



BALKANS AND BLACK SEA  
COOPERATION FORUM

# Announcement 1



May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018  
Thessaloniki, Greece

**RAIL.ROAD.RIVERS**

connectivity to the EU via **BALKAN REGION**

[www.balkansblackseaforum.org](http://www.balkansblackseaforum.org)

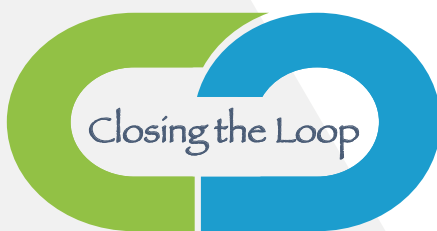
# at a glance



The annually rotating international Balkans & Black Sea Cooperation Forum identifies, strengthens & promotes economic relations, business opportunities, cross-border cooperation, sustainable growth & development across the entire **Balkans & Black Sea region**.



A think-tank reflecting a region of 18 countries and 370 million people, fostering dialogue & cooperation to bridging differences and exploiting opportunities for cohesion, capacity building and business models transferability.



A powerful platform where **leading business- & policy makers** exchange views to transform ideas into reality, among high profile delegates from international and regional businesses & organizations as well as diplomats and academia.



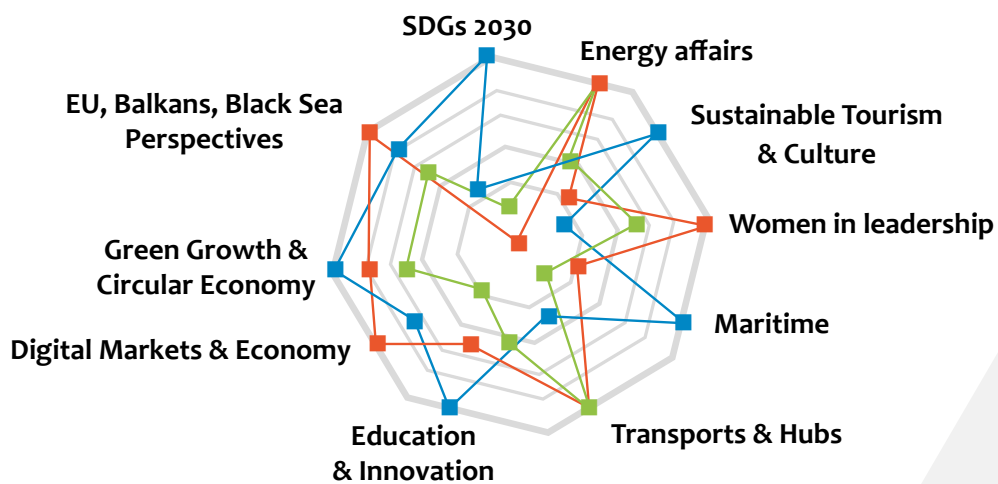
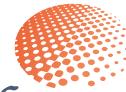
Breaking Figures

- 3 days conference
  - 1 business summit
    - 7 plenary sessions
    - 4 parallel sessions
      - 500 delegates
      - 55 International speakers
      - 1 exhibition center
      - 2 social programs
      - Networking opportunities



# at a glance

## Connecting the Dots



- EU, Balkans, Black Sea perspectives & SDGs 2030
- Digital markets, crossover economies
- Energy affairs
- Women in leadership
- Green growth & circular economy
- Maritime, Transports, Infrastructures & Hubs
- Higher education, Business innovation
- Culture, Sustainable Tourism



## 2018 headline

**RAIL.ROAD.RIVERS**  
connectivity to the EU via BALKAN REGION

A Forum Declaration to be issued on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018



## why our work matters

Because  
**Balkans & Black Sea Cooperation Forum...**

- ▶ forward thinking international rotating platform
- ▶ meaningful networking on the cross section of public and business sectors
- ▶ agenda powered by international strategic dialogue partners
- ▶ investing in economic relations considering cultural diversity
- ▶ focusing on the future of a world's prominent and challenging region
- ▶ fostering the bridging of differences and exploiting opportunities for cohesion, capacity building and business models transferability
- ▶ implementing conference proceedings deepening economic cooperation
- ▶ forum's governance is conducted by international organizations

## the audience

By sector...

- 35% international organizations, public officials
- 60% businesses, entrepreneurs
- 5% academia



## hosting city & venue

### hosting city



CITY OF **THESSALONIKI**

**Thessaloniki** is a city easy to fall in love with. It has beauty, history & culture, a remarkable cuisine and wonderful, vast sea views and streets full of life and vibrancy. The city is world known for the Ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman monuments, the charming shopping thoroughfares, the indulging local cuisine and the exciting nightlife. Old and new cohabit wonderfully, while Thessaloniki's most famous sight, the White Tower, anchors a waterfront packed with cocktail bars. The New Waterfront has breathed life and opened up space for long walks and cycling.

### hosting venue



**TIF**  
**HELEXPO**

Forum will be hosted at “**Vellidis**” International Congress Center, one of the major conference centers in S.E.E. Its halls when fully deployed can host 2.100 delegates in theater configuration. TIF- Helexpo exhibition center covers an area of 180.000 sq.m. of which 62.000 are indoor spaces, distributed into 17 pavilions.  
Conference setup: round-table.



