DesirMED Adaptation Festival:
The Mediterranean We Desire

IN COLLABORATION WITH

25th and 26th September 2026
Larnaka, Cyprus

In collaboration with Mediterranean Coast Day 2026 and the GreenLink project



FESTIVAL BOOKLET

The Mediterranean we desire

Funded by the European Union

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About the Festival

The first DesirMED Adaptation Festival will take place on 25–26 September in Larnaka, Cyprus alongside the Mediterranean Coast Day.

The DesirMED Adaptation Festival, with the title "The Mediterranean We Desire", creates a unique opportunity to engage citizens, policymakers and local communities on climate adaptation and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in the Mediterranean region.

The Festival includes a series of policy panels, citizen-focused workshops and open space interactive and creative activities. The event has a twofold approach to engage local policy makers and other key actors while raising awareness among local community.

The Festival will kick off on the 25th of September with a policy-focused session highlighting the role of NbS in climate adaptation and coastal resilience, showcasing inspiring examples from across the Mediterranean. High-level speakers and decision-makers will lead the panel discussion, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of building more resilient coastal communities across the region. Participants will have the opportunity to join a series of sessions dedicated to the role of NbS in building regional resilience. Through the exchange of experiences and best practices from across the Mediterranean, experts and practitioners will explore how NbS are helping communities tackle key climate hazards, including coastal erosion and urban heat waves.

The second day will be dedicated to raising awareness of climate change and the importance of climate adaptation. Open to all, participants and citizens alike will have the opportunity to discover adaptation initiatives from across the Mediterranean in Larnaka's Europe Square, engage with interactive installations, and enjoy a range of activities, including a Giant Interactive Map, live music performances, open to public workshops (including artisitc crafts) and networking opportunities.

DesirMED Adaptation Festival: The Mediterranean We Desire

25th and 26th September 2026
Larnaka, Cyprus



DRAFT AGENDA

The Mediterranean we desire

Draft Agenda

Day 1:
25 September - Coast Day 2026 celebration

Policy Panel Location: Allilodidaktiko, Saint Lazarus Square
Giant Interactive Map Location: Saint Lazarus Square
"Sketching on Location" Workshop: Saint Lazarus Square

Policy Event "Nature-based Solutions for Coastal Resilience in the Mediterranean"

Mediterranean coastal zones are increasingly exposed to anthropogenic pressures and the impacts of climate change, including erosion, sea-level rise, water scarcity and biodiversity loss. In response to these challenges, NbS are emerging as effective, sustainable, and multifunctional approaches that also deliver long-term socio-economic benefits.

Mediterranean Coast Day, the UNEP/MAP observance celebrated annually on 25 September, offers an opportunity to raise awareness, exchange experiences, and promote innovative approaches to coastal management, including NbS.

The 2026 edition in Cyprus will highlight the role of NbS in climate adaptation and coastal resilience, showcasing concrete examples from across the Mediterranean region. It will benefit from the presence and contributions from the partners of DesirMED, a project which places a strong emphasis on Nature-based Solutions.
The event will also highlight local and regional initiatives and contribute to strengthening regional cooperation within the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

The event is jointly organised by the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus and PAP/RAC, with the support of the DesirMED partners, in particular its lead partner - CMCC.

After the end of the policy event, one of the main festival interactive acitivities will be available on St. Lazarus, the Giant Interactive Map, open to the public. *Important note: The map will be set in a different location, i.e., Europe Square for Day 2.*

Finally, the 'Sketching on Location' workshop will take place in the afternoon where participants will have the chance to experience space through on-location observational sketching (see GreenLink supported workshops Programme).

POLICY EVENT + ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME
COAST DAY CELEBRATION

8:30 - 9:00
Welcoming of the participants
Maria Hadjimichael, CMMI

9:00 - 9:30
Opening of the Med Coast Day
Opening remarks
- Elena Stylianopoulou, Deputy Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus.
- Elisa Furlan, CMCC (Coordinator of the DesirMED project)
- Daria Povh Škugor, UNEP/MAP - PAP/RAC Director

9:30 - 9:45
MED Coast Day Ambassador's remarks
- Mediterranean Coast Day (video)
- Charis Nika, New Coast Ambassador

9:45 - 10:45
The importance of NbS and resilient coastal planning - panel discussion

Moderator: Ivan Sekovski, PAP/RAC Programme Officer
Panelists:
- Elyes Hamza, SPA/RAC, Director
- Daria Povh Škugor, UNEP/MAP - PAP/RAC Director
- Susanne Pedersen - IUCN Centre for Science and Knowledge (CSK), Director
- Michael Scoullos, Team Leader/WES-BCA

10:45 - 11:00
Q&A

11:00 - 11:20
Coffee break

11:20 - 12:20
Interactive poster session on Mediterranean case studies
Dialogues/exchanges of experiences/solutions across different projects and regions.

