

Smart, Inclusive and Resilient Small and Medium-sized
Cities and Island Communities in the Mediterranean:
Exploring Current Research Paths and Experience-based Evidence

September 28-29, 2017
Heraklion-Crete



National Technical University
of Athens (NTUA)



University of the Aegean



Urban and Regional Innovation
Research (URENIO)

"For the three quarters of the globe, the Mediterranean Sea is similarly the uniting element and the center of world's history."

Friedrich Hegel

About the Conference

The Mediterranean region is nowadays considered as a hotspot in many respects, with unpredicted repercussions with regards to the achievement of a sustainable future for its population. More specifically, it is perceived as:

- *An environmental hot spot, trapped into a resource-intensive model overexploiting local resources, especially in the marine part;*
- *A climate change hotspot, associated with warming and drying that place severe risks and stresses on socio-economic and natural systems;*
- *A biodiversity hotspot, rating quite low as to the percentage of remaining natural vegetation*
- *A water hotspot, facing a constantly heightening rate of water stress;*
- *A natural risk hotspot, showing high vulnerability as regards disastrous natural events (e.g. floods, earthquakes).*
- *An urbanization hotspot, with an intensive and steadily increasing urbanization pattern;*
- *A solid waste generation hotspot, producing almost half of EU waste, depicting further increasing patterns;*
- *An economic recession hotspot, beat mostly by debt crisis, deep recession, and austerity;*
- *A brain drain hotspot, with severe socio-economic consequences.*
- *A migration hotspot, as a result of the political instability in the Mediterranean neighbourhood.*

Coping with emerging risks and reverting undesirable future developments call for trend-breaking efforts that can decrease communities' ecological footprint and face current resource constraints.

The rapidly spreading smart city paradigm and its potential towards managing many of the above aspects in the Mediterranean Region lies at the core of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on **"Smart, Inclusive and Resilient Small and Medium-sized Cities and Island Communities in the Mediterranean: Exploring Current Research Paths and Experience-based Evidence"**, to be held in a Greek smart city, Heraklion-Crete, in September 28-29, 2017.

Exploring Current
Research Paths and
Experience-based Evidence



The aim of the Conference

The Conference aims at bringing together current research efforts and evidence-based results from the Mediterranean but also the international context, with the aim to create value for small and medium-sized cities and communities as well as island territories in the Mediterranean and bring them on board for reaping the benefits of smart developments.

Based on the multiple and interdisciplinary nature of the above presented challenges, the Conference is expected to host a variety of participants from the academia, SMEs, industry and professionals as well as decision makers, regional authorities and city representatives in order that, a fruitful dialogue among these groups to be developed and new ideas and technologies, capable of coping with key challenges, to be put at the service of urban settlements in the Mediterranean.