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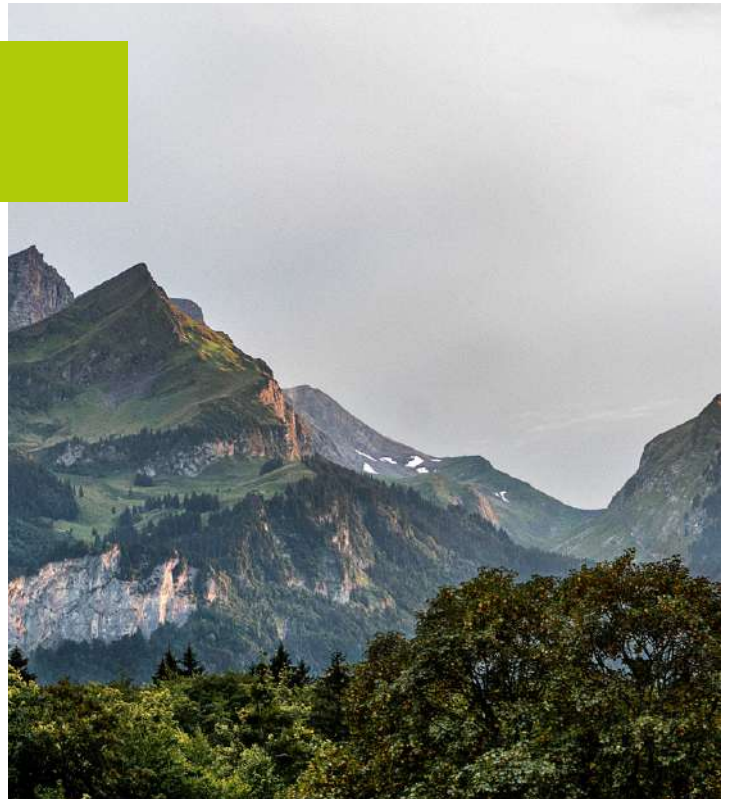
Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like a Mountain

1st Newsletter

ABOUT THE PROJECT

EMPACT - Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like A Mountain is a 24-month project, co-funded by the Creative Europe program of the European Union and led by the Cyprus University of Technology.

The **EMPACT** project adopts an innovative approach in advocating for climate crisis, based on the idea that the concept of empathy can shed new light on how we understand and embody sustainability in the arts.



EMPACT LIES ON TWO INTERCONNECTED PILLARS:

- 1** To facilitate artists to produce, through sustainable practices, art that fosters an empathic stance towards non-human beings and nature.
- 2** To enable artists and cultural workers to become themselves empathic and resilient individuals.



KICK-OFF MEETING

The EMPACT Kick-Off meeting was the first opportunity for the consortium to meet face-to-face between **05 - 06 October 2022** at the Limassol Municipal University Library organized by the project coordinator, the **Cyprus University of Technology**. The meeting was inaugurated with a welcome and opening remarks by the project coordinator Dr. Efi Kyprianidou. A fitting start to the meeting began with each project partner presenting information about their organisations and what their roles within the various tasks, deliverables and milestones.

The Kick-off Meeting provided partners the opportunity to discuss the project procedures, establishing the guidelines for a successful and effective implementation. A deep dive of anticipated project tasks and deliverables were reviewed.

The consortium had the honour inviting speaker Nenad Bogdanovic, **representative of the Cyprus Creative Europe Desk**, who contributed to the success of the meeting by providing useful information on the Creative Europe program, its aims and priorities as well as effective guidance to the members of the consortium.





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EVENTS

ONLINE LANDMARK SEMINAR BY NAFTIZ



Artists, Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility
How businesses and the arts collaborate for an environmentally sustainable future



On the **30th of November 2022**, between the **National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts “Kr. Sarafov” (NATFIZ)** organized and hosted a **one-day online seminar** in the framework of the innovative EMPACT project.

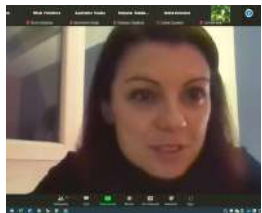


The aim of this effort was to support the capacities and advance competencies of artists and cultural operators on how to connect better their work to Corporate Social Responsibility strategies.

