



CSTI's Climate Action Plan in Tourism 2024

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) is a proud launch partner and signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism. CSTI is leading the way in Cyprus, to inform, sensitize and engage the tourism industry to act now and mitigate the devastating impacts of Climate Change. The latest CSTI achievement within this scope was the organisation of the 1st Pancyprian Conference titled **"Is Climate Change a threat to Tourism"** together with the Cyprus Deputy Ministry of Tourism. All details of the conference including the proceedings and the presentations can be found [here](#). It was a high-profile event attended by H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus, the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, other government officials and more than 300 participants from the tourism industry. This conference was a wakeup call for the stakeholders in the tourism industry to understand that the Climate Crisis is a lot bigger than the Covid-19 crisis and that we need to take action to secure the sustainability of the tourism industry.

The conference received a lot of publicity on National TV, Radio Stations and social media thus conveying the correct messages about Climate Change.

In CSTI's Action Plan for 2024 we include the continuation of all our projects related to Climate Change. At the same time, we will organize awareness campaigns, as we have done in the past years with our partners such as the Deputy Ministry of Tourism, the Department of the Environment, the Commissioner of the Environment, Municipalities and Communities, Hotel Associations, and other Professional Associations. In addition, during 2024 we will organize tree planting events in cooperation with the Forestry Department. We have already committed to plant 300 trees one for every participant at our recent Conference on Climate Change.

CSTI's Climate Action Plan for 2024:

- Supporting and providing guidelines to the members of the **"Keep our Sand and Sea Plastic Free, Destination Zero Plastic Waste"** project to implement actions for the reduction of the use of single-use plastics and the elimination of plastic pollution in the Med.

The outcomes of these actions would result in the reduction of CO2 emissions and give environmental benefits. At this stage there are more than 150 active members from HoReCa in the Project and the goal is to reach 300 Partners by the end of the Project (May 2025).

- CSTI is a partner of the **HoReCa5.0** project, an **Erasmus+** programme of the EU Commission, which enables **SMEs in the HoReCa sector for the effective adoption of Artificial Intelligence knowledge and tools**. The HoReCa5.0 Project will offer training on various dimensions of artificial intelligence and how these can be applied in the HoReCa sector to solve real problems. The use of AI in the **HoReCa sector will introduce sustainability in its operations and thus achieving reduction of CO2 emissions**.

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- CSTI is a partner of the **PREVENT** project, which is a **HORIZON** Project aiming to improve the predictability of impact-relevant extremes in the Mediterranean region on timescales from seasonal to decadal using state-of-the-art dynamical, statistical, and machine learning methods.

An ambitious Project with the intent to:

- Define local climate extreme hotspot regions, including major urban centres in the Mediterranean.
- Provide new management tools that can be used in many domains, to guide and direct processes, support monitoring activities, and increase organizational efficiency.
- Develop awareness and competencies by enabling policymakers, industry, tourism, stakeholders, farmers, and other producers to understand, promote and practice the inclusion of seasonal and decadal data in their project management.

This Project focuses on Climate Change and CSTI will communicate and disseminate the outcomes to all the stakeholders. CSTI will continue lobbying to the Cyprus Government and Parliament to support actively the tourism industry to act for Climate Change. This is a totally new project which just had its kick-off meeting and will be added to the [CSTI website project section](#) in due course.

- CSTI is a partner of the **SIEQUA-CERT** project, which aims to develop real-time IEQ (Indoor Environment Quality) health-impact metrics per building zone and an Indoor Environment and Health Awareness decision support system with measurable added value to support stakeholders in high occupancy public and private buildings. This will result in automated suggestions for potential improvements within buildings which can enable increased employees' performance & satisfaction, improved customer satisfaction, reduced risk of transmission and viability of airborne viruses (e.g., SARS-CoV-2), **reduced heating/cooling costs and overall optimization of resources usage**, which will result in the reduction of CO2 emissions. CSTI's role is to disseminate the benefits of the project mainly to the hotel industry.
- CSTI will lead the campaign to raise awareness of the SDGs Goals in Cyprus and how everyone can contribute to achieve them. The SDG Goal 13 deals with Climate Action. This campaign is under the **SDGCultheritage** project in which CSTI is a partner. In Cyprus it will be based on sustainable tourism, combining protection and valorization of natural heritage and natural resources and the reduction of ecological/carbon footprint.
- CSTI is commissioned by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism to organize training sessions for the tourism industry on subjects such as sustainable tourism, climate change, food waste and circular economy. These training sessions are aiming to having a more sustainable and responsible tourism industry with reduced impacts on climate change.

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- In the upcoming year we will build on the momentum that we achieved during the 1st Pancyprian Climate Change Conference focused on tourism held in Oct 2023. We have already uploaded the conference proceedings, the presentations and the sustainable actions taken to have a sustainable conference to our website. During the conference Elke Dens, Director of Global Programmes at the Travel Foundation talked about the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, and we are hoping for more signatories in 2024. We will support and advise the tourism industry to act more friendly towards the environment and reduce their ecological footprint.
- In 2024 we will continue informing the CSTI members, partners and associates about sustainability issues and best practices in Cyprus and abroad. We communicate with them via digital newsletters & mailings, and we are active on social media. CSTI, by using its vast network of stakeholders, will continue lobbying with the Cyprus Government and Parliament to introduce new laws, regulations, and incentives to the tourism industry to address the climate crisis. We will continue giving presentations and lectures on sustainability subjects and sharing best practices when we are invited by Universities, Department of the Environment, and other organizations in Cyprus and abroad.
- For 2024 we have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Nicosia, the Office of the Commissioner of the Environment, and CMMI (Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute and through these partnerships, we are aiming to promote the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism.

Sustainable regards,

Philippos Drousiotis
Chairman

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