

Civic Space Ecoliteracy Capacity-Building

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Final Report:
Workshops, Digital
recources and List of
Organisations for
partnertship and
networking.



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Introduction

This report, prepared by the Civic Space's consultant, delineates the organization's endeavors in capacity-building initiatives for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Civic Space's mission revolves around empowering CSOs through tailored learning processes, including training, thematic events, and the esteemed 'Grow Civic' program. Since 2020, Civic Space has meticulously orchestrated a diverse array of roundtable activities and workshops, with a particular focus on addressing pressing environmental concerns. These efforts have not only facilitated intercommunal dialogue but have also fostered collaborative partnerships among CSOs. As of October 2023, Civic Space planned a series of capacity-building events, with a primary focus on eco-literacy. This strategic endeavor is crafted to align with the escalating efforts of CSOs in fortifying environmental consciousness within the educational domain and deepening need within the environmental domain. Furthermore, Civic Space's Help Desk has emerged as a pivotal resource, extending unwavering support to numerous CSOs in conceptualizing and developing innovative project ideas, notably within the context of EU Calls for Proposals. This steadfast commitment underscores Civic Space's dedication to nurturing environmental initiatives within the civil society landscape. The influx of applications to Civic Space from CSOs in Cyprus, gradually pivoting towards nature, environment, and ecology, has provided invaluable insight, enabling the organization to deepen its support in these pivotal domains.

In this report, a meticulous examination of the methodologies employed, ranging from surveys to in-depth interviews, as well as both face-to-face and online sessions, is presented. Following the culmination of these activities, the report delineates the overarching strategy and offers pertinent recommendations for future action. Furthermore, critical resources and organizations situated within the EU and IPA countries, ripe for potential collaboration, are identified and recommended for consideration of the Civic Space.

The report aims for the steps, processes, recommendations, and resources shared herein to prove beneficial to civil society in Cyprus. It's important to note that the report excludes the rich and experienced civil organizations of Cyprus. This omission is due to the members of this invaluable community already knowing each other and being part of various communication networks established by Civic Space, thus prioritizing organizations outside Cyprus.

Collaboratively assessing the recommendations with Cypriot experts would be beneficial. Their valuable contributions could be incorporated into the resources provided here, with the possibility of making additions.

Methodology and Activities

The consultancy work was initiated subsequent to the elucidation of the outlined work plan in collaboration with the Civic Space team in October. This initiation involved the distribution of a Google Form survey (TR & EN) which elicited responses from six individuals. The primary objective of the survey was to ascertain the requirements, anticipations, and encounters of civil society constituents in Cyprus. The dissemination of the survey was facilitated through the network of Civic Space. Due to the limited scale of respondents, a series of online, in-depth interviews were conducted.

Outlined Plan of Activities

Activity	Date&Time	Venue
Survey	20-26 October, 2023	Online
In-depth Interviews	1-6 November, 2023	Online
Introduction Meeting - each organization introduced itself and presented its activities, and meet with the Ecological Literacy Expert	November 7, 2023 17:00-19:00	Online
Workshop with environmental organizations working in the field of education	November 15, 2023 10:00-17:00	Civic Space Office
Workshop in Turkish with organizations interested in working in the environmental field	December 4, 2023 16:00-19:00	Online
Workshop in English with organizations interested in working in the environmental field	December 5, 2023 16:00-19:00	Online

Survey Results

The responses provided in the survey aligned with the preliminary information shared by the Civic Space. Some participants expressed competence in environmental issues, while others highlighted expertise in education. The scope of their activities ranges from educational initiatives to advocacy efforts and legal actions, indicating a broad perspective. The target

audience of these organizations varies, with some focusing solely on adults while others provide services for all age groups starting from elementary school. All survey participants expressed readiness to share their experiences with other organizations with the support of the Civic Space. Challenges and obstacles identified included bureaucracy, feelings of hopelessness, domain dominance by certain experts, as well as lack of belief and knowledge. Participants expressed a need for further information on environmental literacy, climate justice, social justice, the impacts of injustice, environmental policies, sustainable practices, and biodiversity. They also emphasized the necessity to enhance skills in monitoring public budgets, improving decision-making processes, learning tools for communication and awareness-raising, developing networks, and project management.

