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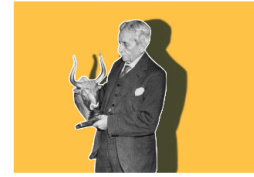
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The Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) proudly announced the official launch of the MNEMOSYNE Research Center for Digital Cultural Heritage, the first research center of its kind in the region, at an event held on July 7 at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, in Nicosia.



The inaugural meeting was a historic moment for Cyprus, bringing together figures from the government, diplomacy, academia and the cultural heritage sector. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of:

- Professor Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou, Deputy Minister of Culture
- Mr. Konstantinos Kleovoulou, Director of Research at the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy
- Mr. Martin Hagström, Ambassador of Sweden to Cyprus
- Mr. Chrysanthou Pissarides, President of CY-ICOMOS
- Mr. Constantis Constantinou, President of the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber
- Dr. Nikolas Tsapatoulis, Vice-Rector for Research and Academic Affairs at the University of Athens
- Dr. Michalis Sirivianou, Dean of the School of Engineering of the Technical University of Athens
- Dr. Kenneth Silver, Curator of the Collection of Cypriot Antiquities at the Medelhavsmuseet in Sweden

A Government-Supported Sector in Cultural Heritage Research

In her keynote speech, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Professor Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou, emphasized:

"This new and ambitious research unit aims to make Cyprus a global reference point for the preservation of cultural memory. MNEMOSYNE is expected to expand the mission of the UNESCO Chair and the ERA Chair, enhancing the collective knowledge of humanity through education, science, culture and communication."

As the Deputy Ministry of Culture, we welcome this important step and express our readiness for close cooperation with the Center. The State will stand by you as you combine digital heritage, computer science, engineering and the humanities in innovative ways."



A Vision Built on a Decade of Global Leadership

MNEMOSYNE is the culmination of over a decade of award-winning research and international leadership by the Digital Cultural Heritage Laboratory (DHRLab) of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage. Founded in 2012, amidst the economic crisis in Cyprus and further tested during the COVID-19 pandemic, DHRLab has achieved international fame solely through highly competitive European funding.

It gained worldwide recognition as follows:

1. UNESCO Chair in Digital Cultural Heritage (awarded in 2018) – UNESCO's Knowledge Pool on all Digital Cultural Heritage issues

2. EU European Research Area (ERA) Chair for Digital Cultural Heritage – making TEPAK the first institution worldwide with two chairs in the same field
3. EU Innovation Prize (2018)
4. Awarding of the MSCA ITN-DCH Project in the top 5 EU research and innovation projects "Life-changing Projects Category" out of more than 30,000 EU funded projects during the decade (2009–2019)
5. Coordination of the EU study EU VIGIE2020/654, defining the official 3D digitization standards in Cultural Heritage
6. European Cultural Tourism Network Award (2023)

The establishment of the Center was officially approved by the Government and the House of Representatives and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus on June 20, 2025.

An Ecosystem of Interdisciplinary Innovation

The new innovative Unit brings together three advanced laboratories under a single research entity:

1. Digital Cultural Heritage Laboratory (DHRLab) – for digital documentation, modeling, archiving and preservation of Cultural Heritage,
2. Remote Sensing Laboratory for Cultural Heritage – using satellite and terrestrial Remote Sensing,
3. Mechanical Design & Additive Manufacturing Laboratory – for precise reconstruction.

The Center also collaborates with the Robotics, Automatic Control and Decision Systems Laboratory, integrating Artificial Intelligence and autonomous robots for automated documentation and recording of Cultural Heritage.

From Digital Twin to "Memory Twin"

Among the main innovations of MNEMOSYNE is the "Memory Twin" methodology – an evolution of the Digital Twin that incorporates all forms of data (Text, Audio, Image, Video and 3D) and mainly: 3D geometry, pre-data, metadata, intangible cultural context and emotional narratives, allowing for holistic digital preservation of both objects and their history.



