

NewsLetter



October 2025

MAKINGSPACE.

Migration and Socio-Spatial Relations in Cyprus



Between February and June 2025, the [MAKINGSPACE Project](#) was featured in a series of academic and public engagement activities across Europe. In Nicosia, the project was presented in two university seminars exploring migrant struggles and socio-spatial (in)justice in Cyprus, hosted by [UCY](#) and [UNIC](#). In Krakow, it was showcased at the [Marie Curie Alumni Association Online Conference](#), connecting with an international community of researchers.

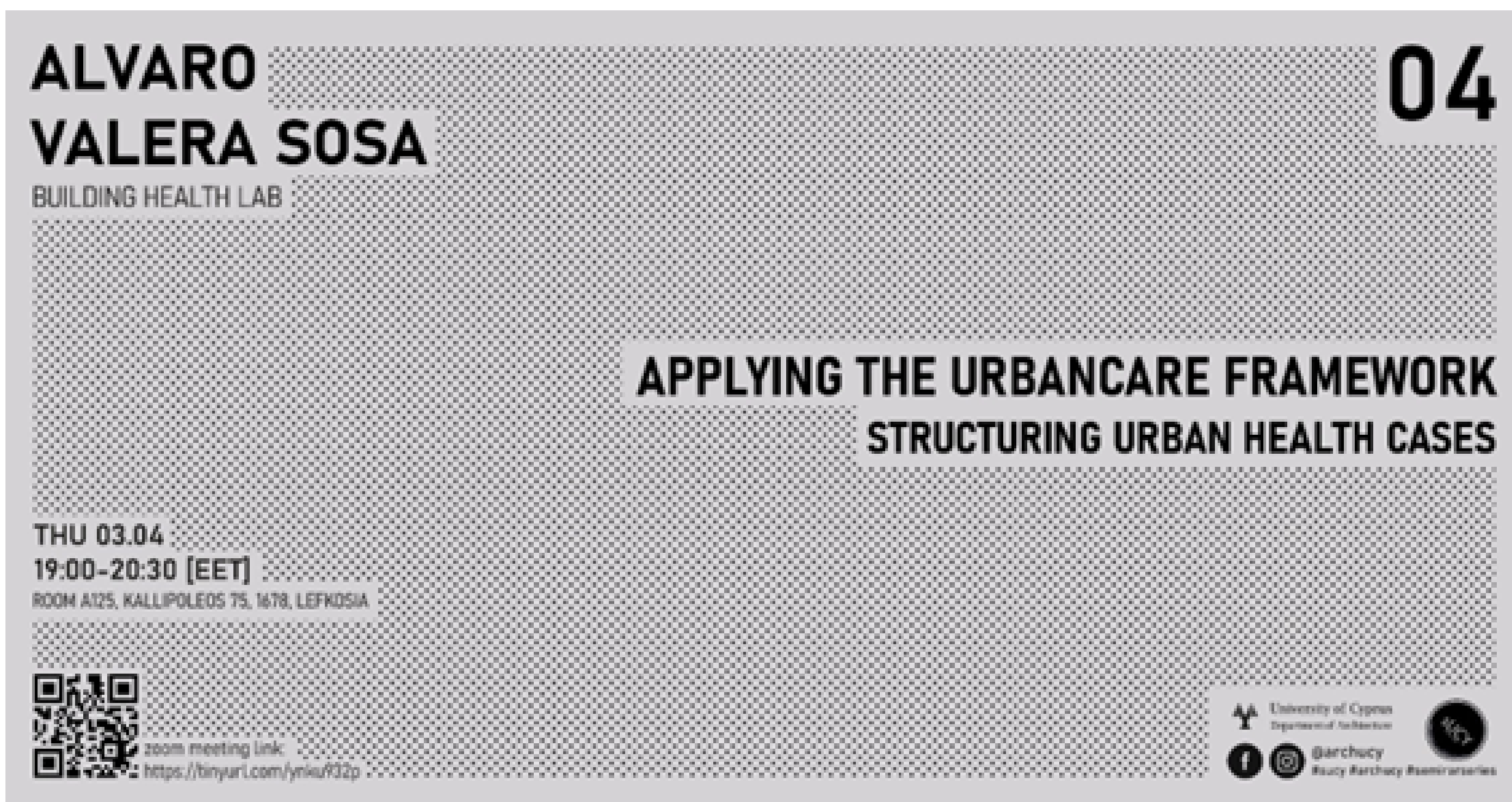
During April and July 2025, the project was further disseminated through teaching and collaborations at the University of Rijeka's Engineering & Architecture Department. A public lecture held in June at UNIRI titled "Making Space: Migration, Urban Infrastructures, and the Politics of Reception in Cyprus" highlighted how urban environments shape migrant reception dynamics.

