

CONFERENCE SMART VILLAGES

Showcasing the concept and opportunities
offered by Smart Villages for networking, collaboration,
and empowerment of local communities



**September 2
2025**

**Salamina
Town Hall,
Bogris Hall**

**Registrations begin: 9:30 a.m.
Conference begins: 10:00 a.m.**

Within the framework of the Transnational Cooperation Program "Smart Villages Leader Network," Program "Rural Development of Greece 2014-2020" (RDP), Measure 19, Sub-measure 19.3 - Interregional and Transnational Cooperation of the CLLD/LEADER 2014-2020 Regional Program of the Attica Islands.

ORGANISED BY



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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SMART VILLAGES

The **Smart Villages Leader Network** is a transnational partnership implemented by the Network of Municipalities of the Attica Islands, under sub-measure 19.3. of the local CLLD/LEADER 2014–2020 program.

Smart Villages are rural communities that leverage innovation, digital technologies, and collective action to improve the quality of life of their residents and strengthen the local economy. Through contemporary solutions, such as the digitization of agricultural activities, sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthening local infrastructure, Smart Villages seek to transform rural areas into dynamic and sustainable ecosystems, attracting new employment and investment opportunities.

The project also includes actions for the exchange of good practices with Finland, Latvia, and Scotland, recording good practices in Greece, creating and publishing informational material, and publicizing the possibilities offered by "smart solutions" for managing issues faced by groups operating in local communities.

«SMART VILLAGES» CONFERENCE

Salamina¹ is becoming a hub for dialogue and innovation! Experts from Greece and abroad will present best practices, technological applications, and strategies for a smarter and more sustainable community. The conference aims to utilize the results of the Smart Villages Leader Network project and the know-how that has been generated through it.

Highlighting the importance of digital innovation and smart solutions in sustainable rural development, through speeches, panel discussions, and presentations of best practices, gives participants the opportunity to learn about the opportunities created in agriculture, tourism, local entrepreneurship, and governance by implementing Smart Villages strategies.

In addition, the conference aims to strengthen networking between local government bodies, academic institutions, entrepreneurs, and farmers, promoting partnerships for the development and implementation of Smart Villages policies.

Through the discussion of European strategies and available financing tools, communities will be given the opportunity to chart their own transition plan towards a smarter and more sustainable future.

The aim of the conference is to highlight at the local level the concept of Smart Villages and the opportunities offered by the integration of such a strategy for networking local community actors.

Indicative thematic areas:

- Smart tourism,
- Smart Health – Digital Health,

¹ Salamina is an intervention area of the local CLLD/LEADER 2014–2020 program of the Cooperation Network of Municipalities of the Attica Islands Regional Unit.

- Digital Public Services,
- Smart Mobility, etc.

During the conference, there will be parallel activities, such as:

- Presentations and trials of applications and technologies,
- Visits to points of interest in the intervention area.

With practical ideas and modern solutions, the conference can provide the local community with the tools to create its own path to development – with a focus on people and innovation.

September 2nd, 2025

Salamina Town Hall, Bogris Hall

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

09:30 – 10:00

Participants registrations

10:00 – 10:15

Welcoming – greetings

- Greeting from the Mayor of Salamina and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Network of Municipalities of the Attica Islands, Mr. George Th. Panagopoulos
- Greeting from a representative of the Special Service for the Implementation of Rural Development Interventions, Ministry of Rural Development and Food
- Greeting from the Administrator of the Network of Municipalities of the Attica Islands, Mr. Marinis Beretsos

THEMATIC SECTION 1: The transnational project "Smart Villages Leader Network"

Coordinator: Christina Kalatha, Director of Development Programs, Attica Islands Network, CLLD/LEADER Coordinator

10:15 – 11:00

Panel discussion with presentations:

- **Local CLLD/LEADER Program, Transnational Project: Smart Villages Leader Network**
Speaker: Dimitris Bogiatzis, Computer Engineer & IT Specialist, Project Manager, Smart Villages Leader Network
- **The value of interregional – transnational projects in local development**
Speaker: Special Service for the Management of the CAP Strategic Plan, Local Development Unit
- **The concept of Smart Villages in European Rural Development Policy**
Speaker: Panagiotis Patras, Expert in European Rural Development Policies
- **The dynamics of Smart Villages in the Regional Unit of Attica Islands**
Speaker: Giannis Mavrogiannis, Managing Director, ANELIXIS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS S.A.

