

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-hosted by:



REGION
OF WESTERN
GREECE
Full of contrast!

A project labelled by the UJM



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**Green living
areas**



3rd Gathering of the Green Living Areas Thematic Community



22-23rd April 2026
Athens, Melina
Merkouri Cultural
Centre

AGENDA



Background

Since January 2024, one strategic and 24 thematic projects under the Green Living Areas (GLA) Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme gathering 250+ partners, have been actively contributing to the green transition of territories across the Euro-Mediterranean region. By developing and testing innovative solutions, tools and methodologies, these projects support local and regional authorities in enhancing sustainability, climate resilience and quality of life. As the Mission evolves, the focus increasingly shifts from piloting solutions to ensuring their long-term sustainability, transferability and policy integration.

The Mission is strategically supported by two governance projects:

- **Community4Living Areas (C4LA)** strengthens collaboration among thematic projects, fosters synergies, and amplifies results to maximise territorial impact. It facilitates knowledge exchange, capitalisation activities and cross-fertilisation with other EU programmes and initiatives working towards greener and more resilient living areas.
- **Dialogue4Living Areas (D4LA)** reinforces the policy dimension of the Mission by promoting structured dialogue between projects, policymakers and public authorities, enabling effective policy transfer and long-term systemic change.

Following the Kick-off event in Torino and the 2nd Gathering in Barcelona, the Mission now enters a crucial phase focused on transferring solutions and embedding them into policy frameworks.

The 3rd Gathering of the GLA Thematic Community, taking place in Athens on 22-23 April 2026, represents a pivotal step as the Mission is entering the second half of its implementation phase.

The event will be structured over two days:

- **Day 1** will focus on the thematic projects themselves. Projects will showcase their main outputs, tested solutions and key achievements, Work in thematic working groups to identify synergies and joint transfer opportunities, Participate in targeted capacity-building sessions
- **Day 2** will focus on bridging the gap between project innovation and formal policy documents, ensuring that tested solutions become part of long-term territorial strategies.

This 3rd Gathering marks a decisive milestone for the Green Living Areas Thematic Community: moving **from collaboration and experimentation towards consolidation**, policy mainstreaming and durable impact across the Euro-Mediterranean region.



Detailed Agenda

DAY 1 – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9:00 – 9.30	<p>Welcoming remarks by the partners (“Odoiporiko” Room)</p> <p>Opening and moderation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Danilo Ceh, Director Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj, lead partner C4LA <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fokion Zaimis, Deputy Governor of Achaia, Region of Western Greece, President of Balkan and Black Sea Commission, CPMR - Celine Lievre, Interreg Euro-MED Joint Secretariat, project officer <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room (Plenary)</i></p>
9.30 – 11.00	<p>Session 1: Presentation of Project Outputs (“Odoiporiko” Room)</p> <p>Each Thematic Project (from the second call) will present its most representative solution in a 3-minute pitching session. A new video showcasing the GLA Community’s portfolio of solutions will also be presented.</p> <p>Moderation: Danilo Ceh, Bistra Ptuj</p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room (Plenary)</i></p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break “Odoiporiko” Room - Terrace
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 2: Thematic Working Groups</p> <p>Group activity aiming to strengthen collaboration among the 25 GLA community projects, organized into Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). During this third in-person meeting, partners will focus on how to transfer the best project results to Mediterranean territories</p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room and “Basement” Room (Please Check the Labels)</i></p>
13:00–14:00	Networking lunch (In the terrace of “Odoiporiko” Room)



