

The policy instrument addressed by the Thessaloniki DESTI SMART Action Plan is the “**Resilient Thessaloniki Strategy for 2030**”, delivered by the City of Thessaloniki, in the framework of the city’s selection to join the **100 Resilient Cities** (100RC) Network, in **2014**.

The City of Thessaloniki considers this a unique opportunity to implement a robust, participatory approach to create a long-term City Strategy that addresses current and future challenges.

So, the Municipality of Thessaloniki joined forces with the Major Development Agency of Thessaloniki (MDAT SA) to create and now, taking the opportunity of the DESTI-SMART project, to upgrade this strategy that delivers **intermunicipal solutions** in the **city’s metropolitan scale**.

Although **the Strategy promotes integrated resilient mobility, the combination of transport and tourism resilience was not addressed fully**. There was a need to further **improve the Strategy by integrating sustainable tourism mobility, accessibility & transport systems resilience as a S.M.A.R.T. destination**.

So, the Thessaloniki DESTI-SMART Action Plan contributes to this strategic policy instrument by enabling an upgraded policy framework for the promotion of Thessaloniki as a Resilient SMART tourist destination through measures for the **promotion of e-mobility, intermodality, accessibility for all and cycling & walking**.

The new framework identifies the interrelation between the transportation networks and the city’s attractions, identifying and understanding the visitors/ tourists flows.

The **new Objective** titled “**Thessaloniki as a Responsible Tourist Destination**” reflects the project’s topics and challenges, identified during Phase 1 of DESTI-SMART.

By upscaling and supporting the city’s Resilient Strategy 2030, by implementing the actions of the Thessaloniki DESTI – SMART Action Plan, we aim to contribute to the creation of center-periphery tourism destination systems and help locally rooted tourism and transportation services become sustainable, inclusive, and finally, more competitive.

For the development of the initial version of the Resilient Thessaloniki Strategy for 2030 more than **40 organizations** and **2000 citizens** participated in our **resilience dialogue**, ensuring the strategy aligns with and complements other strategic initiatives in the local, regional, national and international domain, including the city’s 5 year Operational Plan 2020 and European Strategy for 2020.

In the framework of revising and upgrading it, we are intensively engaged in networking and governance activities with the relevant stakeholders and organisations both from the mobility and the tourism sector, to develop the upgraded holistic approach for transport and tourism planning.

Our activities for accomplishing the **resilience dialogue** with the **significant participatory planning** we plan, similar to this of the initial version of the Resilient Thessaloniki Strategy for 2030, are currently under development. We commit that soon enough we will finalise the upgrade of the policy framework, by establishing close cooperation between the Directorates of Culture and Tourism & of Sustainable Mobility and Networks to contribute to their activities and to change the way that the Municipality plans and implements policies regarding mobility and transportation, joining again our forces with the Major Development Agency Thessaloniki.