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# Cultural tourism and cultural diplomacy in a workshop in Fikardos

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Fikardou. Photo: Christothea Iakovou

## Two-day workshop with an emphasis on the cooperation and convergence of Cyprus and Lebanon

Emphasis on the cooperation and alignment of Cyprus and Lebanon in the vital sectors of cultural tourism, cultural diplomacy and the dire need to protect, preserve and promote cultural heritage was given in a two-day workshop held at the initiative of the UNESCO Chair in TEPAK and GAIA Heritage in Lebanon in the protected settlement of Fikardos in Cyprus, on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd September 2023.

According to a related announcement, the two sides raised a series of issues aimed at designing a road map for the implementation of a long-term cooperation between the two countries, which presupposes the participation of representatives from the protected local communities as well as experts and authorities in cultural issues, heritage from both countries.

The participants of the two-day workshop, among them the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus, ICOMOS Cyprus and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism, had the opportunity to learn about the issues of the holistic recording, documentation and digitization of the Cultural Heritage as well as the current as ever perspectives opening up in our time in the vital fields of cultural tourism and cultural diplomacy.

Emphasis was also placed on the joint protection and promotion of Fikardos in Cyprus and the settlement of Anfeh in Lebanon.

As the announcement states, the coastal protected village of Anfeh in Lebanon (also known as "Little Greece") and Fikardo in Cyprus have important commonalities, as, apart from the fact that in both cases a wonderful harmonious coexistence can be mentioned between the architecture and the natural landscape, both settlements have been included in the so-called Tentative List of UNESCO for Cultural Heritage.



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