

## Conference Program

Territorial cross-border cooperation in S.E. Europe,  
the institutional vesting and the role of financial incentives

### 1st Day

- 07:30 | Bus departure
- 15:00 - 17:00 | Visit to the facilities of the Sofia Metropolitan Waste Treatment Company
- 20:30 - 23:00 | Dinner

### 2nd Day

- 09:00 - 09:30 | **Registrations**
- 09:30 - 10:15 | Opening Ceremony - Welcome Remarks
- 09:30 - 09:35 | Welcome address of **Prof. Dr. Dimitar Panayotov Dimitrov**, Rector of the University of National and World Economy of Sofia
- 09:35 - 09:40 | Welcome address of **Grigoris Konstantelos**, Chairman of Efxini Poli EGTC, Mayor of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni
- 09:40 - 09:45 | Welcome address of **Vasilis Xenos Gavrielis**, Director of Amfictyony EGTC
- 09:45 - 09:50 | Welcome address of **Dimitris Maravelias**, Chairman of Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Authorities
- 09:50 - 09:55 | Welcome address of **Dr. Spyridon Spyridon**, Managing Director of Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Authorities
- 09:55 - 10:00 | Welcome address of **Georgios Dastamanis**, President of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Western Macedonia, Mayor of Grevena
- 10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome address of **Vasilis Mayridis**, President of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Mayor of Grevena
- 10:05 - 10:15 | Welcome address of **Simos Daniilidis**, Chairman of HELICAS EGTC, Mayor of Neapoli – Sykies
- 10:15 - 10:50 | **Keynote speech**  
The importance of cross-border cooperation of sub-national actors to maintain peace and stability in SE Europe and the Western Balkans  
**George Papandreou**, Chairperson of Sub-Committee on Democracy of the Council of Europe, Member of the European Parliament, former Prime Minister of Greece  
**George Kremlis**, Principal Advisor to the Greek Prime Minister on energy, climate, environment and circular economy issues, Member of the Board of the European Public Law Organisation, Honorary Director of the European Commission
- 10:50 - 11:00 | **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 - 11:15 | Territorial cross-border cooperation in the new programming period. Challenges, perspectives, priorities  
**Representative of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes**  
(tbc)

11:15 - 11:30	<p>Latest developments in institutionally enshrined territorial cooperation and its importance</p> <p><b>Slaven Klobucar</b>, Committee of Regions</p>
11:30 - 11:45	<p>The importance and role of EGTCs in territorial cooperation and an overview of the situation in SE Europe with respect to institutionalized territorial cooperation</p> <p><b>Antonios Karvounis</b>, Head Department of International and European Relations Hellenic Ministry of Interior</p>
11:45 - 12:00	<p>Leadership and good governance in cross-border cooperation</p> <p><b>Niall Sherin</b>, Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, Council of Europe</p> <p>Moderator <b>Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis</b>, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences of AUTH, Secretary of the Board of HELICAS EGTC</p>
12:00 - 13:00	<p>Subnational actors in cross-border cooperation. The importance of financial incentives. Barriers and stereotypes to institutionalized cross-border cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prespa as a cross-border cooperation laboratory. Three countries, one strategic plan, one legal entity. A utopia or an achievable goal?</li> </ul> <p><b>Panagiotis Paschalidis</b>, Mayor of Prespes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategically planned and managed cross-border cooperation in the Serbian-Bulgarian border area</li> </ul> <p><b>Eros Ervin</b>, CESCO Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Territorial cooperation programs and their contribution to the integrated planning of local authorities</li> </ul> <p><b>Elisavet Pavlidou</b>, Chemical Engineer MSc, Director of European Projects Department, Lever Development Consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding opportunities for innovation: The ICAERUS project – funding calls for local communities in cross-border areas</li> </ul> <p><b>George Papapostolou</b>, Food Scale Hub</p> <p>Moderator <b>Yannis Anastasiadis</b>, Director of HELICAS EGTC</p>
13:00 - 13:45	Q&A - Discussion
13:45 - 14:00	Closing remarks and summary
14:00 - 15:00	Lunch

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