



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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Cyprus  
National Commission

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF ACTIVITIES  
OF THE CYPRUS  
NATIONAL  
COMMISSION FOR  
UNESCO  
**2025**

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marked a period of intense activity and creative collaboration for the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO. Through a wide range of initiatives, the Commission continued to promote UNESCO's fundamental principles, focusing on the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, the advancement of education for the arts, culture, global citizenship, and peaceful coexistence, as well as the promotion of research and scientific cooperation, particularly within the framework of networks such as the UNESCO Chairs and the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet).

At the same time, the Commission actively participated in international and regional initiatives, contributing to networking and the exchange of good practices with other National Commissions, UNESCO Regional Centres, experts from the Organization's Member States, and NGOs for the implementation of joint actions.

On 22 January 2025, the Cyprus Council of Ministers appointed the new Board of Directors of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO for the period 2025-2030. Based on this revised composition, the new Board consists of the following members: Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou (President), Dr Ioanna Hadjicosti (Secretary General-Representative of the Deputy Ministry of Culture), Dr Ioannis Savvides (Representative of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth), Eleni Apeyitou (Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Dr Panayiotis Angelides (Representative of the Academic Community), Dr Iosif Hadjikyriakos, and Dr Niki Papadopoulou Papa (members appointed on merit).

Following its appointment, the new Board of Directors adopted the Strategic Plan for the period 2025-2030. The plan is structured around three core pillars, focusing on the Commission's role in:

1. Supporting Cypriot society in maximizing the benefits and effective use of UNESCO programmes.
2. Supporting the Republic of Cyprus in achieving its objectives through UNESCO, by acting as an advisory body.
3. Supporting UNESCO in fulfilling its mission and objectives.

The present report outlines the Commission's main actions and achievements for 2025, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to the principles and goals of UNESCO, with the aim of fostering a society based on knowledge, cultural diversity, and peace. Among the most notable achievements related to the Commission's work in 2025 are the following:

- i. The inscription of Commandaria on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ii. The inclusion of the Municipality of Kourion in UNESCO's international Global Network of Learning Cities.
- iii. The awarding of Dr Kyriaki Michaelidou with the UNESCO-AI Fozan International Prize for the Promotion of Young Scientists in STEM.
- iv. The establishment of a new UNESCO Chair at the European University Cyprus, focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Security in the Southeastern Mediterranean. The Chair, under the direction of Professor Georgios Boustras, is the eighth UNESCO Chair hosted by a university in Cyprus.
- v. The award of a funding amounting to €25,000 from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (based in Venice) and the Sofia Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, for the implementation of an educational programme on intangible cultural heritage in 2026.
- vi. The production of two publications: one on Intangible Cultural Heritage and one on World Heritage in Cyprus.
- vii. The organisation of the first networking event presenting the work of the UNESCO Chairs in Cyprus, together with the production of a related film, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia.
- viii. The signing of two Memoranda of Understanding, with The Cyprus Institute and the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare.

# EDUCATION, SCIENCES AND YOUTH



## UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) 47<sup>th</sup> Pancyprian Symposium on the topic: “Shaping identity amid the complexity and challenges of the modern world”



Between 3-4 April 2025, the 47<sup>th</sup> Pancyprian Symposium of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) titled “Shaping identity amid the complexity and challenges of the modern world” was held in Nicosia. The Symposium was organised in collaboration with the ASPnet National Coordinator for Cyprus, Dr Katerina Vladimirova (Inspector of English in Secondary Education at the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth), as well as the Pancyprian Gymnasium, Kykkos Lyceum A’, and Archbishop Makarios III Gymnasium, Platy. The two-day event programme included student presentations, experiential workshops, and artistic activities. Through creativity and artistic expression, the vital role of the arts in education was highlighted, fostering imagination, critical thinking, and empathy. Within the framework of the Symposium, the theatre group Valitsa Intra Portas presented the play “P.S. Cyprus,” an original theatrical approach to the history of Cyprus through letters and testimonies of foreign visitors. The workshops were held with the support of cultural institutions such as the Leventis Municipal Museum, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, the State Gallery-Majestic, The Centre of Visual Arts and Research (CVAR), and the Cyprus Society of Cypriot Studies.





## Conference titled “UNESCO Chairs: Bridges of Knowledge for Society and Culture”

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Chairs Programme in Cyprus, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, organised a conference titled “UNESCO Chairs: Bridges of Knowledge for Society and Culture”. During this workshop, which was held on 19 February 2025 at the UNESCO Amphitheatre of the University of Nicosia, the first screening of a short film on the UNESCO Chairs took place, followed by oral presentations on the thematic areas and work of the UNESCO Chairs hosted by university institutions in Cyprus, as follows:

- Cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue for a culture of peace (University of Nicosia)
- Gender equality (University of Cyprus)
- Digital cultural heritage (Cyprus University of Technology)
- Lifelong learning & adult education (Frederick University)
- Governance & social responsibility in sports (UCLan Cyprus)
- Visual literacy (Open University of Cyprus)
- Human development, security, and the fight against international crime and illicit trafficking of cultural property (Neapolis University Pafos).

Finally, a roundtable discussion titled “UNESCO Chairs and Contemporary Realities: Addressing Today’s Challenges for a Better Future” was held with the participation of the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth, the Commissioner for Gender Equality, the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, and academics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The workshop showcased the work of the UNESCO Chairs and highlighted the social contribution of the UNESCO Chairs Programme for the general public and all relevant stakeholders.



## Production of the film “UNESCO Chairs in Cyprus: Bridges for Society and Culture”

This film titled “UNESCO Chairs in Cyprus: Bridges for Society and Culture” was produced on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Chairs Programme in Cyprus, to highlight the mission, achievements, and future prospects of the UNESCO Chairs hosted by university institutions across the island. The film was produced in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia and the University of Nicosia MediaZone. It is available on the YouTube channel of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO via the following link: <https://youtu.be/>.

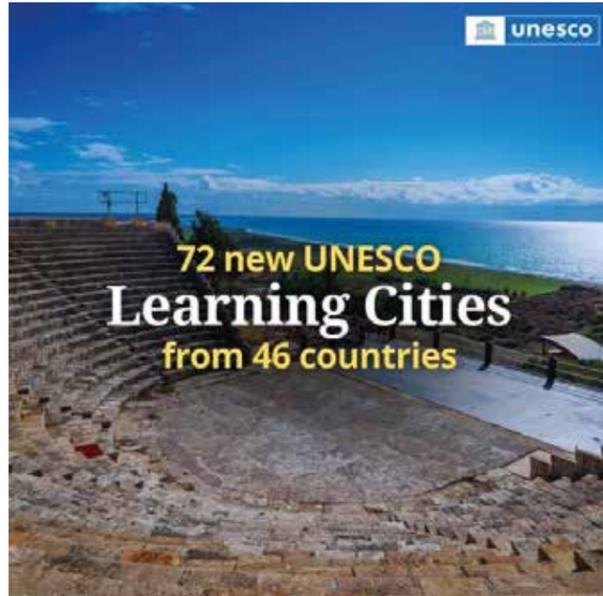


## Establishment of a UNESCO Chair at the European University Cyprus

In March 2025, the establishment of a UNESCO Chair at the European University Cyprus was announced, focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Security in the South-eastern Mediterranean. The Chair, under the direction of Professor Georgios Boustras, aims to create a regional hub for interdisciplinary research, innovation, and policy engagement in the field of risk management and social security, with the goal of enhancing scientific knowledge and translating it into actionable policies.

