ΕΟΕΣ ΑΜΦΙΚΤΥΟΝΙΑ
EGTC AMPHICTYONY
GECT ANFIZIONIA
Ευρωπαϊκός Όμιλος Εδαφικής Συνεργασίας
European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale

HELICAS E.G.T.C.
HOLISTIC EFFICIENT LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES

E.G.T.C. Efxini Poli
European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

S.E. Europe and CB Cooperation Challenges - Perspectives

April 3-4, 2025 | Thessaloniki

PROGRAMME

Conference Programme
S.E. Europe and CB Cooperation
Challenges - Perspectives
Thessaloniki 3-4 of April, 2025

1st Day

15:30-16:00 Registrations - Coffee

16:00-16:45 Welcome and Greeting Speeches

Lazaros Kirizoglou
President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece

Lisandros Metaxas
Vice Governor of Western Macedonia

Konstantinos Kontos
Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Dimitris Maravelias
President of EETAA

Elvira Forte
Public Relations officer
European Parliament Office in Greece

Ioannis Savvas
Secretary of Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace

Eleftherios Alexandridis
Vice President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Central Macedonia

Panos Kepaptsoglou
President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Western Macedonia

Savvas Michailidis
President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Eastern Macedonia &Thrace
Mayor of Nestos

Xenofon Verginis
Member of the Board of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Ionian Islands

Giorgos Dimarelos
Deputy Mayor for Urban Sanitation, Recycling and Climate Protection

Panagiotis Grigorakos
President of the Panhellenic Association of the Secretary Generals of Municipalities

16:45-17:00 Greeting Speeches from the three Chairmen of the EGTCs

Grigoris Konstantellos
Chairman of the BoD of Efxini Poli
Mayor of Vari Voula Vouliagmeni

Vasilis Xenos
Representative of the Chairman of the BoD of Amfictyony
Director of Amfictyony

Simos Daniilidis
Chairman of the BoD of HELICAS
Mayor of Nepaoli Sikees

17:00-17:15 Keynote Speech

Gyula Ocskay
Secretary General of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives

1st SESSION: Cross-border Cooperation, European Experience, and the S.E. Europe
Coordinator: Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis, *AUTH*

17:15-17:30 — 34 years of European Territorial Cooperation in SE Europe: The power of "together" in practice
Katerina Themeli
Interreg 2021-2027 (Greece)

17:30-17:45 — Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships of Local Government in South-East Europe:
The Greek Experience
Dr. Antonis Karvounis
Hellenic Ministry of Interior
Head of the Independent Department of International and European Relations

17:45-18:00 — EGTCs and Other Tools of Cooperation
Marie-Aline Deltenre, *Programme Manager*
Unit D2 Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders
DG REGIO-European Commission

18:00-18:15 — B-Solutions and the Mechanism to Resolve Legal and Administrative Obstacles in a Cross-border Context (BRIDGEforEU)
Martin Guillermo Ramirez, *Secretary General*
Association of European Border Region

18:15-18:30 — Embedding the EU Strategy for the Adriatic & Ionian Region and Post-2027 IPA/Interreg Programmes in SEE.
Georgios Emmanouil, *Policy Officer*
Unit D1 Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement & EUSAIR
DG REGIO-European Commission

18:30-18:45 — The Hellenic Presidency of the European Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macroRegion 2024-2025: Priorities – Activities –Prospects
Mathilde Konstantopoulou
National Coordinator of EUSAIR
Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Finance
General Secretariat for NSRF

18:45-19:00 — Questions - Discussion

19:00-19:15 — ***Coffee Break***

2nd SESSION: Discovering the European Experiences
Coordination: Sakis Papageorgiou, *Secretary General Municipality of Ampelokipi – Menemeni*

19:15-19:30 — Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino:
The strategy of an alpine EGTC
Elisa Bertò, *Ph.D,* *Deputy Secretary General*
EGTC - "Euregio Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino"

19:30-19:45 — EGCT - Cerdanya Hospital: The First and Only Cross-border Hospital in Europe
Xavier Conill, *Director General*
EGTC - Hospital de Cerdanya

19:45-20:45	Questions - Discussion
21:00	***Dinner***

2nd Day

2nd SESSION: Discovering the European Experiences (continuation)

09:30-09:45
Vital Links from North Sea to Mediterranean
The case of the EGTC Rhine-Alpine Corridor
Dr. Cecilia Braun, *Director*
Interregional Alliance for the Rhine–Alpine Corridor EGTC

09:45-10:00
Cross-Border Areas and the Institutionalized Territorial Cooperation
The case of Euroregion Galicia North Portugal
Vital Links from North Sea to Mediterranean
Nuno Almeida, *Director*
Galicia-Norte Portugal EGTC

