



Sustainable
tourism

Interreg
Euro-MED



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SUSTAINABLE TOURISM POLICY LAB in CYPRUS

*organised under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of
the Council of the European Union*



19th March, 2026

The event has been shifted to on-line format
Meeting link will be provided upon registration

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Organized by Dialogue4Tourism Project

Sustainable Tourism Mission



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About the Sustainable Tourism Mission

The **Sustainable Tourism Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme** focuses on fostering a circular tourism, considering the sustainability of ecosystem services using innovation technologies, and promoting the preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Two governance projects (Community4Tourism & Dialogue4Tourism), together with the Thematic Projects under this Mission, work jointly to develop solutions and promote cooperation in the Euro-MED and beyond, to increase the coordination level and institutional capacity to make tourism greener, smarter and more resilient.

About the Sustainable Tourism Policy Lab in Cyprus

Within the framework of the Sustainable Tourism Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED, the Dialogue4Tourism Project is carrying out four **Sustainable Tourism Policy Labs** across different Mediterranean countries in 2025 and 2026. The Labs aim to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance coordination among public authorities and tourism stakeholders, fostering the mainstreaming of sustainable tourism and supporting meaningful policy transformation. By promoting a shared methodology, amplifying the results of the Sustainable Tourism Mission's Thematic Projects, and encouraging transnational cooperation and knowledge exchange, the Policy Labs will contribute to a more cohesive, innovative and sustainable tourism future for the Mediterranean.

The Sustainable Tourism Policy Lab in Cyprus is organised under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Main Goals of the Lab

- Strengthen coordination and institutional capacity in sustainable tourism to support decision-making and policy processes.
- Enhance policy transformation through shared methodologies relevant to Mediterranean tourism.
- Capitalise on and disseminate Tourism Mission's Thematic Project results.
- Foster transnational cooperation and knowledge exchange in the Mediterranean.



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Development/Structure of the Lab

1) Theoretical session

- An overview of **theoretical knowledge**, accompanied by a review of selected case studies from the mainstreaming of the Interreg Tourism Mission's Thematic Projects.
- Four **key concepts** have been identified around: i) Tourism Governance, ii) Climate Change, iii) Tourism Innovation and iv) Circular Economy in Tourism. These concepts will be at the heart of the practical session.

2) Practical session: participants will work in small groups on scenario-based exercises, applying theory to a real destination case study to co-design solutions and reflect on policy. Using **the island of Cyprus** as a tourism destination, participants will prioritise actions and discuss how the topics covered can improve sustainable governance, support circular economy solutions and support socio-economic growth.

3) Wrap-up and final reflections on the practical session outcomes.

AGENDA (provisional)

Date: 19th March

Time: 11:15 – 14:00 (EET) / 10:15 – 13:00 (CET)

Format: on-line



*under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency
of the Council of the European Union*

11.15 – 11.40 (EET) / 10:15 – 10:40 (CET)

Welcome addresses

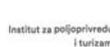
Minister Alexis Vafeades, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus

Marilena Ayiomamitou, *Growth Officer A'*, Directorate General Growth, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Cyprus - National Contact Point for the Interreg Euro-MED Programme

Curzio Cervelli, *Coordinator*, Interreg Euro-MED Joint Secretariat

11.40 – 11.50 (EET) / 10:40 – 10:50 (CET)

Introductory speech “Sustainable tourism in Cyprus” by representative of the *Deputy Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus*



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11.50 – 12.10 (EET) / 10:50 – 11:10 (CET)

Sustainable Tourism Policy Lab Operational framework by **Giulia Balestracci**,
Tourism Policy & Project Officer, Eco-union

12.10 – 13.30 (EET) / 11:10 – 12:30 (CET)

Practical session: Tackling the main challenges affecting the fragile ecosystem of the Euro-Mediterranean Islands

(Participants will be divided into 3 break out rooms during each roundtable exercise)

- **Roundtable exercise #1:** Regional Sustainable Tourism Governance
- **Roundtable exercise #2:** Tourism Innovation
& presentation of **ECO-SEAROUTES project** pilot in Cyprus by **Dr. Maria Hadjiathanasiou**, *Associate Scientist – Heritage Interpretation Specialist*, Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute – Project Partner of ECO-SEAROUTES
- **Roundtable exercise #3:** Circular Economy in Tourism and Water Scarcity
& presentation of **IDRON project** by **Panagiota Saranti**, *Senior Project Manager*, University of Patras – Lead Partner of IDRON

Facilitators of the break out rooms:

Ioannis Mardikis, *Circular Economy Expert, European Public Law Organisation – Dialogue4Tourism Project Partner*

Luis Miranda Molas, *Project Manager, Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry – Dialogue4Tourism Project Partner*

Katerina Pantazi, *Senior Architect, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works- Public Works Department of the Republic of Cyprus – Dialogue4Tourism Project Partner*

13.30 – 14.00 (EET) / 12:30 – 13:00 (CET)

Wrap-up & final reflections on the practical session outcomes



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El legado andalusí

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
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i turizam



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