12:20 - 13:20
Pathways towards climate adaptation and NbS adoption - Panel discussion
Moderator: Louisa Shakou, CEA, Coordinator of Climate Change Adaptation
Panelists:
- Céline Damery, Conservatoire du littoral, Project Officer
- Effie Zikouli, Aradippou Municipality, EU Affairs Office
- Klitos Papastylianou, Terra Cypria, Head of Environmental Policy

13:20 - 13:30
Award ceremony for the winner of the DesirMED photo contest
Andrea Belmartino, University of Sassari

13:30 - 13:45
Overview of the Festival programme and closing remarks

13:45 – 15:00
Lunch and Tour of the Giant Interactive Map

15:00 - 19:00
Giant Interactive Map open to the public (St. Lazarus Square)

Poster Session info

DesirMED Demonstarting Regions posters

Beiras e Serra Da Estrela
Presenter: Mariana Oliveira, Innovation Division, Planning and Funding Programs Area Fundão

Valencia Region: Listening to nature for wild fires prevention
No presenter

Sardinia Region
Presenter: Michela Bazzoni, Researcher at CMCC

Split-Dalmatia Country
-Coastal Management and Planning in Split-Dalmatia County
Presenter: Ivan Sekovski, Programme Officer at PAP/RAC
-School Gardens as a Gateway to Transformative Adaptation
Presenter: Tea Kuzmicic Rosandic, Head of the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department at SUNCE

Eastern Macedonia & Thrace
Presenter: Lambros Tsourgiannis, Director General of Internal Operation at
Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace

Other posters

Assessing and Strengthening Nature-based Solutions: The IUCN Global Standard
Presenter: Pilar Marín, Marine & Coastal Project Officer at IUCN Med

Between Nature and Community: Climate Change Responses in the Sardinian Sheep Sector
Presenter: Andrea Belmartino, Post-doctoral researcher in ecological transition at University of Sassari

Draft Agenda

Day 2:
26 September - Interactive, open activities

Location: Europe Square

What is happening in Europe Square?

Open to all, festival participants and citizens will have the opportunity to discover adaptation and engagement initiatives from across the Mediterranean through a programme jointly supported by the DesirMED and GreenLink projects. Throughout the afternoon, simultaneous interactive activities will take place across Europe Square, including the DesirMED Giant Interactive Map, workshops, participatory activities, live music performances and networking opportunities.

What is the Giant Interactive Map?

Welcome to the DesirMED Giant Interactive Map, the largest phygital experience ever created about the Mediterranean. For these days, Europe Square becomes a whole sea: a place where children, families, neighbours and decision-makers can walk across the Mediterranean, from the Atlantic coast of Portugal to the shores of Larnaka.
But this is far more than a map to look at. It is a shared space to understand that our region is one connected body of land and water, where a drought in Greece, a wildfire in Valencia and the erosion of a Cypriot beach are chapters of the same story, and where the answers are shared too. Scanning, playing and exploring, visitors discover how eight European regions are learning to work together with nature. Through nature-based solutions that protect and restore forests, wetlands, dunes, rivers and seagrass, they adapt to a changing climate while benefiting both people and biodiversity.
Hosting the map places Larnaka and Cyprus at the heart of this Mediterranean journey, not as spectators but as protagonists of climate action, side by side with partners from across the basin and with the support of the European Union and Swiss cooperation. It turns science into experience, experience into pride, and pride into the everyday choices that build resilience.
Because the Mediterranean we desire is not something we wait for. It is something we transform, together. #WeTransforMED



GIANT INTERACTIVE MAP ACTIVITIES

15:00-15:20

Giant Map Exploration & Orientation Challenge
Kinesthetic warm-up: locating basins, mountain ranges and coastal ecosystems. EN-EL

15:20-16:00

QR Explorer & Live Leaderboard Challenge
Free QR scanning, on-device quiz and a live ranking announced over megaphone. EN-EL

16:00-16:15

Institutional welcome and introduction to the Giant Map (IUCN Med and Cypriot host partners; brief words from local authorities). EN-EL

16:15-16:45

Opening performance
The grandmother of Larnaka and the journey across the Mediterranean. Audience on the “coasts”, performers in the “sea”; it launches the journey across the map. EL

16:45 - 17:10

Augmented Reality Hologram Quest
Monk seal, Posidonia, flamingo, holm oak and carpenter bee at real size; photos and ecological role. EN-EL

17:10 - 17:30

GreenLink project interactive dance
Interactive performance by the T.E.A.M Hip Hop Collective, dance inspired by Mediterranean and contemporary rhythms.

17:30 - 18:15

DesirMED Climate Detective Workshop
Investigation and co-design of nature-based solutions for a region in crisis. EN-EL

18:15 - 18:40

Eco-Reporter Challenge
Role-play: “reporter” teams interview experts and present nature-based solutions. EN-EL

18:40-19:00

Cartographic Bingo
Fast search-and-recognition game on the map; lively and for all ages. EN-EL

19:00-19:30

Team Trivia & Knowledge Match
Competitive team finale: a research phase followed by timed rounds on the Giant Map. EN-EL

19:30-20:00

Closing performance with final messages
The performance is repeated for newly arrived audiences and wraps up the journey with the programme’s key closing messages.

20:00-20:30

Closing concert
The Windcraft Band - a 20-piece multicultural ensemble of wind players and rhythm section, with a fresh instrumental take on funk, pop and rock hits.

20:30

Closure of the Day

ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES

Saving Mrs Euterpe – An Ice Cream Saga!

An original theatre performance created especially for the DesirMED Festival by Panayiotis Larkou, Rebecca Katsaris, Dimitris Spyrou and Mélissa García Carro.
Starting at opposite ends of the Giant Interactive Map, Mrs Euterpe and her grandchildren take audiences on a playful journey across the Mediterranean. When coastal erosion and rising waters threaten Mrs Euterpe's beach canteen in Larnaca, her grandchildren set off from Portugal to help her. Along the way, they encounter different climate challenges and explore possible solutions.
Combining theatre, music, movement and audience participation, the performance brings climate adaptation to life and shows how actions across the Mediterranean can contribute to a more resilient future.

