

# news

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## Eleusis 2021: European Capital of Culture

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Training Program  
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of Panagopoula**

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Editorial

This issue is dedicated to the city that coincides with the beginning of the motorway, i.e. the city of Elefsina, the holy city of the Eleusinian Mysteries, the modern city of industrial development, the European Capital of Culture 2021.

Read about the vision of the city that can be summarized in the program “**Transition to Euphoria**” as well as about the “Synikismos Festival”, focusing on History, to be held from 22 to 30 June, 2019.

At the beginning of summer, Olympia Odos is preparing to deal with increased traffic during the weekend short breaks. So, get prepared for your trips and find detailed information about how you will get the **OLYMPIA PASS** to easily and quickly cross the toll stations without any delays.

Since the major concern of the motorway’s employees is to boost road safety, in addition to the regular trainings of the personnel and the distribution of leaflets, Olympia Odos is planning and implementing relevant awareness raising and information actions for students. Read about the new road safety program, “**Do it right - In real life there is no Undo**”, initiated in April by Olympia Odos in schools of the prefectures of Achaia and Korinthia.

Moreover, learn how a man-made structure such as Olympia Odos is used by **biodiversity** and in particular how six rare species of bats have made use of the drainage tunnels in Panagopoula for their home.

We wish you a **Happy Summer** and many nice, comfortable and safe trips!



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or **Athens?**  
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for a **safe** and  
**comfortable trip!**



Road Safety at schools



Road Safety program for schools with the cooperation of the Institute Panos Mylonas

In April, Olympia Odos launched the road safety program “**Do it right - In real life there is no Undo**” for schools along the motorway. The company joins forces with the Road Safety Institute (RSI) “Panos Mylonas” aiming at raising the awareness and informing the students about responsible driving.

Within this framework, more than 1,000 High School students and students of the 3rd grade of secondary school from 14 schools of Korinthia and Achaia were trained. The program, which will continue next September, is divided into two parts:

**The first part includes the RSI training**, i.e. the theoretical and experiential program “**DO IT RIGHT**”. This 3-hour training focuses in particular on issues like the importance of using the safety seatbelt and helmet, the impact of alcohol, drugs or psychotropic substances and speed on driving, on the driver’s response time and the vehicle breaking distances. Then, the students will have the opportunity to go through an experiential process thanks to the use of special equipment, such as car crash and overturning simulators and drunk simulation glasses.



**The second part of the program includes a guided tour at the facilities and the Traffic Management Centers of Olympia Odos.** Thus, students may understand how a modern motorway operates and become familiar with its various systems. At the same time they have the opportunity to discuss with the specialized personnel about driving in tunnels and the operation of the motorway in general.

The program “**Do it right - In real life there is no Undo**” is an initiative of Olympia Odos to promote driving culture and constitutes a pillar of actions of our Corporate Social Responsibility plan.

Road Safety has three pillars:  
**Road – Vehicle – Driver**

A modern motorway is not enough.  
We shall maintain our vehicles and  
adopt a responsible driving behavior.



# European Capital of Culture

## The main idea: Transition to EUphoria

What would a city be like if art and culture were at the heart of every human activity? The vision and the program of "Eleusis 2021 European Capital of Culture" is based on the challenges of actual growth which to be achieved require that art and what we generally conceive as culture are the "keys" for building a sustainable future.

Our vision focuses on a program that systematizes the vocabulary of Transition to EUphoria. It draws inspiration from the history and the importance of Eleusis and uses the city as a mirror, which reflects the issues that concern Europe today.

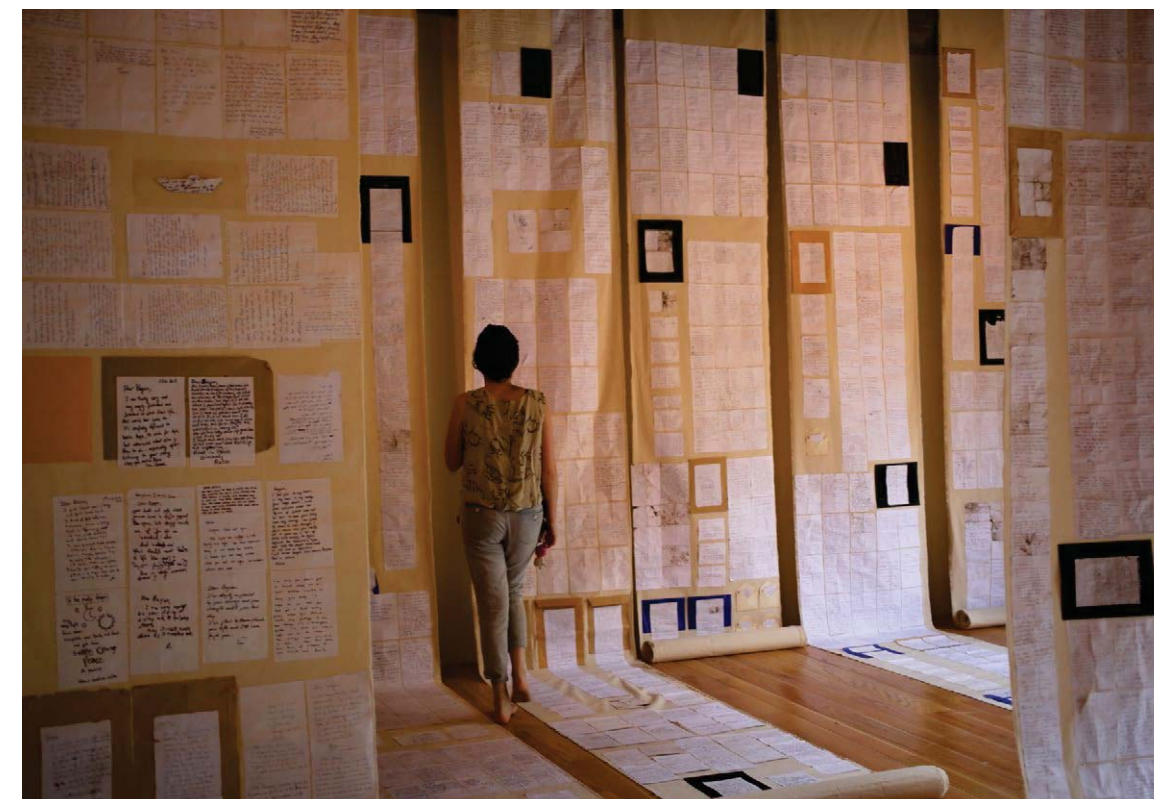
At this particular conjuncture, both Eleusis and Europe, to a larger extent, are challenged to reconnect with the "eu" {εὖ neut. of εὖς (εὖ being used only as adv.): I. well, II. the right, the good cause, III. commonly implies greatness, abundance, prosperity, easiness} in everyday life, to redefine a sustainability model in order to look to the future with optimism.

