



# ROAD MAP

ENER'Prespes



MUNICIPALITY OF PRESPE, GREECE

*Innovations for Resilient Rural Territories*



RURENER

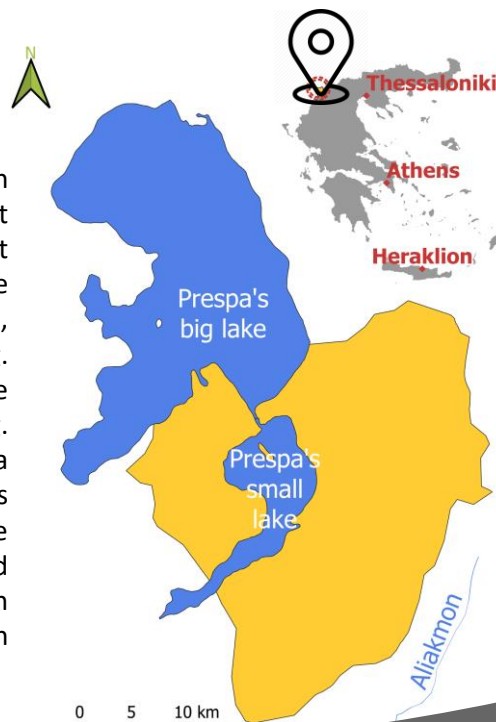


# ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

## Municipality of Prespes, Greece



The Municipality of Prespes is located in the North West of Greece, on the border with Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia, making it a perfect place for transboundary cooperation. Prespes is the most sparsely populated municipality of Greece (3 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>). The economy of Prespes is mainly based of agriculture (bean plantations), farming (mainly cattle as well as sheep and goat), forestry and fishing. The municipality has also developed tourism, in particular around the Lake and the activities it offers, from sightseeing to bird watching. Following the Covenant of Mayors, Prespes has set (2018) the goal of a 40% reduction of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030. Currently, this target is under revision to improve the Municipality's climate ambition with the aim to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. Convinced of the added value of European cooperation, Prespes has developed many European projects along the years, allowing the territory to remain innovative in the conduct of its transition.



**RURENER** is the European network of rural territories committed to the energy transition. Our vision is to build a European Union self-conscious of the potentials of its territories, and especially its rural territories, to make the energy transition a reality. By addressing the energy issues, we promote a transversal approach of rural development. Through our members' experiences, we highlight the crucial role of rural territories to make the energy transition a reality in Europe, and we seek to make rural territories' voice heard and acknowledged in Brussels. The network is a special place to share good practices, transfer knowledge and build cooperation projects with European partners. RURENER members are municipalities or other territorial entities, networks, organizations and individuals from around Europe that share a common interest and concern in the energy transition. This diversity reflects our vision of a plural Europe.

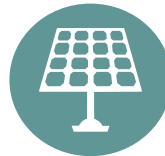
Keywords of the tour > **renewable energies, sustainable mobility and tourism**

- 1 > About the organizers
  - 3 > Western Macedonia Region
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  - 5 > Plan of visits
  - 6 > Program Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 7-8 > Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Morning
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FIELDS OF  
INNOVATION



Retrofitting  
Energy efficiency



Renewable  
energies



Sustainable  
Mobility

## A bit of history...

Western Macedonia (Greek: Δυτική Μακεδονία) is one of the thirteen regions of Greece that encompasses the western part of Greek Macedonia. It is divided into four regional units: Florina, Grevena, Kastoria, and Kozani and counts about 280,000 people. In the last decade, the region has consistently one of the highest unemployment rates in the European Union. Its economy relies largely, on mining lignite (brown coal) and electricity production which accounts for about half of local GDP. The adoption of a decarbonisation policy by the Greek government stipulates that all coal mining activities will cease by 2028 which calls for an urgent transition of its economy by developing other sectors and ensuring added value to local products and services to counteract the huge loss of added value from mining and electricity production.