Artistic team: Panayiotis Larkou, Director · Rebecca Katsaris, Educator/Facilitator · Dimitris Spyrou, Composer · Mélissa García Carro, Dancer/Movement Artist/Choreographer

Windcraft Band
Directed by Elli Michael, the Windcraft Band brings the energy of a large wind ensemble to the Giant Interactive Map. Created in 2014, the Cyprus-based band brings together around 20 musicians with a shared passion for wind music.
Its repertoire moves freely between funky and Latin grooves, elegant swing, rock and traditional Greek and Balkan sounds, creating a lively musical journey across styles and cultures. The band regularly performs at festivals and public events throughout Cyprus and has collaborated with international guest artists and ensembles, including joint performances with the Zentralkapelle Berlin in Cyprus and Germany.

GREENLINK PROJECT ACTIVITIES

15:00-20:30 | Ongoing Interactive Activities
Running simultaneously with the **Giant Interactive Map activities**, the GreenLink project will offer a series of participatory activities throughout the afternoon, inviting visitors to explore themes of Mediterranean identity, culture, community, sustainability and connection. Visitors are welcome to join the activities at any time between **15:00 and 20:30.**

Mediterranean Connections Map
In this interactive mapping activity, visitors will be invited to explore the connections that link Cyprus with the wider Mediterranean and the world. Participants can mark their country of origin, family roots, places they have lived or studied, or locations that hold a special meaning to them, connecting them back to Cyprus using colored strings. Throughout the Festival, the map will gradually become a collective representation of the different cultures, journeys and identities that come together in Cyprus.

Boat of Memories & Messages of Hope
The Boat of Memories invites visitors to contribute a personal memory, reflection, wish or message of hope connected to the Mediterranean. Participants can add their messages to the installation throughout the Festival, gradually creating a collective expression of belonging, connection and hopes for the future of the Mediterranean and its communities.

If I Were Mayor
Visitors will be invited to imagine that they are Mayor for a day and consider what they would change in their city. Participants can propose one action or idea that could make their community more sustainable, inclusive, resilient or enjoyable to live in, encouraging people of all ages to reflect on the future of their local environment.

Food Map of Larnaca
The Food Map of Larnaca invites visitors to explore the city through its food, local products, traditions and favourite places. Participants can contribute foods, ingredients, dishes or locations that they associate with Larnaca, creating a collective picture of the city's food identity. The activity will also encourage reflection on the connections between local food, cultural heritage, the environment and more sustainable consumption.

GREENLINK PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Live Community Mural with artist Francis Mupini
Throughout the Festival, visitors will have the opportunity to watch a large-scale artwork develop in real time and contribute to its creation. Guided by the artist, participants can add colors, symbols, words or messages inspired by the Mediterranean, creating a collective mural exploring themes of connection, diversity, belonging, movement and hope.

Passport to the Mediterranean
The Passport to the Mediterranean will invite visitors to explore the different Festival activities while completing small challenges and collecting stamps along the way. Designed as an interactive journey through the Festival, the passport encourages participants to discover different Mediterranean activities and themes while engaging with the installations, workshops and experiences taking place throughout the day.

Mediterranean Dance Experience with T.E.A.M Hip Hop Collective
Throughout the Festival, the GreenLink dancers will bring movement and energy to the programme through interactive dance activities and engagement with visitors. Throughout the afternoon, visitors can join a participatory dance-teaching session, learning simple movements and choreography in an accessible and informal setting. A dedicated dance performance will take place from 17:10-17:30, while the dancers will also accompany The Windcraft Band during the closing concert at 20:00-20:30, bringing dance and live music together for the Festival's final celebration.

GREENLINK PROJECT
SUPPORTED WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 17:00-18:00

Sketching on Location workshop

In this Introductory 'Sketching on Location' workshop, artist Chloe Finn will guide participants and invite them to experience space through on-location observational sketching. Focusing on being present and given demonstrations and sketching techniques, the group will head outdoors to capture the impression of their surroundings. Participants will also be introduced to the concept of Nature-based Solutions and their role in climate adaptation. They will be asked to incorporate NbS into their drawings, imagining how public space can become more pleasant.

Participation is free. Registrations are accepted by email: chloe.fnn@gmail.com
Starting point: St. Lazarus church square, Time: 17:00.

The final pieces will be displayed in a small exhibition during the Adaptation Festival which will take place at Europe Square on Saturday, 26th September.

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 17:00-20:00

A Walk with and among Other bodies – Walking workshop

The Koullou|Makka Collective invites people for a walking-based experience, an invitation to rethink our relationship with nature and climate change, approaching the environment through movement, creative writing, and play. Participants will move through the centre of Larnaka, starting from Europe Square and making stops at different locations. At each station, participants will take part in a different creative and experiential activity, in an effort to move beyond the usual human perspective.
The workshop is deaf and disability-friendly and welcomes people with any form of disability. The necessary services to ensure accessible and equitable participation can be provided upon request, through the registration form.

(The pace of the workshop will respect different movement speeds, as well as individual needs for pauses and rest.)

Participation is free. Click here to learn more and register here.

