



**BALKAN FORUM 2020**  
**«FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION»**  
**THESSALONIKI, SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2020**  
**THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR (Emilios Riadis Hall)**

**DAY 1 (Emilios Riadis Hall)**

**9.30-10.00** *Opening speech by Deputy Minister of Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace) Mr. Theodoros Karaoglou*

**10.00-12.30** *1<sup>st</sup> Session: Policies for growth and support for entrepreneurship and innovation structures/ programmes in the Balkans*

- **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice President of European Commission
- **Panagiotis Theodorikakos** Minister of Interior
- **Adonis Georgiadis**, Minister of Development and Investments
- **Kyriakos Pierrakakis**, Minister of Digital Governance

**12.30-13.00** *Interval / Coffee break*

**13.00-15.30** *2<sup>nd</sup> Session: Business and technology networking and synergies in the Balkans*

**2.1 The EU role in supporting Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

**Moderator:** **Ignatiadis Spyros**, General Director of Greek Exporters Association (SEVE)

**Speakers (8'):**

- **Georgios Kavvathas**, President of Hellenic Confederation of Professionals Craftsmen & Merchants (GSEVEE), Greece
- **Aleksandar Stevanovic**, President of the SASME Economic Council, Serbia
- **Florin Jianu**, President of National Council of Small and Medium Sized Private Enterprises (CNIPMMR), Romania
- **Lakassas Dimitrios**, Ex President of Greek Exporters Association (SEVE), Greece
- **Eleonora Negulova**, Chairperson of National Association of Small and Medium Business (NASMB), Bulgaria



## *2.2 Business Ecosystems Institutions and Infrastructures*

Moderator: **Nikos Katsiadakis**, Electrical Engineer, Extroversion and Networking Services Unit of CERTH

- Speakers (8'): - **Vladimir Velichkovski**, Head of Department for support of business sector, Center for development of Pelagonija Planning Region, Republic of North Macedonia
- **Athanasios Savvakis**, President of Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE)
  - **Aristotelis Spiliotis**, Bank's Secretary General, Black Sea Trade & Development Bank, Greece
  - **Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kuenzel**, Programme Director, Dept.Future Mobility and Europe, VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH, Germany
  - **Jelena Stojovic**, NALED, Serbia

**15.30-16.00** *Interval / Coffee break*

**16.00-18.30** *3<sup>rd</sup> Session: European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg) design in the Balkans and S.E. Europe in the Programming Period 2021-2027 & Capitalization of good practices*

Moderator: **Ivana Lazic**, Interact programme

- Speakers (8'): - **Joanna Mouliou**, Programme Manager – EU Policies European Commission, DG REGIO
- **Georgios Zervos**, Special Secretary for European Regional Development Fund, Ministry of Development & Investments, Greece
  - **George Emmanuel**, General Director, Ministry of Interior (sector Macedonia and Thrace), Greece
  - **Dr. Ioannis Bakouros**, University of Western Macedonia, Regional Development and Cross Border Studies, Greece
  - **Lodovico Gherardi**, Coordinator of the Managing Authority Unit, Italy
  - **Zulieta Gjirkova**, Head, Centre for development of the South-East planning region, Republic of North Macedonia
  - **Sanda Simic**, Assistant Director, Ministry of European Integration, Serbia



**DAY 2 (Emilios Riadis Hall)**

**9.00**            *Arrival of participants (Coffee)*

**9.30-12.30**    *4<sup>th</sup> Session: Adopting successful innovative practices and scientific collaborations in the Balkans' business culture in view of the EU Programming Period 2021-2027*

***4.1. Regional research and innovation policies and programmes***

**Moderator:**    **Fokion Tzourdas**, Commercial Executive of Thessaloniki Technology Park, ThessINTEC

**Speakers (8'):** - **Stratos Stylianidis**, Vice Rector for Research & Lifelong Learning, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

- **Georgia Valatsou**, Permanent Secretary General, Ministry of Interior, Greece

- **Adrijana Bogdanovska Gj. PhD, MBA**, Director, Center for Knowledge Management, Republic of North Macedonia

- **Eleni Kallinikou**, Head of the Bureau of the Permanent Secretary General, Ministry of Interior, Greece

- **Dr. Antonios Karvounis**, EGTCs National Contact Point, Ministry of Interior, Greece

- **Mirela Koci PhD**, Executive Director, Albania

***4.2. Boosting innovative technology infrastructure in the Balkan region: Current situation and future possibilities***

**Moderator:**    **Kyriakos Loufakis**, President of Alexander Innovation Zone S.A

**Speakers (8'):** - **Prof. Dr. Radmil M. Polenakovikj**, Director of Business Start-up Centre Faculty of Mechanical Engineering University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" & President of National Center for Development of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Learning, Republic of North Macedonia

- **Dr. Paris Kokorotsikos**, IASP Expert

- **Remus Trandafir**, Head of Development of Bucharest MSP Technology Park, Romania

- **Todor Mladenov**, Executive Director "Sofia Tech Park" Jsc Sofia, Bulgaria



**12.30-13.00** *Interval / Coffee Break*

**13.00-15.30** *5<sup>th</sup> Session: Green Entrepreneurship, Circular Economy and Climate Change through innovative actions and funding tools in view of the EU Programming Period 2021-2027*

**5.1** *Transition towards sustainable energy and environmental future practices*

Moderator: **Prof. Nicolas Moussiopoulos**, Director of Energy Department, School of Mechanical Engineering – Aristotle University Thessaloniki

Speakers (8'): - **George Kremlis**, Honorary Director, European Commission & Principal Adviser to the Prime Minister for energy, climate, environment & circular Economy  
- **Athanasios G. Konstandopoulos**, Chairman of the Board and Managing Director, CERT Director, Aerosol & Particle Technology Laboratory CERTH/CPERI  
- **Teodora Polimerova**, Director of directorate "Climate, energy and quality", Sofia Municipality, Bulgaria  
- **Dr. Marija Kacarska**, Professor, Ss Cyril and Methodius" University. Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Republic of North Macedonia

**5.2.** *Supporting green growth, entrepreneurship and circular economy through cooperation in the Balkans*

Moderator: **Prof. Maro Vlachopoulou**, Professor of Digital Marketing & e- Business, University of Macedonia

Speakers (8'): - **Emmanouil Vlachogiannis**, First Vice President, Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Greece  
- **Jovan Despotovski**, Director of FITD, Republic of North Macedonia  
- **Armida Hemeling**, Chair South Eastern Europe at German RETech Partnership e.V. and CEO of Goduni International, Germany  
- **Petar Petrov PhD**, University of Forestry, Bulgaria

**15.30-16.00** *Forum closure and conclusions by Deputy Minister of Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace)  
Mr. Theodoros Karaoglou*