach on Mediterranean Mega-Region
 The exploitation, preservation and regeneration of marine ecosystems is a critical policy priority for Greece, a leader in tourism, shipping, and other activities, which makes the Greek economy totally interdependent on the marine ecosystem, How can address the climate crisis and adapt our policies and business practices towards a resilient Mediterranean?
Moderator
 ✓ Theodora Tsokou, Manager, Data Consultants
Speakers
 ✓ Aggeliki Kosmopoulou, Executive Director, Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation
 Antonis Magoulas, Director of Research, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
 ✓ Ioannis Psycharis, Professor Regional Science, Panteion University
 ✓ George Papatheodorou, Professor, University of Patras
 ✓ Nikolaos Komineas, Mayor of Astypalaia

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19:50 - 20:50

SESSION 29

Digital challenges and opportunities in the cultural sector

In this panel we will discuss the prospects of technology in the cultural sector and how these can become a generator for growth, inclusion and development in a regional and national level.

*Knowledge Partner:*The Friends of Music Society

Moderator

✓ Alexandros Charkiolakis, Director, The Friends of Music Society

Speakers

✓ Leonidas Christopoulos, Gen. Secretary, Digital Governance & Procedures, Ministry Digital Governance

✓ Eleni Doundoulaki, Secretary General of Contemporary Culture

✓ Thalia Tsalkitzi, Culture Department Manager, Unisystems

✓ Agiati Benardou, Director, Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities

20:50

END OF DAY 2

DAY 3 - SATURDAY, MARCH 18

AUDITORIUM

08:30 – 09:00 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION | COFFEE**

09:00 – 10:00 **SESSION 30**
European Union in the Region of Western Greece

Knowledge Partner: European Parliament's Liaison Office in Greece & Regional Policy Monitor

Moderator

✓ John Papageorgiou, Journalist, Regional Policy Monitor Director

Introductory comments

✓ Constantinos Tsoutsoplides, Head of Liaison Office in Greece, European Parliament

Speakers

✓ Nektarios Farmakis, Governor of Western Greece
Representative of the European Commission

10:00 – 12:00 **EU YOUTH HUB WORKSHOP**
Challenges and Future Direction of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data

*Knowledge Partner: Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
European Parliament's Liaison Office in Greece & Regional Policy Monitor
Regional Policy Monitor*

Moderator

✓ Spyros Blavoukos, Associate Professor, Intern. & European Studies, University of Athens

Speakers

Constantinos Daskalakis, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT
Representative European Parliament
Representative European Commission

12:00 – 13:00 **SESSION 31**
Democracy

George A. Papandreou, former Prime Minister of Greece, President of Socialist International
✓ Spyros Blavoukos, Associate Professor, Intern. & European Studies, University of Athens

13:00 – 13:30 **NETWORKING BREAK | LIGHT LUNCH**

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13:30 – 14:30

SESSION 32

Entrepreneurship Culture in Higher Education: are market sectors looking for that in the Universities?

Knowledge Partner: University of Peloponnese

Moderator

✓ Spiros Sirmakessis, Professor, University of the Peloponnese

Speakers

- ✓ Harry Arapantzis, Account Executive, Huawei Technologies
- ✓ Nikolaos Lambroggiorgos, Client Executive, Public Sector Greece, CISCO
- ✓ Athanasios Katsis, Professor, Rector, University of Peloponnese
- ✓ Katerina Papanikolaou, Senior Manager, Head of Skills and DEI services, PwC Greece

14:30 – 15:30

SESSION 33

Re-Skilling and Up-Skilling

Competitiveness of human capital - How can increase & sustain our human capital's competitiveness in mission-critical skill for the 4th Industrial Revolution and the future industry change?

Moderator

✓ George Taramas, Manager, Data Consultants

Speakers

- ✓ Dimitris Vergados, Director, Business Issues, Public & Media Communication, Hellenic Federation of Enterprises
- ✓ Dr Paris Kokorotsikos, CEO, Euroconsultants; Advisory BM, IASP, Visiting Professor, Hellenic University
- Sotiris Karagiannis, Chief Innovation Officer, Space Hellas
- Prof. Loukas Zachilas, Director Re-skilling, Cedefop
- ✓ Kostis Katsanevas, Founder, Careergate Representative TERNA

15:30 – 16:30

SESSION 34

Youth Empowerment and Employment

How the Greek Government can utilize EU funds and frameworks, supporting the upskilling and reskilling efforts of Greek Industry, in order to disrupt opportunities inequalities and skilling gaps, with a particular focus on youth human capital empowerment and unemployment reduction strategies.