EUROPE SQUARE STANDS

CYPRUS MARINE & MARITIME INSTITUTE

The Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) is a Centre of Excellence for marine and maritime research, innovation and technology development, based in Larnaca, Cyprus. CMMI works to promote sustainable Blue Growth by developing scientific knowledge, technologies and solutions that address the needs of society and the marine and maritime sectors. Its research spans areas including marine technology and robotics, ocean observation, marine and coastal ecosystems, maritime digitalisation, marine cultural heritage, and marine and maritime policy.

At its stand, visitors will explore different ways in which science and technology can help us understand and protect the marine environment and underwater cultural heritage. Through digital applications, sensor demonstrations, 3D models and virtual reality, they will discover how climate change affects underwater archaeological sites, how scientists collect and interpret marine data, how citizens can contribute observations through the COSEA App, and how important Mediterranean marine habitats can be explored in an immersive and interactive way.

DesirMED IUCN

DesirMED stand will be in Europe Square to share the project focus, activities and achievements. You will have tha chance to know about the DesirMED Climate Ambassadors network and meet Alex, the DesirMED comic character who is travelling across the Mediterranean. With a backpack, a curious mind and a journey stretching across the Mediterranean, Alex will discover how people and nature can work together to face a changing climate.
IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, an initiative that bridges science, policy, and action to protect biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and support sustainable livelihoods across the Mediterranean, will be also there. IUCN members will explain how resilient Mediterranean depend on approaches that work with nature, connect knowledge with action and bring different actors together.

PARTICIPATING NGOS

Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL)

The Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) was established in 2011 and supports its member municipalities in implementing development plans and projects, making use of European and other funding opportunities.

At the Festival, ANEL will present the European **Adaptation Hubs** project, which promotes cooperation between authorities and organisations in the planning and implementation of actions that strengthen the resilience of cities and communities in the face of climate change.

Cyprus Institute

The Cyprus Institute is a non-profit research and educational organisation with an international reach, focusing on science, technology, and addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

At the Festival, it will present **CoPaB**, a digital participatory planning tool that allows visitors to design green spaces using Nature-Based Solutions, while taking into account community needs and an available budget.

Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF)

The Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF) is an organisation dedicated to protecting and promoting Cyprus's nature, biodiversity, and ecosystems, supporting initiatives that contribute to a more resilient and sustainable environment.

At the Festival, CEF will present regenerative organic agriculture and its connection to soil health, nature, and sustainable food production. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore relevant educational materials and take part in a tasting of Cypriot organic olive oil.

Environmental Fluid Mechanics Laboratory – University of Cyprus

The Environmental Fluid Mechanics Laboratory at the University of Cyprus studies the environment through science and technology, with a focus on air quality, microclimate, pollutants, and aquatic and coastal systems.

At the Festival, children and adults alike will discover **Environmental Engineering in Practice**, using real scientific instruments to measure air, sound, light, and air quality through simple and engaging activities.

PARTICIPATING NGOS

Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre

Enalia Physis is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection of nature and biodiversity, with a particular focus on marine ecosystems. Through research, educational programmes, and public awareness activities, it brings people closer to the marine world.

At the Festival, **MedONwheels** will bring the Mediterranean closer to visitors through exhibits, real specimens, and interactive games focusing on sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks, marine zones, and the food chain.

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

Friends of the Earth Cyprus is an environmental non-profit organisation that promotes social and environmental justice, sustainability, and community empowerment. Through campaigns and activities, it addresses climate justice, biodiversity, waste reduction, and sustainable food systems.

At their stand, visitors will take part in the activity **"The Neighbourhood We Wish We Had"**, designing the neighbourhood of the future on aerial photographs of Larnaca, with more green spaces, shade, safe routes, and places for people to meet and connect.

Marine & Environmental Research (MER) Lab

The MER Lab operates in Cyprus through research and initiatives focused on protecting the marine environment, with an emphasis on biodiversity, ecology, and ecosystem restoration.

At their stand, visitors will discover the marine life of Cyprus and the Mediterranean through interactive games. Children will also be able to "fish" for and sort waste, learning about marine pollution in a fun and engaging way.

PARTICIPATING NGOS

Terra Cypria – The Cyprus Conservation Foundation

Terra Cypria is a non-governmental organisation that promotes environmental awareness and sustainability through educational programmes and nature conservation initiatives.

At their stand, visitors will learn about the **Pandoteira Project** and the importance of the **Natura 2000 network** in protecting Cyprus's species and habitats. Through board games, drawing activities, a 3D map, and an interactive quiz, children and adults alike will have the opportunity to learn and test their knowledge.

AKTI Project and Research Centre

AKTI is a non-profit organisation that implements initiatives focused on environmental protection and environmental education. Through the **Tiganokinisi** programme, which is implemented in more than 540 schools across Cyprus, used cooking oil is transformed from waste into biodiesel, while also supporting environmental initiatives in schools.

At their stand, the **"Tiganokinisi Caravan"** will offer a series of interactive experiments focusing on energy and water conservation, composting, and the conversion of used cooking oil into biodiesel. Visitors will be able to try a bicycle that generates energy, compare the water consumption of different toilet cisterns, and get hands-on experience using a compost bin and a branch shredder.

