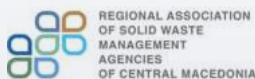


S.E. Europe and CB Cooperation Challenges - Perspectives

April 3-4, 2025 | Thessaloniki, Greece

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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Yannis Anastasiadis

Director, HELICAS

Invited Speakers



Keynote Speech
Gyula Ocskay
Secretary General, Central European Service for CB Initiatives



34 years of European Territorial Cooperation in SE Europe:
The power of “together” in practice
Katerina Themeli
Managing Authority, Interreg 2021-2027 (Greece)



Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperations of Local Authorities in SE Europe
The Greek experience
Antonis Karvounis
*Hellenic Ministry of Interior
Head of the Independent Department of International and European Relations*



EGTCs and Other Tools of Cooperation
Marie-Aline Deltenre
*Unit D2 Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders
DG REGIO-European Commission*



B-Solutions and the Mechanism to Resolve Legal and Administrative Obstacles in a Cross-border
Context (BRIDGEforEU)
Martin Guillermo Ramirez
Secretary General of AEBR



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*



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*



Cross-border CLLD Strategy
The case of Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino

Elisa Bertò

Secretary General, EGTC - "Euregio Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino"



EGCT - Cerdanya Hospital: the First and Only Cross-border Hospital in Europe
& Lessons Learned from the Cerdanya

Xavier Conill

Director General, EGTC - Hospital de Cerdanya



Governance in CB Natural Ecosystems
The case of Rhine-Alpine Corridor

Cecilia Braun

Director, Interregional Alliance for the Rhine-Alpine Corridor EGTC



Cross-Border Areas and the Institutionalized Territorial Cooperation
The case of Euroregion Galicia North Portugal Vital Links from North Sea to the 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



Forms of Governance of Cross-border Urban Areas
The case of Gorizia-Nova Gorizia

Romina Kocina

Director, EGTC GO



Three Countries, Two Lakes, One Vision: Prespa EGTC Linking Nature to Prosperity

Michalis Petrakos

Secretary General, Municipality of Prespes



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



Culture as a Vehicle for Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation in South-East Europe
Persefoni Tsaliki
Professor, AUTH



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 Avdellas
Project Manager, Reframe Food



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



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



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
Nikos Athanasopoulos
Technical Product Manager, CAPTAIN Coach



Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in CB Areas
Efthimios Lekkas
Professor
President of Earthquake and Protection Organization



Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in CB Areas
Chrisostomos Kalogirou
Representative of "Climanet" EGTC
Municipality of Thessaloniki



Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in CB Areas
Spyridoula Ntemiri
Chemical Engineer, PhD
Climate Change Project Manager, Green Fund



Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in CB Areas
Michalis Karakatsanis
Meteorologist
Former Secretary General of the Municipality of Hersonissos



A roadmap for Improving Cross-border Cooperation in S.E. Europe
Klaus Boele
Policy officer, COTER commission



A roadmap for Improving Cross-border Cooperation in S.E. Europe
Sanda Simic
Former Assistant Minister, Ministry of European Integrations, Republic of Serbia

General Information

EGTCs Conference: Ampicthyony - Helicas - Efxini Poli

S.E. Europe and CB Cooperation | Challenges – Perspectives

April 3-4, 2025

Venue



Grand Hotel Palace – Grace Hall

Grand Hotel Palace is a five star hotel in Thessaloniki. The hotel is located at a central point at the entrance of the city and has a total capacity of 243. Grand Hotel Palace combines neoclassical elegance with comfort, timeless luxury with functionality and high-quality services. It is the largest conference hotel built in Thessaloniki, the city of history and culture, and metropolis and evergreen economic center of the Balkan region.

Official language

The official language of the Conference is **Greek**, with interpretation available in **English** and **Bulgarian**.

Certificates

All certificates of attendance will be sent by e-mail to all delegates and presenters right after the Conference.

