

Dear President of Pafos Regional Board of Tourism, Mr Kyriakos Drousiotis,

Dear Mayor of Pafos, Mr Phedon Phedonos,

Dear Vice-Chair of Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, **Mr. István Ujhelyi (tbc)**,

Dear Mrs. Anne Rocheteau, from the Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat,

Dear Mr. Manos Vougioukas, DESTI-SMART Project Coordinator,

Dear participants,

On behalf of Mrs. Maria Karagianni, Chairperson of the Board of Major Development Agency Thessaloniki S.A. and Deputy Mayor of Culture and Tourism of the City of Thessaloniki, that, unfortunately, could not attend this High-level dissemination event,

I am Angeliki Kanoula, Chief executive officer of Major Development Agency Thessaloniki S.A., Lead Partner of DESTI-SMART project, and I would like to welcome you all to our Final project Conference.

First of all, I would like to express my pleasure and satisfaction that we meet again, after two cumbersome years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that kept us from meeting at Mallorca, Madeira and Latvia,

and, of course, my gratitude and appreciation to our colleagues from Pafos for arranging this fruitful event and for their hospitality to this lovely destination.

Also, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our European partners. We feel honoured to lead such an important project with such a strong partnership scheme, comprising of organisations and experts with great experience in the field of Transportation and Tourism.

Over the past almost four years, MDAT SA as Lead Partner of DESTI-SMART project has been working along with the other partners of the project towards the connection of policies for Mobility and Tourism. By building strong, integrated and sustainable mobility strategies, fully connected with the urban planning policies, we will be able to promote a tourism model based on the principle of 'Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel'.

To achieve this goal, four very important and productive thematic workshops on low-carbon transport systems, intermodality, accessibility, walking and cycling for visitors took place, within the first phase of the project for exchange of experience, good practices, innovations and plans, priorities.

While, during the second implementation phase, we have been given a unique opportunity, by the DESTI-SMART project, to be intensively engaged in networking and governance activities with other organisations both from the mobility and the tourism sector, to research new ways for sustainable mobility with impact on tourism and to implement a holistic approach for transport and tourism planning.

We look forward to having a very fruitful event those days in Pafos, and to achieving the vision and the aims of the Thessaloniki DESTI-SMART Action Plan for responsible cities and destinations, accessible for all and we are confident we will achieve it!

We own a sustainable future for our citizens and visitors and for the next generations.