Read more on [LinkedIn](#) | [MCAA](#)



U-CARE.

Urban Care to battle climate change impacts on urban ecosystems and health across different European climate zones



ALVARO VALERA SOSA
 BUILDING HEALTH LAB

04

**APPLYING THE URBANCARE FRAMEWORK
STRUCTURING URBAN HEALTH CASES**

THU 03.04
 19:00-20:30 [EET]
 ROOM A125, KALLIPOLEOS 75, 1678, LEFKOSIA

QR code
 zoom meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/yntku932p>

University of Cyprus
 Department of Architecture
 @archucy
 Raouf Parthoay #semrseries

On 3 April 2025, Dr. Álvaro Valera Sosa gave a lecture at UCY as part of the [U-CARE Project](#), introducing urban health as a field that links spatial inequality, climate stress, and ecological decline with public well-being. He presented the UrbanCare framework, a data-driven approach combining research, stakeholder input, and urban design to tackle health and climate challenges. The talk emphasized the framework's focus on population health, urban structures, and dynamics, and its ability to address key issues like stormwater runoff, heat, and biotope loss through evidence-based, participatory planning. Read more on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



On 4 April 2025, the [U-CARE Project](#) hosted an interactive workshop at UCY, inviting residents to reflect on how the urban environment around Makarios Hospital affects health and well-being. Participants explored issues like accessibility, safety, and green space, and tested the UrbanCare platform. Through group activities, they co-designed ideas for more inclusive and resilient public spaces, highlighting the value of local engagement in urban health research. Read more on [Facebook](#) ([here](#) and [here](#)) | [Instagram](#)

Streets for Citizens.

New innovative solutions for sustainable mobility in the cities to mitigate negative environmental impacts in urban life and make cities more liveable places



The [Streets for Citizens Project](#), funded by the *Interreg Euro-MED programme*, promotes inclusive urban transformation through tactical urbanism and citizen co-creation. **In May 2025**, led by the SURF Lab, in collaboration with [ANEL](#) and the [Municipality of Latsia-Yeri](#), the project empowered residents in Latsia and Yeri to reimagine their public spaces and co-develop proposals that enhance walkability, sociability, and urban resilience.

Using a *three-tiered methodological framework*, *spatial analysis*, *experiential City Walks*, and *co-design Stakeholder Workshops*, the project engaged citizens in assessing their neighbourhoods, identifying challenges, and proposing design interventions. The process led to two concrete design proposals for public spaces, which have been submitted to municipal authorities.

As next steps, selected interventions will be implemented with active community involvement in activities such as *planting*, *community gardening*, and *mural painting*.

Read more on [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#))

InPlaLabs.

Cocreating knowledge on forward-looking transdisciplinary planning perspectives addressing climate change and urban life in the post-pandemic city



From 29–31 May 2025, the [InPlaLabs Project](#) held a *hybrid Knowledge Sharing Workshop* in Athens, bringing together students, academics, and practitioners from across Europe to exchange ideas on integrated planning. The event featured *pitching sessions, panels, and collaborative activities*, while also *piloting teaching formats and tools* for the project's summer courses. Participant feedback helped refine the curriculum, making it both rigorous and practical. The workshop served as a valuable platform for bridging theory and practice in urban planning education. Read more on [LinkedIn](#).

In June 2025, the [InPlaLabs Project](#) launched a *hybrid summer school* featuring *seven mini-courses on integrated and climate-resilient urban planning*. Delivered by [UCY](#), [NTUA](#), [Urban Calculator](#), and [Commonspace](#), the programme combined theory and practice, covering topics such as participatory methods, space syntax, and the Urban Calculator tool. With 32 participants, the school offered 5 ECTS to UCY students and included a first week of lectures and a second week focused on hands-on project development. Read more on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

InPlaLabs.

