

Promotion of the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean *Regional Training* (Athens, 14-15 November 2023)

The experience of Cyprus in hosting the 9th “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5-7 October 2022)

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The Nicosia Conference

- Organized by the Republic of Cyprus, with the support of UNECE – CEP
- Held every 5 years – first time in the **Mediterranean region**
- **Extended invite** to non-ECE member states
- **3 main themes:** a) Green Economy & Sustainable Infrastructure, b) Circular Economy & Sustainable Tourism, and c) Education for Sustainable Development



The 9th EfE Ministerial Conference in numbers

Total participants: 900 from 62 countries and the EU

- 71 Ministers & State Secretaries
- 150 Organizations
- 60 Youth Organizations
- 6 High-Level Meetings
- 37 Side events
- 150+ bilateral / trilateral meetings
- Reached 1 billion people in 23 languages
- Media & press
- 426 volunteers

The profile of participants

- ✓ Ministers of Environment, Education, Tourism, Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Public and private sector
- ✓ Youth
- ✓ International organizations
- ✓ Regional organizations
- ✓ Non-governmental institutions
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Academia and Research institutions



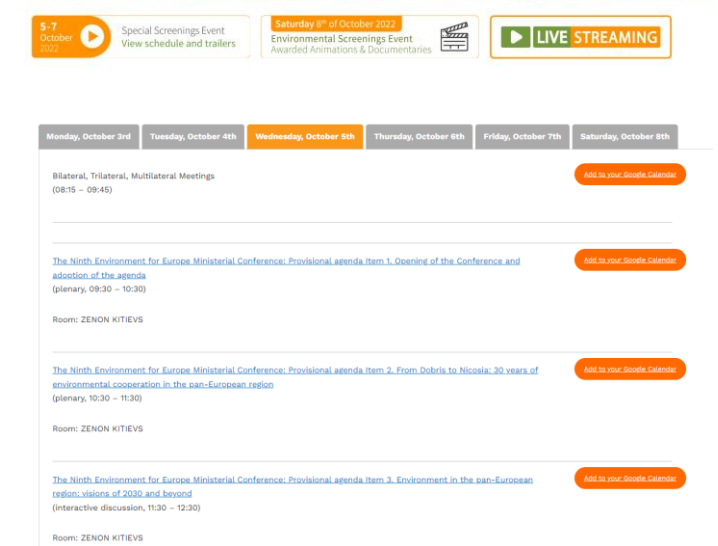
Access to Environmental Information

ACTIONS:

- Dedicated Conference website
- Availability of Conference's official documents (agenda, organizational of work, policy documents and Ministerial Declaration / Statement) in all official languages
- Official documents, speeches, interventions posted on website
- Interactive calendar with active links of sessions/side-events
- Live webcasting of events
- Host Country Secretariat for providing information
- Press releases / conferences
- Local news programmes / television
- Press Office & local and international press
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
- Mobile-phone app: Google Play, Apple Store

IMPACT:

- ✓ enhanced accessibility and understanding of information
- ✓ consistent and reliable information access by the public
- ✓ broader public reach
- ✓ effective dissemination of information accessible to the public, free of charge and using electronic information tools
- ✓ increased knowledge and understanding by translations
- ✓ facilitated flow of information to the public



Public Participation in decision-making on environmental matters

ACTIONS:

- proactive seek of participation of relevant actors
- invitations to international NGOs with diverse capacities, with funding
- open to the participation of the public
- interventions in plenary sessions by NGOs / CSOs
- policy documents, including comments from CSOs and finalized during the SS CEP before the Ministerial Conference
- opportunities for NGOs / CSOs to discuss with Ministers (in meeting rooms)
- Co-chairs' summary included aspects from interventions of the Conference
- participation of informed, knowledgeable public, representing diverse constituencies
- Youth and participants with special needs
- 28 awarded animations on SDGs, created exclusively by students of public and private schools under the project "Creating for the SDGs"

IMPACT:

- ✓ bring different opinions and expertise to the process
- ✓ increasing transparency and accountability
- ✓ contributes to the quality of decision-making on environmental matters in international forums



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMYmbKH_uhcRhqkXYOfH1Q/videos
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0za5jlyoGXc>

Side events & Exhibitions

37 side-events & 18 exhibitions

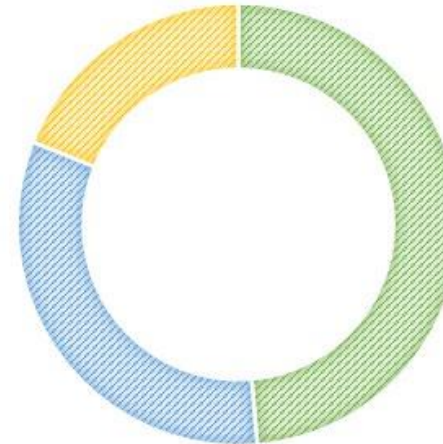
ORGANISERS

- Governments
- UN entities
- NGOs
- Businesses
- Academic/ Research institutes
- Intergovernmental Organizations



STRANDS

- Green Economy/Sustainable Infrastructure
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Tourism



what was discussed

Policy tools
Regional strategies
Action plans
Initiatives
Guidelines
Best practices
Lessons learnt



Side events on Aarhus Convention

Pathways for a people-centered energy transition: Large Infrastructure development and Aarhus Convention rights

The side event aims to raise awareness of the threats to public participation and access to information posed by a hasty and disorderly energy transition. The side event will discuss how Aarhus Convention rights have been ignored, showcase examples where they have been championed and present recommendations for a rights-based energy transition throughout the countries in the UNECE region.

Strand: Green economy/Sustainable Infrastructure

Organiser: European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Co-organiser: Government of Austria

Environmental governance for transforming our planet– Promoting the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean region

The event will provide a unique opportunity for best practices and innovative ideas sharing on how to make micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) more resilient in face of future shocks in a rapidly changing landscape. It will build upon the lessons learned from the unprecedented pandemic crisis in terms of its impact on MSMEs and the policy measures that have been taken to address it. The conference is intended for representatives of governments, international/regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia involved in private sector development and industrial cooperation.

Strand: Green economy/Sustainable Infrastructure

Organiser: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Co-organiser: The Government of Cyprus



Other organizational issues

- Rooms for coordination / bilateral / trilateral meetings
- Practical measures to facilitate participation of delegates with special needs
- Responsibility for hotel bookings by host country
- Transportation to and from the Conference/ airport
- Organization of social events – tours
- Traditional products – gifts for participants
- Interactive Workshops with local artists – intangible heritage
- Interactive activities
- Sustainable food, local cuisine
- 8 awarded environmental documentaries/animations





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Thank you

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