During its first four years, the Chair is expected to undertake significant activities, including scholarly publications, collaborations with other UNESCO Chairs, public lectures, educational programmes, and partnership events. Additionally, the Chair will work closely with the CERIDES – Excellence in Innovation and Technology research centre, strengthening its participation in international research projects and its contribution to policy development with practical impact.

## Kourion Municipality joins UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

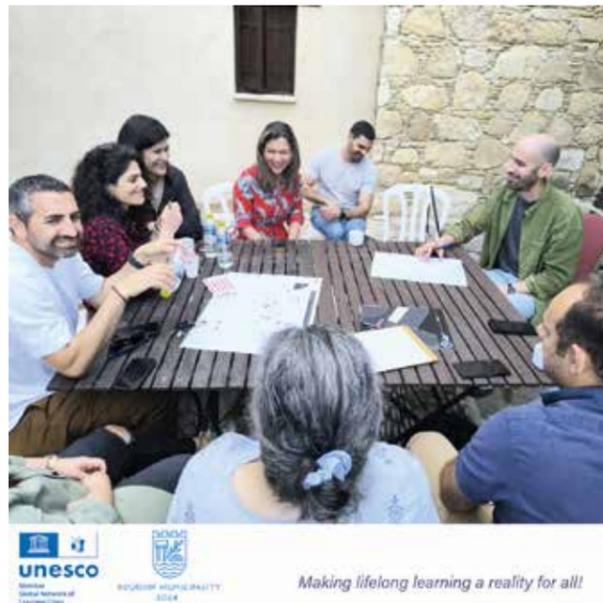


On 4 December 2025, the Municipality of Kourion was officially inscribed on UNESCO’s Global Network of Learning Cities. The application was submitted with the support of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO. This marks the first inscription for Cyprus in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, which currently includes 425 cities from 91 Member States of the Organization. All member cities share a common commitment and mission: the promotion of lifelong learning for all.

UNESCO Learning Cities are dynamic communities where learning is embedded in everyday life— at schools, workplaces, libraries, homes, and public spaces. Through a structured framework, they create opportunities for all, including workforce training and upskilling to adapt to changing labour markets, empowering citizens of all ages to leverage the potential of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and cultivate entrepreneurial skills.

Kourion has developed a comprehensive learning strategy built on four pillars, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1. A Green and Healthy Learning City for a Sustainable Kourion.
2. A Fair and Inclusive Learning City for All Citizens.
3. A Learning City for Decent Work and Entrepreneurship.
4. Learning through Culture, Creativity, and Identity.



## 9<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Art Camp Andorra – “Colours for the Planet”

Visual artist Eri Papadopoulou participated, with the support of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, in the 9<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Art Camp Andorra titled “Colours for the Planet,” which took place between 9-19 July 2025 in Ordino, Andorra. Organised by the Andorran National Commission for UNESCO, this Art Camp, offers artists from different countries the opportunity to meet, create, interact, and learn about each other’s cultures through their work as well as through presentations of their country’s cultural heritage. The main objective of the programme is to create a collection of original works that creatively and artistically reflect the values promoted by UNESCO. The 2025 Art Camp Andorra was held within the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2023-2032).



## 14<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum – “Climate Action and Social Impacts, Particularly for Young People”

The 14<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum took place between 27-28 October 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, under the theme “Climate Action and Social Impacts, Particularly for Young People.” The Forum brought together over 150 young participants aged 18-35 from 140 countries. Cyprus was represented by Orthodoxia (Doxia) Mina, with the support of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.

Doxia, a political scientist specialising in youth and non-formal learning and an EU Youth Delegate, had the opportunity to exchange views and experiences with young people from around the world and contribute to the formulation of strategic recommendations to Member States for addressing climate change and its social impacts.

The outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum were presented during the 43<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO General Conference.

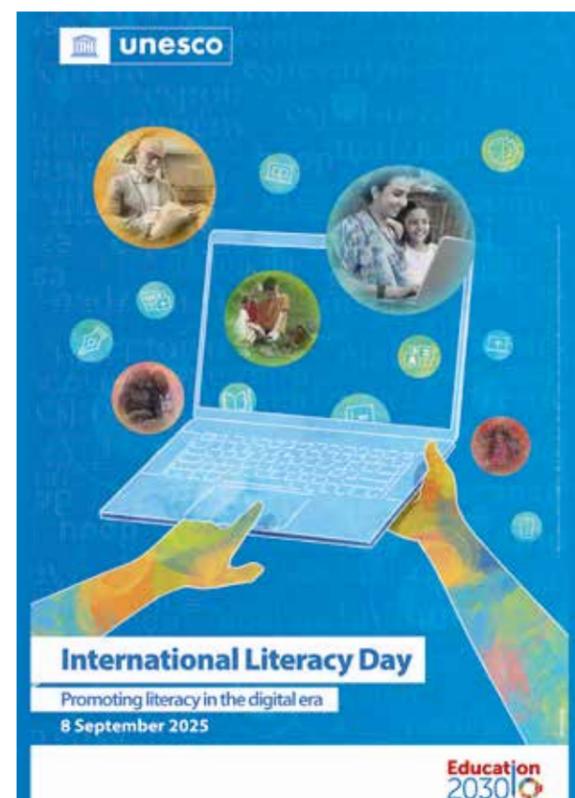


## International Literacy Day

In 1967, the 8<sup>th</sup> of September was designated by UNESCO as International Literacy Day. Since then, the established annual celebration of this day at the global, regional, national, and local levels has aimed to highlight the importance of literacy in building more just, peaceful, and sustainable societies, as well as to emphasize that, despite the adverse realities prevailing in many parts of the world, literacy is a fundamental human right for all.

The celebration of International Literacy Day in 2025 focused on the special theme “Promoting Literacy in the Digital Age.” In order to disseminate the messages of the day, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO and the Pancyprian Association for the Promotion of Literacy collaborated to prepare a joint informational announcement. In her message, the President of the Commission, Dr. Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, stated: “In the digital age, literacy is no longer limited to the ability to read and write. It includes critical thinking, understanding information, the ability to access digital media, as well as responsible participation in public dialogue.” The full message is published on the website:

<https://grammatismos.wordpress.com/intlitday>



## Awarding of the UNESCO–Al Fozan Prize to a Cypriot Scientist

On September 19, 2025, at the headquarters of in Paris, the award ceremony of the UNESCO–Al Fozan Prize took place. Among the awardees was the Cypriot scientist Dr. Kyriaki Michaelidou, Head of the Biostatistics Unit at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics. She was selected from among 269 candidates worldwide for her research on breast and ovarian cancer, particularly for the development of risk prediction tools that have already been adopted in international clinical guidelines.

