

A Greek Initiative with the United Nations: Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON
CULTURAL & NATURAL HERITAGE

FLEXIBLE MECHANISM
Coordination Unit



SEECP

Athens Chairmanship-in-Office 2021-2022

Strengthening SEE Synergies

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President of the Coordination Unit



Historic Background

September 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, New York:

Launch of the Greek Proposal,
with the supporting partnership of **UNESCO** and **WMO**

21-22 June 2019, Athens International Conference on Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage



December 2019:

Presentation of the proposal and its follow up
in a side event at **COP25, Madrid.**





Initiative : « Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage »

Flexible Mechanism

steering committee (Greece, UNESCO, WMO, UNFCCC)



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



Participating States of the Initiative

Supporting States of the Initiative



Coordination Unit and Objectives

Coordination Unit

(Hosted in Academy of Athens)

Experts, Scientists

- **identify and digitalize the threatened sites/monuments** upon proposals of the countries concerned
(*launch of CU Questionnaire in June 2021*)
- **create a database with best practices** in the field of climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage
- **record and develop know-how and data** related to the threats faced by international cultural heritage and monuments of nature, because of the climate crisis

Focal Points

- **create an international network** with the view to establishing synergies in the fields of protection of the cultural and natural heritage from climate change impacts





With the valuable support





Initiatives that have already taken place

Greek Hybrid High Level Event of Ministers of Environment & Ministers of Culture and **experts from 10 countries** in the context of **COP26** on **2 November 2021** (organised and broadcasted in/from Brussels from the dedicated EU studio). Discussion about the interconnection and interdependence between our heritage - natural and cultural - and the impacts of climate change and follow-up action.





Initiatives that have already taken place

8th Summit of the Southern Countries of the European Union
17th September 2021, Athens – Greece

Athens Declaration on Climate Change and the Environment in the Mediterranean

The paragraph agreed by the Nine EU MED countries during the Meeting at Level of Heads of State and Government, with the participation of the President of the European Commission, and included in the Athens Declaration:



“The Southern Countries of the EU Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain [...] commit to work towards the protection of the Mediterranean’s cultural and natural heritage, which is under threat from the impacts of climate change, by taking active action and supporting the Initiative “Addressing climate change impacts on cultural and natural heritage” launched by Greece at the 2019 Climate Action Summit and acknowledged by the UN Secretary General, in which UNESCO, WMO and UNFCCC are fully involved. In this framework, agree to participate in a pilot project for the protection of cultural and natural heritage, which is being currently prepared.”



Initiatives that have already taken place

The Pilot Project : A “Climate identity” for each monument

- 1) The selection of one heritage site/monument by each Mediterranean Member country.
- 2) The development and proposition by the Academy of Athens of indicators and scores, in combination with relevant socio-economic or other information, to assess sites/monuments' vulnerability because of climate change impacts.
- 3) The consultation with experts from the Member countries and implementation of the proposed methodology in the selected sites.
- 4) Resources for the local implementations will need to be drawn from each Member countries individually.

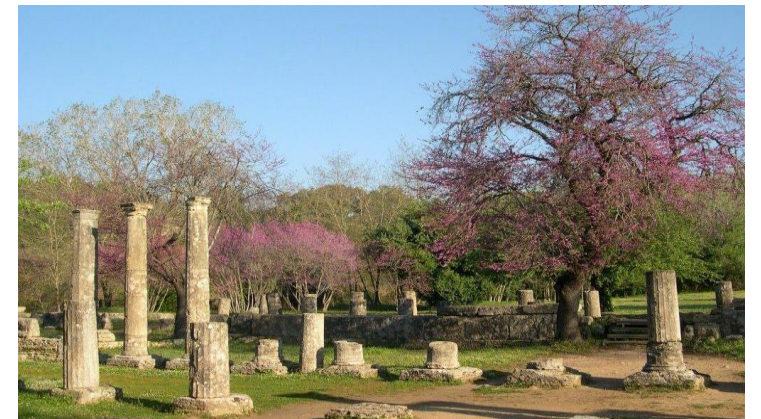
The results of the pilot project will be shared among the participating countries and within the EU and lessons learnt will be drawn to allow the replication of the methodology to other sites/monuments within the Mediterranean area and worldwide.



The Pilot Project : A “Climate identity” for each monument

Actions that have been taken up to May 2022

1. EUMED focal points have been appointed
2. Greece’s selection: Archaeological Site of Olympia
3. Academy of Athens has completed the methodology for the Archaeological Site of Olympia which focuses on the identification of climate risks. This methodology will be used as a model for the identification and analysis of the risks of the selected monument/site of cultural and natural heritage of the EUMED members.
4. Some EUMED members have already appointed a selected monument/site





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Initiatives that have already taken place

South-East European Cooperation Process:

- **Online Event at ministerial level** with the SEECP Ministers of Culture and Environment & **scientific panel**
- *Aim:* to further cooperate in the field of protection of cultural & natural heritage from the climate crisis in South East Europe and share good practices



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Strengthening SEE Synergies



Good Practices developed in relation to Adaptation/Resilience of Cultural and Natural Heritage by the Greek Ministry of Culture & Sports

- 1.Mapping, at the national level, of the vulnerability of cultural sites and monuments from the impacts of climate change.
- 2.Development of adaptation/resilience plans for cultural/archaeological sites and monuments of nature.
- 3.Energy retrofitting of selected Museums to cope with the impacts of climate change – circular museums.
- 4.Drafting, in cooperation with the Ministries of Civil Protection, of civil protection plans for areas where cultural/archaeological sites and monuments of nature are located.
- 5.Special protection plans for selected cultural/archaeological sites and monuments of nature to cope with climate risks.
- 6.Dedicated program for the preventive protection and conservation of monuments.
- 7.Funding through the Recovery & Resilience Fund of the European Union or other international funding sources for non EU Members States for projects or initiatives to address the Impacts of Climate Change.