	<p>Session 3: Trainings</p> <p>TRAINING 1: The New European Bauhaus for Urban Planning By Sara Ortiz Escalante, Collective Punt 6</p> <p>The objective of the module is to help participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the New European Bauhaus principles in urban planning and how green living areas projects can integrate its concepts (especially social inclusion and gender transformative approaches) - Raise the awareness of TPs partners to identify and address structural inequalities embedded in urban systems, decision-making processes and spatial design - Strengthen the capacities of TPs partners to design and implement urban planning processes that are inclusive, participatory and gender transformative <p><i>Location: "Odoiporiko" Room</i></p> <p>TRAINING 2: Lobbying for the Uptake of Solutions By Paolo Martinez, FUTOUR</p> <p>The objectives of the module are to help participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand what lobbying is about and raise the awareness of TPs partners on its relevance to mainstream their solutions - Strengthen the capacity of TPs partners to promote and transfer their solutions at local, regional and national levels. - Understand how to elaborate a lobbying strategy, including a definition of needs, the mapping of targets and the set-up of holistic outreach methodologies <p><i>Location: Basement Room</i></p> <p>TRAINING 3: Pitching for investment & funding By Hrovje Maras, REGEA</p> <p>The objectives of the module are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the capacity of TPs partners to translate technical urban solutions into compelling investment propositions - Understand public donors and private financiers' points of view and identify the selling points of a solution - Identify the different elements of a successful pitch and get hands-on practice through pitch development and rehearsal <p><i>Location: Basement Room</i></p>
14.00 – 15.30	
15.30 – 17.30	<p>Session 4: Team building activity</p> <p>This interactive and creative session aims to strengthen connections among members of the GLA community, fostering collaboration and engagement in a creative and informal setting.</p> <p><i>Location: "Odoiporiko" Room</i></p>
17:30	<p>End of DAY 1</p>



DAY 2 – Thursday 23rd April 2026

8:30 – 9:00	<p>Arrival of participants</p>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Session 5: KeyNote Speech: <i>“From Trends to Transformation: Why Green Living Areas Must Move Beyond Pilots and Become Territorial Policies in the framework of the MFF post 2027”</i></p> <p>Speaker: Ms Germana Di Falco</p> <p><i>Ms Germana Di Falco is a senior policy expert and strategic advisor with more than 30 years of experience in European cohesion policy, territorial and sustainable development, and international programme management. Since 2015, she has worked for the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, contributing to aligning the National Recovery and Resilience Plan with cohesion policy instruments. She currently serves as Coordinator for the National Just Transition Fund Managing Authority, where she supports relations with the European Commission, oversees monitoring and evaluation systems, and contributes to governance and implementation mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room</i></p>
10:00 – 10:50	<p>Session 6: The Ecosystemic Transition hUb (ETU) for Green Living Areas</p> <p>This session will present the updated structure and strategic role of the Ecosystemic Transition hUb (ETU) as a key initiative supporting the transfer and uptake of solutions developed by Green Living Areas Thematic Projects accross Mediterranean territories. It will highlight opportunities for synergies with other European platforms, notably the EU Mission on Climate Adaptation, and explore how local and regional authorities can benefit from these initiatives to strengthen their efforts in developing greener, healthier and more resilient living areas. The session will also invite participants to engage in the dissemination and further development of the ETU platform, including the upcoming ETU Calls, fostering a stronger community of practice around solution sharing and territorial implementation.</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Christina Papadaskalopoulou, MIP4Adapt, Implementation Platform of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change - Ms Io Chatzivaryti, Senior Advisor to the Mayor in EU Projects, Municipality of Kavala, Greece - Ms Spyridoula Ntemiri, Climate Change Project Manager, Green Fund, Greece <p>Moderation: Magali Outters, Euro Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), C4LA partner</p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room</i></p>



<p>10:50 -11:00</p>	<p>Med H2 Project Presentation:</p> <p>Mediterranean Heritage of Water is the Strategic Project approved under the Green Living Areas Mission. The project focuses on preserving both the tangible and intangible water heritage of Mediterranean islands.</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:30</p>	<p>Coffee break (In the terrace of “Odoiporiko” Room)</p>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>Session 7: Climate Change Policy Session</p> <p>The session’s objective: To map Thematic Project interest and potential contributions across the six upcoming IDs, and to define the thematic focus and key contributors for the dedicated Institutional Policy Dialogue on climate change.</p> <p>Moderation: D4LA Team</p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room</i></p>
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Session 8: What’s Next and Closing of the event</p> <p>Interactive session with interventions from the C4LA and D4LA Teams to present the next activities to support the community</p> <p>-</p> <p>Closure by Danilo Ceh, Bistra, C4LA lead partner</p> <p><i>Location: “Odoiporiko” Room</i></p>
<p>14:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>Lunch (In the terrace)</p>