Cocreating knowledge on forward-looking transdisciplinary planning perspectives addressing climate change and urban life in the post-pandemic city



Between October 2024 and April 2025, the [InPlaLabs Project](#) organised a series of *five hybrid Knowledge Co-creation Workshops (KCoWs)*, offering academics, practitioners, and stakeholders a collaborative platform to exchange ideas on integrated urban and transport planning. These sessions combined plenary discussions, hands-on exercises, and practical activities, tackling topics such as innovative teaching methods, reconstruction challenges, and strategies for managing uncertainty in design processes.

In November 2024, the University of Cyprus hosted the *two-day KCoW6 intensive workshop* in Nicosia, where partners from [UCY](#), [NTUA](#), [Urban Calculator](#), and [Commonspace](#) co-developed the structure of *five mini-courses*. These courses, delivered in June 2025, focused on evidence-based planning methods, participatory planning and design, and analytical tools to support integrated urban-transport planning.

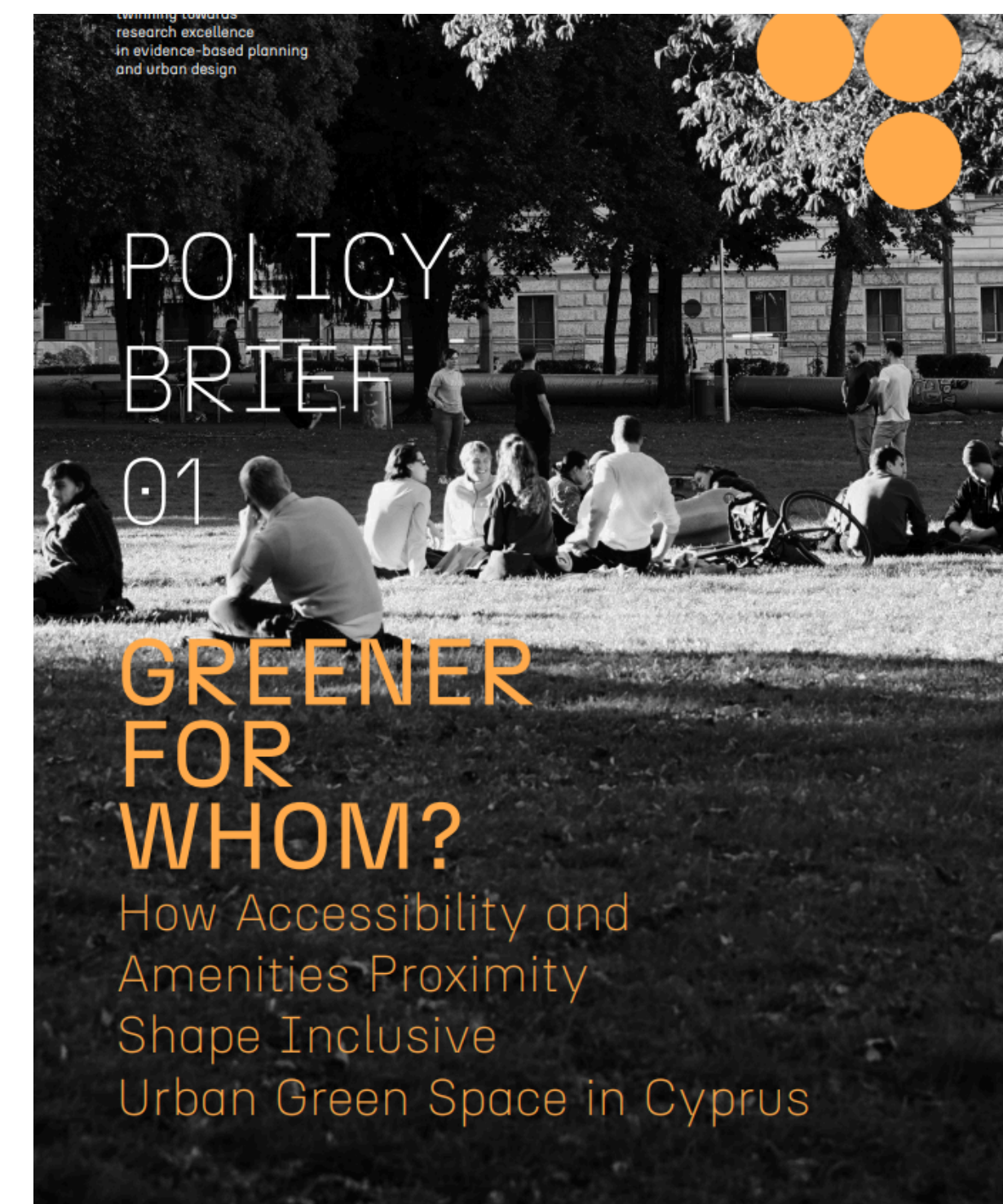
Read more on [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

