

# **Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

## **Sustainable Infrastructure Sustainable Tourism Education for Sustainable Development**

**5-7 of October 2022  
Nicosia-Cyprus**

### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

#### **[UNESCO biosphere reserves in South East European and the Mediterranean as key actors in implementing the SDGs and promoting ESD]**

[October 5th, 13:10 - 14:40, Room 5b/ Fresnel Building of the Cyprus Institute]  
[English] [Live]

UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) with currently 738 sites in 134 countries provide learning sites for sustainable development and recognized as key tools for implementing Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. As indicated in the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is part of the strategic objectives. UNESCO Biosphere reserves are actively engaged in promoting SDGs and ESD in an innovative way and serve as ESD hubs from which the models are disseminated. The innovative initiatives and good models can be good inspirational sources for all ESD learners and for schools that include key sustainable development issues in teaching and learning. UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) is a global network of 10,000 educational institutions in 181 countries. There are clear opportunities for synergies with between UNESCO biosphere reserves and UNESCO ASPnet.

The side event will look at how innovative initiatives could help to promote learning for sustainability and improve environment and climate literacy by bringing together the biosphere reserves involving site managers, education stakeholders, academia in South-East Europe and part of the Mediterranean. The event will show how local innovative initiatives led by biosphere reserves can empower ESD learners including young people to take actions for sustainable development. During the event, these success stories in the participating countries and biosphere reserves will be showcased followed by a panel discussion attended by the panelists.

#### **Co-Organisers /LOGOS**

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece

Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

### Preliminary Agenda

5 min	<i>Overview of the side event (TBC)</i>
5 min	<i>Welcoming speech by :</i> <i>Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (TBC)</i>
<b>Introductory presentation session</b>	
10 min	<i>UNESCO biosphere reserves as key actors in promoting SDGs and ESD</i> Jonathan Baker, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
10 min	<i>ESD in Biospheres Reserves and other Designated Areas</i> Michael Scoullous, MIO-ECSDE
<b>Plenary Panel</b>	
25 min	<p><b>Experience sharing on local innovative educational initiatives led by Biosphere Reserves</b></p> <p>Moderator: Jing Fang, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (TBC)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vera Dilari, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece [5 min]</li> <li>○ Luliana CANTARAGIU, Former Minister of Environment, Government of the Republic of Moldova [5 min]</li> <li>○ Gabriela Morozov, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania [5 min]</li> <li>○ Anja Cigan, 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Slovenia [5 min]</li> </ul>
30 min	<p><b>Discussion with the Panelists</b></p> <p><i>Guiding question 1: Based on the experience of your site, could you tell us how ESD promoted in BRs could contribute to addressing the global crisis (such as climate change) ?</i></p> <p><i>Guiding question 2: What are the challenges for ESD implemented in the BRs?</i></p> <p><i>Guiding question 3: Could you envision by 2030 how ESD in BRs could build resilience for sustainable future?</i></p>
5 min	Wrap up and closing remarks