The prize, amounting to \$50,000, is awarded every two years and honors young researchers and scientists under the age of 40 for their outstanding contributions to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), while also inspiring the next generation. Following her award, Dr. Michaelidou met with representatives of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO to discuss ways of disseminating scientific knowledge and encouraging young women to pursue careers in STEM fields.



## Innovation Camps in Cultural and Creative Industries for Secondary Education

On 13 and 21 November 2025, two Innovation Workshops in the Cultural and Creative Industries were held in Limassol and Nicosia for students and educators, primarily from members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (AS-Pnet). The aim of these events was to pilot the digital educational material for young people aged 15-18, developed within the framework of the European project *Cultural Bees*, which seeks to foster entrepreneurship and innovation skills in the cultural sector. The Innovation Camps were co-organised by Junior Achievement Cyprus, InnoEUSphere and the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.



During the innovation camps, students and educators used the digital learning platform, attended discussions and presentations by professionals of the cultural sector and worked under the guidance of mentors to develop business ideas with cultural content. The Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Thekla Papantoniou, participated in the trainings, introducing the participants to the topic of cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries.

# CULTURE



## Commandaria inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

On 10 December 2025, Commandaria was officially inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The decision was taken by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage during its 20th Session, held in New Delhi, India (8-13 December 2025).

The preparation of the nomination dossier was coordinated by Dr Angel Nicolaou-Konnari, Professor in Medieval History at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus, and Dr Antigoni Polyniki, Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, as well as the local communities of the fourteen Commandaria villages, winemakers, viticulturists, and other relevant stakeholders.

In her statement, Deputy Minister of Culture Dr Vasiliki Kasianidou mentioned: "Today marks an important milestone for Cyprus, Cypriot culture, and the Commandaria villages. The inclusion of Commandaria in the Representative List—a wine that embodies the soul and history of the land—is an international recognition that goes beyond gastronomy; it is the affirmation of a centuries-old tradition, the dedication of the winemakers of the fourteen Commandaria villages, and the uninterrupted continuity of a cultural heritage that spans millennia. Our Commandaria, one of the oldest wines

in the world, is now recognised as an international model of authenticity, cultural continuity, and human perseverance."

The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO stated: "Commandaria is not only a unique local product; it is a bearer of identity and collective memory, deeply connected to the land, the people, and their rituals. Its inscription on the UNESCO Representative List highlights its significance for humanity and strengthens Cyprus' efforts to safeguard, promote, and sustainably manage our intangible cultural heritage. The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO will continue to work closely with communities, stakeholders, and the state to preserve this precious tradition, as well as other elements of our living heritage, ensuring that future generations will know, appreciate, and carry forward their journey through time."



## The Voices (*Fones*) of Cypriot Traditional Music nominated for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO coordinated the preparation and submission, in March 2025, of the nomination file for the inscription of the Voices (*Fones*) of Cypriot Traditional Music on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The nomination process received invaluable support from the following municipalities, communities, and cultural organisations: the Municipality of Agia Napa-Avgorou Municipal District, Municipality of Akamas, Municipality of Akanthou, Municipality of Aradippou, Municipality of Karavas, Municipality of Paralimni-Deryneia, Municipality of Pafos, Agii Omologites Cultural Workshop, Limassol Folklore Association, Folklore Association “Ktima” of Pafos, Antama Dance School, Cyprus Research Centre, Society of Cypriot Studies, Cyprus Music Archive, and the Larnaka Archives-Phivos Stavrides. Substantial collaboration was also provided by musicians Michalis Terlikkas, Yiannis Souroullas, Petros Kouloumis, Michalis Kouloumis, Vasiliki Anastasiou, Myrto Aristidou, the folk poet Dimitris Tziampazis, the Cyprus Research Centre, the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Archive, the Amalgamation Choir, and Louvana Records for recording and/or providing audiovisual material for the nomination dossier.

The Voices of Cypriot Traditional Music are characteristic melodies, often performed with love-themed couplets. They serve as distinctive melodic models upon which new lyrics can be composed and their names are typically linked to the place of origin (e.g., *Karpasitissa*, *Mesaritissa*, *Paralimnitissa*, *Pafitissa*, *Pegeiotissa*, etc.), the described event, celebration, or occasion (e.g., wedding), the style or mood (e.g., *Nekalisti*), or the first performer of the song. *Fones* represent a vibrant and living element of the island’s oral music tradition deeply rooted in local identity and expression.

As part of the nomination file, a short film was produced, which is freely available on the YouTube channel of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/>



## Conference on the Art of Drystone – “Knowledge, Practices, Dialogue, and Professional Training Prospects in Drystone Building in Cyprus”

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare, in collaboration with the Environmental Education Unit of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, and the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK), co-organized a three-day conference between 10-12 June 2025, focusing on drystone heritage and the prospects for professional training in drystone building in Cyprus.

During the conference, the cultural, environmental, technical, and institutional dimensions of drystone construction were highlighted, along with opportunities for its utilisation and enhancement. Specifically, traditional practices from Cyprus and abroad were presented, along with contemporary approaches for integrating the craft into cultural routes, professional training, and sustainable tourism. Presentations and interventions were delivered by representatives of relevant Ministries and institutions, including the Ministry of Culture of Greece, as well as members of NGOs active in Greece and the United Kingdom in the preservation of drystone construction. On behalf of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Officer Thekla Papantoniou



participated in discussions on the protection, management, and sustainable valorisation of drystone heritage.

Special emphasis was placed on drystone building as an element inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, which requires the countries concerned—including Cyprus—to develop and implement strategies for transmitting this technique as living heritage. Particular attention was drawn to the need for institutionalised education, recognition and certification of craftsmen’s and trainers’ skills, the documentation of existing heritage, and the strengthening of international collaborations. The three-day conference highlighted the global potential emerging through educational programs, professional training, and specialised research, while also underscoring the urgent need to establish formal professional training and strengthen education in this field.



## Screening event of the documentary “Stone upon Stone” in Limassol

On 10 June 2025, a screening of the documentary “Stone upon Stone” was co-organised by the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK) and the “Petra stin Petra” Foundation, under the auspices of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, at the Panos Solomonidis Municipal Cultural Centre in Limassol. The documentary, filmed with the financial support of ETEK, the Deputy Ministry of Culture, and the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, documents with scientific rigor and sensitivity the identity of the Cypriot rural landscape and the history of the anonymous countryside craftspeople in Cyprus. Following the screening, a discussion took place with the participation of Stavroula (Villy) Fotopoulou, Director of Modern Cultural Heritage, Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture of Greece; Antonia Theodosiou, Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare; Dr Christodoulos Hadjigeorgiou, Director of the Department of Geological Survey; Dr Anthi Kaldeli, representative of ICOMOS Cyprus; Dr Christos Zoumidis from the Cyprus Institute; Mr. Chrysis Papaioannou, drystone craftsman and winemaker; and Sevina Floridou, architect. The discussion was moderated by Thekla Papantoniou, Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.