TWIN2EXPAND.

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design



Between 10–21 June 2025, the SURF Lab, in the context of [TWIN2EXPAND Project](#), hosted the [TWIN2EXPAND Summer School](#), a two-week programme exploring urban challenges through green infrastructure, spatial justice, and nature-based solutions. Participants from partner institutions engaged in *lectures, fieldwork, and group reflections*, with a highlight being the *visit to Pedieos Linear Park*. The school fostered interdisciplinary exchange across fields like architecture, geography, and ecology, concluding with a celebratory gathering in Nicosia. Read more on [LinkedIn](#) ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).



In September 2025, the [TWIN2EXPAND Project](#) released its *first two Policy Briefs*, offering actionable recommendations for sustainable urban development. The first brief, *“Greener for Whom?”*, explores equitable access to urban green spaces using Pedieos Linear Park as a case study. The second, *“Sustainable Location Strategies for Citizens’ Services”*, focuses on improving the siting of public facilities to support spatial justice and climate goals. Both briefs contribute to a practical policy toolbox aligned with the European Green Deal and lay the groundwork for continued dialogue with stakeholders. Read more on [LinkedIn](#) ([here](#) and [here](#)).



TWIN2EXPAND.

Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Planning and Urban Design

surf society and urban form research lab

Ένα Εμείς

ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ ΠΑΡΑΠΛΗΓΙΚΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

Ειδικός Αποστολέας

Accessibility Mapping Activity Pedieos Linear Park

On the accessibility of areas for people with disabilities

18 October 2025

🕒 09:00 - 12:30

📍 Strovolos Cultural Center,
Pediaio Park (Strovolos
Municipality Area)

Supporters:

Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου
Τμήμα Πολεοδομίας,
Σχεδιασμού και Ενσωμάτωσης

ΔΗΜΟΣ ΣΤΡΟΒΟΛΟΥ

ablebook

Funded by
the European Union

TWIN2EXPAND

On 18 October 2025, under the framework of the [TWIN2EXPAND Project](#), the SURF Lab, in collaboration with [Ένα Εμείς](#) and the [Cyprus Paraplegics Organization \(OPAK\)](#) and with the support of the Municipality of Strovolos, the Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity Office of the University of Cyprus (DEI Office), and AbleBook, organised a pioneering accessibility mapping event at the Pedieos Linear Park.

The activity brought together citizens, researchers, and municipal staff to assess the park's infrastructure, routes, and amenities through an inclusive lens, identifying areas needing improvement for people with mobility or visual impairments, while experiencing the environment first-hand.

Equipped with smartphones, GPS, measuring tools, and plenty of curiosity, participants documented their reflections and produced insights which will inform updates to the municipal Strategic Plan for Pedieos Linear Park and will be published on the AbleBook platform.

Read more on [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [TWIN2EXPAND](#)

PS-U-GO.

Education in Living Labs: Participatory Skills for sustainable Urban Governance



Between February and June 2025, UlloI Aglantzia, coordinated by the SURF Lab within the *Erasmus+ PS-U-GO Project*, organised participatory activities with the Municipality of Nicosia, engaging local youth in reimagining their neighbourhood. Through a structured Urban Living Lab process, key needs for Old Aglantzia were identified. As part of a summer Design and Build workshop, UCY architecture students designed and constructed a modular wooden structure **SITCom**, a seating and gathering space for cultural and community use. Built with support from the UCY Fab Lab, **SITCom** incorporates planters, modular elements, and a symbolic blue colour, reflecting local identity. The project fostered collaboration among youth, municipal actors, and academia, creating a meaningful space that blends function, symbolism, and community engagement.

