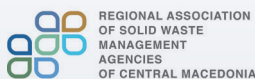


# S.E. Europe and CB Cooperation Challenges - Perspectives

April 3-4, 2025 | Thessaloniki, Greece

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



## Organizing Committee

### PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Simos Daniilidis**

*Chairman of the BoD of HELICAS  
Mayor of Neapoli – Sykies*

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*Professor, Member of the IHU BoD*

**Ervin Eros**

*CESCI BALKANS*

**Grigoris Zarotiadis, Professor**

*AUTH Board Member*

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*Deputy Mayor for Education and Lifelong Learning of the Municipality of Thessaloniki*

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*General Director of Efxini Polis EGTC*

**Tsaira Ada**

*Member of BoD of HELICAS, Representative of Club UNESCO Serres*

**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**.

## 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

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**Graphic Designer:** Ioannis Fidelis

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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day

15:30-16:00	Registrations - Coffee
16:00-16:45	Welcome and Greeting Speeches <b>Lazaros Kirizoglou</b> <i>President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece</i> <b>Lisandros Metaxas</b> <i>Vice Governor of Western Macedonia</i> <b>Konstantinos Kontos</b> <i>Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace</i> <b>Dimitris Maravelias</b> <i>President of EETAA</i> <b>Elvira Forte</b> <i>Public Relations officer European Parliament Office in Greece</i> <b>Ioannis Savvas</b> <i>Secretary of Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace</i> <b>Eleftherios Alexandridis</b> <i>Vice President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Central Macedonia</i> <b>Panos Kepaptsoglou</b> <i>President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Western Macedonia</i> <b>Savvas Michailidis</b> <i>President of Regional Union of Municipalities of Eastern Macedonia &amp; Thrace Mayor of Nestos</i> <b>Xenofon Verginis</b> <i>Member of the Board of the Regional Union of Municipalities of Ionian Islands</i> <b>Giorgos Dimarelos</b> <i>Deputy Mayor for Urban Sanitation, Recycling and Climate Protection</i> <b>Panagiotis Grigorakos</b> <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 <b>Grigoris Konstantellos</b> <i>Chairman of the BoD of Efxini Poli Mayor of Vari Voula Vouliagmeni</i> <b>Vasilis Xenos</b> <i>Representative of the Chairman of the BoD of Amfictyony Director of Amfictyony</i> <b>Simos Daniilidis</b> <i>Chairman of the BoD of HELICAS Mayor of Neapoli - Sykies</i>



17:00-17:15	Keynote Speech <b>Gyula Ocskay</b> <i>Secretary General of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives</i>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SESSION: Cross-border Cooperation, European Experience, and the S.E. Europe Coordinator: Prof. Grigoris Zarotiadis, AUTH</b>
17:15-17:30 practice	34 years of European Territorial Cooperation in SE Europe: The power of “together” in <b>Katerina Themeli</b> <i>Interreg 2021-2027 (Greece)</i>
17:30-17:45	Bilateral and Multilateral Partnerships of Local Government in South-East Europe: The Greek Experience <b>Dr. Antonis Karvounis</b> <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 <b>Marie-Aline Deltenre</b> , <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) <b>Martin Guillermo Ramirez</b> , <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. <b>Georgios Emmanouil</b> , <i>Policy Officer</i> <i>Unit D1 Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement &amp; 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 <b>Mathilde Konstantopoulou</b> <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	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION: Discovering the European Experiences</b> <b>Coordination: Sakis Papageorgiou</b> , <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**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
**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 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*

**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, CESC 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