Our aim is to create a cooperation background throughout Europe, with people seeking new prospects, with initiatives establishing alternative proposals for overcoming the crisis, with ideas that go beyond the obvious.



## Synikismos Festival

This arts festival will take place from June 22 to June 30, 2019



We are invited to examine how the neighborhood and its residents are affected by a series of artistic events that take place in various parts of an area and not in a building specifically intended to host cultural events.

We are invited to examine how such an art scene could explore and promote the process for building up the collective memory without trying to replace it.

Synikismos, the area where the refugees from Asia Minor settled in 1922, is still a place of remembrance. The phenomenon of population displacement is the founder cell of this neighborhood. Synikismos Festival 2019 will focus on History. The artistic works forming the festival's program focus on everyday personal stories that become the mirror of History in general. In addition to the artistic works, Synikismos Festival includes a series of parallel actions aiming at promoting the development of the artistic world and the participation of the citizens.



Find information  
on all summer events at:  
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## Bat conservation plan in the area of Panagopoula



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VIDEO HERE

**Sometimes wildlife species may find refuge in a man-made structure.  
This is what happened at the Panagopoula Tunnels of Olympia Odos.**

Since last year, this area crossed by the motorway became a site of the NATURA 2000 network because it now hosts six rare species of bats, three of which have established important populations there. The bat colonies are established in the drainage tunnels (galleries) constructed to prevent soil erosion that end up in bypassing dangerous goods along the old alignment of the road.

### The background

Two years ago, Olympia Odos supported the rationale and the actions of a proposed EU **LIFE-Nature** project which, among others, included measures for the conservation of bat colonies also in the drainage tunnels within the boundaries of the Concession Project. The proposal was approved and the **LIFE Nature project "Greek Caves and Bats: Management Actions and Change of Attitude"**, abbreviated as LIFE GRECAT, was launched in September 2018.

From now on, any man-made intervention in the area shall be implemented with great attention in order to protect the environment where these bats dwell.

### Joint visit to the drainage tunnels

Recently, the LIFE GRECAT project and the Helmos-Vouraikos Management Body teams made a joint information visit with the officials of Olympia Odos to the drainage tunnels of Panagopoula, within the framework of the LIFE GRECAT project preparatory actions.

The visitors had the opportunity to discreetly observe the colonies of these threatened mammals and to discuss with the LIFE GRECAT team about how to plan the protection of the area, to highlight the importance of this area for the bats and to ensure the conservation of nature.

- **The European ecological NATURA 2000 sites network** is a network of protected areas (the largest in the world) stretching over the entire European Union and aiming at ensuring the long-term conservation of the most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It stretches over 18% of the EU's land area and almost 9.5% of its marine territory.

- **The EU LIFE Nature project "Greek Caves and Bats: Management Actions and Change of Attitude"** [LIFE17 NAT/GR/000522 - LIFE GRECAT] conducts demonstration conservation actions about 10 protected bat species, their important refuges and the cave habitats in 10 selected sites of the Natura 2000 Network from Evros to Crete (<https://www.lifegrecat.eu/en>). The Project partners are: (1) the Natural History Museum of Crete, University of Crete (Coordinator); (2) the Hellenic Institute of Speleological Research (HISR); (3) ATEPE Ecosystem Management LTD; (4) the Ministry for the Environment and Energy and (5) the Green Fund.

- **The Helmos-Vouraikos Management Body**, with registered office at Kalavryta, Achaia, is a Legal Entity of Private Law and a body established in 1999, the jurisdiction of which was recently enlarged pursuant to Law 4519/2018 to include also the area of Panagopoula.



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