Although it covers a total surface of 9,451 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents 7.2% of country's total, it only counts 283,689 inhabitants (which is 2.6% of the country's total). This makes Western Macedonia a sparsely populated region (30 per km<sup>2</sup>, as compared to the country's 81.96 per km<sup>2</sup> average). This is mainly due to the mountainous nature of the region, as 82% of the total surface are mountainous and semi-mountainous areas. This is also reflected in the population distribution, as a majority of the population (56%) lives in rural areas.

### Resources

- Coal
- Fur / leather
- Marbles
- Saffron, fruits
- Arts and craft



### In numbers

- 283,689 inhabitants
- 9,451 km<sup>2</sup>
- 30 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

## Its name, its history, its resources

The municipality of Prespes (Greek: Πρέσπες) takes its name from the Prespa Lake and was formed at the 2011 local government reform by the merger of the former municipalities of Krystallopigi and Prespes. It is part of the Florina regional unit in the region of Western Macedonia, Greece. The capital of the regional unit is the town of Florina. The regional unit of Florina was created out of the former prefecture Florina (created in 1915), as a part of the 2011 Kallikratis government reform. The regional unit of Florina encompasses 3 municipalities: Florina, Amyntaio and Prespes and counts 51,414 inhabitants over 1,924 km<sup>2</sup> (27 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>). The municipality of Prespes is the least populated municipality of the regional unit with 1,560 inhabitants.

Benefiting from an incredibly rich environment thanks to the biodiversity around the Prespa lake, the municipality enjoys substantial ecotourism activities and puts sustainability at the heart of its strategy. Agriculture remains its main source of revenue, in particular with dry beans production.

Prespa is usually a quiet place, isolated from the historic process. However, in some occasions it claims the limelight, for instance, being the centre of the clash between the Byzantine and Bulgarian empires in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Greek Civil War in the '40s and, more recently, in 2018, serving as the stage of the signing ceremony of the Prespa agreement. An event that largely resolved the long-standing Name dispute between Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia, hopefully establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries.