CLIMASCAPE is an **interdisciplinary research project** aiming at the protection of archaeological sites from the impacts of climate change.

The **main objective** of the project is the development of a **multi-criteria platform** that will support the forecasting, detection and management of climate change related risks on archaeological sites in Greece.

The project is implemented by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the University of Thessaly and the Hellenic National Research Foundation.

<http://climascape.prd.uth.gr/en/home-english/>

Climate related projects



The integrated project «**LIFE-IP AdaptInGR - Boosting the implementation of adaptation policy across Greece**» is the most important project for adapting Greece to climate change.

→ Study of **5 cultural heritage case studies** in order to develop pilot assessments and adaptation guidelines for the Cultural Heritage of Greece. Assess whether the measures proposed in Regional Adaptation Action Plans (RAAPS) successfully address climate change impacts and adaptation policies for cultural heritage.

<https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/>





Awareness raising

Participation in International conferences and events, seminars, trainings



G20 Culture Ministerial - Webinar
Addressing the Climate Crisis
through Culture, Preserving Cultural
Heritage and Supporting the Green
Transition (12 April 2021, Italy)



Delphi Economic Forum
(May 2021, Greece)



All Things Energy Forum
(2-4 June 2021, Greece)



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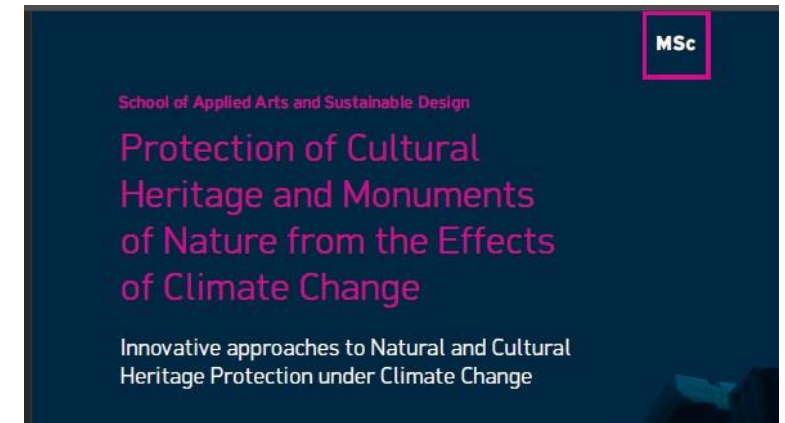
9th Regional Growth Conference
(3-5 June 2021, Patras - Greece)



Alpha Mission - ΔELOS team
Alpha Mission event on the island
of **Delos** in June 2021



**4th Meeting of Open Method of Coordination
(OMC) group of Member States' experts on
"Strengthening Cultural Heritage
Resilience for Climate Change"**
(13-14 September 2021, Brussels)



M.Sc. degree program for the 'Protection
of Cultural and Natural Heritage from the
Effects of Climate Change' by the **Hellenic
Open University**



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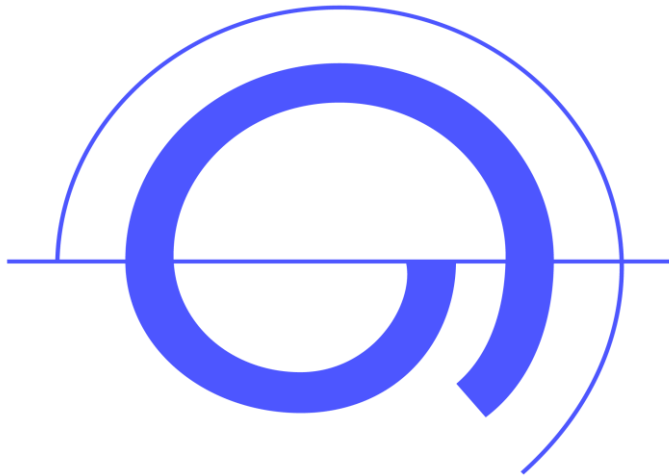
Next Major Milestones

ALPHA MISSION - ΔELOS & the [uncertain] Four Seasons

Event to take place in the island of **Delos** on **Monday 30th of May**, with the participation of the **European Union Youth Orchestra**.

An interdisciplinary initiative combining mythology with art, science and space technology.

Aim: to raise awareness around the climate crisis and highlight the urgent need for global action



ALPHA MISSION

ΔELOS



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Next Major Milestones

Online Event to be organised in the framework of **UNFCCC COP27**, with representatives of **Indian & Pacific Ocean threatened islands** that face serious climate change impacts because of the rise of the sea level.





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**The cooperation of all nations is of
outmost importance and it is time to stand
with us and be a part of the Initiative, if
you haven't already done so!**

Thank you!

**More information on the website:
<https://ccich.gr/>**

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