Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure
Sustainable Tourism
Education for Sustainable Development

5-7 of October 2022
Nicosia-Cyprus

SIDE EVENT

Higher Education towards Sustainable Development: Making Universities Lighthouses of Sustainability

5 October 2022, 18.15-20.15, Room 4/NTL Building Cyprus Institute

English-French, Live event

Higher Education throughout the world is linked to the future of a country and the society, and contributes to the shaping of the predominant culture, from grassroots to the leadership. Sustainable Development (SD) cannot be rooted at local, national, regional and global level if Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) do not fully embrace the SD principles, practices and attitudes. This is done by considering the SDGs as essential elements for the curriculum, practices, governance and relationship of HEIs with the society. The above could be operationalized through the Whole Institution Approach (WIA). WIA is a priority action area within the UNESCO global framework ESDfor2030; it is a key strand of the Framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD from 2021 to 2030; and a major priority field in the revised Action Plan towards 2030 of the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD. The last few years several interesting programmes and initiatives on applying WIA tools and practices in Higher Education Institutions have been suggested and undertaken by specific universities wishing to become beacons of sustainability. The Greek Universities have embarked into the SD areas already since 2011 by adopting a "Sustainability Charter". Recently there was a major revision of the Charter which offers a potential example for others to be inspired by. The side event will provide the opportunity to discuss the upscaling of such initiatives, and how Higher Education Institutions can be stimulated in embracing and implementing a Whole Institution Approach; to highlight best practices at institutional and operational level that can be replicated; and, to identify challenges and ways to overcome them concerning ESD in the Higher Education sector.

COORGANISERS:
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece
Ministry of Education Sport and Youth of Cyprus
University of Athens / UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean
Mediterranean Universities Network for Sustainable Development with emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development (MEDUNET)
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

Agenda

5 min	*The scope of the side event by the facilitator,* Prof. Michael Scoullos
20 min	*Welcome speeches by:* Minister of Education & Religious Affairs of Greece, HE Ms Niki Kerameos Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth of Cyprus, HE Mr Prodromos Prodromou Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt, HE Dr. Ayman Ashour (*tbc*) Minister of Education and Higher Education of Lebanon, HE Dr. Abbas Halabi
15 min	*The Sustainability Charter of the Greek Universities: A concrete example of HEIs commitment towards the achievement of the SDGs* Prof. Andreas Floros, Rector of Ionian University -Greece, Presidium of the Hellenic Universities Rectors' Synod
45 min	*How a national or regional Charter on Sustainability could help Higher Education Institutions to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs utilizing WIA as a useful process? What are the main challenges to be addressed in the region concerning ESD and promotion of the SDGs in the Higher Education sector?* *Panelists (5-6 min each):* Dr. Giuseppe Provenzano, Higher Education and Research Division, UfM Dr. Marcello Scalisi, Director of Mediterranean Universities Union -UNIMED Prof. Panayiotis Zaphiris, Rector, Cyprus University of Technology Prof. Michele Biasutti, MEDUNET/University of Padova, Italy Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, MEDUNET/CMED, Morocco Prof. Michel Ricard, RCE Bordeaux Aquitaine, UNU/IAS, France Angelos Kokkinis, President of Board of European Students of Technology AISBL, University of Patras, Greece
25 min	Questions from the floor - Discussion
10 min	Wrap up & closing

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
CULTURE, SPORT
AND YOUTH

UNESCO Chair and Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean
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