

## Lefteris Topaloglou (*Short CV*)

Lefteris Topaloglou is an Associate Professor at the Department of Regional Development and Cross-Border Studies at the University of Western Macedonia. His basic degree, obtained from Panteion University, is in political science and international studies. He obtained a Master's Degree (M.Sc) from the University of Thessaly, in the field of regional development and spatial planning. His doctoral thesis, completed in 2007, is entitled 'Borders and European Integration: Space, Economy & Politics', focusing on the dynamics of the border phenomenon and a deeper understanding of the nature of borders. His total published work to date includes, among others, articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, books, collective volumes, and publications in conference proceedings. His research interests focus on the economic geography of borders, European integration, and the study of the border phenomenon. His teaching experience begins in 2001 and continues uninterruptedly until today, in both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. From 2008, and until his election as Associate Professor in 2021, he has been teaching at the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly the course 'Spatial Development of Border Areas' and in a series of Postgraduate Programs. He supervised a significant number of diploma theses at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level, while the evaluations of his teaching work were particularly positive. His research experience relates to a total of 25 research projects from 1997 to date, most of which involve multiannual European Commission funding (FP5, FP6, FP7, HORIZON, ESPON) on borders and border areas. His professional experience in the field of regional development begins in 1990, in the Local Union of Municipalities & Communities (TEDK) of Kozani, in the capacity of Development Consultant. From 2011 to 2021, he worked as a Director in the Regional Union of Municipalities (PED) of Western Macedonia.

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