In-Depth Interview Results

In-depth interviews were conducted with eight individuals from five NGOs. During the interviews, participants were asked about their current experiences, the challenges encountered in conducting environmental actions and the needs for these endeavors. The responses were subsequently discussed in face-to-face meeting on November 15, supplemented with the following word clouds. Additionally, information was gathered on examples of good practices and resources they consult in the fields of climate, ecology, and the environment. Interviewees predominantly shared their own work as examples of good practice.

The obstacles encountered by the interviewees:



The difficulties conveyed by participants primarily revolved around the socio-economic conditions and a pervasive sense of constraint inherent to their geographic context. They underscored that these factors tend to predispose experts towards conservatism. Moreover, budgetary constraints, the endeavor to manage a substantial workload with limited manpower, the reliance on volunteerism for project advancement, the reticence of certain experts to engage with younger cohorts, and the paucity of inter-institutional collaboration

emerged as frequently cited challenges. The daunting workload and financial constraints further compound their perception of being confined to their local milieu. Consequently, they lamented the limited scope of regional or international collaborations.

The requirements articulated by the interviewees:



Particularly, the younger participants frequently emphasized the necessity for institutions to be receptive to innovation. They also stressed the importance of transparency in the activities and calls to action of both institutions and Civic Space. They suggested the establishment of a database for mutual learning and advocated for gatherings not only for professional purposes but also for networking and acquaintance. There appears to be a perceived need for intersectional collaboration and the acquisition of innovative approaches and methodologies. In the current context, there is a perceived distancing from civil organizations that communicate primarily in Greek, indicating a need for closer alignment. As highlighted in the challenges, budgetary constraints emerge as a critical area affecting all parties. Another notable concern is the limited capacity for monitoring and evaluation when workloads become overwhelming. They expressed a strong desire for collaboration.

Introduction Meeting Workshop

On November 7, 2023, an online introductory meeting was held from 17:00 to 19:00. Avli, Dipkarpaz Environmental Protection and Social Activity Association, Famagusta Cultural Association, Lefke Tourism Association, Lefke Environmental and Promotion Association, and the Green Peace Movement participated in this meeting. They met with the Ecological Literacy Expert. Participants introduced themselves and the work of their organizations. They

shared their expectations for the next stages of the consultancy. These expectations included being more informed about each other, increasing financial opportunities, conducting joint projects, and changing political conditions. The need for international collaborations and learning experiences was also expressed.

In-Person Workshop

On November 15th, a face-to-face workshop was held from 10:00 to 17:00, with representatives from civil society organizations in attendance. During the workshop, the presentation included in Annex 2 was shared, and discussions were conducted based on the topics covered in the presentation. At the conclusion of the workshop, the needs were revisited and discussed. Workshop agenda covered the following topics:

- Planetary Boundaries, multiple crises, and their impact on the right to education
- Current international initiatives in the field of education (e.g., MECCE, Greening Education Partnership, etc.)
- International mechanisms related to the right to education (UN, EU)
- Studies related to regional and island countries
- Studies conducted in the field of education in Cyprus
- How can a more effective communication and solidarity network be established in the field of education in Cyprus, and what are the requirements for this?
- What are the needs for your educational activities in the upcoming processes?

The objective of the workshop was shares as follows:

- Updates on the valuable work done by NGOs in Cyprus
- Updates on international initiatives in the field of education
- Inter-institutional learning/experience sharing
- Identifying needs for the subsequent processes.

Online Workshops

On December 4th, a presentation and discussion in Turkish took place, followed by an English-language session on December 5th. The presentations are included in Annex 2. Workshop agenda covered the following topics:

- Planetary Boundaries, multiple crises, and their impact on the right to education
- Current international initiatives in the field of education (e.g., MECCE, Greening Education Partnership, etc.)
- International mechanisms related to the right to education (UN, EU)
- Studies related to regional and island countries
- Studies conducted in the field of education in Cyprus
- How can a more effective communication and solidarity network be established in the field of education in Cyprus, and what are the requirements for this?
- What are the needs for your educational activities in the upcoming processes?

The discussions primarily revolved around the challenges and needs expressed during face-to-face meetings.

Recommendations

The recommendations provided here have been developed by the consultant, taking into consideration the entirety of the process. It would be beneficial to discuss these recommendations with representatives from civil society and collaboratively refine them into their final form.