International Influence and Local Commitment

The Center has already recorded significant impact:

- Digitization and digital repatriation of the largest collection of Cypriot antiquities outside Cyprus, at the Medelhavsmuseet in Stockholm, in collaboration with curator Dr. Kenneth Silver – an internationally recognized achievement of cultural diplomacy and digital heritage
- Representation of Cyprus in DARIAH and CLARIN – European research infrastructures for digital humanities and language resources
- Over €15 million in EU funding secured
- More than 200 international research collaborations with formal bilateral agreements

A Sustainable Future for Cultural Heritage

With funding secured until 2028, the MNEMOSYNE Research Centre is destined to remain an international model of excellence. As a Digital Innovation Hub, it will continue to shape EU policies, advise UNESCO to strengthen education and research, and transform cultural heritage into a dynamic pillar of scientific progress and sustainable development.



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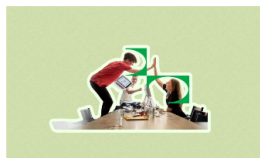
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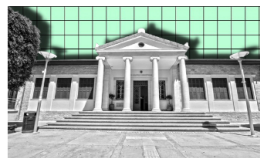
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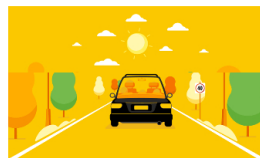
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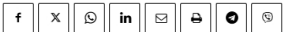
A delegation from the Limassol Regional Development Authority participated in the kick-off meeting of the AQUAMON project, which took place on 2-3 July 2025 in Thessaloniki, which is implemented within the framework of the "Horizon Europe" Program and is funded by the European Commission, with the National Center for Research and Technological Development (CERTH) as the Lead Partner of the project.

The meeting on behalf of the Limassol Regional Administration Organization was attended by Dr. Gregory Panagiotou, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Dimitris Michaelides, 1st Class Chemist and Ms. Irene Miliadous, Accounting Officer, who presented the responsibilities and authorities of the newly established Limassol Regional Administration Organization. Furthermore, they referred to the objectives of the Organization through the AQUAMON program and presented the pilot action that will be carried out by the Limassol Regional Administration Organization within the framework of the program.

The AQUAMON (Advanced QUALITY MONitoring system of water in urbaN areas) project focuses on the development of advanced water quality monitoring systems in the public water supply network, utilizing multi-channel audio technologies (DTS technology), analyzers, biosensors and lab-on-chip sensors. The pilot program to be implemented in Limassol aims to develop innovative technologies for remote real-time, online monitoring and on-site monitoring of drinking water quality in the water supply network, as well as the detection of illegal connections and discharges into the sewage system. Through the project, high water quality and safety are ensured, public health protection is enhanced and more efficient and economical management and operation of water supply infrastructures are achieved.



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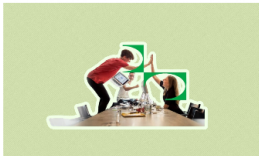
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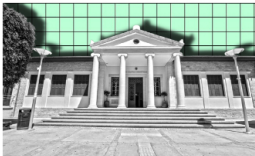
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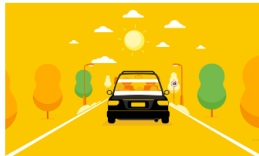
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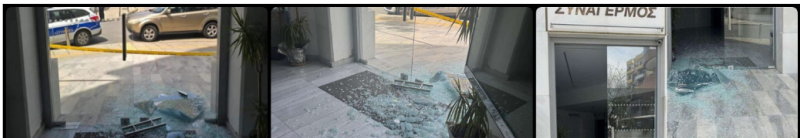
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Police investigations are underway following vandalism and damage that occurred during the night at the DISY provincial offices in Limassol.

DISY is not being dissolved with spray paint and hoods and is not being threatened, stated the party's Deputy Chairman, Efthimios Diplaros, who revealed that MPs received threats in relation to the bill that would ban the use of hoods in demonstrations.

The vandalism was discovered in the morning when workers arrived at the DISY offices and the Police were immediately informed, while party officials arrived at the scene, including Deputy Chairman Efthimios Diplaros and MP Fotini Tsiroidou.