Beyond Boundaries: Debordering Processes and Academic Integration in the Euroregion Galicia - Norte de Portugal
Inês Gusman, *Prof., Director*
CEER Foundation

10:00-10:15
Forms of Governance of Cross-border Urban Areas
The case of Goricia-Nova Gorizia
Romina Kocina, *Director*
EGTC GO

10:15-11:00
Questions - Discussion

11:00-11:30
Coffee Break

3rd SESSION: Towards Better Cooperation in SE Europe
Coordination: Efi Theodoraki , *Vice Mayor Municipality of Thessaloniki*

11:30-12:30
Governance of CB Areas and Integrated Territorial Development

CLLD Strategy in the Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino area
Elisa Bertò, Ph.D

Three Countries, Two Lakes, One Vision: Prespa EGTC Linking Nature to Prosperity
Dr. Michalis Petrakos, *Secretary General, Municipality of Prespes*

Integrated Territorial Development in Rhodope Mountain Range
Emmanouil Chatzopoulos, *Director of Development Agency of Drama*

Culture as a Vehicle for Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation in South-East Europe
Dr. Persefoni Tsaliki, *Professor, AUTH*
Project Manager, Globus Cultura Intercultural Organization AMKE

Tourism Development in the Balkans in the Light of Cross-Border Co-Funded Programs
Christina-Maria Bateka, *Graduate of MSc "Tourism and Local Development*

Sustainable Regional Development through Rural-Urban Cooperatives
Chris Avdelas, *Project Manager*
Reframe Food

The relevant provisions of the EU Regulation 1059/2021
Coordination: Yannis Anastasiadis, *Director of H.E.L.I.C.A.S. EGTC*

12:30-13:30 Public Health and CB Areas

Local Health Observatories. Definition, challenges, perspectives
Dr. Maria Vrasida, *As.Proff.*
American College of Greece

Lessons Learned from the Cerdanya
Xavier Conill, *Director General*
EGTC - Hospital de Cerdanya

Public Health and Interreg Program
Strengthening the remote agriculture, forestry, and rural areas through a holistic assessment of the benefits of Smart XG, Last-mile, and Edge Solutions. The case for transforming health and independent living with 5G, eCare and eCoaching"
Vasilis Kotsikoris, *Project Manager, Rainno*
Ninos Athanasopoulos, *Technical Product Manager, CAPTAIN Coach*

Coordination: Vasilis Xenos, *Director of Amfictyony EGTC*

13:30-14:00 ***Lunch Break***

14:00-15:00 Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in CB Areas

Grigoris Konstantellos
Chairman of the BoD of Efxini Poli
Mayor of Vari Voula Vouliagmeni

Prof. Efthimios Lekkas
President of Earthquake and Protection Organization

Georgios Boustras
Professor, Risk Decision Sciences
Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Cyprus

Chrisostomos Kalogirou
Representative of "Climanet" EGTC
Municipality of Thessaloniki

Spiridoula Ntemiri, *Chemical Engineer PhD*
Project Manager of the LIFE-IP AdaptinGR
External Collaborator – Green Fund

Michalis Karakatsanis, *Meteorologist*
Former Secretary General of the Municipality of Hersonissos

Coordination: Panagiotis Grigorakos, *President of the Panhellenic Association of the Secretary Generals of Municipalities*

George Pappous, *General Director of Efxini Polis EGTC*

15:00-16:00 Digital innovation and CB Areas-The case of Digital Innovation Hubs

SYNERGiNN EDIH, Greece
DIGIAGRIFOOD EDIH, Greece
Health Hub EDIH, Greece
DiVA EDIH, Albania
DigitMAK EDIH, North Macedonia
EDIH Zagore, Bulgaria

Coordination: Ervin Eros, *CESCI BALKANS*

16:00-17:00 A roadmap for Improving Cross-border Cooperation in S.E. Europe.

Speaker tbc
Committee of the Regions

Martin Guillermo Ramirez, *Secretary General*
Association of European Border Region

Gyula Ocskay *Secretary General*
Central European Service for CB Initiatives

Sanda Simic, *former Assistant Minister*
Ministry of European Integrations, Republic of Serbia

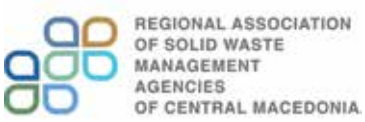
Antonis Karvounis
Ministry of Interior

Yannis Anastasiadis
HELICAS EGTC

17:00-17:30 General Discussion

17:30-18:00 Adoption of Conclusions

End of the Conference

Notes

WITH THE SUPPORT OF