Strategic Objectives and Actions/Activities

Strategic Coordination and Amplified Impact

Forge an integrated platform to facilitate strategic alignment and collaborative synergy among diverse civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in environmental advocacy and education throughout Cyprus. Cultivate a culture of cross-sectoral collaboration and collective action to maximize the effectiveness and reach of initiatives, thereby advancing the agenda of environmental mainstreaming with heightened efficacy.

The following actions could help establish a robust infrastructure to enhance the effectiveness and reach of civil society initiatives in environmental advocacy and education:

- **Develop a comprehensive digital information-sharing platform for communication, resource sharing, disseminating results, and good practices from successful projects.**

- Highlight and disseminate successful projects and good practices to facilitate knowledge sharing and replication among CSOs.
- Investigate and share opportunities for joint projects and initiatives, fostering partnerships among various CSOs.
- Convene regular networking meetings, seminars, and workshops to foster inter-organizational collaboration among CSOs.
- **Establish innovation labs for CSOs to test new ideas and implement pilot projects.**
- **Establish a Strategic Foresight and Futures Lab to explore emerging trends and long-term environmental challenges.**
- Organize regular roundtable discussions on specific issues related to Cyprus bringing together CSOs, government agencies, academic experts, and private sector leaders with a focus on cross-sectoral dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.

Elevated Ecological Literacy and Public Engagement

Develop bespoke ecological literacy programs tailored to distinct demographics and geographic locales within Cyprus, employing cutting-edge instructional methodologies and leveraging digital platforms for expansive dissemination. Execute targeted public awareness campaigns, leveraging multimedia channels and community outreach initiatives to instill a profound understanding of environmental imperatives and foster widespread adoption of sustainable behaviors.

The following actions could help establish a robust infrastructure to elevate ecological literacy and public engagement in environmental advocacy and education:

- **Launch citizen science programs (or support CSOs to launch) that involve the public in data collection and environmental monitoring.**
- Organize (or support CSOs to organize) community outreach initiatives, including eco-fairs, public lectures, and interactive workshops, to engage the public directly.
- Incorporate storytelling, visual aids, and interactive elements to enhance learning and retention.
- Train community leaders and volunteers to act as environmental ambassadors and storytellers within their communities.
- Establish metrics and evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of literacy programs and awareness campaigns.

Facilitated Knowledge Exchange and Cohesive Alliance

Establish an interactive online knowledge-sharing nexus, featuring curated resources, interactive forums, and exemplary case studies, to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and foster a cohesive alliance among CSOs. Curate thematic workshops, seminars, and experiential learning opportunities to facilitate substantive exchanges of insights, expertise, and innovative strategies among CSO stakeholders, fostering a culture of solidarity and mutual enrichment.

- Establish an incubator for environmental CSOs to develop and test innovative projects.
- Develop interactive maps that visualize the activities, resources, and impact of various CSOs.
- **Organize virtual hackathons to bring together developers, environmentalists, and CSO members to create innovative solutions.**
- **Create fellowship programs enabling CSO members to work with international organizations and learn from global experts.**
- Arrange tours for CSO members to visit successful projects and organizations domestically and internationally.
- Provide grants to support collaborative knowledge exchange projects between CSOs.
- **Implement a peer review system where CSOs can provide feedback and suggestions on each other's projects.**

Empowered Capacity Building and Organizational Fortification

Design and implement tailored capacity-building initiatives focusing on strategic organizational development, resource mobilization, advocacy, and project governance, aimed at fortifying the resilience and efficacy of CSOs. Offer mentorship and executive coaching interventions to empower CSO leaders and staff in navigating complex challenges and seizing emergent opportunities.

- Establish exchange programs where CSO leaders can work with other organizations domestically and internationally.
- Conduct scenario planning workshops to help CSOs prepare for future challenges and uncertainties.
- Develop and run a Youth Volunteer Support Program.
- **Launch reverse mentoring, where young people mentor experienced individuals to help them understand youth perspectives.**

Promotion of Holistic Well-being and Sustainable Practices

Infuse principles of holistic well-being and sustainable practices into the fabric of CSO culture and operational frameworks, nurturing an enabling work environment conducive to innovation, collaboration, and personal fulfillment. Implement a suite of wellness initiatives and stress mitigation programs, resilience-building workshops to foster holistic well-being and mitigate burnout among CSO personnel.