Sessions included:



- Exploring key theoretical discourses and advanced practices in environmental sustainability in the arts and the inter-relations between corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategies and the art world.
- Supporting the capacities of artists and cultural operators, illustrating how to connect effectively their work to corporate initiatives.
- Discuss successful practices in CSR from different countries, incl. Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Greece.
- Analysed opportunities, risks, and future trends and will seek together new ways of cooperation between the corporate and artistic worlds for a more environmentally sustainable future.



Seminar speakers/moderators included renowned experts and professionals in the field of arts management, sustainability and CSR: Prof. Dr. Lidia Varbanova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Stefanova and Myrto Voreakou. A brief introduction of EMPACT project will be addressed by the project coordinator Dr. Efi Kyprianidou. Representatives from socially responsible business companies in Bulgaria will also join the conversation.





LANDMARK WORKSHOP

ORGANISED BY THE CYPRUS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

“The art of thinking like a mountain” Empathy for nature and non-human beings

Within the three-day seminar “Empathy & Sustainability: The art of thinking like a mountain”, guests, organizers and audience, participated in a productive and creative dialogue at the Main Building of the **Fine Arts Department of CUT**. Located in the heart of the city, the space was carefully curated to facilitate the seminars actions and the approximately 120 participants from 27 - 29 January 2023. This workshop carried out a holistic, well-designed series of activities, with the outcome of providing the artists and cultural organizations with the knowledge, skills and tools to face the complicated scientific and social conflicts caused by climate change.



During the three days the workshop artists, cultural institutions and key thinkers in creative sustainability, philosophy and social sciences were brought together to discuss and explore ways of intensifying the powers of art in tackling the key pillars of sustainability.

Presentations and interactions were centred around introducing, discussing and clarifying the meaning of "empathy" in arts, which has important implications for artistic research, training and practice.



Attendees were able to gain clarity of how empathy as an abstract concept can be applied in the arts so that people are motivated to care for non-human others and the environment.

Artists and cultural professionals also had the opportunity to engage with mainstream research from philosophy, social sciences and sustainability studies on the role of empathy and perspective-taking in advocating for environmental issues.

Speakers included:

Katerina Bantinaki ([University of Crete](#)), Nico Carpentier ([Charles University](#)), Theodoros Kouros ([Cyprus University of Technology](#)), Efi Kyprianidou ([Cyprus University of Technology](#)), Fotini Vassiliou ([National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#)), Myrto Voreakou ([Cyprus University of Technology](#)).

Artists included:

Fani Boudouroglou, Yiannis Christidis, Rania Emmanouilidou, Kyriakos Kousoulides, Vicky Pericleous, Lia Psoma, Andreas Savva, Dimitris Savva.





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COMING NEXT

Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like a Mountain

Artistic Residencies Programme Summer – Autumn 2023

Four partner institutions of the European project **EMPACT** invite artists to apply for short-term artist-in-residence programmes in: Vorres Museum, Athens (Greece), Espacio Rojo, Madrid (Spain), NATFA, in Sozopol (Bulgaria), NAHR, Taleggio Valley (Italy).

Selected participants are invited to develop works relating to the themes of the project **EMPACT** – Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like a Mountain and explore how these broad topics can be interconnected. They will do so by relating to particularities of the local character and context of each residency and host institution. Artists will produce work in various media and artistic fields, depending on the mandate of each inviting institution (e.g., visual arts, performing arts, creative writing, philosophy).

New works will be presented to the public at the end of each residency and later a selection of the artworks will be jointly presented in an exhibition at Vorres Museum in Athens. The residencies will take place in the summer and autumn of 2023.

Deadline for submission: Sunday, 19 February 2023, by 23:59 CET



Read more about the open call on our website: [Empact Open Call](#)



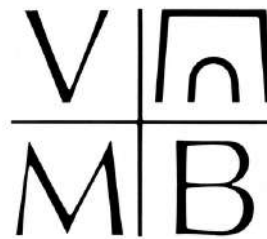


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THE CONSORTIUM

EMPACT consortium is composed of (8) eight partners across Europe diversified experiences and expertise necessary to achieve the objectives and activities of the project: Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus), Wisefour (Cyprus), Fondazione Lamberto Puggelli (Italy), Nature, Art & Habitat Residency (NAHR) ECO-Laboratory of Multidisciplinary Practice (Italy), Espacio Rojo (Spain), Vorres Museum (Greece), National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA) “Kr. Sarafov” (Bulgaria) and Umetnostna Galerija Maribor (Slovenia).



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