



European Committee  
of the Regions



EUROPE DIRECT

Περιφέρεια Κρήτης • Region of Crete

# Digital Citizens: Shaping Europe's Digital Future



## Event type

Digital local  
dialogue

## Date

29 May 2021

## Initialising member

Stavros  
Arnaoutakis

## Audience

Higher Education, Youth organisations, Research  
community, Local & regional bodies, Civil society,  
entrepreneurs, Media

## Organisers

Region of Crete, Europe Direct Region  
of Crete, European Committee of the  
Regions

## Themes

Shaping Europe's Digital Future, eID & eSigning,  
Services, Open Data for European Open iInnovation,  
Digital compass 2030, Digital enhancement of the  
public and private sector



## Speakers

- **Stavros Arnaoutakis**, Governor, Region of Crete, CoR member
- **George Alexakis**, Commissioner in charge of European & International Affairs, Region of Crete
- **Eleni Paleologou**, Team Leader, Communication Team Representation of European Commission in Greece
- **Constantinos Tsoutsoplides**, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece
- **Kyriakos Kotsoglou**, Commissioner for Tourism & e-Government, Region of Crete
- **Maria Kasotaki**, Head of the Managing Authority of Crete Region
- **Apostolis Apladas**, Program Manager - eID & eSigning Services at European Commission
- **Constantine Manasakis**, Economist, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Crete
- **Stella Salepi**, Municipal Councillor of European Programmes & Digital Governance of Municipality of Volvi, member of the CoR Young Elected Politicians' programme
- **Nikolaos Moraitakis**, Europe Direct Crete, Region of Crete



## Key messages

- Topics on future European policy making agendas should be decided by citizens who engage with the Conference.
- The Conference on the future of Europe is a unique opportunity for all European citizens and civil society actors to shape Europe's future.
- The Conference on the future of Europe is an important project for a functioning European democracy.
- All Europeans are invited to reflect on and discuss the future of Europe.



## Press/Social media coverage

### Media coverage

[Press release](#)

### Website

[FutureofEurope](#)

[Conference Platform](#)

### Social Media

[#EU\\_CoR](#)

[Youtube](#)



## Digital Citizens: Shaping Europe's Digital Future

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Region of Crete organised an online event in collaboration with Europe Direct Region of Crete in the framework of the Conference for the Future of Europe. The event took place in Greek, was attended by over 50 people and remains available on the Europe Direct region of Crete's [YouTube channel](#).

**George Alexakis**, Vice-Governor of Crete in charge of European & International Affairs, opened the event by stressing the importance of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the desire of all Europeans to actively contribute to the Conference. Citizens, he said, are willing and ready to take a leading role in setting European Union priorities. Keynote interventions were also made by **Eleni Paleologou** of the European Commission representation to Greece, and **Costas Tsoutsoplides**, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece.

The Cretan Governor for Tourism & e-Government, **Kyriakos Kotsoglou**, presented the implementation of paperless procedures of the collective bodies of the Region of Crete and highlighted, through concrete examples, the prospects of the operation for Public Administration throughout the region's offices. A further case of digital innovation was put forward by **Apostolos Apladas**, Program Manager for eID & eSigning Services at the European Commission. He detailed the operation the types of operations using electronic identities and signatures already taking place and shared perspectives for their future development. **Constantine Manasakis**, Economist and Assistant Professor at the department of Political Science, University of Crete, spoke about Open Data and European Innovation in this field. **Stella Salepi**, Municipal Councillor of European Programmes & Digital Governance of Municipality of Volvi, who is also a member of the CoR's Young Elected Politicians programme, described the Digital Compass 2030, setting out its challenges and prospects for the future.

The final part of the event was introduced by **Maria Kasotaki**, Head of the Managing Authority of Crete Region, who presented the digital upgrade of public and private sectors through the CRETE 2014-2020 programme and its benefits for society at large. Finally, **Nikos Moraitakis**, Information and Communications Manager at Europe Direct Region of Crete, concluded by referring to the importance of the event, since the pluralism of views regarding the different technologies and innovative procedures on offer presents challenges of democratic accountability and feasibility.