- Launch a support program for CSOs that implement sustainable office practices.
- Offer guidance, resources, and incentives for adopting sustainable practices, increased adoption of eco-friendly practices, and reduced environmental footprint.
- **Organize team-building activities that involve nature conservation projects and outdoor adventures.**
- Establish an online and physical resource center/library space offering materials on wellness practices, stress management, and sustainable living.

List of useful resources

It is believed that the resources provided here would be beneficial for civil society organizations in Cyprus. They encompass current developments and examples within the frameworks of ecology, biodiversity, and education.

- [A Pedagogy of Responsibility: Wendell Berry for EcoJustice Education](#) / Book
- [A philosophical analysis of David Orr's theory of ecological literacy: biophilia, ecojustice and moral education in school learning communities](#) / Article
- [Action for Climate Empowerment](#) / Website
- [Art, EcoJustice, and Education: Intersecting Theories and Practices](#) / Book
- [Ask Nature](#) / Website
- [A World of Many Worlds](#) / Book
- [Becoming-with](#) / Article
- [Biodiversity](#) / Article
- [Biodiversity](#) / Website
- [Biodiversity Stripes](#) / Website
- [Biomimicry 3.8](#) / Website

- [Biomimicry Card Games](#) / Website
- [Biomimicry Global Design Challenge](#) / Website
- [Biomimicry Resource Handbook](#) / Book
- [Biomimicry Taxonomy](#) / Website
- [Center for Ecoliteracy](#) / Website
- [Citizen Science, Ecojustice, and Science Education: Rethinking an Education from Nowhere](#) / Book
- [Climate Generation](#) / Website
- [CoE Proposal for a Council Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability](#) / Pdf document
- [Conference of Parties](#) / Website
- [Developing Teachers' Capacity for EcoJustice Education and Community-Based Learning](#) / Article
- [Diffraction](#) / Website, Article
- [EARTHDAY.ORG](#) / Website
- [Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect](#) - David W. Orr
- [eBird](#) / Website
- [Ecofeminist pedagogy: Framework for ecosocial justice in education](#) / Article
- [Ecojustice and Education : A Special Issue of Educational Studies](#) / Article
- [EcoJustice Education: Toward Diverse, Democratic, and Sustainable Communities](#) / Website, Book
- [EcoJustice for Teacher Education Policy and Practice](#) / Article
- [Ecolinguistics](#) / Book
- [Ecoliterate](#) / Article
- [Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World](#) - Michael K. Stone and Zenobia Barlow (eds.)
- [Ecopolitical Homelessness](#) / Book
- [Edge Effect](#) & Ecotone / Website
- [Education International](#) (EI) / Website
- EU [Birds](#) and [Habitats](#) Directives

- [Future Pathways for Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#) / Article
- [Green Teacher](#) / Website, Journal
- [iNaturalist](#) / Website
- [International Degrowth Network](#) / Website, Group
- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Reports](#) / Website, Reports
- [iSites: Nature Journaling for Biomimicry](#) / Book
- [Learn Biomimicry](#) / Website, Booklet
- [Learning Planet Alliance](#) / Website
- [Less is More](#) / Book
- [Life's Principles](#) / Website
- [Office for Climate Education](#) / Website, Book, Reports
- [Pathway to 'Knowing Places' — and Ecojustice — Three Teacher Educators' Experiences](#) / Article
- [Place-Based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities](#) / Book
- [Places and Spaces: Environments and children's wellbeing](#) / Report
- [Planetary Boundaries](#) / Website
- [Project for Public Spaces](#) / Website
- [Reframing Westernized culture: insights from a Critical Friends Group on EcoJustice Education](#) / Article
- [Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World](#) / Book
- [Rethinking Nature: Challenging Disciplinary Boundaries](#) / Book
- [State of the World 2017: EarthEd](#) / Book
- [Tide Global Learning](#) / Website
- [The Book of Hope](#) / Book
- [The Care Manifesto](#) / Book
- [The Center for Ecoliteracy](#)
- [The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis](#) / Report
- [The Land Ethic](#) / Website
- [The Mushroom at the End of the World](#) / Book