Knowledge Partner: Special Secretariat for EU/ESF Programmes, Ministry of Development

SPEAKERS

- Patrick Paquet, Head of Unit Responsible for Greece and Cyprus, DG EMPL
- ✓ Spiros Protopsaltis, Governor & Chair BoD, Greek Public Employment Service (DYPA)
- ✓ Niki Dandolou, Special Secretary for EU/ESF Programmes, Ministry of Development
- ✓ Eleni Gioti, Secretary General for Employment Development, Ministry of Employment

16:30

END OF CONFERENCE

DAY 3 - SATURDAY, MARCH 18

ACHAIA

08:30 – 09:00 **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION | COFFEE**

09:00 - 10:00 **SESSION 35**

Decentralization of Innovation and Technology Transfer to Regions

In the era of the knowledge economy and exponential innovation, which is the role of government, industry, and academia in the growth of an open-ended knowledge transfer and start-up ecosystem adapted to regional needs?

Christos Bouras, Rector, University of Patras

✓ Yannis Charalabidis, Professor of Digital Governance, University of Aegean (?)

Katerina Pramataris, Founding partner, Uni.Fund

University of Peloponnesse

10:00 - 11:00 **SESSION 36**

11:00 - 12:00 **SESSION 37**

The impact of the European Structural and Investment Funds on the Greek Regions

Knowledge Partner: Data Consultants

SPEAKERS

✓ Niki Dandolou, Special Secretary for EU/ESF Programmes, Ministry of Development
Representative Managing Authority, Region of Western Greece

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

12:00 - 13:00 **SESSION 38**

Cybersecurity as development booster: Safeguarding your business-critical functions

Cybersecurity is one of the key strategic priorities for both the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other major funds. Cyber threats and attacks pose significant risks to business continuity. How can SMEs and Regional Government authorities safeguard their data and mission-critical systems efficiently?

ENISA Representative

Thomas Dompridis. Head of the General Directorate of Cyber Security of the Ministry of Digital Government

George Patsis, CEO, Obrela Security Industries

Christos Vidakis, Principal, Risk Advisory Department in Greece, Deloitte

13:00 – 13:30 **NETWORKING BREAK | LIGHT LUNCH**

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SESSION 39

Introducing innovation in Public Organizations

New policy design for high social impact for the labour market. The case of the Greek Social Innovation Center.

- ✓ Konstantinos Agrapidas, Head, Directorate General, Labour Relation, Health, Safety & Labour Integration
- ✓ Dimitris Panopoulos, Head Labour Market Policy Analysis, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- ✓ Eva Dramalioti, President National Centre of Public Administration & Local Governance
- George Chalkias, General Manager Documentation, Research and Innovation Institute (ITEK)

14:30 - 15:30

SESSION 40

15:30 - 16:30

SESSION 41

Knowledge Partner: Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece

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

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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

A) An exhibition of E-Trikala will run in conjunction with the Conference. The exhibition will be at the foyer of the Conference Center throughout the days of the conference,

B) 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 2023, which will take place from March 16-18 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 three-day Workshop. The topic of this year's Workshop is "TBA", and it has been designed to offer an interdisciplinary approach to the above topic through lectures, presentations, group works and on-site visits to relative local businesses and organizations to offer to the students combined theoretical and empirical knowledge.

Furthermore, for its 4th consecutive year of cooperation with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of the Peloponnese, the RGC will be organizing a Spring School, which will take an in-depth look at "TBA".

Apart from participating in educational activities, at the RGC 2023 students have the opportunity to meet important personalities from Greece and abroad, and attend keynote speeches, sessions and interviews.

RGC 2023 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.

C) Seminar for the Journalist of the Region of Western Greece by the European Parliament's Liaison Office in Greece

“Topics and tools of the EU reportage”

Saturday, March 18 | 12.00 -14.00