## “Harmonies and Healing: Music in the Therapeutic Process” at the Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Deputy Ministry of Culture and the Avantgarde Cultural Foundation, organised an informal piano performance on 25 February 2025 at the Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre, featuring the internationally acclaimed pianist Min-Jung Kym (Steinway Artist). The event was held within the framework of the new “Culture and Health” pillar of the Deputy Ministry of Culture’s strategic plan and sought to contribute to patients’ wellbeing by highlighting the positive impact of music on therapeutic processes.



## “Harmonies and Healing: Music in the Therapeutic Process” at the “Evi Gavrielides” Main Stage of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC)

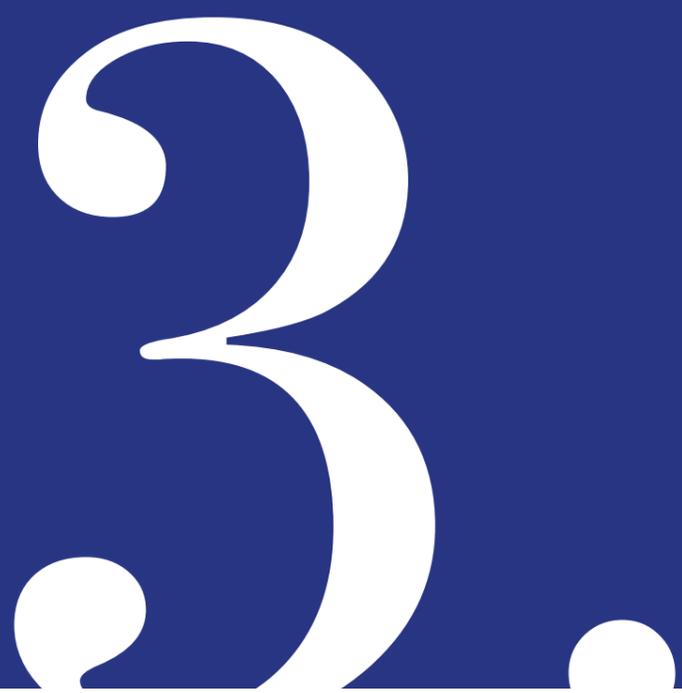
The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Deputy Ministry of Culture and the Avantgarde Cultural Foundation, organised a special event on 25 February 2025, aiming to highlight the beneficial impact of music—and art more broadly—on mental and physical health, as well to emphasise their role as tools of empowerment during the therapeutic process of illnesses such as cancer. The event took place at the “Evi Gavrielides” Main Stage of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC). In the first part of the event, the internationally acclaimed pianist Min-Jung Kym (Steinway Artist) performed on the piano, while distinguished scientists and artists subsequently took part in a roundtable discussion on music as a therapeutic tool.

More specifically, in addition to the pianist, the roundtable discussion featured distinguished experts from Germany, Greece, and Cyprus, namely Gerrit Glaner (cultural advisor, President of Sommerlichen Musiktage Hitzacker), Georg Hajdu (molecular biologist, composer, Director of the Ligeti

Centre), Nikolaos Zamboglou (Radiation Oncologist, CEO of the German Medical Institute), Yiola Markou (Medical Oncologist, Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre), Margarita Philippou (Internal Medicine Specialist, Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society), and Margarita Alexomanolaki.



# SPONSORSHIPS AND AUSPICES



## Sponsorship Programme by the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

For 2025, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO implemented a sponsorship programme to support activities by organisations operating in fields related to the work of UNESCO and the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, with a particular focus on Cultural Heritage, Natural Environment and Education. Following the review of the submitted applications, the Commission approved funding for the following initiatives:

Project	Organisation
Voices of Birth – creation of a Digital Archive of Midwifery Memory in Cyprus	Pancyprian Association of Nurses and Midwives
The Piano Tour at the Church of Archangel Michael, Pedoulas	Avantgarde Cultural Foundation
Workshop entitled “Culture and Entrepreneurship: Education as a Catalyst for Creative and Sustainable Development”	CySEA (Cyprus Society for Education through the Arts)
Innovation Workshops in Cultural and Creative Industries	Junior Achievement Cyprus
Series of Workshops for Children titled “Tradition at Home”	ASSITEJ – Theatre Organisation for Children and Young audiences
Theatrical Reading of the play “Keffiyie / Made in China” on the lives of people experiencing the trauma of war, by the Palestinian author Dalia Taha	Antilogos Theatre
Educational Workshop titled “THE WORLD OF NATURE IN OUR HANDS: ONE ISLAND – MANY LIVES”	Cyprus Museum of Natural History – Photos Photiades Charity, Scientific and Cultural Foundation



## The Piano Tour at the church of Archangel Michael in Pedoulas



The Avantgarde Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO organised on 23 November 2025 another Piano Tour in a World Heritage Site, specifically at the church of Archangel Michael in Pedoulas, with the distinguished Cypriot artists Manolis Nephoytu (piano) and Vakia Stavrou (voice). Similar recitals had previously taken place at Chirokoitia, the Tombs of the Kings, the church of Panagia Aggeloktisti, and Fikardou village, monuments that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List or the Tentative World Heritage List. As with every Piano Tour, the recital was livestreamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/avantgarde.cultural.foundation](https://www.facebook.com/avantgarde.cultural.foundation)), and later uploaded to YouTube ([www.youtube.com/@avantgardeCF](https://www.youtube.com/@avantgardeCF)), enhancing accessibility and audience participation. Through the collaboration between the Avantgarde Cultural Foundation and the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, music becomes a bridge between the past and the present, while simultaneously promoting awareness about monuments of outstanding universal value on our island.



## Conference on “Culture and Entrepreneurship”

On 22 November 2025, a conference titled “Culture and Entrepreneurship: Education as a Catalyst for Creativity and Sustainable Development” was held, organised by the Cyprus Society for Education through the Arts (CySEA), in collaboration with the University of Nicosia and with the support of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO. On behalf of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Iosif Hadjikyriakos delivered a welcoming address, which was followed by presentations from representatives of the arts, culture, youth entrepreneurship, the creative industries, and education. More precisely, the speakers of the seminar were:

Michalis Pantelidis-Textile and Fashion Designer, Salomi Paraskeva-Programme Development Officer, Larnaca Cultural Foundation, Hambis Tsangaris-Printmaker, Maria Charalambous-Economist Educator, PhD Candidate in Youth Entrepreneurship, Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Dr. Iosif Hadjikyriakos-Director of Phivos Stavrides Foundation – Larnaca Archives, Dr. Celia Hadjichristodoulou-Founder and CEO of GrantXpert Consulting.