- [The Premise of Multispecies Justice](#) / Book
- [The Sustainability and Education Policy Network](#) / Website, Reports
- [The Triple Planetary Crisis](#) / Website
- [Thinking Like a Mountain](#) / Article
- [Thinking Like a Planet](#) / Book
- [Towards Eco-Social Curricula: Learning, Teaching and Getting Organized when the World is on Fire](#) / Website, Group
- [Understanding Ecojustice Education as a Praxis of Environmental Reconciliation: Teacher Education, Indigenous Knowledges, and Relationality](#) / Article
- [UN Action for Climate Empowerment, ACE](#) / Website
- UN Conventions: [The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), UNFCCC, [The Convention on Biological Diversity](#), UNCBD, [The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#), UNCCD / Website
- [UNESCO PEER](#) / Website, Reports
- [Using an Ecojustice Education Framework to Address Conservation in the Upstate](#) / Article
- [Women and Nature? Beyond Dualism in Gender, Body, and Environment](#) / Book
- [350.org](#) / Website

List of organizations in the EU and IPA countries

Beyond renowned organizations like WWF, BirdLife International, and Greenpeace, the following organizations are also available for engagement regarding environmental and educational initiatives, potential collaboration and support.

[BirdLife Europe & Central Asia](#)

BirdLife Europe and Central Asia consists of a collaboration between 48 national conservation organizations dedicated to the conservation of birds.

[CAN Europe](#)

The Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe represents a coalition of non-governmental organizations dedicated to combating climate change across Europe. With a network

comprising more than 200 member organizations operating in 40 European countries, CAN Europe advocates for the advancement of sustainable climate, energy, and development policies across the continent.

[Capacity4dev](#)

Capacity4dev is a knowledge-sharing platform established by the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) with the aim of linking development professionals globally. It provides a space for these professionals to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and share lessons learned from their work. The page for Cyprus could be accessed [here](#).

[EC Directorate-General for Climate Action \(Clima\)](#)

This division spearheads the European Commission's endeavors in combating climate change both within the EU and globally. It plays a central role in formulating and supporting the execution of cost-effective policies and laws aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the European Green Deal.

[EC Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture \(EAC\)](#)

EAC is responsible for EU policy on education, youth, sport and culture.

[EC Directorate-General for Environment \(ENV\)](#)

ENV is responsible for EU policy on the environment. It proposes and implements policies that ensure a high level of environmental protection and preserve the quality of life of EU citizens.

[Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\) for 2030 Global Network Portal](#)

UNESCO offers a portal dedicated to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which includes resources, publications, and initiatives related to mainstreaming ecological literacy and sustainability education. NGOs can access reports, guidelines, and case studies to inform their educational programs.

[European Climate Foundation \(ECF\)](#)

The ECF is a prominent philanthropic endeavor collaborating with over 700 partners to stimulate climate action. Its goal is to create a greener, more peaceful, and democratic Europe through climate action. The ECF has seven Grantmaking Commitments, in partnership with the Center for Effective Philanthropy and its grantees: humility, listening, transparency, connection, flexibility, respect, and learning.

[European Cultural Foundation - ECF](#)

The European Cultural Foundation (ECF) supports cultural endeavors and initiatives aimed at fostering social transformation and dialogue throughout Europe. Although its primary focus isn't on environmental matters, ECF might offer financial support for projects that intersect with environmental education, artistic expression, and activism.

[European Environmental Agency \(EEA\)](#)

The European Environment Agency (EEA) operates as an agency under the European Union, serving to provide information and data essential for Europe's environmental and climate objectives. EEA assists in policy development and participating in key global initiatives, offers analytical expertise in environmental matters, and establishes and manages effective reporting systems for the exchange of data at national and international levels. Together with their network of partners known as The European Environment Information and Observation Network ([Eionet](#)), their aim is to keep decision-makers and the public informed about Europe's environment, climate change, and broader sustainability concerns. [Eionet Portal](#) serves as a public showcase of the Eionet. Eionet consists of the EEA and circa 400 national institutions from 38 countries, with expertise in environmental issues, and eight centers of thematic expertise contracted by the EEA, called [European Topic Centres \(ETCs\)](#). It would be useful to examine the consortium member organizations (i.e. [24 partners of ETC Biodiversity and Ecosystems Consortium](#)) involved in ETCs.

[Climate-ADAPT](#)

The European Climate Adaptation Platform, known as Climate-ADAPT, is a collaborative effort between the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA). Its objective is to assist in the adaptation to climate change. Climate-ADAPT supplements data regarding the EU and its Member States' advancements towards achieving their 2030 climate and energy targets, which are accessible on the [Climate and Energy in the EU Website](#).

