

**«ENTREPRENEURSHIP - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM-
CHALLENGES, PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BALKANS»**

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

09.30-09.45 **Konstantinos Gioulekas**, Opening speech by the Deputy Minister of Interior, Sector of Macedonia and Thrace

09.45-11.00 **Speeches - Greetings**

- **Theodoros Livanios**, Minister of Interior
- **Lina Mendoni**, Minister of Culture
- **Anastasios Chatzivasileiou**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Elena Rapti**, Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs
- **Anna Karamanli**, Deputy Minister of Tourism

1. Entrepreneurship as a driver of development in the Balkans

General Coordinator of the 1st Thematic Session: Maria Samolada, Journalist

11.00-12.30 **1.1. Business Environment in the Balkans. Challenges, prospects and opportunities**

Moderator: **Nikos Economou, Journalist**

- Speakers:**
- **Antonis Kamaras**, Management Consultant of Greek Federation Industries, SBE
 - **Tsvetan Simeonov**, President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIB)
 - **Simeon Diamantidis**, President of Greek Exporters Association, SEVE
 - **Antonios Katepodis**, Head of the Economic & Commercial Office, Embassy of Greece in Belgrade
 - **Dimitrios Vargiamis**, A' Vice President of General Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Traders of Greece –GSEVEE

"Emilios Riadis" Multipurpose Hall

Thessaloniki International Exhibition & Convention Center

Egnatia 154, 54636

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- **Panayotis Gavras**, Director, Policy and Strategy, BlackSea Trade & Development Bank
- **Marios Belibassakis**, Head of the Office of Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Greece in Tirana
- **Charilaos Alexopoulos**, Board Member of Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)
- **Kostas Georgakos**, President of Greek – Serbian Chamber of Northern Greece

12.30-13.30 **1.2. Transnational Cooperation and Public Policies for Entrepreneurship**

Moderator: **Nikos Yiotis, Journalist**

- Speakers:**
- **Branislav (Bane) Prelevic**, Deputy Regional Governor for Extroversion
 - **Gilles Kittel**, Team Leader - South East Europe, European Commission, DG Regio, D1
 - **Marinos Giannopoulos**, CEO of EnterpriseGreece
 - **Anastasios Sidiropoulos**, General Manager ANKO, Western Macedonia S.A., Organization for Local Development
 - **Konstantinos Kontos**, Deputy Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
 - **Maria Goulaptsi**, Deputy Head of the Independent Directorate for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support
 - **Panayiotis Ketikidis**, President of Alexandria Innovation Zone

13.30-14.00 *Coffeebreak*

2. Sustainable Tourism in the Balkans

General Coordinator of the 2nd Thematic Session: Rallio Lepidou, Journalist

14.00-15.00 **2.1. Public Policies and Innovation in Sustainable Tourism**

Moderator: **Christos Nikolaidis, Journalist**

- Speakers:**
- **Angela Gerekou**, President of Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO)
 - **Eurydice (Vicky) Hadjivassiliou**, Deputy Regional Governor for Tourism
 - **Georgios Emmanouil**, Policy Officer, DG Regio, South East Europe Team, European Commission, D1
 - **Themis Chatzikonstantinou**, JS Coordinator of Interreg VI-A IPA Greece–North Macedonia 2021-2027
 - **Prof. Jovan Popesku**, President of the Centre for Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Development, Serbia
 - **Charita Vlachou**, Department of Economic Sciences AUTH

15.00-16.00 **2.2. Environment and Tourism: Towards a Sustainable Development Model**

Moderator: **Synthia Sapika, Journalist**

- Speakers:**
- **Alexandros Thanos**, Executive Director of the Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE)
 - **Kyriakos Merelis**, President of Thessaloniki Chamber of Tradesmen
 - **Theodoros Makris**, Board Member of HATTA - FEDHATTA
 - **Madlina Puka**, Sustainable Tourism Expert and UCSL Representative of Balkan Region and Auditor of GSTC Criteria for Tourism Industry
 - **Hereklis Tsitlakidis**, B' Vice President of Hellenic Hoteliers Federation & President of Hoteliers Association of Pieria Prefecture
 - **Prof. Ruska Bozhkova**, Tourism Department Faculty of Economics SWU "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
 - **Dimitrios Simiakos**, Secretary General of Thessaloniki Hotels Association



Location

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3. Entrepreneurship Models

General Coordinator of the 2nd Thematic Session: Rallio Lepidou, Journalist

16.00-17.00

Moderator: Vaggelis Plakas, Journalist

Speakers:

- **Georgios Mylonas**, President & CEO, ALUMIL Group
- **Nikos Efthymiadis**, President & CEO, Thess INTEC
- **Christos Giordamlis**, CEO of Prisma Electronics SA
- **Panagiotis Tsinavos**, President & CEO, KRI-KRI
- **Nikos Pentzos**, President & CEO, ZANAE

17.00

Konstantinos Gioulekas, Closing of work and conclusions of thematic sections by the Deputy Minister of Interior of Macedonia and Thrace

A light lunch will follow