DesirMED Adaptation Festival: The Mediterranean We Desire

25th and 26th September 2026
Larnaka, Cyprus



OUR SPEAKERS

The Mediterranean we desire

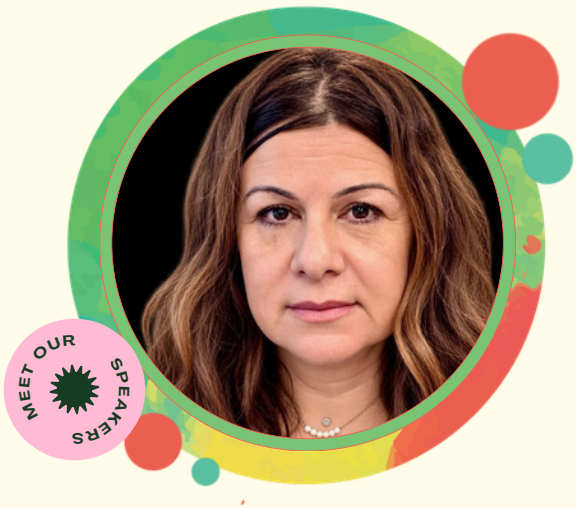
MEET OUR SPEAKERS



ELISA FURLAN

CMMC Senior Researcher
DesirMED Coordinator

Elisa Furlan is a Senior Scientist at the CMCC Foundation and Adjunct Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her research focuses on climate change risk assessment and adaptation pathways for coastal and transitional ecosystem. She combines machine learning-based modelling and strategic foresight to assess socio-ecological vulnerability to multi-hazard risks and the potential of Nature-based Solutions.
She leads the CMCC Research Unit on "Transformative Adaptation Measures and Planning for Resilience," supporting transformative societal change through scenario planning and the integration of stakeholder and decision-maker visions. As Project Coordinator of the Horizon Europe projects DesirMED and GRACE, she works to translate scientific knowledge into transformative, climate-resilient planning, with a strong focus on community engagement and capacity building. She is also a Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 7, "Societal transformation for a sustainable future," of the MedECC Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2).



ELENA STYLIANOPOULOU

Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus
Deputy Director

Elena Stylianopoulou is Biologist and studied at Brown University, USA with graduate studies in Energy and Environmental Management.
She has worked as a consultant in the field of the environment for several years before the Department of the Environment in 2001. She has worked in the field of environmental management, environmental impact assessment, ecolabel, waste management and nature and biodiversity.
She is currently coordinating the waste management policy and nature and biodiversity sectors.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



DARIA POVH ŠKUGOR

PAP/RAC Director

Daria Povh Škugor is Director of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of UNEP/MAP. For over two decades she has been leading and participating in the numerous coastal management and coastal adaptation projects, from the Mediterranean to city level. Using integrated, systemic approach she gained on-the-ground experience of policy-science-community collaboration. Her main interest lies in SDG 17 – building partnerships for action. She is advocating for climate action and sustainability as a presenter, guest lecturer and a key note speaker. She holds a MSc in Coastal zone management (Ulster) and BSc in Economy of coastal zones (Split).



SUSANNE PEDERSEN

IUCN Centre for Science and Knowledge (CSK) Director

Susanne Pedersen joined IUCN as the Director of the Centre for Science and Knowledge (CSK) in June 2023. She has experience from international organizations, a science-based advisory centre, an innovation community, industry associations and consulting engineering firms. Prior to joining IUCN, she worked as the Assistant Director-General of the Global Green Growth Institute and Managing Director of Climate-KIC Nordic. She also spent 2 years as the Director of the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) engaged in implementing UNEP's Climate and Energy Program.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



PROF. MICHAEL SCOULLOS

Team Leader/WES-BCA

Michael J. Scoullos is Professor Emeritus at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Director of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean. He is Founder and Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and a leading figure in Mediterranean environmental policy, education, and water governance, currently serving as Team Leader of the EU-funded WES-BCA programme.



ELYES HAMZA

SPA/RAC Director

Mahmoud Elyes Hamza is Director of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Center (UNEP/MAP). He previously served as Tunisia's Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries (2021–2023), President of IRESA (2017–2021), and Director of INAT (2009–2017). A professor specializing in rural engineering, water, and forests, he has held senior leadership roles in agricultural education and research since 1988.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



CHARIS NIKA

New Coast Ambassador

Charis Nika is an architect and urbanist whose work spans across research, pedagogy, and practice. Her work focuses on the environmental, social, and political dimensions of architecture and urbanism.
Charis is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Architecture of the University of Cyprus and works as a researcher at the Laboratory of Urbanism (LUCY). Her research explores how critical urban practices can address issues of spatial justice in the Cypriot coastal zone within the broader context of contemporary urbanisation.
Alongside her academic work, Charis leads practice-based projects with diverse collectives and bottom-up initiatives. In 2025, her project "Coastal Urban Futures" received the TIDAL ArtS Lighthouse Grant, supporting the co-creation of alternative futures for the coast of Larnaca. She holds an MSc in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences from TU Delft and a BSc in Architectural Studies from Cardiff University.