[Euro-MED](#)

Euro-MED is a program for European Territorial Cooperation focused on enhancing the intelligence and environmental sustainability of the Mediterranean region, as well as strengthening governance among its stakeholders. Funding is allocated to projects initiated and overseen by public administrations, universities, private enterprises, and civil society organizations.

[NEXT MED](#)

As part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy, NEXT MED aims to foster cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean regions and countries in this geographic area until 2027.

[European Environmental Bureau \(EEB\)](#)

EEB is a network of environmental organizations across Europe. They advocate for environmental policies and offer funding opportunities, grants, and project support for member organizations and partners.

[The European Education and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#)

EACEA manages funding for education, culture, audiovisual, sport, citizenship and volunteering.

[Friends of the Earth Europe](#)

Friends of the Earth Europe stands as the most extensive grassroots environmental network across Europe, bringing together over 30 national organizations alongside thousands of local groups. Operating from our Brussels office, we spearhead coordinated campaigns within our network and advocate for EU action aimed at safeguarding both people and the planet.

[Foundation for Environmental Education \(FEE\)](#)

FEE is one of the world's largest environmental education organizations, with over 100 members in 81 countries. FEE prioritizes climate action across all five programmes to address the urgent threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution.

[Gaia Foundation](#)

The Gaia Foundation is an international organization with 35 years' experience accompanying partners, communities and movements around the world to revive and protect bio-cultural diversity.

[Greening Education Partnership](#)

The Greening Education Partnership of UNESCO is a worldwide initiative that adopts a comprehensive approach to assist countries in addressing the climate crisis by leveraging the pivotal role of education. Serving as a collaborative platform for governments and various stakeholders, including inter-governmental organizations, civil society, youth, academia, and the private sector, the Greening Education Partnership strives to implement robust, coordinated, and all-encompassing measures. These efforts are designed to ensure that every learner is equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to address climate change effectively and promote sustainable development.

[IUCN Commission on Education and Communication \(CEC\)](#)

CEC uses creative communication and education tools and approaches to raise awareness and inspire action to conserve nature. Our job is to mobilize people all over the planet for a world committed to protecting nature now and into the future.

[IUCN Climate Crisis Commission \(CCC\)](#)

CCC's vision is a world in which global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and society is adapting to manage climate risks in ways that enhance socio-ecological resilience, are nature positive, and promote just outcomes for all.

[Mediterranean Forest Research Network - MedForest](#)

MedForest is a network of researchers and practitioners working on forest conservation and management in the Mediterranean region. Their website offers publications, events, and

resources related to ecological literacy, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable forest management. MedForest is coordinated by the [EFI Mediterranean Facility](#), Cyprus is not a member of.

[Naturefriends International \(NFI\)](#)

Established in 1895, the Naturefriends movement stands as one of the largest non-governmental organizations worldwide. With 350,000 members actively engaged in local groups and sections, they are represented by regional, federal, and national associations. NFI serves as the umbrella organization for approximately 45 national member organizations. Furthermore, NFI holds membership within the Green 10, a platform comprising the ten largest European environmental NGOs.

[Network of Education Policy Centers \(NEPC\)](#)

The Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC) is an international non-governmental organization with a membership base comprising 22 organizational members from 19 countries, as well as 6 individual members. Established in 2006 and officially founded in 2008, NEPC's membership includes public and civil-society organizations engaged in various aspects of education. These range from educational research and policy analysis to professional development for school staff and activities related to school development.

[The Global Fund for Community Foundations \(GFCF\)](#)

The Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) supports community-led initiatives and projects addressing local development challenges, including environmental education and ecological literacy. NGOs can explore funding opportunities and application guidelines on their website.

[The EUROPARC Federation](#)

The EUROPARC Federation is the network for Europe's natural and cultural heritage; and is dedicated to practical nature conservation and sustainable development of Europe's biodiversity, fostering holistic landscape approaches in its management. Since 2021, to connect Human Rights and Nature is the main new commitment for EUROPARC inside the Council of Europe (CoE). EUROPARC chaired the [Environment, Climate Change, Heritage and Health Committee](#), and is still chairing the [Environment and Health Crisis Committee](#) inside the [Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe](#). This new Committee aims to develop an integrated approach between human rights, environment, heritage and health in the Bern, Florence, Aarhus and Faro Conventions.

[The European Education Area](#)

The European Education Area fosters collaboration among European Union Member States to build more resilient and inclusive national education and training systems. On 16 June 2022, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a [Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development](#). The Recommendation is a key policy statement highlighting the crucial role of education and training in working towards the goals of the European Green Deal.