In his statements to journalists, Mr. Diplaros sent the message, "in all directions", that "DISY is not threatened" and added that "we were and will remain against hatred, against fanaticism, against hooded people, against anarchy, against black people, against those who have nothing to say during the day, but speak with their cowardly actions at night, wearing hoods."

"Let them come and confront us in the political arena," he continued, emphasizing that DISY will remain "the responsible political party, the one that stands up for the difficult times, responsibly stating our position, and no intimidation, whether in our party offices or among our executives, will pass." "DISY was founded under difficult circumstances and will not be dissolved with spray paint and hoods," he added.

Expressing his absolute trust in the prosecuting authorities, Efthimios Diplaros said that, regarding today's vandalism, "it is clear who is hiding behind it." They are, he continued, those who believe that with the hoods they can harm the Republic.

"They will not succeed," he added, noting that the case is related to the bill being discussed today and in which "DISY has taken the lead." "Be able to demonstrate calmly, beautifully, without violating the rights of others, without causing vandalism, without killing, without injuring your compatriots and certainly without wearing a hood," he added.

Asked to comment on whether party officials have received threats, the Deputy President of DISY said that "recently, in view of this bill, we have been aware of threats that are being received and launched against both the party and our MPs, who have taken the lead in passing and submitting this bill, which today, in the temple of Democracy, we will finally put a small stone in the barrier of all those who think that, with the hood and under the cover of darkness, they can govern society."

When asked whether a complaint has been made to the Police about the threats, he stated that DISY expected "them to be investigated away from the spotlight and we wanted and hoped that we would not be led to what we are seeing here today."

He called on all political forces and all of society "to stand as a barrier to all those who want darkness, hatred, anarchy, and blackness to prevail. We in DISY will not allow anything to return to such times."

Moreover, in his statements, Limassol Deputy Police Director, Lefteris Kyriakou, stated that the perpetrators entered the DISY offices by breaking the wooden door with a sharp object and then wrote slogans with spray paint on the walls and caused damage.

"The building is not covered by closed-circuit surveillance, but we are searching neighboring buildings for any evidence that may help us identify the perpetrators," he added.

A team from the Criminal Investigation Service arrived at the scene, members of which are conducting examinations.

Meanwhile, AKEL, DIKO and EDEK issued statements condemning the vandalism.



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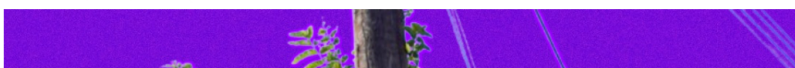
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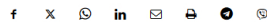
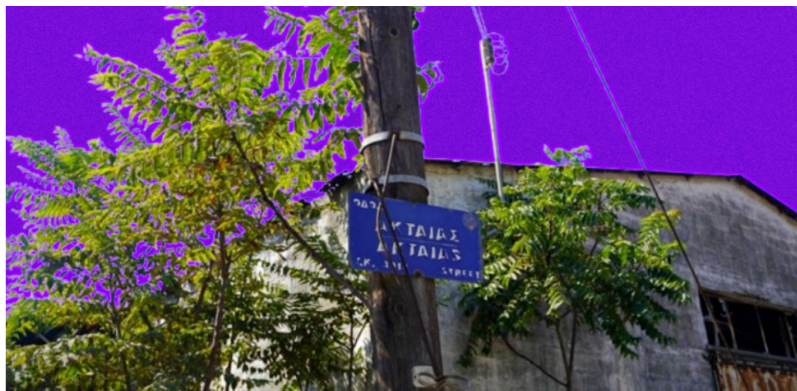
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Today, an on-site visit was held to inspect the works currently underway on Aktaia Odos from Limassol Marina to Alexandria Street, in the presence of the Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Yiannis Armeftis, the Deputy Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Dimos Katsis, and municipal councillors.