## Prespes in numbers

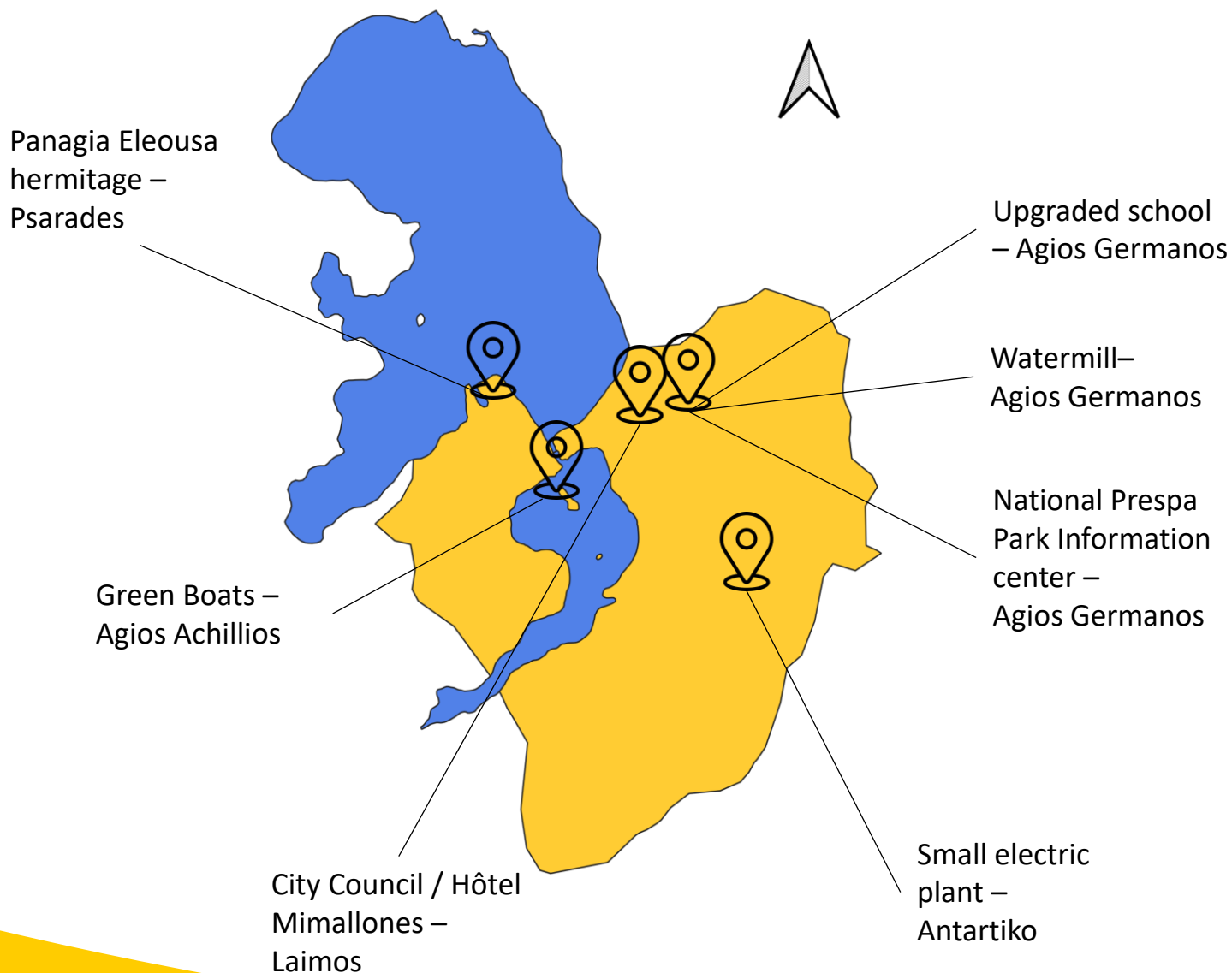
> 1,560 inhabitants

> 504 km<sup>2</sup>

> 3 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>



Our stay in Prespes:  
Hotel  
Mimallones  
Village Laimos,  
Prespes 53150  
Greece



## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

### 19h > Departure from the Thessaloniki airport

- Pick-up at the airport by Prespes' municipal bus

### 22h30 > Arrival in Prespes and light dinner

*Keep your sanitary pass with you at all times in case of control*



# DAY 1  
Dinner at the  
Mimallones hotel in  
Laimos



## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021

### 9h30 > Presentations in Laimos (city council of Prespes)

- Presentation of Prespa's energy projects

### 10h40 > Coffee break

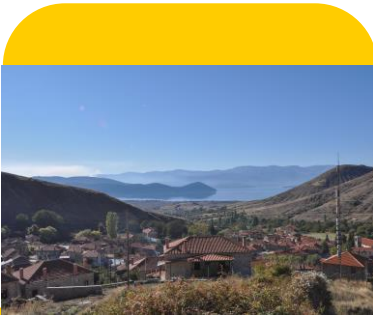
### 11h00 > Welcome addresses

- Mayor of Prespes and President of RURENER
- Chairman of the regional municipalities Union of Western Macedonia
- Prefect of Western Macedonia

### 12h > Visits in Agios Germanos

- Energy upgraded school, one of the outputs of the PEEBPE project
- Restored Watermill that received a Europa nostra heritage award in 2016
- 11th century church decorated with noteworthy frescoes

### 13h30 > Lunch



# DAY 2  
Lunch in  
Agios Germanos





## Agios Germanos Watermill

Of the 20 watermills in Prespes' region, the watermill in the village of Agios Germanos is the only one which has been fully restored. The mill, located in the mountainous region of the National Park of Prespa, was originally constructed in 1930. The mill is in full working order and has three different mechanisms: one which grinds flour, another for cleaning fabrics and the third for textile finishing. The restoration involved repairing the building which was in a critical condition, reconstructing the destroyed mechanical systems, rebuilding the water supply system and installing new constructions in the surrounding area so that the mill is easily accessible to visitors.