[The MECCE Project](#)

The Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) Project has launched an ambitious international research agenda. The project aims to enhance the quality and quantity of CCE efforts, ultimately advancing global climate literacy and encouraging action on climate change.

[The Mediterranean Action Plan \(MAP\)](#)

MAP)-Barcelona Convention System works with Contracting Parties and partners to fulfill the vision of a healthy Mediterranean Sea and Coast that underpin sustainable development in the region.

[The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development - MIO-ECSDE](#)

MIO-ECSDE is a coalition of non-governmental organizations focused on environmental matters in the Mediterranean region. Their website offers access to publications, projects, and resources concerning ecological awareness, sustainable development, and environmental education within the Euro-Mediterranean context. MIO-ECSDE operates as a non-profit federation comprising 134 Mediterranean NGOs dedicated to environmental and developmental issues across 28 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

[The Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability - MEEdIES](#)

MEEdIES is a program led by the MIO-ECSDE, focusing on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Since its inception in 2002, during the Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development, MEEdIES has implemented ESD projects across Mediterranean countries. Additionally, its website serves as a platform for sharing ESD narratives from around the globe.

[The Mediterranean Youth Climate Network - MYCN](#)

MYCN plays an important role in enhancing regional integration by fostering concrete actions advocated by young individuals from the Mediterranean. This collaborative effort among young people serves as a significant catalyst for stability and peace in the area. The network focuses on the following key objectives: serving as a platform for sharing projects, best practices, knowledge, and methodologies among its members; establishing and pursuing common goals for youth-led climate action in the Mediterranean region; raising awareness within Mediterranean communities about climate-related issues and the active involvement of youth in frontline climate action initiatives.

[The Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos \(MedINA\)](#)

MedINA was established in 2003 as a non-profit organization based in Athens, Greece with a focus on the Mediterranean region and beyond. Its vision is a world where societies prosper in harmony with nature.

[The Office for Climate Education \(OCE\)](#)

Established in 2018 through the collaboration of La main à la pâte Foundation and the scientific community, the OCE represents a proactive response to the pressing global need for climate education. The primary objective of the OCE is to facilitate robust international cooperation among scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and educational institutions. Its mission is to educate current and future generations about climate change, providing them with the necessary knowledge and tools for understanding and action. This initiative aims to shield learners from preconceptions, ideologies, or irrationality and prepare them to navigate and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

[The Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#)

The UfM is an intergovernmental organization that fosters discussions and collaboration across the Euro-Mediterranean region. The organization aids in project implementation by offering technical expertise, networking opportunities, and visibility. It also identifies innovative ideas for potential expansion to a broader regional scale. The organization's approach involves policy frameworks, dialogue platforms, and regional projects. The [UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change](#) highlights the pressing need to tackle climate change, given its interconnectedness with other significant regional issues like

sustainable energy access, water scarcity, population growth, and resilience to extreme weather events.

[UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change](#)

In 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to establish a Special Rapporteurship on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change. This development is highly significant in affirming and highlighting the relationship between climate change and human rights. The Special Rapporteurship aims to monitor the adverse effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights based on scientific data and assessments, as well as contribute to efforts to enhance, protect, realize, and fulfill human rights in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the UNFCCC.

[UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment](#)

The UN Human Rights Council decided to establish a Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in 2012. The Rapporteur has the mandate to examine human rights obligations related to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; promote best practices in incorporating human rights into environmental policymaking; work towards international recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; identify challenges and obstacles to the implementation of this right; and intervene in cases of human rights violations through country visits.

[UN Universal Periodic Review](#)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the Human Rights Council that entails the assessment of the human rights situation in each Member State of the United Nations by other Member States every 4.5 years. During the UPR process, each State regularly reports on steps taken to improve the human rights situation in their country and overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. Page for Cyprus could be reached [here](#).

[WWF European Policy Office](#)

WWF's core mission is to halt the deterioration of the Earth's natural environment and to cultivate a future where humans coexist harmoniously with nature. The European Policy Office plays a crucial role in achieving this mission by advocating for robust EU environmental

policies across various domains, including sustainable development, nature conservation, climate and energy, marine protection, sustainable finance, and external action.

Annexes

Annex 1 - [Survey](#)

Annex 2 - [Presentations](#)



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