CÉLINE DAMERY

Conservatoire du littoral
Project Officer

After a postgraduate cursus in marine and coastal management and conservation, Céline Damery joined in 2008 the Europe and International Department of the Conservatoire du littoral (french Public Agency dedicated to coastal protection) as project officer and became in 2026 Vice-Director for International and Patronage. She is involved in the development and implementation of international cooperation programs, notably with Mediterranean, Europe and Western-Africa countries. Over the years, she has been involved in projects in link with conservation and sustainable development of coastal natural sites and small islands, providing both institutional and technical expertise on various topics such as ecological restoration, management of visitors, development of partnerships and coastal adaptation to climate change.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



EFFIE ZIKOULI

Aradippou Municipality
EU Affairs Officer

Effie Zikouli is an EU affairs and communications professional working with the Municipality of Aradippou, Cyprus, where she focuses on climate resilience, sustainable development and European partnerships. She has supported the municipality's participation in Pathways2Resilience, helping develop its climate adaptation strategy, action plan and investment priorities, while working with European institutions and local stakeholders to advance municipal projects. Drawing on more than two decades of experience in broadcasting, media and international events, Effie uses strategic communication to bridge European policy and local communities. She is the founder and CEO of ST76 Ltd and president of the Athlin Foundation.



KLITOS PAPASTYLIANOU

Terra Cypria
Head of Environmental Policy

Klitos Papastylianou holds a BA in Political Science and History from Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, and a Master of Science in Environmental Social Science from the School of Social Sciences, Sociology and Social Research of the University of Kent, Canterbury. During the past 20 years, he has gained extensive professional experience with non-governmental organisations, active in the fields of environmental protection, sustainable development, human rights, social justice, peace, and reconciliation. He is currently the Head of Environmental Policy in Terra Cypria – The Cyprus Conservation Foundation.

MEET OUR MODERATORS



IVAN SEKOVSKI

PAP/RAC
Programme Officer

Ivan Sekovski has been working at the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of UNEP/MAP since 2015, contributing to projects on coastal planning and management, nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and marine and coastal monitoring. His work focuses on supporting sustainable and climate-resilient development of coastal areas, with an emphasis on integrating environmental knowledge into planning and decision-making. He has experience working at the interface of science, policy and practice across the Mediterranean region. He holds a PhD in Marine and Coastal Management from the University of Cádiz, an MSc in Water and Coastal Management from the University of Faro, and an MSc in Marine Biology and Ecology from the University of Split.



LOUISA MARIE SHAKOU

Cyprus Energy Agency
Coordinator of Climate Change Adaptation

Louisa Marie Shakou is an Environmental Scientist with a master's in Chemistry from Leeds University, and an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London, with a specialisation in Environmental Economics and Policy.

Louisa began her career as a Researcher in the Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability team at the National Audit Office of the UK Government. She held positions at TUV Cyprus Ltd, as a member of audit teams, conducting inspections against ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004, and EMAS. She has been a visiting lecturer at the Higher Hotel Institute Cyprus and was a Research Associate at the Centre for Risk, Safety, and Environment at the European University Cyprus, where she was the principal investigator of the Horizon 2020 funded project EU-CIRCLE 'a pan-European framework for strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure to climate change'. She has participated in 15 EU-funded projects in her career as an environmental scientist and climate change expert.

Louisa joined the Cyprus Energy Agency as a Climate Change Expert in 2019. Her interests and expertise are on assessment of climate change risks, climate change resilience and adaptation, and nature-based solutions. Since 2023, she is the Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator of the Cyprus Energy Agency.

MEET OUR MODERATORS



MARIA HADJIMICHAEL

CMMI
Senior Associate Scientist

Maria Hadjimichael is a Senior Associate Scientist at the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute in Cyprus. She is a researcher in the broader fields of marine and coastal governance. She has an interdisciplinary background and leads CMMI's Centre of Ocean Governance and International Cooperation. She has extensive experience in both researching and engaging in the processes around the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and Marine Spatial Planning in Cyprus and beyond.

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TRAVEL GUIDE

The Mediterranean we desire
DesirMED

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES



Legal points of entry

Note: The legal points of entry by air into the Republic of Cyprus are the **International Airports of Larnaka and Pafos**. There are no legal points of entry in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus, where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control. For further information on the legal points of entry into the Republic of Cyprus, consult the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus: https://www.gov.cy/mfa/en/documents/important-information-concerning-travel-to-theturkish-occupied-area-of-cyprus/

Transfer from Larnaka International Airport

Taxis are available just outside the Arrivals area on the ground floor. They will have a taxi sign and use a meter. The journey to Larnaca city center usually takes 10–15 minutes, and the fare is typically between **€12-20**, depending on the destination within Larnaca, traffic conditions, and the time of day. The Bolt app also offers an easy and affordable transfer from Larnaca International Airport to Larnaka city. https://bolt.eu/el-cy/

You can take a public bus from Larnaca Airport to Larnaca city center. The bus stop is located outside the terminal building on the Departures level, to the left as you exit. Tickets can usually be purchased directly from the driver, and it is advisable to carry cash. Several routes connect the airport with the city center, with buses running regularly throughout the day. The journey takes approximately 20–30 minutes.

Transfer from Pafos International Airport

Taxis are available as you exit the airport. The estimated travel time from Paphos airport to Larnaca is 1 hour 20 minutes to 1 hour 40 minutes depending on traffic. The estimated cost is **€120-150** per taxi. Prices vary depending on the time of day, luggage, and number of passengers.

The most convenient public transport option is the **Kapnos Airport Shuttle**, which operates services between Paphos Airport and Larnaca Airport. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the selected service. Tickets cost approximately **€16–20** per person. The shuttle arrives at **Larnaca Airport**, from where passengers can continue to Larnaca city center by local bus or taxi. The taxi journey from Larnaca Airport to Larnaca city center takes approximately **10–15 minutes**.