The seminar was addressed to educators, young creators, artists, cultural professionals, local authorities, students, and cultural development networks, with the aim of exchanging experiences, ideas, and practices that can strengthen sustainable and creative entrepreneurship.





## “Voices of Birth”: Digital Archive of Midwifery Memory in Cyprus

The project Voices of Birth: Digital Archive of Midwifery Memory in Cyprus, funded by the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, was implemented by the Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association (PASYNM), in collaboration with the oral history research group People of Cyprus. It falls within the field of oral history and intangible cultural heritage, focusing on the science and practice of midwifery in Cyprus, which has been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Within the framework of the project, five interviews were conducted with four midwives and one obstetrician from Nicosia and Limassol. These interviews address themes such as the historical development of midwifery, past and contemporary practices, the gendered dimension of the profession, community midwifery within the General Healthcare System (GESY), and the role of the midwife in the life of the pregnant woman and the postpartum period for mothers and their families. The overarching aim of the project is to enhance the visibility of midwives, disseminate knowledge to non-academic audiences, and preserve collective memory surrounding childbirth.

The project, officially presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Pan-Cyprian Nurses and Midwives Conference on 12 December, is accompanied by an open-access educational handbook, and will be completed with a final public event and documentary screening on 5 May 2026—International Day of the Midwife—at the Presidential Palace. The project has already received very positive feedback and is evolving into an ongoing initiative aimed at the further enrichment of the digital archive.

The produced material is published on open-access platforms and social media and is available at the following links:

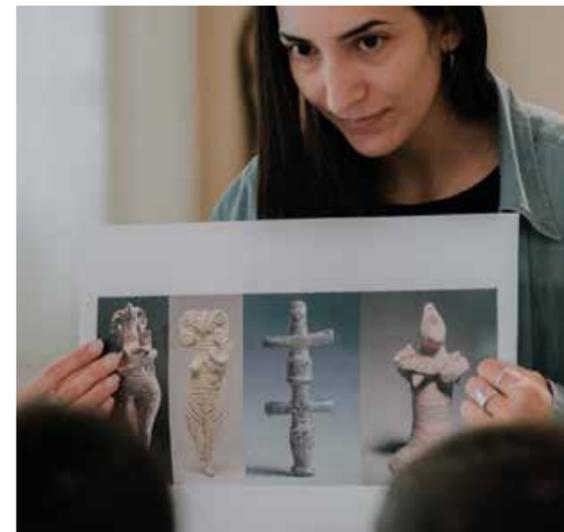
Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show>)

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist>)

People of Cyprus website and social media:

([www.peopleofcyprus.cy](http://www.peopleofcyprus.cy))

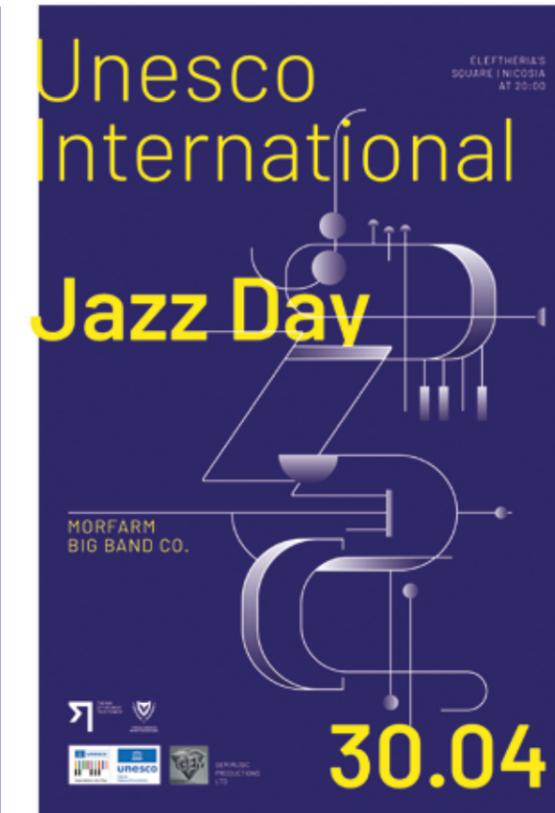
(<https://www.instagram.com/people.of.cyprus/>)



## Creative workshops “Tradition at Home”

On Saturday, 13 December, a Christmas event and workshops took place at the 42 Multispace venue, under the title “Tradition at Home”. It was organized by the Cyprus Centre of Theatre for Children and Young People – ASSITEJ Cyprus, and was funded by the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.

The event included creative workshops for children, storytelling sessions featuring characters connected to cultural heritage, as well as musical activities such as traditional songs and Christmas carols.



## International Jazz Day

On 30 April 2025, on the occasion of International Jazz Day, the Deputy Ministry of Culture – Department of Contemporary Culture, in collaboration with the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, co-organized a concert at Eleftherias Square in Nicosia, featuring Morfarm Big Band Co, a dynamic 12-member orchestra comprising active musicians from the jazz and ethnic music scene in Cyprus.

The project “The Latin Side of Jazz Standards” breathes new life into classic jazz standards by blending them with the warmth and energy of Latin American and Cuban rhythms. Drawing inspiration from the Jazz Big Band era of the 1930s–1940s, the ensemble creates an explosive sonic fusion that captivates audiences. Morfarm Big Band Co actively pursues international collaborations, participating in jazz festivals, world music events, and cultural programmes that promote musical diversity.

The concert was broadcast live via the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live>.

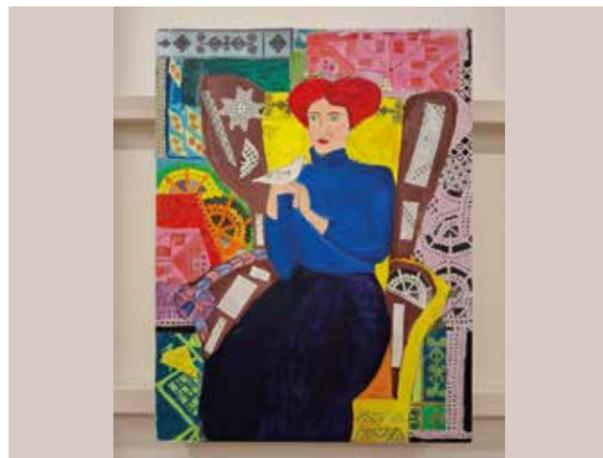


## Lefkart VII Program and Exhibition “Lefkara Lace – A Source of Inspiration”



The Larnaka Cultural Foundation for Children and Youth and the Phivos Stavrides Foundation - Larnaca Archives co-organized the annual exhibition of the programme “Lefkara Lace – A Source of Inspiration,” with the support of the Deputy Ministry of Culture and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, under the auspices of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO. The exhibition was inaugurated on 28 February 2025 at the Phivos Stavrides Foundation - Larnaca Archives and ran until 21 March 2025.