Read more on [Instagram](#). See the booklet [here](#).



PS-U-GO.

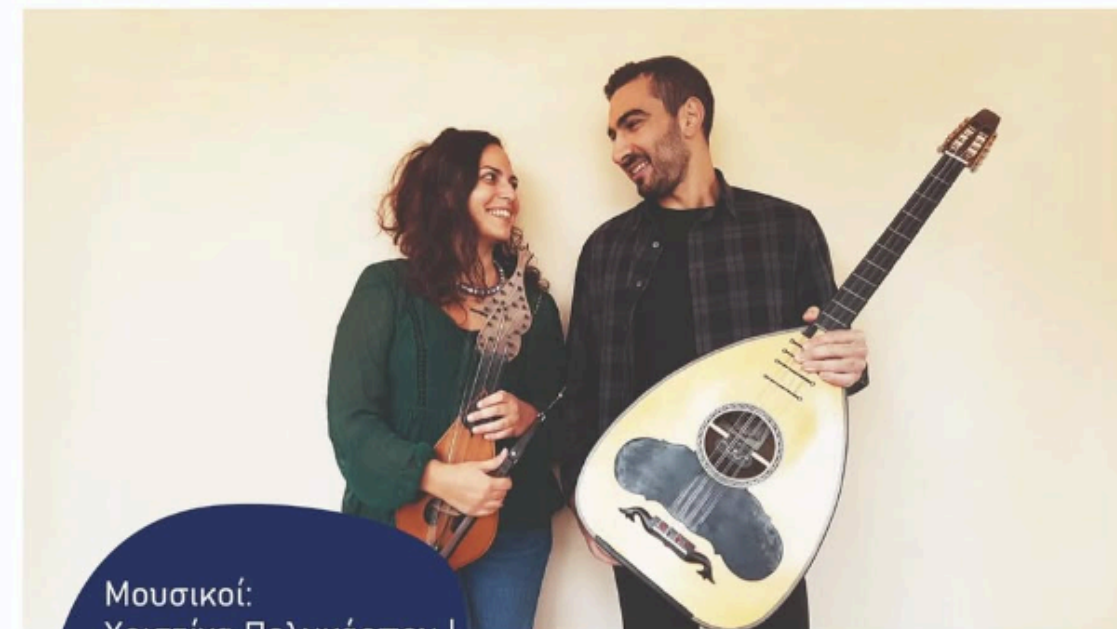
Education in Living Labs: Participatory Skills for sustainable Urban Governance

ΠΑΛΙΑ ΑΓΛΑΝΤΖΙΑ
ΠΟΔΗΛΑΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΔΡΟΜΗ
12 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ, 10:30

Ρόδα είναι και γυρίζει, έλα μαζί μας!