MEETING VENUE

DIRECTIONS DIRECTIONS

1 The **Policy Session** on the **25th September** will take place at the Allilodidaktiko, by St. Lazarus Church. Located in its own square in the centre of Larnaka town, the magnificent stone church of Agios Lazaros is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus. It lies over the tomb of the saint. It was built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century and restored in the 17th century. 'Allilodidaktiko', the room in which the Policy Day will take place, is considered to be the first public school in Larnaka, and dates back to 1830.



Venue: Allilodidaktiko, Saint Lazarus Square
Address: Holy Church of Saint Lazarus Square, Πλατεία, Ayiou Lazarou, Larnaca, Larnaka 6020, Cyprus. Take me there

2 The **Adaptation Festival** on the **26th September** will take place at Larnaka's Europe Square. The square is the start of the Foinikoudes (Palm Tree) Promenade, features the Seagulls in Flight fountain and is flanked by the old colonial buildings that now house the Municipal Art Gallery and the Larnaka Historic Archives Museum. The Zeno of Kition statue in the square is part of the Larnaka Storytelling Statues - an interactive experience to hear the monument's history.



Venue: Europe Square, Larnaka
Address: Athenon 6, Larnaka, 6023. Take me there

Please note that some workshops will have a different starting point.
Make sure you check the official program of the Festival.

ACCOMMODATION

Please note that the hotels listed below are provided as recommendations only. Participants are free to book accommodation at any hotel of their choice. The suggested hotels are located within a short distance from the event venue. All participants are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own accommodation.

Recommended Hotels in Larnaka City Centre

Sun Hall Hotel
4★

Single Room: €

Double Room: €

Book directly through website
http://www.sunhallhotel.com.cy

Book directly through website
http://www.sunhallhotel.com.cy

More than 3 months prior to arrival: No charge

Between 2 and 3 months prior to arrival: 25% of the cancelled revenue

Between 1 and 2 months prior to arrival: 50% of the cancelled revenue

Between 1 month and 10 days prior to arrival: 100% of the cancelled revenue

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Frangiorgio Hotel
3★

Single Room: €

Double Room: €

Book directly through email
info@frangiorgiohotel.com

Phone: +35724627444, +35724627445

Website www.frangiorgiohotel.com

Cancellation free of charge will be accepted until 3 days prior to arrival

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Hotel Indigo
4★

Single Room: €

Double Room: €

Book directly through their website
www.hotelindigo.com

Phone: +357 24660700

Email: info@larnacaindigo.com

Rise Urban Art Hotel
3★

Single Room: €

Double Room: € Non-refundable rate, payable directly at the time of reservation via an online payment link.

Book directly through email
info@therisehotel.com

Phone: +357 24694694

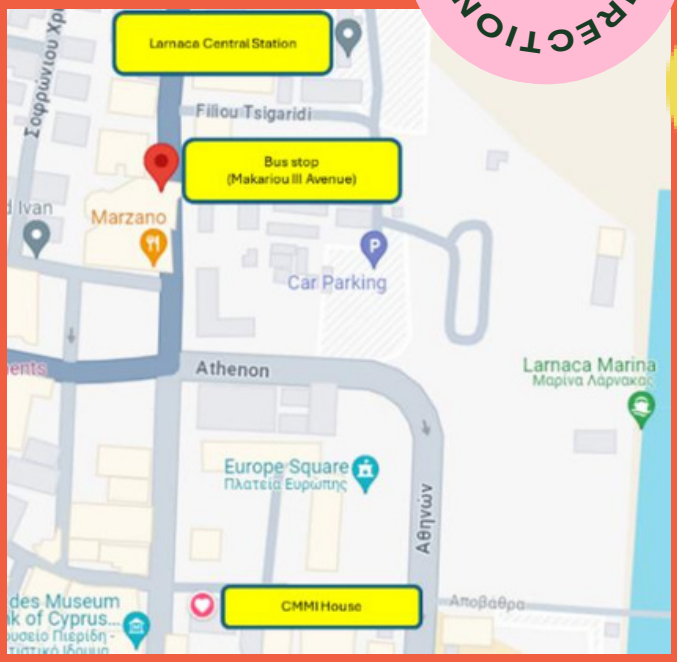
Website: www.therisehotel.com

Free cancellation is available up to one week prior to arrival. In case of last-minute cancellation or no show, the full amount will be charged.

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

By Walking

Larnaka's beautiful coastal promenade is ideal for walking, particularly along the seafront between Finikoudes and Mackenzie Beach. Walking is a pleasant way to explore the city, enjoy the sea views and reach nearby cafés, restaurants and points of interest.



By Taxi

For quick and easy transportation, we recommend using taxi. You can book a ride using the Bolt app or you can book a ride with Cabcy Taxi. https://cab.com.cy/ , or Bolt taxi https://bolt.eu/el-cy/

By Bus

Line 425: These buses run every 20-30 minutes. The cost of this trip is €2.40. Tickets can be purchased directly from the driver. Please check the latest fares and timetables before travelling.

Line 431 and **432**: These buses run hourly. The cost of this trip is €2.40.

These lines can bring you to the Makariou III Avenue bus stop or the Larnaca Central Station, which is a short walk from CMMI House.
For **alternative destinations** within Larnaca, you can use Journey Planner - Cyprus Public Transport or apps like "pame" or "motion".