The programme Lefkart consists of a capacity-building seminar for teachers of General Secondary Education and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training, who receive training on the history and evolution of Lefkara lace, its construction techniques, and the potential use of its elements in applied arts. They subsequently make use of the knowledge they acquire to guide students at their schools in creating their own works, drawing inspiration from Lefkara lace, its history, and its motifs.

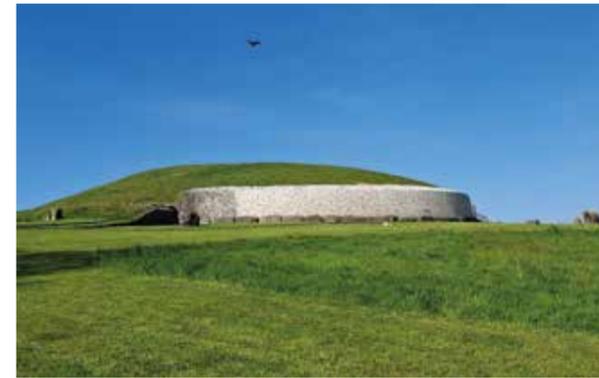


## Panel Discussion at the 6<sup>th</sup> Lidl Wellness Camp – “Culture & Health: Highlighting the Role of the Arts in Promoting Well-being for All”

During the 6th Lidl Cyprus Wellness Camp, held between 8-9 November 2025 in Agia Napa under the auspices of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, a panel discussion titled “Culture & Health: Highlighting the Role of the Arts in Promoting Well-being for All” was organised. The connection between Culture and Health is increasingly highlighted in reports and initiatives by the World Health Organisation, UNESCO, the EU and many countries worldwide, which recognise access to culture as a human right and as a key factor for both physical and mental health. In this context, Thekla Papantoniou, Officer at the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, together with speakers from the fields of health, psychology and arts-based therapies, discussed the potential of integrating artistic practices into the management of health-related issues throughout the lifespan, emphasising the importance of a holistic approach to well-being. The panel featured Dr Demiana Koushiappi (Physician, Anti-Cancer Society), Dr Maria Kontouli (Clinical Psychologist), Prodromos Stylianou (Music Therapist), and Lenia Georgiou (Art Therapist).



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC DIPLOMACY



## 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO

From 7 to 10 May 2025 the 9th Meeting of the Informal Network of European National Commissions for UNESCO took place in Dublin. The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO was represented by Thekla Papantoniou, Officer and Dr Petroula Hadjittofi, Acting Officer. During the meeting, participants discussed ways of strengthening co-operation and further promoting UNESCO's mission and programmes. Among other topics, the Framework for Arts and Culture Education was discussed, along with the role of the National Commissions in its implementation. In this context, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO referred to relevant activities of the ASPnet Cyprus Network and to youth education in cultural entrepreneurship. The German National Commission presented the ENO network (European Network of Observatories in the Field of Arts and Cultural Education) and highlighted the opportunity for participation by the relevant UNESCO Chairs. The Secretary-General of the Spanish National Commission outlined the programme of the World Conference MONDIA-CULT 2025 in Barcelona, inviting all National Commissions to participate and emphasising the accompanying parallel events. Proposals for events were also presented by the National Commissions of Poland and the United Kingdom, while the German National Commission announced a side event on the Fair Culture Charter, for which the Cypriot team undertook the translation into Greek. The programme also included a visit to the Dublin Bay Biosphere



Reserve and an exchange of experiences on the management of areas included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



## Fair Culture Charter

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO signed the *Fair Culture Charter* ([www.fair-culture.org](http://www.fair-culture.org)), which was developed under the coordination of the German National Commission for UNESCO with the contribution of more than 100 experts and institutions, including the: International Federation of Musicians, International Federation of Actors, Goethe-Institut e.V., Institut za kreativno preduzetnistvo i inovacije - IKPI, Fairpicture, Fairtrade International. Drawing inspiration from the FairTrade movement, the Charter aims to foster fairer cultural relations through eight principles that promote a sustainable and fair environment, with respect for artists, creators, and other professionals working in the cultural sector. As part of promoting the principles of the movement, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO undertook the translation of the *Fair Culture Charter* into Greek. The translated version of the Charter is available on the website of the Commission: <https://www.unesco.org.cy/DocumentStream>



## European Forum “Shaping the Future of Youth Entrepreneurship in Cultural and Creative Industries

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO was represented at the European Forum on Youth Entrepreneurship in the Cultural and Creative Industries, which was held on 12 February 2025 in Brussels, within the framework of the *Cultural Bees* project, co-funded under the Creative Europe Programme. The participants from Cyprus included Antigoni Komodiki and Stavros Kyriakides, representing the partner organisation Junior Achievement Cyprus, Christina Achilleos, representing the partner InnoEUSphere, Thekla Papantoniou, representing the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO as Associated partner, and Constantinos Georgiou, General Inspector representing the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth. The three-year *Cultural Bees* project was launched in 2024 and the consortium includes 12 partners from six European countries, including 3 organisations from Cyprus: Junior Achievement Cyprus, InnoEUSphere and the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO (Associated Partner).



## Second edition of the Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century

The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, and the Acting Officer, Dr Petroula Hadjittofi, participated as experts in the proceedings of the UNESCO Conference “Second edition of the Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century”, which took place in Naples from 4 to 6 June 2025. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was represented at the conference by Ms Eleni Apeyitou, also a Board member of the Cyprus National Commission. The main objective of the conference was to connect the goals and highlight the convergences of two key UNESCO Conventions: Convention for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). Starting from the premise that tangible and intangible heritage cannot be understood in isolation from one another, the conference advanced a holistic, people-centred approach to cultural heritage. It emphasized the protection of the cultural rights of present and future generations and highlighted cultural heritage as a key driver of sustainable development.



## Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Between 18-20 June 2025, the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was held at UNESCO. During the session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention was reviewed, both by the Secretariat and by State Parties worldwide. The implementation of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity as well as recommendations concerning the implementation of the Convention in the digital environment and in developing countries were also discussed. The session coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention and, on this occasion, a parallel anniversary event took place to mark the 20 years of the Convention. Cyprus was represented by Dr Elena Theodoulou Charlambous, Focal point for the Convention in the Deputy Ministry of Culture, and Thekla Papantoniou, Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.



## The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT



The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development MONDIACULT 2025, was hosted in Spain at the Barcelona International Convention Centre between 28 September and 1 October 2025. The Conference brought together more than 2500 participants from 163 countries, including 118 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as hundreds of representatives of intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, National Commissions for UNESCO and civil society – from the academic community to cultural professionals and artists.