ΖΥΓΙΑ

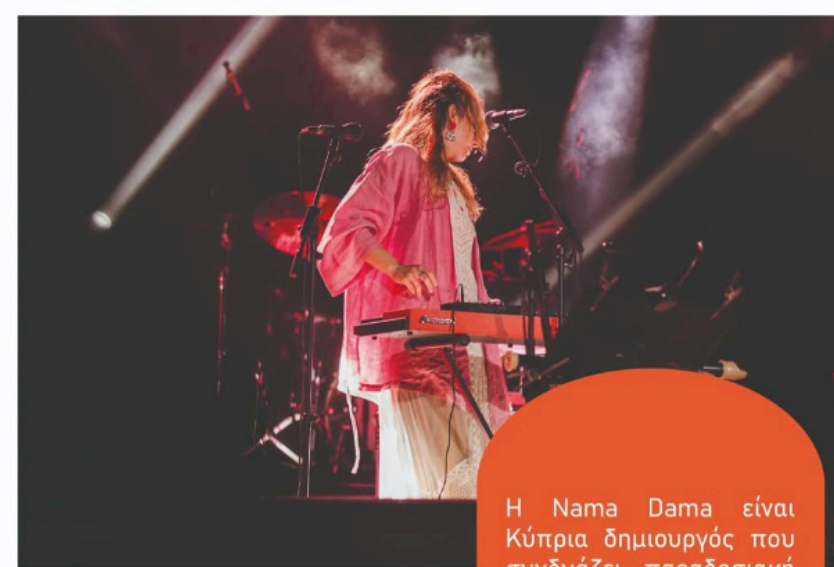


Μουσικοί:
Χριστίνα Πολυκάρπου | Λύρα
Συμεών Μερκούρης | Λαούτο, Τραγούδι

ΜΟΥΣΙΚΕΣ ΑΥΛΕΣ
17 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ, 19:30



NAMA DAMA



Η Nama Dama είναι Κύπρια δημιουργός που συνδυάζει παραδοσιακή μουσική, ηλεκτρονικά στοιχεία και ποιητικό τελετουργικό. Με πιξίδα της το live looping και την θεατρική παρουσία, μετατρέπει τη σκηνή σε τελετουργία.



Ilioi Aglantzia, coordinated by SURF Lab, within the Erasmus+ [PS-U-GO Project](#), organised a series of participatory activities in collaboration with the [Municipality of Nicosia](#), supported by the [Youth Board of Cyprus](#) and the [Cyprus Youth Council](#). **In October 2025**, the Urban Showcase successfully took place, sharing the process and outcomes of the Urban Living Lab with the public and local community through two main activities:

[Bike Route in Old Aglantzia](#): Co-organised with OPU NGO, the route passed through key neighbourhood landmarks—including the community mural, the SITCom wooden structure co-created during the project, and other places of interest. Participants learned about micromobility and enjoyed moments of informal exchange and community engagement.

[Music Event in Neighbourhood Courtyards](#): A cultural evening of live performances in selected courtyards created a vibrant atmosphere and encouraged cultural interaction. The night culminated in a central concert at Old Aglantzia Square, which also hosted the official inauguration of the SITCom structure, designed and fabricated at the [UCY Fab Lab](#).

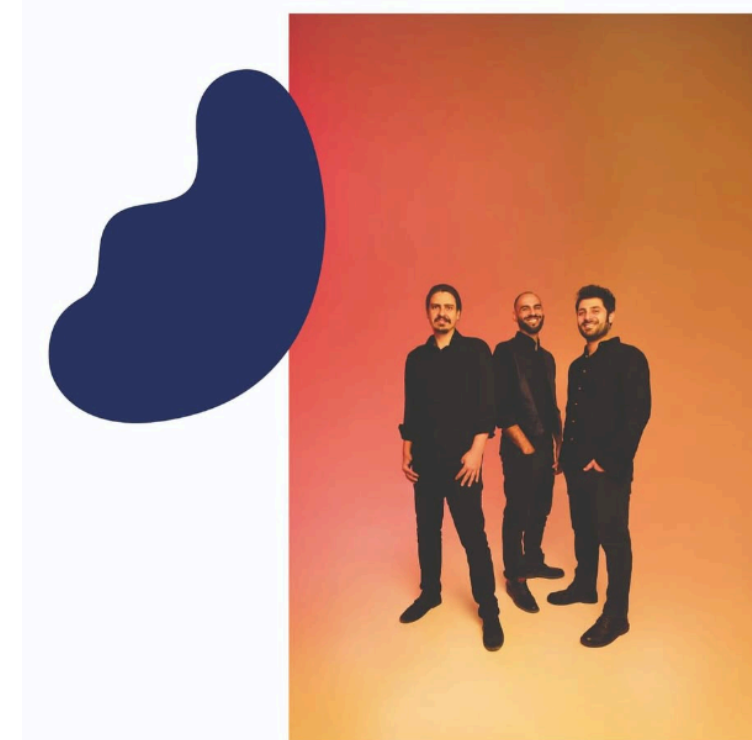
YA NA MA NA



Η μπάντα δημιουργήθηκε το 2024 στην κοιλάδα Σολέας. Στα κρουστά ο Κωνσταντίνος Πισσούριος, και στα έγχορδα ο Αντρέας Οικονομίδης.

