

Regional Development and Cultural & Creative Industries

Convenors: Ioannis Kaplanis, Athens Epidaurus Festival & Athens University of Economics and Business, <u>i kaplanis@yahoo.co.uk</u> Agelos Tsakanikas, NTUA, <u>atsaka@central.ntua.gr</u> Kyriakos Drivas, University of Piraeus, <u>drivas@unipi.gr</u> Ioannis Radin, University of Thessaly, <u>rantin@uth.gr</u>

Abstract

Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) have emerged globally as powerful drivers of regional development in recent years. Public policy is placing increasingly attention on CCIs and their economic impact creating a rich and varied field of research and multidisciplinary debate. CCIs are distinguished by their inherent ability to merge commerce, artistic expression, and cultural elements. These industries contribute to economic growth by generating employment opportunities, stimulating trade, and rejuvenating urban areas, while simultaneously supporting the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage. CCIs are essential in contemporary economies, acting as a nexus between cultural values and economic benefits; however, the CCI landscape is complex and multifaceted.

This panel aims to present empirical evidence highlighting the role of CCIs in regional development and help advance the academic discourse on the subject. By examining successful examples and potential challenges, the discussion will provide insights into policy implications and strategies for leveraging CCIs as drivers of regional growth. This exploration will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between cultural resources, innovation, and sustainable development in diverse geographical contexts. We invite contributions that examine the role and presence of CCIs in both rural and urban European regions. Papers that examine the CCI issue in any form (arts, publishing, museums, retail sale of cultural goods etc.) at the regional level are welcome. Contributions can be at the macro or micro level and can analyse these issues either empirically or theoretically. PhD students and young researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.