The programme included two Plenary Sessions (opening and closing), 20 Thematic Ministerial Sessions, and 78 parallel events. The Cypriot delegation comprised the Deputy Minister of Culture, Dr Vasiliki Kassianidou; the Deputy Permanent Delegate of Cyprus to UNESCO, Dionysis Dionysiou; the Head of the European and International Affairs Unit of the Deputy Ministry of Culture, Dr Elena Theodoulou Charalambous; Maria Erotokritou, a student at the Cyprus University of Technology, who represented Cyprus at the MONDIACULT Youth Conference, MondiaYouth; and Thekla Papantoniou, Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.



Throughout the Conference, it was emphasised that culture is not only a driving force for the economy, but also a fundamental human right, as it plays a decisive role in shaping and preserving identity, social cohesion and resilience. UNESCO also reaffirmed its commitment to placing culture at the heart of global efforts for peace and sustainable development, advocating for its inclusion as a stand-alone goal in the United Nations post-2030 sustainable development agenda.



## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage – “Bridging the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Synergies between the UNESCO 1972 and 2003 Conventions”

On 23 and 24 October 2025 the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the South-East European Experts Network on Intangible Cultural Heritage took place in Ioannina and Zagori, in Greece. The meeting brought together representatives from UNESCO, as well as experts from 12 other South-Eastern European countries, including, from Cyprus, the Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Thekla Papantoniou.

The meeting focused on exploring synergies between the two UNESCO Conventions on Cultural Heritage -tangible and intangible (1972 & 2003) and was complemented by visits to emblematic cultural and heritage sites in Ioannina and Zagori, the latter recently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a cultural landscape. Participants also had the opportunity to experience the art of silversmithing through visits to local workshops and the Museum of Silversmithing.

The meeting was organised by the Directorate of the Modern Culture Heritage of the Ministry of Culture in Greece and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice), in collaboration with the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia), under the auspices of UNESCO.





## UNESCO Civil-Military Alliance Forum for the Protection of Cultural Property

On 16 May 2025, UNESCO hosted the first international Forum Civil-Military Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Property, attended by the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, as well as representatives from the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Ministry of Defence. The Forum sought to strengthen the protection of cultural heritage in times of peace, during armed conflicts, occupation and post-war situations, promoting the effective cooperation between civilian and military actors. The event brought together over 250 participants, including cultural heritage professionals and military personnel from UNESCO Member States and States Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999), as well as representatives of international and non-governmental organisations.



## Statutory meetings of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its Second Protocol (1999)

The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO participated in the following meetings which were held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris between 1-5 December 2025: 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High contracting parties to the 1954 Hague Convention; 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Second Protocol of 1999 to the 1954 Hague Convention, and 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict. The Cyprus delegation also included representatives from the Department of Antiquities and the Ministry of Defence. In this context, a parallel event featuring a roundtable discussion on “Civil-Military Cooperation in Practice” was held, with Cyprus represented by Dionysis Dionysiou, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Cyprus to UNESCO, who presented Cyprus’ actions in implementing the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols.



## General Assembly of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Southeastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO (Sofia Centre)

The annual General Assembly of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (under the auspices of UNESCO) was held on 17 December 2025 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Representatives of all 18 Member States of the Centre participated, as well as representatives of UNESCO and the Government of Bulgaria.

During the Assembly, the Centre’s Executive Director, Dr Irena Todorova, presented the annual report and financial statement of the Centre’s activities for 2025, along with those planned for 2026.

On behalf of Cyprus, the Commission Officer Thekla Papanтониου participated as the appointed representative of Cyprus for the period 2024–2027.

Among the actions decided to be funded by the Centre in 2026 is the programme on intangible cultural heritage in education, which will be implemented in Cyprus in 2026 in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice.



# PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY



## Conference on the Digitalisation of Cultural Heritage organised by the American University of Beirut-Mediterraneo

The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, participated in a conference on the Digitalisation of Cultural Heritage that was held on 7 April 2025 at the American University of Beirut-Mediterraneo in Pafos. In her speech, Dr Ieronymidou emphasised that “the digitilisation of cultural heritage must, above all, promote a human-centred vision—one in which technology serves as a catalyst for knowledge exchange, participation, and intercultural dialogue, fostering a future in which no monument or tradition is forgotten, marginalised, or excluded.”

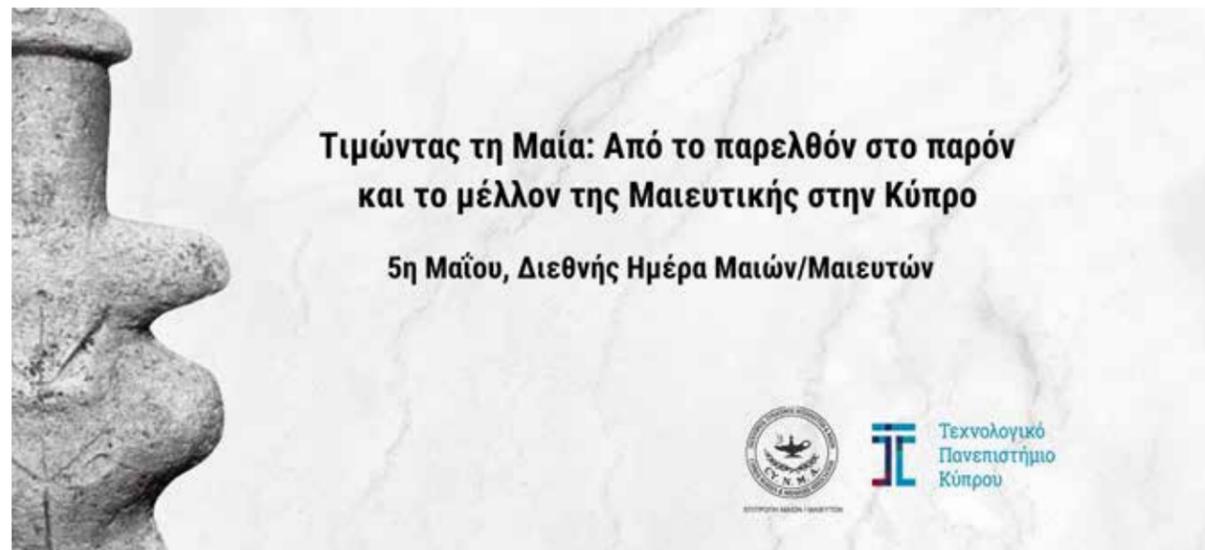


**18** **IDMS** **DISASTER AND  
CONFLICT RESILIENT  
HERITAGE**  
**APRIL** **2025**



## ICOMOS Cyprus event celebrating the International Day for Monuments and Sites 2025

The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, participated on 25 April 2025 in an event organised by ICOMOS Cyprus as part of the celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, titled “Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts in Cyprus.” The event was co-organised by the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK) and the Association of Cypriot Archaeologists. During the event, Dr Solomidou Ieronymidou presented the Cypriot and Greek editions of the UNESCO’s Military Manual for the Protection of Cultural Property.