Οι Ya Na Ma Na εξερευνούν και μεταλλάσσουν παραδοσιακούς ήχους, χρησιμοποιώντας ανορθόδοξα μπουζούκι και τζουρά, σε συνδυασμό με Afro/Middle Eastern/Caribbean κρουστά και ηλεκτρονικά εφέ. Με βάση τον αυτοσχεδιασμό, δημιουργούν ορχηστρικές γκρουάζ, με αισθητική που μπλέκει και δανείζεται από διάφορα είδη μουσικής.

RUMBA ATTACK



Οι Rumba Attack είναι ένα μουσικό σχήμα που αποτελείται από το Κωνσταντίνο Λυρά και Μέγωνα Αρέστη στις κιθάρες, και τον Σάββα Θάμια στο cajon και κρουστά. Τα κομμάτια τους τα χαρακτηρίζει ο flamenco ήχος, και πιο συγκεκριμένα ο ρυθμός Rumba, προβάλλοντας επίσης επιρροές από Ελλάδα και την Μέση Ανατολή.

DK FREQUENCIES



Οι DK Frequencies, είναι ένα μουσικό duo, με φωνή και πιάνο. Η Δημήτρα Παπακυπριανού στα φωνητικά, και ο Κωνσταντίνος Τίφας στο πιάνο, θα παίξουν έντεχνη, ροκ & ποπ ελληνική μουσική. Μουσικοί στο επάγγελμα, και πολυ-οργανιστές, η Δημήτρα στην κιθάρα, το πιάνο και τα τραμ, και ο Κωνσταντίνος στο τρομπόνι και το πιάνο. Η μουσική τους, ενώνει τις έννοιες του αυτοσχεδιασμού και του αυθεντικού μιας που κάθε cover τους, είναι σύνθεση και παραλλαγή καθαρά δική τους.

KAEBUP.

Knowledge Alliance for Evidence-Based Urban Practices

From urban research to planning and design

Strengthening cooperation
between academia and practice

edited by ILARIA GEDDES and NADIA CHARALAMBOUS



In December 2023, the [final event](#) of the [KAEBUP Project](#) was held in collaboration with the *Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology (CyNUM)*. The conference gathered academics, professionals, and policymakers from Cyprus and abroad to exchange knowledge and explore new ways of strengthening collaboration across architecture, urban design, and planning.

In August 2025, the [conference proceedings](#) were officially published, bringing together *15 research papers* presented during the event, alongside a project summary, a reflective preface, and a concluding article titled *"Fostering Synergies – Advancing Collaboration Between Academia and Practice"*. This publication serves as both a record of the project's outcomes and a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners seeking to bridge the gap between theory and practice in urban studies.

Read more [here](#).

What's Coming Up on SURF?

U-CARE.

Urban Care to battle climate change impacts on urban ecosystems and health across different European climate zones

InPlaLabs.

Cocreating knowledge on forward-looking transdisciplinary planning perspectives addressing climate change and urban life in the post-pandemic city



On 31 October 2025, the [U-CARE Project](#) will host an *International Seminar* at the University of Cyprus, bringing together policymakers, academics, and citizens to discuss how planning, design, and governance can promote healthier cities. The event will highlight project activities in Gothenburg, Berlin, Florence, and Nicosia, with *keynote speakers* including [Mark Nieuwenhuijsen](#) (*Barcelona Institute for Global Health*), [Chrystala Kaiafa](#) (*Ministry of Health*), [Christos Gkartzonikas](#) (*MaaSLab*), and [Photoula Hadjipapa](#) (*Mayor of Lakatamia*).

Stay tuned on [LinkedIn](#).

Looking ahead to **November 2025**, the [InPlaLabs Project](#) will organise a *Local Multiplier Event* in Cyprus. This event will bring together academics, professionals, and local stakeholders to share project outcomes, exchange knowledge, and discuss the practical application of integrated and climate-resilient urban planning methods. It will serve as a platform to connect research results with the needs of the Cypriot urban planning community and foster new collaborations.

Stay tuned on [LinkedIn](#).



Stay in touch!



<https://www.surf.com.cy/>



surf.research.lab@gmail.com