"We consider this connection of the city center with the port to be very important, because it is also within the framework of sustainable urban mobility. It connects areas of our city in new ways – bike paths and pedestrian paths," said the Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Yiannis Armeftis.

The Coastal Road, otherwise known as the "Karnagio" area, is a 1.5 km stretch, which, due to the existing structures, takes 3 km to travel, thus making access from the Port to the City Center and vice versa difficult.

"Aktaia Odos will essentially be a new Pier, precisely because there is a need for public space within the city."

Already the 3 km of the existing Olympia Beach have become suffocating with the increase in population, as Mr. Armeftis mentioned. This project on Aktaia Odos is a beginning towards the expansion of public space within the city.

Phase I of the project includes:

- Creation of a pedestrian and cycle path, from Limassol Marina to Alexandria Street, approximately 1km long and 4.5 meters wide.
- Enriching the area with greenery, i.e. planting trees taller than 2.5 meters, many of which will be pine trees
- Installation of autonomous lighting with motion sensors and photovoltaic panels.
- Cool pavement coating to reduce temperature and limit the urban heat island effect, significantly improving the microclimate.
- Banning car access in several places, enhancing the transition to gentle forms of transportation, reducing dependence on private vehicles and the resulting emissions.

With the latter action, it will be possible to better manage issues related to the arbitrary disposal of garbage, dirt and bulky objects.

The intervention strengthens the connection of the areas of Tsiflikoudia and Agios Ioannis with the city center and the coastal front, contributing to the unification of the urban fabric.

Another goal, as noted by Mr. Armeftis, is the gradual removal of unauthorized constructions on the beach.

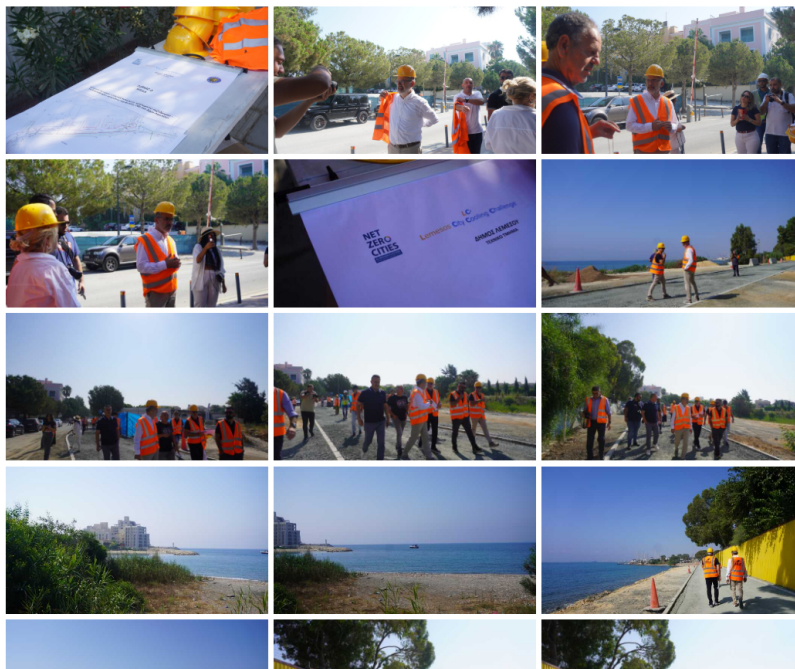
Regarding the shipwrights of Karnagios, Mr. Armeftis reported that he has sent a letter on the 23rd of the month to the Minister of Interior, regarding the issue of their relocation.

