

TRAVEL WEST FORUM PROGRAM

10:00
Arrival – Registration

10:35
Opening
Welcome to the 2nd Travel West Forum

10:40 – 11:20
Greetings – Speeches

- **George Papandreou** | Former Prime Minister, Honorary President of the Socialist International, PASOK MP for Achaia
 - **Iason Fotilas** | Deputy Minister of Culture
 - **Konstantinos Arvanitis** | Vice President of The Left, Head of the SYRIZA European Parliamentary Group
 - **Nektarios Farmakis*** | Regional Governor of Western Greece
 - **Christos Bouras** | Rector of the University of Patras
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11.20 - 11.40
Tourism as a Lever for Economic Development

- **Theodoros Louloudis** | President of the Achaia Chamber of Commerce
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11:50 - 12:20

Modern Cities & Tourism: Shaping the Future of Urban Life with Alternative Rules

- **Dimitrios Vergados** | UNESCO Chair Holder & Professor, Department of Informatics, University of Piraeus
"Creative Cities in Motion: Urban Sustainable Mobility and Utilization of Cultural Resources"
- **Machi Georgakopoulou** | Economist, President of Hellenic Female Leaders UK
"Patras 2030: The role of academic research, innovation, and contemporary art in the rebirth of Patras as a new international hub. New development models and prospects"
- **Fay Makantasi** | Research Director at diaNEOsis
"Alternative forms of tourism, ecotourism, and untapped opportunities"

12:20 - 12:40

Tourism and Regional Development in Western Greece – New Trends, Sustainable Strategies

- **Panagiotis Sakellariopoulos** | Deputy Regional Governor for Tourism, Region of Western Greece
"Tourism in Western Greece – Economic indicators, data, challenges, prospects"
- **Petros Papapetropoulos** | Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras
"Tourism and regional development, the dynamics of the network of productive activities"



12:50 - 13:20

Green Policies and the Environment – The Road to Sustainability – The Case of Aigialeia

- **Panagiotis Andriopoulos** | Mayor of Aigialeia
Greeting
 - **Nikos Karaiskos** | Deputy Mayor for Sanitation and Environment, Municipality of Aigialeia
"Waste management infrastructure and environmental protection as a developmental asset for tourism"
 - **George Dinos** | President of the Aigialeia Municipal Water and Sewerage Company (DEYA)
"Wastewater management and tourism. How modern infrastructure ensures environmental protection and strengthens the tourism destination"
 - **Christos Kanellis** | Vice President of Achaia Hoteliers
"Sustainable Tourism Development – Aigialeia 2030"
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13:20 - 13:50

Cultural Tourism: History and Tradition as Pillars of Alternative Development

- **Charalampos Bonanos** | Deputy Regional Governor of Western Greece
"FILM OFFICE: Western Greece in the film industry – Attracting audiovisual productions in Achaia, Ilia, Aetolia-Acarnania"
- **Anastasia Koumoussi** | Director of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Achaia
"Highlighting archaeological monuments and museums in Achaia as a driver of tourism development"



- **Alexandros Panagiotopoulos** | Cultural Manager, "Messolonghi by Locals"
"Messolonghi by Locals: When cultural heritage becomes a living experience and a source of revitalization | Sustainable communities, authentic experiences"
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13.50 - 14.40
Lunch Break

14:50 - 15:10
Wine Tourism and Gastronomy: The Flavor of Places, the "Aroma" of Travel

- **Katerina Nikolou** | Intelligent Collaborations, Co-Founder and Co-Owner, Strategic Communications Consultant
"Messinia Terroirs. From Tourism... to the Wine Routes"
 - **Konstantina Voulgari Kontesopoulou** | Award-winning Chef, Owner of CVK Greek Food Consulting
"The cultural mapping of a place and the empowerment of tourism through gastronomy"
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15:15 - 15:55
Transportation: The Port of Patras and "Accessibility" in Tourism

- **Panagiotis Anastasopoulos** | CEO of Patras Port Authority
"The Sustainable Port of Patras"
- **Ignatios Fotiou** | Founder of TOBEA
"Accessible Tourism: SEATRAC as a Model of Sustainable Innovation"
- **Eleni Giannaki** | Airport Manager, Araxos State Airport
"The outlook for increasing air traffic at Araxos Airport and new forms of tourism"



- **Eleni Paraschi** | Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras
"Cruising in Greece: Opportunities and Challenges for Tourism"
 - **Antonis Charokopos** | Vice President, National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities
"Promoting Accessible Tourism for People with Disabilities in the Region of Western Greece"
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16:00 - 16:30

The Smart Transformation of Tourism | Artificial Intelligence and New Megatrends

- **Apostolos Rafailidis** | President, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras
"Megatrends in tourism: a brief overview"
 - **Ioannis Nikas** | Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras
"From Big Data to Smart Tourism Experience"
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16:30 - 17:00

Hotelling & Destinations: When Accommodation Becomes an Experience

- **Myrto Kiourti** | Architect Engineer
"Architecture: Showcasing the stories of places and people"
 - **Nikos Karaflos*** | Owner of Dexamenes Seaside Hotel
"Transforming an interwar landmark into an experiential hotel"
 - **Tatiana Dimou** | Architect Engineer
"The potential of architecture as a hospitality experience"
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17:00 - 17:40

Mega Events: Creating New Destinations

- **Eleni Albani** | Vice Rector, University of Patras
"Welcome to Up. The new pioneering institution of the University of Patras as a youth destination in Western Greece this autumn"
- **Sofia Chintziou-Kontogianni** | President of the Olympia Sympoliteia and Politeia Ilida Olympia
"Ecotourism Route Ilida-Olympia, The path of truce"
- **Nikolaos Papanikolaou** | Deputy Mayor for Civil Protection, Urban Planning & Sustainable Tourism, Municipality of Messolonghi
"1826–2026: 200 Years Since the Exodus of Messolonghi – A historic event as a source of special interest tourism"
- **Alexis Agrios** | General Manager of Kalavryta Ski Center
"Developing Alternative Forms of Tourism in Mountain Areas – Helmos Mountain Festival: How a Mountain Festival Boosted the Economy of an Entire Region"
- **Cleomenis Kostopoulos** | Artistic Director of Patras International Street Art Festival | ArtWalk
"Patras International Street Art Festival / ArtWalk. How contemporary culture can create cultural tourism and city breaks"

17:50

Closing of the Conference

Presenter

Eleni Kitsou | Journalist

Session Moderation

Gogo Papadaku | Journalist

Konstantina Tsihla | Journalist

Pepi Spiliotopoulou | Journalist

Flash Interview

Konstantina Tsihla | Journalist

**Virtual*

