



## **MED-9 High-Level Forum**

on Education for Sustainable  
Development and Green Transition  
in the Mediterranean Region

**Final Agenda and Guidelines  
for Preparation for the Forum**

27 June | Limassol, Cyprus



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



# Final Agenda and Guidelines for Preparation for the Forum

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09:00 - 09:30

**Arrival and Registration of the Delegations/Participants**

09:30 - 10:30

**HALL: THE DIAMOND  
BALLROOM**

**Opening of the event**

**Cultural program from the “Sistema Cyprus” Orchestra**

**Welcome and opening remarks:**

**Mr Frederic Berthoud**, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland

**Mr Christofer Castle**, Director, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development UNESCO

**Ms Sylvie Motard**, Deputy Director Europe, UNEP

**Mr Almotaz Abadi**, Deputy Secretary General, Union of the Mediterranean

**Ms Tatyana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

**H.E. Athena Michaelidou**, Minister of Education Sports and Youth, Cyprus

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10:30 - 10:50

**Coffee Break**

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10:50 - 12:25

HALL: THE PARK ROOM

## Session 1: ESD in the Mediterranean

**Description of the Session:** The session focuses on discussing the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the educational systems of the Mediterranean countries. The aim of this session is to present and discuss the integration of ESD within each country's framework, aiming at exchanging views, best practices, and formulating positions on how the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD can contribute to addressing the challenges each country faces regarding sustainable development. Within this context, the purpose and objectives of the forum will be presented, along with the presentation of the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD.

**Ministers from the 9 MED Countries will be invited to address questions regarding:**

- (a) whether they have a national strategy, framework, legislation, policy for ESD, whether it has been revised, and what are its key axes;
- (b) what are the main priorities of the countries regarding ESD and what measures are they promoting to achieve them;
- (c) what challenges do countries face in implementing ESD in their country and what measures are being promoted to address them;
- (d) how the Mediterranean Strategy for ESD can contribute to strengthening ESD in their countries.

10:50 - 11:25

### Introductory Remarks

**H.E. Athena Michaelidou**, Cyprus Minister of Education, Sport and Youth and **Tatjana Hema**, UNEP MAP Coordinator.

Presentation of the Concept Note of the 9th High-Level Forum on Education for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in the Mediterranean Region, **Prof. Michael Scoullas**

11:25 - 12:25

### Tour de Table for the Ministers & Discussion

All MED9 Ministers will be invited to intervene on the questions of the first session. The interventions should not exceed 5 min. A general discussion will follow.

12:25 - 13:25  
HALL: THE PARK ROOM

## Session 2: The twin Transition: Digital and Green/ Sustainable Learning

### Panelists:

**Mr Rado Bohinc**, EMUNI University

**Dr. Mariaclaudia Cusumano**, WEEC Network

**Mr Dejan Kosi**, The seashore of our posterity

**Mr Giuseppe Provenzano**, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**Description of the session:** The purpose of this session is to give the floor to the Ministers of MED9 as well as to other representatives to discuss and strategize on the integration of green and digital/sustainable learning practices within their respective educational systems. The session aims to foster collaboration, exchange of ideas, and the formulation of concrete action plans to promote sustainable development and digital literacy across the region, addressing also emerging challenges (related to AI, etc.). Specifically, it seeks to:

- (a) share best practices and innovative approaches in incorporating green and digital/sustainable learning methodologies within formal and non-formal education,
- (b) identify barriers hindering the effective implementation of green and digital/sustainable learning initiatives in the Mediterranean countries and
- (c) discuss and share strategies, programs that promote the twin transition and address challenges in practice, in all forms and levels of education.

### Guiding Questions:

- Has your country specific policies, and programs for integrating the twin transition into national curricula and pedagogical practices? Please identify some of them and explain their impact and innovative elements.

- What are the main obstacles your country faces in implementing green and digital/sustainable learning initiatives, and what measures are being taken to address these challenges?
- How can green and digital/sustainable learning contribute to the broader goals of sustainable development and environmental stewardship in the Mediterranean region?
- What specific actions or initiatives is your country undertaking to ensure equitable access to green and digital/sustainable learning opportunities for all students, including those in marginalized or underserved communities?
- Does your country have policies that empower teachers in integrating green and digital/sustainable learning?
- Does your country have evaluation mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness and impact of green and digital/sustainable learning initiatives on student outcomes and environmental sustainability?

The framework will be developed by experts who will briefly reflect on the issues above, and the floor will be opened for discussion.

Ministers and other panelists will be invited to address a maximum of two questions within 7 minutes.

Any following interventions from the floor should not exceed 4 minutes.

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**13:25 - 13:40**

**Statements from the high-level officials to the press**

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**13:40 - 14:50**

**Working Lunch**

***Hall: LPM Restaurant***

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14:50 - 16:00

HALL: THE PARK ROOM

## Session 3: Whole School/Institution Approach and ESD

### Panelists:

**H.E. Clifton Grima**, Minister for Education, Youth, Resources and Innovation, Malta

**Ms. Iva Ivankovic**, State Secretary of Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, Croatia

**Mr. Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo**, European Federation of Education Employers, Portugal

**Ms. Aravella Zachariou**, Head of the Unit of EESD, Cyprus

**Description of the Session:** The purpose of this session is to provide opportunities for Ministers from the MED9 Countries to discuss the implementation of ESD through whole school/institution approach and provide insights on how WSA/WIA can transform schools and institutions towards sustainability. The session aims to explore how schools and educational institutions can serve as catalysts for sustainable development by adopting comprehensive and integrated approaches as WSA/WIA that encompass curriculum, campus operations, community engagement, professional development, and partnerships. Specifically, it seeks to:

- (a) share experiences and best practices in implementing whole school/institution approaches and ESD across the Mediterranean region,
- (b) identify key components and principles of successful ESD whole school/institution approaches and their relevance to the context of the Mediterranean countries,
- (c) discuss action plans to support the Mediterranean countries in integrating ESD and WSA/WIA within their educational systems at all levels.