THEMATIC SECTION 2: Smart Villages: European experience and policies

Coordinator: Panagiotis Patras, Expert in European Rural Development Policies

11:00 – 11:30

Round table discussion:

- **Smart Village in Latvia – from awareness-raising campaign to nationwide movement**
Speaker: Āris Ādleris, Member of the Board of Directors of the Local Action Group "Sea Land", Latvia
- **Video presentations "Smart Villages Leader Network"**
Transnational Cooperation Partners "Smart Villages Leader Network"
- **The Regional Unit of Attica Islands in the Transnational Project "Smart Villages Leader Network"**
Speaker: Dimitris Bogiatzis, Computer Engineer & IT Specialist, Project Manager, Smart Villages Leader Network

11:30 – 11:45	Open mic and panel discussion.
11:45 – 12:00	Short break
THEMATIC SECTION 3: Smart Villages in Greece: Management application proposals	
12:00 – 13:15	<p>Panel – συζήτηση με παρουσιάσεις:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital land management <i>Speaker: Dionysia Perperidou, Agricultural Engineer and Topographer, National Technical University of Athens, Assistant Professor, University of West Attica</i> Story maps Application. Recording and promoting the environment of the Attica Islands using modern online digital cartography tools. <i>Speaker: Paraskevi Nomikou, Professor of Physical Geography and Geological Oceanography, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</i> Cultural or technological innovation? Dynamics of globality in the management of the cultural environment <i>Speaker: Christos Chrysanthopoulos, Special Scientific Staff Member of the National Research Foundation and Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of West Attica</i> Individual digital medical records <i>Speaker: Athanasios Hatzis, Head of IT Programs, BCA College</i> Applications for scientific and cultural promotion through innovative digital technologies, cases in Aegina and Salamina <i>Speaker: Aristidis Batis, CEO/Founder of Econtent Systems</i> The European INSPIRE project – Social innovation through Smart Village Labs in Kythira and the Regional Unit of Attica Islands <i>Speaker: Athina Koutsouki, Project Manager, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems - MedINA</i>
THEMATIC SECTION 4: Islands of Attica: Tourism Prospects through Smart Proposals	
Coordinator: Dr. Antonios Giannopoulos, Assistant Professor of Hospitality Services Marketing & Tourism Destination Management, Department of Organization Management, Marketing & Tourism, International University of Greece	
13:15 – 14:00	<p>Panel discussion with presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A “Sea” of Data: Innovative Approaches to Coastal Tourism <i>Speaker: Dr. Georgios Skoufas, Professor of Marine & Diving Tourism, Department of Organization Management, Marketing & Tourism, International University of Greece</i> Digital Education in Diving Tourism – Global Industry-University Collaboration for Marine Conservation <i>Speaker: Kostas Triantafyllou, Regional Director of PADI EMEA LTD in Greece & Cyprus</i> Smart Hospitality: Artificial Intelligence as an Ambassador for Tourist Destinations <i>Speaker: Diamantis Aggelopoulos, PhD Candidate, Department of Organization Management, Marketing & Tourism, International University of Greece</i>

14:00 – 14:15	Open mic and panel discussion.
14:15 – 14:30	Short break
THEMATIC SECTION 5: Smart Villages Leader Network: Cooperation between Local Government and Civil Society Coordinator: Marilena Giannouli, President of the Organizing Committee of Aegina Fistiki Fest	
14:30 – 15:15	Round table discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual reality applications for the Battle of Salamis <i>Speaker: Georgios Sofianopoulos, Project Manager, Foundation of the Hellenic World</i> Scientific research and civil society in the management of the protection of the marine areas of Poros, Troizinia, and Methana. <i>Speaker: Euphrosyne Orfanidou, Director, Katheti AMKE</i> Pediatric clinic in Spetses, an initiative organized by civil society <i>Speaker: Efthimia Psarakou-Belesi, Legal Representative of AMKE APSOU PRIVATE CLINIC, Spetses Pediatric Clinic</i> Building the future of our region together: Smart Villages – examples, tools, challenges <i>Speaker: Rigas Zafiriou, Coordinator of the Program for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems – MedINA</i>
THEMATIC SECTION 6: Smart Villages: The digital transition of local government in the Attica Islands Coordinator: Panagiotis Pantazoglou, Pleiades IoT Innovation Cluster	
15:15 – 15:45	Round table discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dimitris Anastasiou, Mayor of Agistri Municipality Yannis Zorbas, Mayor of Aegina Municipality George Koutouzis, Mayor of Poros Municipality George Panagopoulos, Mayor of Salamina Municipality Anastasios Mougios, Mayor of Troizinia-Methana Municipality George Koukoudakis, Mayor of Hydra Municipality Evangelos Fragakis, Mayor of the Municipality of Halki Emmanouil Dolianitis, Mayor of the Municipality of South Kynouria Marinis Beretsos, Administrator of the Network of Municipalities of the Attica Islands
15:45 – 16:00	Next Steps Conclusions – Audience discussion Open mic and panel discussion.

Guided tour:

- 18:30 – Guided tour** of the Metropolitan Ignatius Cultural Center (formerly the Youth Center), Salamis Avenue, Salamis Beach – **"Virtual reality applications for the Battle of Salamis"**
Tour guide: Stamatis Villiotis

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Network of Municipalities of the Regional Unit of Attica Islands

91 Filonos Street, 185 35, Piraeus

Tel. 2104120002-4-9

Mail: info@atticalag.gr

Web: www.atticalag.gr | smartvillagesleader.gr

Facebook: [@atticaislanslag](https://www.facebook.com/atticaislanslag) | Instagram: [@atti.calag](https://www.instagram.com/atti.calag)