## Energy retrofit – PEEBPE project

Located at the border with Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia, Prespes is in an ideal position to develop crossborder cooperation projects that respect the natural and cultural values of the Prespa lake area. Among others, Prespa worked in projects for energy upgrade of public buildings, sustainable tourism and the production of renewable energy funded by the EU, mainly via the Interreg programme.

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

### 15h00 > National Prespa Park Information Center

- Introduction on the natural and cultural values of the area

### 16h30 > Agios Achilios island

- Circumnavigation of the island with the municipality's solar boats (electric powered boats charged with photovoltaic panels)
- Tour of the substantial byzantine era monuments (St Achillios Basilica, 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD)

### 18h00 > Dinner



# DAY 2

Dinner at the tavern in  
Agios Achilios



## Green Boats

Lake tours with Solar electric boats is a an appropriate way to promote the different aspects of the cultural and natural heritage of the area while, demonstrating the potential and advantages of solar power.

The municipality of Prespes acquired two solar electric catamarans, each of which can accommodate 8 persons with funding from the Interreg CBC Greece Albania 2007-2013. Currently they operate out of Agios Achilios making a round tour of the island and from Mikrolimni for a tour Vidronisi, a smaller island in the Mikri Prespa Lake.



## Prespes National Park

The Park's Mission is to conserve biodiversity and foster sustainable development for and with the people of Prespa National Park and strengthen transboundary co-operation.



## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021

### 9h30 > RURENER General Assembly in Laimos town hall

- Presentation of the 2020 Activity and financial reports
- Perspectives and 2021 previsions budget
- Upcoming projects and opportunities
- New members
- Vote of resolutions

### 12h00 > Boat trip in Psarades, traditional fishing village

- Visit of Panagia Eleousa hermitages

### 13h00 > Lunch in Psarades



# DAY 3

Lunch in a tavern in  
Psarades



## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021

### **15h00 > Workshop: Building short-term projects to nurture a long-term vision**

- Building ambitious short-term objectives and projects to contribute to a common long-term vision for RURENER members

### **17h00 > Visit of a small electric power plant in Antartiko**

- Small scale hydro-power

### **19h00 > Dinner in Laimos with local music**

- Closing of the event with the local band Valkanis Brothers Brass Band

### # DAY 3

Dinner in Laimos  
(hotel Mimallones)



### # DAY 4

Departure on October  
23rd at 8h30 from the  
hotel to the  
Thessaloniki airport





### Psarades's hermitages

The boat trip will guide us to local hermitages along the shores of Megali Prespa. The cavernous hermitage and the church of Panagia ("Virgin Mary") Eleousa – in the picture – go back to the early 15th century. It is about 200 steps above the level of Megali Prespa lake.

### Electric Power plant

**Antartiko** (Ανταρτικό) is a village in the Prespes Municipality, nested in the mountains to the west of Florina at an altitude of 1047 meters. The small Hydroelectric plant with nominal power 840Kw has been operating using the flow of the Ladopotamos river outside the Prespa basin.













## Greek Alphabet and Symbols

A α Alpha	B β Beta	Γ γ Gamma	Δ δ Delta	E ε Epsilon	Z ζ Zeta
H η Eta	Θ θ Theta	I ι Iota	K κ Kappa	Λ λ Lambda	M μ Mu
N ν Nu	Ξ ξ Xi	Ο ο Omicron	Π π Pi	Ρ ρ Rho	Σ σ,ς Sigma
T τ Tau	Υ υ Upsilon	Φ φ Phi	Χ χ Chi	Ψ ψ Psi	Ω ω Omega

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# USEFUL INFO

## CONTACTS

Municipality of Prespes:  
Evangelos Karagiannis –  
+30 69 444 18 447

RURENER:  
Céline Seince –  
+336 45 68 68 79

## HOUSING

**Hotel Mimallones**  
Prespea Lakes, Vilage  
Lemos, Laimos,  
Prespes 53077  
Greece  
[+30 2385 051422](tel:+302385051422)

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

European emergency

number : **112**



Photos : Prespes municipality,  
RURENER, grekomania.com