### Guiding Questions:

- What is your country's vision and policy framework for promoting ESD WSA/WIA within educational institutions, and how does it align with the ESD Mediterranean Strategy and the broader national and regional sustainability agendas?

- In which ways schools and educational institutions in your country are currently integrating sustainable development principles into their curriculum, campus operations, and extracurricular activities?
- What are the main challenges and obstacles faced by schools and educational institutions in adopting ESD whole school/institution approach, and what measures are being taken to address them?
- How can Mediterranean countries leverage partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and local communities to support the implementation of ESD whole school/institution approaches?
- What is needed to build the capacity of educators, administrators, and other stakeholders to effectively implement ESD whole school/institution approaches and what policies or measures are you taking to strengthen them?
- In which ways ESD WSA/WIA can transform schools and institutions as hubs for promoting environmental sustainability, social equity, and cultural diversity within their communities?
- What mechanisms does your country have in place to monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of ESD WSA/WIA, and how can best practices be shared and replicated across the region?
- Can ESD WSA/WIA contribute in building a more resilient and prosperous future for the Mediterranean region, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?

The framework will be developed by experts who will briefly reflect on the issues above, and the floor will be opened for discussion.

Ministers and other panelists will be invited to address a maximum of two questions within 7 minutes.

Any following interventions from the floor should not exceed 4 minutes.

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**16:00 - 16:30**

**Family photograph & Coffee Break**

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16:30 - 17:45

HALL: THE PARK ROOM

## Session 4: Strengthening Cooperation, Networking, Financing for ESD

### Panelists:

**Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, UNECE

**Mr. Almotaz Abadi**, Deputy Secretary General, UfM

**Mr. Christopher Castle**, UNESCO

**Ms. Sylvie Motard**, Deputy Director Europe, UNEP

**Mr. Gennady Terebkov**, BE OPEN Foundation

**Description of the session:** The purpose of this session is to convene Ministers from the Mediterranean countries along with other international and regional organizations to discuss and explore ways of enhancing cooperation, networking, and financing mechanisms for ESD in the Mediterranean region. Specifically, it seeks to:

- (a) foster partnerships and collaboration among the Mediterranean countries, international organizations, development agencies, and other stakeholders to strengthen the implementation of ESD,
- (b) identify opportunities for leveraging existing funding mechanisms and exploring new sources of financing to support ESD initiatives in the Mediterranean Region, and
- (c) discuss a roadmap for enhancing cooperation, networking, and financing for ESD in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on maximizing its impact and effectiveness.

### Guiding questions:

- How can the Mediterranean countries collaborate to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the implementation of ESD?
- What mechanisms are currently in place, or could be established, to facilitate networking and cooperation among stakeholders involved in ESD efforts, including governments, NGOs, academia, and the private sector?



- What are the main financing challenges faced by the Mediterranean countries in implementing ESD? How can these challenges be addressed to overcome them?
- How can existing funding mechanisms, such as international funds, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing instruments, be leveraged to support ESD initiatives in the region?
- In which ways international and regional organizations can support the Mediterranean countries to integrate ESD effectively in national and regional levels?
- How international and regional organizations can support the Mediterranean countries in advancing their green and digital/sustainable learning agendas?

The framework will be developed by experts who will briefly reflect on the issues above, and the floor will be opened for discussion.

Ministers and other panelists will be invited to address a maximum of two questions within 7 minutes.

Any following interventions from the floor should not exceed 4 minutes.

**17:45 - 18:30**

### **Concluding remarks & Recommendations**

This session will present the recommendations and conclusions that will emerge from the discussions of the sub-sessions, and which will form the basis for the preparation of the final paper of the MED-9 High-Level Forum on Education for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in the Mediterranean Region Recommendations and Conclusions.

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**20:00**

**Official Dinner**

*Hadjiantonas Winery*

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## Guidelines for the preparation of Ministers and other participants

- All Ministers will be invited to participate in **Session 1 “ESD in the Mediterranean”**. Interventions during **Session 1** will be a maximum of 5 minutes.
- For **Sessions 2, 3 and 4**, discussions will be structured as panel discussions. Experts will provide the framework and rationale for each section, and discussions will be guided by the remarks of the panelists. Panelists will have 7 minutes and the interventions from the floor 4 minutes maximum.
- The Ministers and other high-level representatives who are interested in being panelists in **Sessions 2, 3 and 4**, we would kindly ask you to inform the host country secretariat [med9esd@moec.gov.cy](mailto:med9esd@moec.gov.cy), [uneceesdforum@moec.gov.cy](mailto:uneceesdforum@moec.gov.cy), with CC to [zachariou.a@cyearn.pi.ac.cy](mailto:zachariou.a@cyearn.pi.ac.cy) and [partakidou.s@cyearn.pi.ac.cy](mailto:partakidou.s@cyearn.pi.ac.cy) by 20th of May 2024. Please indicate the session where the Minister or other high-level participants would like to be a panelist, as well as the issue they are interested in presenting based on the guiding questions.
- All sessions will include discussions from the floor. Interventions by Ministers and other participants should not exceed 5 minutes in **Session 1** and 4 minutes for the **Sessions 2, 3 and 4**.