



14:30 – 15:30 SESSION 20*

The European Vision for resilient Rural Areas. Building bridges between rural territories and cities.

**Session implemented by ACHAIA-DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A., within CLLD/LEADER 2014-2020 Programme*

The long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas aims to improve rural quality of life, achieve balanced territorial development and stimulate economic growth. The policies of the European Union support integrated spatial development and in particular, integrated Community Led Local Development (CLLD/LEADER), as an important tool in reducing inequalities that have the characteristic of geographical dispersion, because they contribute targeting to solve local problems, through the use of appropriate development tools. The main characteristic of Local development strategies is the 'bottom-up' approach, thus creating the conditions for a close, continuous, and multi-level cooperation between many and powerful actors at local level, such as elected officials, local administration, business representatives and civil society. These policies basically aim at the joint management of natural resources, strengthening economic interconnections, creating networks at various levels, developing common infrastructures, and promoting innovative, smart and green policies.

- **Διοργάνωση:** ACHAIA – DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A.
- **Moderator:** Argyro Tsimpri MBA, Gen. Director, ACHAIA – DEVELOPMENT AGENCY S.A. – Coordinator CLLD/LEADER
- **Speakers:**
 - Giorgos Stylios, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Rural Development & Food
 - Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Entrepreneurship Research & Innovation Region of Western Greece
 - Maria Partalidou, Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
 - Athanasios Petropoulos Executive Member, Unit B1 EYDEP/PDE

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