

Down to Earth

Interregional cooperation
for sustainable, resilient
and attractive rural areas



Kalavryta
Conference Center

13.02.2024

**Down to Earth project partner
University of Patras (UoP)**
is cordially inviting you to the Conference:

**"Revitalisation and Resilience of Rural Areas facing
challenges of depopulation and climate risks"**

which will take place in

**Kalavryta Conference Center
on the 13th of February 2024**

**as part of the work programme of the Interreg Europe
Project Down to Earth.**

The conference will focus on:

- Policies for rural revitalization
- Legal instruments and tools to address depopulation and risks related to climate change
- Natural resources management for forests, and protected areas
- Land use management practices such as land banks
- Best practice examples of regional projects



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- 10:00** **Registration**
- 10:30** **Welcome speech**
Mr. Athanasios Papadopoulos, Mayor of Kalavryta &
President of the Regional Union of Municipalities of the
Region of Western Greece
- 10:45** **The main axes of the National Planning for the
Integrated Management of Forest Ecosystems**
Greeting from Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis, Greek Minister
of Environment & Energy
- 11:00** **Introduction to the Down to Earth Interreg Europe
Project**
Prof. Vagelis G. Papadakis, UoP, Regional Scientific
Manager of the Project
- 11:10** **Policies of the Region of Western Greece for rural
revitalization**
Dr. Spyros Papaspyrou, Head of Directorate of Rural
Economy, Region of Western Greece
- 11:20** **Presentation of LEADER best practices for revitalisation
of rural areas**
Mrs. Iro Tsimpri, Director of Achaia Development Agency
- 11:30**
11:45 **Coffee Break**

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- 11:45** **Support programs for mountain municipalities in Greece**
Mr. Ioannis Goupios, Director of Planning and
Development of the Hellenic Association of Local-
Government and Development (EETAA SA)
- 12:00** **Rural population reduction and environmental risks:
Findings & Suggestions**
Prof. Nikolaos Koutsias, Chair of the Dept. of Sustainable
Agriculture, UoP
- 12:10** **The UNESCO Global Geoparkn Helmos - Vouraikos as a
driver for the development of the mountainous
municipalities of Achaia**
Prof. Georgios Iliopoulos, Department of Geology, UoP
- 12:20** **Main lessons learnt and improvements identified/made
to policy instruments during the first year of the project**
Mrs. Tania Gesto Casás, Fundación Juana de Vega
and Prof. Vagelis G. Papadakis, UoP, Regional Scientific
Manager of the Project
- 12:40** **Panel Discussion & Conclusions**
- 13:30**
15:00 **Lunch**