## Event for the International Day of the Midwife (5 May)



The Midwives Committee of the Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association, in collaboration with the Department of Nursing of the Cyprus University of Technology, organised an event titled “Honouring the Midwife: From the Past to the Present and the Future of Midwifery in Cyprus” on 5 May 2025, at the Strovolos Cultural Centre. The event featured the presentation of a book by Dr Eleni Hadjigeorgiou, Assistant Professor of Midwifery Care at the Cyprus University of Technology, titled “Midwifery in Cyprus – A Historical Overview”. The book sheds light on the development of midwifery and its contribution to the Cypriot society from the past to the present. An opening address was delivered by Thekla Papantoniou, Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, who highlighted the pivotal role played by midwives as companions to women and their families on the journey of parenthood, contributing to their empowerment and to the establishment of healthy family and social relationships. The social and cultural significance of midwifery has been internationally recognised, and since 2023 it has been included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The event also included an honorary award ceremony for retired midwives, in recognition of their long-standing and invaluable contribution to midwifery care.



## Exhibition “Kafenes: Stories in Black-and-White Frames” – a dialogue with the “World of Cyprus”

On the occasion of the temporary exhibition “Look at Me! Portraits in Greece by Robert A. McCabe”, the Leventis Gallery collaborated with the Oral History Programme People of Cyprus to present the exhibition “Kafenes: Stories in Black-and-White Frames.” The exhibition was inaugurated on 17 June 2025 by the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou.



This parallel exhibition highlights the culture and world of Cyprus, centring on the theme of the “Cypriot kafenes” (traditional coffeehouse). Through the photographic lens of the founders of the Oral History Programme “People of Cyprus,” Christos Michalaros and Iliana Koulafeti, “silent gestures, fading customs, and figures disappearing along with the old coffeehouses are documented.”

As the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO noted, “the various practices accompanying the consumption of coffee — often touching upon the realm of ritual — reveal traditions and values deeply rooted in time and closely linked to local identity... For this reason, the exhibition is not merely an aesthetic experience. It is a call for reflection: on our cultural identity, our collective memory, and the continuity of tradition in an ever-changing world.”





## DARIAH-EU General Assembly & National Coordinators Committee of the European Research Infrastructure for the Digital Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-ERIC)

The Cyprus Institute hosted for the first time in Cyprus the 2025 Annual General Assembly and the Meeting of the Committee of National Coordinators of the European Research Infrastructure for the Digital Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-ERIC). The President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO delivered an address at the opening ceremony on 19 November 2025, stressing that “the digitisation of cultural heritage must, above all, promote a human-centred vision – a vision in which technology functions as a catalyst for the dissemination of knowledge, participation and intercultural dialogue, shaping a future where no monument or tradition is forgotten, marginalised or excluded.”

The European Research Infrastructure for the Digital Arts and Humanities constitutes an international network aimed at promoting cooperation and the exchange of expertise,

information, knowledge and digital content in the Arts and Humanities, as well as methods, tools and technologies among its 40 member and cooperating countries.

Since 2018, The Cyprus Institute, as a Cooperating Partner of the Cypriot DARIAH node, has contributed to the infrastructure’s research initiatives, supporting the humanities communities of Cyprus through research exchanges, the development of innovative research activities, and the international promotion of research carried out in Cyprus.



## Annual Seminar of the Cyprus Tourist Guides Association

As part of the 2025 Tour Guides Seminar, which was held on 1 December 2025 at the Shacolas Educational Centre for Clinical Medicine of the University of Cyprus, Dr Petroula Hadjittofi, Acting Officer of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, delivered a lecture titled “Living Traditions: Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Journey into Cypriot Culture”. The lecture aimed to clarify the concept of intangible cultural heritage and its connection with the UNESCO policies as expressed in the 2003 Convention, as well as to explain of the role of international and national inventories of intangible cultural heritage as safeguarding tools. Selected elements of Cyprus’ intangible cultural heritage were also presented, organised by geographic regions. Finally, the role of tour guides in promoting and safeguarding Cyprus’ intangible cultural heritage was emphasised.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Panhellenic Conference on Traditional Dance

Between 21-23 November 2025, the 1<sup>st</sup> Panhellenic Scientific Conference titled “Traditional Dance in the Scientific Sphere of the 21st Century” was held in Cyprus, by the Alexandra Dancing Group, the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), the Open University of Cyprus (OUC), and the School of Physical Education and Sport Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA). The aim of the conference was to highlight the multifaceted role of traditional dance in contemporary society and to strengthen the link between research and practice. Distinguished scientists and researchers from Cyprus and Greece participated in a meaningful dialogue on critical issues in the field of Dance Studies. On behalf of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, the Officer Thekla Papantoniou delivered a welcome address, noting that “traditional dance is today called upon to face new challenges and that there is an urgent need for systematic research and documentation, including the use of modern digital tools, to enhance youth education and support the bearers who keep it alive. The transmission of this living heritage requires the contribution and collaboration of many stakeholders: local communities, folklore and cultural associations, dance schools, educators, as well as families and diaspora communities abroad.”

# PUBLICATIONS



## Κύπρος Ζώσες Παραδόσεις – Cyprus Living Heritage

The bilingual edition of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO (Greek-English) has been released, presenting for the first time the 65 elements of Cyprus' intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as the six Cypriot elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The publication is available in printed format and electronically through the website: <https://t.ly/YvZh7>



## Παγκόσμια Κληρονομιά της Κύπρου: ιστορία, μύθος, θρησκεία – World heritage in Cyprus: history, myth, religion

The Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO has completed the production of a short guide in Greek and English, on Cyprus' monuments and sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, featuring recent photographic material and historical information aligned with the latest research findings. The publication is available in printed format and on the website: [www.unesco.org.cy](http://www.unesco.org.cy)

# MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING



Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Cyprus Institute

On 13 June 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Cyprus Institute and the Cyprus National Commission of UNESCO. The agreement was signed by the President of the Cyprus Institute, Professor Stavros Malas, and the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Culture, Dr Vasiliki Kassianidou. The Memorandum aims to strengthen the collaboration in promoting the principles of UNESCO in areas such as Education, Science, Environment, Sustainable Development, Culture and Cultural Heritage. Particular emphasis is placed on the cooperation in areas concerning the protection of Cyprus' cultural heritage and the fight against looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property.



Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare

On 10 November 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO and the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare, in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Culture, Dr Vasiliki Kassianidou. The Memorandum aims to promote UNESCO's principles and programmes and to highlight the interconnection between culture and the natural environment within a shared framework for sustainable development. The Memorandum was signed by the Commissioner, Ms Antonia Theodosiou, and the President of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Dr Marina Solomidou Ieronymidou, laying the foundations for a meaningful and lasting collaboration in the fields of environment, education, science and culture. This Memorandum also aims to enhance Cyprus' participation in UNESCO programmes for the Environment and to promote the protection and management of the natural environment through culture.



## Board of Directors



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**Dr Iosif Hadjikyriakos**, Director of Phivos Stavrides Foundation-Larnaka Archives



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