By Car

Car rental: although booking in advance is recommended, several car rental companies have desks at the airport. An international driver's license is not required for travels from the EU and Israel. Remember, traffic moves on the LEFT hand-side of the road, NOT on the right. There is also the possibility of car rental per hour through the app "RideNow". This may be more costly, but worthwhile if you only need a car for a short period of time.

By Bicycle

Larnaca is quite a cycle-friendly coastal city, especially for relaxed riding along the seafront between Finikoudes and Mackenzie Beach. Bike rentals are easy to find near hotels and the seafront, and there are also guided cycling routes in the area.

OTHER PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Electricity: The voltage in Cyprus is 230V. Cyprus uses Type G plugs (UK-style with three rectangular pins), so bringing a suitable plug adapter, if needed, is advisable

Local time zone: Eastern European Time (EET) (GMT +2)

Weather: Cyprus boasts a Mediterranean climate with hot, humid summer days and mild, rainy winters. September is a beautiful time in Cyprus. It follows the intense summer period which runs until August. Lightweight apparel is recommended for this period. Climate change has nevertheless led to unexpected weather in Cyprus, so please check before you pack!

Weather in Cyprus
https://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/dm/dm.nsf/home_en/home_en?openform

Currency: The official currency of Cyprus is Euro (€)

Country code: Cyprus +357

Smoking: Smoking is only allowed outdoors in the designated areas of the official meeting venues

Shopping for everyday items:

- Kiosks and bakeries (24/7 service available)
- Supermarkets
- Pharmacies

Souvenir shops: Visitors will find a variety of souvenir shops along the Finikoudes Promenade, as well as throughout the charming old town and in the area surrounding Saint Lazarus Church, offering local crafts, traditional products, and gifts to take home.



SUSTAINABILITY

The Host aims to ensure that environmentally, socially and economically responsible choices are made throughout its planning and execution.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Emergency number: In Cyprus, the main emergency number is 112 for police, ambulance, and other emergency services. Please find below an Indicative list of pharmacies around the area:

Service / facility	Contact details	Opening Hours
Larnaka General Hospital	+357 24800500	24hrs
Stavrou Melios Pharmacy	+357 24628041	Monday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Tuesday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:00 Wednesday: 8:00 – 14:00 Thursday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Friday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Saturday: 8:00 – 14:00
Pavlos Christodoulou Pharmacy	+357 24652702	Monday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Tuesday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Wednesday: 8:00 – 13:30 Thursday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Friday: 8:00 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Saturday: 8:30 – 13:30
Despo Theofanous Pharmacy	+357 24622522	Monday: 8:30 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Tuesday: 8:30 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Wednesday: 8:30 – 13:30 Thursday: 8:30 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Friday: 8:30 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 18:30 Saturday: 8:30 – 13:30

Night pharmacies: only selected pharmacies operate on public holidays, weekends and late at night. Information can be found through the following website: https://ygeia-news.com/dianyktereyonta-farmakeia/ or telephone number: +357 90 901 414.
European Health Insurance Card. If you are a citizen of an EU country, it is recommended that you get the European Health Insurance Card.

Participants should ensure that they have appropriate travel and health insurance. EU visitors may also wish to carry a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or equivalent documentation, where applicable.

FOOD
& SHOPPING

Shopping

You can enjoy shopping around the streets that run parallel to the Foinikoudes Promenade, such as for example at Ermou Street.

A list of a few of our favorite restaurants in Larnaka:

Coffee

- Paul’s Coffee Roasters
- NOLA Beach Bar
- Sea Joy
- Rebuke Lounge

Breakfast / brunch

- Edems Yard
- To Kafe Tis Chrysanthi's
- Lazaris Bakery bar

Lunch / dinner

- Famelia
- Stou Roushia
- Militzis
- Aithrion
- Stefanos Fish Tavern
- Marzano
- Ithaki Garden Restaurant

Ice cream

- Makou Beach Bar
- Lokmakos

THINGS TO DO IN CYPRUS

One of the best ways to experience the Cypriot culture is through our local cuisine! A few of our favorite Cypriot delicacies include meze (a variety of small dishes), grilled halloumi cheese, souvlaki, Commandaria (world's oldest wine still in production), Cypriot coffee, sweet tahini pies, Soujoukkos (Nuts Dipped in Sweet Grape Jelly), Karidaki Glyko (walnut sweets), and loukoumades.



While here, we suggest you take the time to visit a few places. A concise list of places to visit can be found here: Home Page - Visit Cyprus. This website is also useful if you are traveling with a companion as it provides information on many activities in Cyprus, e.g. museums, tours (e.g. to a nearby village such as Lefkara), and events. It also includes activities that are more family oriented. We are happy to assist in such arrangements based on your suggestions.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Disclaimer

This Welcome Guide has been prepared for the convenience and assistance of visitors attending the meeting in Cyprus. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information provided, the organizers cannot guarantee that all details are current or free from errors. Visitors are advised to verify any critical information independently.

The organizers do not assume any responsibility or liability for any inconvenience, loss, or damage resulting from reliance on the information contained in this guide. Visitors are responsible for their own travel arrangements, accommodation, and personal safety.

Please note that any recommendations for transportation, dining, entertainment, and other services are provided as courtesy and do not constitute endorsements. Visitors should exercise their own judgment and due diligence when selecting and using these services.

The information provided is subject to change without notice. For the latest updates, please contact the workshop organizers directly or refer to official sources.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We hope you have a productive and enjoyable visit to Cyprus!

DesirMED

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Enjoy!