# preliminary agenda

## Wednesday 30 May 2018

### Business Summit

### Rail, Road, Rivers connectivity to the EU via Balkan Region

The Business Summit is a pre-Forum leading platform where business and policy-makers meet together to providing views for transforming ideas into business reality. It is related with the annual headline and the declaration to be issued upon the conclusions of the Forum

12.30-13.30	Registrations
13.30-14.00	Introduction «Rail, Road, Rivers Connectivity to the EU via Balkans Region»
14.00-15.30	“Talk the Walk”   Policy shapers hub
15.30-16.15	Break
16.15-18.00	“Walk the Talk”   Business makers hub
18.00-19.00	Partners & Sponsors networking reception
19.30-21.00	Welcome Dinner

## Thursday 31 May 2018

### Fostering stability, growth, cooperation

Full day conference, fostering cross-border cooperation, enhancing bilateral and multilateral relations, promoting best practices and business opportunities in the Balkans, the wider Black Sea region and beyond

09.00-09.20	Welcome notes	
09.20-09.30	Forum Inauguration	
09.30-10.30	S/1: EU, Balkans, Black Sea perspectives & SDGs 2030	Plenary
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.30	S/2: Digital markets, crossover economies	Plenary
12.30-13.30	Luncheon	
13.30-15.00	S/3: Energy affairs	Plenary
15.00-15.15	Break	
15.15-16.45	S/4: Women in leadership	S/5: Green Growth, Circular Economy
16.45-17.00	Break	
17.00-18.00	S/1-S/5: Moderators' Conclusions	Plenary
20.00-22.00	Official dinner (by invitation only)	



# preliminary agenda

Friday 1 June 2018

## *Fostering stability, growth, cooperation*

Half day conference to be concluded by a Forum Declaration, announcement of Forums' 2019 Hosting City/Country, followed by a social program around Thessaloniki cultural highlights

08.45-09.00	Welcome notes	
09.00-10.30	S/6: Maritime, Transports, Infrastructures & Hubs	<b>Plenary</b>
10.30-10.45	Break	
10.45-12.00	S/7: Higher Education, Business Innovation      S/8: Culture, Sustainable Tourism	<b>Parallel</b>
12.15-12.45	S/7-S/8: Moderators' Conclusions	<b>Plenary</b>
12.45-13.00	Forum Declaration «Rail, Road, Rivers connectivity to the EU via Balkan Region»	<b>Plenary</b>
13.00-13.15	Announcing 2019 Hosting & Co-Organizing City/Country	<b>Plenary</b>
13.15-14.00	Luncheon	
14.00-17.30	Social Program	



**RAIL.ROAD.RIVERS**  
connectivity to the EU via BALKAN REGION

stability growth cooperation



## why sponsor, why attend

### attend

- ▶ Gain new contacts through meaningful networking
- ▶ Obtain insights on economy, business, institutional affairs and rule of law
- ▶ Listen to first class speakers on challenges & opportunities for the region and beyond
- ▶ Sharpen the saw, meet experts and influencers face to face
- ▶ Participate to vigorous dialogues and debates



### sponsor

- ▶ Speaker opportunity for a hi-level representative of the sponsor
- ▶ Sponsors' interview in the media
- ▶ Private meetings with speakers (upon speakers agreement)
- ▶ Exhibiting space & stand
- ▶ Complimentary invitations or corporate table(s)
- ▶ Hi-priority branding and corporate outreach





# registrations

Registration fees	before 18/2/2018	19/2/2018 - 30/4/2018	1/5/2018 (on site)
Delegates	400	500	650
Students	250	350	500
Corporate table (8 delegates)*	2.500	3.500	5.000

Prices are in EURO and inclusive 24% VAT

### Registration fee includes:

- Admission to the Business Summit
- Admission to the Plenary Sessions
- Admission to the Parallel Sessions of your choice (subject to availability upon registration)
- Admission to the Business HUB (partners & sponsors exhibition area)
- Admission to the Welcome dinner
- Participation to a cultural heritage trip of your choice “explore Thessaloniki cultural highlights”
  - Refreshments & luncheons upon conference breaks as per Agenda
  - Forums’ catalogue, programme and agenda
  - Conference material

### General Conditions

- Forum official language is English. Simultaneous translation in Greek will be available.
- Only online registrations are accepted. Registrations close 48hrs prior the beginning of the Forum.
- Access to the venue requires a valid e-pass, to be provided by email when a registration is completed successfully.
- Registrations are not transferable and no refunds for cancelled registrations are accepted.
- Deadlines are given at Central European time (CET).
- Students’ reduced fees require a valid academic ID and a student enrollment document should be provided by email.

\* Corporate tables are provided by priority and are paid via swift bank transfer to the account:  
Geo Routes Cultural Institute, Alpha Bank, Account No. (IBAN) GR4601401960196002101093240

### Forum Organizer

Geo Routes Cultural Institute  
E. [registrations@geo-routes.com](mailto:registrations@geo-routes.com)  
W. [www.geo-routes.com](http://www.geo-routes.com)  
F. [www.balkansblackseaforum.org](http://www.balkansblackseaforum.org)



BALKANS AND BLACK SEA COOPERATION FORUM

in cooperation



**GEOROUTES**  
ECO TOURISM & CULTURAL EXPEDITIONS

■ ORGANIZER



■ OFFICIAL PARTNERS



CITY OF **THESSALONIKI**



■ CO-ORGANIZERS



**in cooperation**



■ STRATEGIC DIALOGUE PARTNERS



■ EXPERTISE PARTNERS



■ BODIES & ASSOCIATIONS



■ UNDER THE AUSPICES



## **BALKANS AND BLACK SEA COOPERATION FORUM**

[www.balkansblackseaforum.org](http://www.balkansblackseaforum.org)

Organizer

**Geo Routes Cultural Institute**

39 Aristotelous str. Athens 10433, Greece **T:** +302102845980 **F:** +302102845983

[www.geo-routes.com](http://www.geo-routes.com)