Conference Dinner



Venue: Grand Hotel Palace - Garden Hall

Date: April 3rd, 2025

Time: 21:00

Meeting Secretariat



OFFICIAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZER – EGTCs Conference

E. secretariat@artion.com.gr

T. (+30) 2310252335 (Conference Line), (+30) 2310272275

Project Leader: Despina Amarantidou

Project Manager: Zoi Pazaiti

Sponsorship Coordinator: Efi Papathanasiou

Communications: Maria Kantziari, Olga Bogiatzi

Publications: Nikoleta Konstantinidou

Graphic Designer: Ioannis Fidelis

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 <i>President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece</i> Lisandros Metaxas <i>Vice Governor of Western Macedonia</i> Konstantinos Kontos <i>Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace</i> Dimitris Maravelias <i>President of EETAA</i> Elvira Forte <i>Public Relations officer European Parliament Office in Greece</i> Ioannis Savvas <i>Secretary of Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace</i> Eleftherios Alexandridis <i>Vice President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Central Macedonia</i> Panos Kepaptoglou <i>President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Western Macedonia</i> Savvas Michailidis <i>President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Eastern Macedonia & Thrace Mayor of Nestos</i> Xenofon Verginis <i>Member of the Board of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Ionian Islands</i> Giorgos Dimarelos <i>Deputy Mayor for Urban Sanitation, Recycling and Climate Protection</i> Panagiotis Grigorakos <i>President of the Panhellenic Association of the Secretary Generals of Municipalities</i>
16:45-17:00	Greeting Speeches from the three Chairmen of the EGTCs Grigoris Konstantellos <i>Chairman of the BoD of Efxini Poli Mayor of Vari Voula Vouliagmeni</i> Vasilis Xenos <i>Representative of the Chairman of the BoD of Amfictyony Director of Amfictyony</i> Simos Daniilidis <i>Chairman of the BoD of HELICAS Mayor of Neapoli - Sykies</i>

17:00-17:15	Keynote Speech Gyula Ocskay <i>Secretary General of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives</i>
	1st SESSION: Cross-border Cooperation, European Experience, and the S.E. Europe Coordinator: Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis, AUTH
17:15-17:30 practice	34 years of European Territorial Cooperation in SE Europe: The power of “together” in Katerina Themeli <i>Interreg 2021-2027 (Greece)</i>
17:30-17:45	Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships of Local Government in South-East Europe: The Greek Experience Dr. Antonis Karvounis <i>Hellenic Ministry of Interior</i> <i>Head of the Independent Department of International and European Relations</i>
17:45-18:00	EGTCs and Other Tools of Cooperation Marie-Aline Deltenre , <i>Programme Manager</i> <i>Unit D2 Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders</i> <i>DG REGIO-European Commission</i>
18:00-18:15	B-Solutions and the Mechanism to Resolve Legal and Administrative Obstacles in a Cross-border Context (BRIDGEforEU) Martin Guillermo Ramirez , <i>Secretary General</i> <i>Association of European Border Region</i>
18:15-18:30	Embedding the EU Strategy for the Adriatic & Ionian Region and Post-2027 IPA/Interreg Programmes in SEE. Georgios Emmanouil , <i>Policy Officer</i> <i>Unit D1 Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement & EUSAIR</i> <i>DG REGIO-European Commission</i>
18:30-18:45	The Hellenic Presidency of the European Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macroRegion 2024-2025: Priorities – Activities –Prospects Mathilde Konstantopoulou <i>National Coordinator of EUSAIR</i> <i>Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Finance</i> <i>General Secretariat for NSRF</i>
18:45-19:00	Questions - Discussion
19:00-19:15	Coffee Break
	2nd SESSION: Discovering the European Experiences Coordination: Sakis Papageorgiou , <i>Secretary General Municipality of Ampelokipi-Menemeni</i>

- 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 EGTC - 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, Grand Hotel Palace**

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 Gorizia-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
Deputy Secretary General
EGTC "Euregio Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino"

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 Avdellas, *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*
Nikos Athanopoulos, *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

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, CESCO BALKANS

16:00-17:00

A roadmap for Improving Cross-border Cooperation in S.E. Europe.

Klaus Boele

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