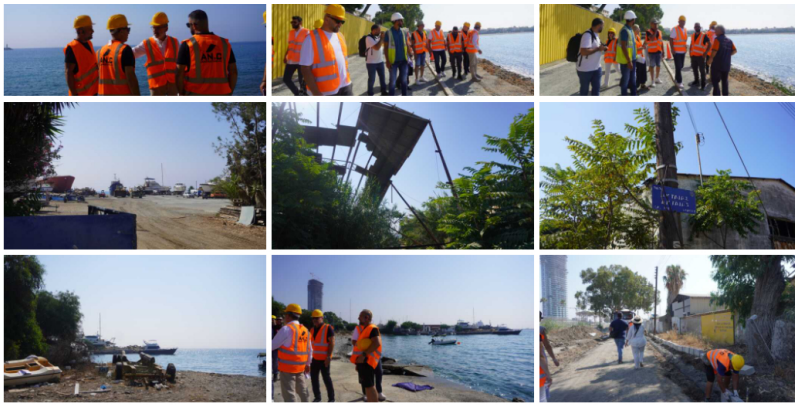
"He sent us a letter referring to an opinion of the Attorney General regarding the obligations and the general framework. From there on, I believe that the whole process should begin immediately, both for the relocation of the people of Karnagios - an economic activity that helps Cyprus. It is not possible for a country like Cyprus, with so many marinas, not to have an organized boat repair area. This can be done within the city center."

This is due to the state's inability to determine a specific location, said Mr. Armeftis, *"I believe that there is a possibility of their installation at the Port of Limassol, as well as at the industrial port in Vasiliko."*

Phase A of the project will last two months (July 2025 - September 2025), which is being implemented with a budget of €400,000.

The regeneration of the Coastal Road is part of the strategic objectives of the "Limassol 2030" Mission and the Climate Agreement, promoting sustainable mobility, energy efficiency and the upgrading of public space with modern and environmentally friendly infrastructure.





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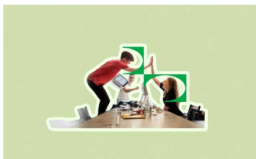
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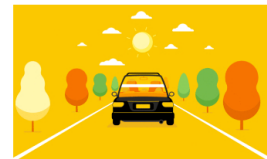
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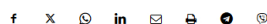
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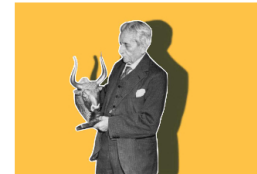
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On Tuesday, July 8, 2025, a workshop on "Effective data management (data spaces) as a tool for understanding the operation of water and sewage networks and decision-making" was held at the Limassol Water Museum, where the pilot implementation of the European WATERVERSE Project was presented. The project aims to create an innovative Water Data Management Ecosystem (WDME).

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The objectives of the Conference were:

1. Informing water management experts about the results of the WATERVERSE Project in creating effective digital data spaces.
2. The WDME presentation created within the framework of the Project.
3. The recording of views on the impact, opportunities and challenges faced by experts in relation to the real needs for smart water resources management information systems and the participatory definition of policy

recommendations for promotion to the European Commission through the WATERVERSE project

The event was welcomed by the General Manager Mr. Socrates Metaxas and Ms. Natasa Neocleous, Head of Technical Services of the Limassol EOA and the project was presented by Dr. George Mills (PHOEBE Innovations) and Mr. Solomos Charalambous, Chief Technical Engineer of the Limassol EOA.

The General Manager, among other things, mentioned that WATERVERSE brings a new era in water management, aiming to:

- Make consumption, quality and leakage data accessible, secure, affordable, easy to use and understandable,
- We help citizens have **more reliable information and better services** ,
- We offer technical teams **the ability to react immediately and make decisions** ,
- We create **new applications** for water conservation and real-time information.

The General Manager of the Limassol Water and Sewerage Authority stressed the Organization's firm commitment to continuous improvement and active participation in innovation and development projects. As he characteristically said, "the progress of a water and sewerage organization goes through cooperation, technological development and the implementation of innovative solutions in real conditions. This path of constant renewal and cooperation is our strategic choice - because only in this way can we build a future that is smarter, more resilient and adapted to the needs of citizens."



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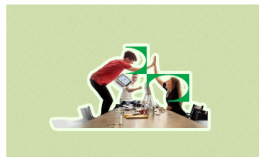
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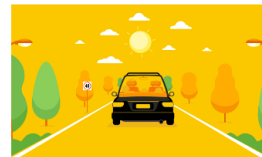
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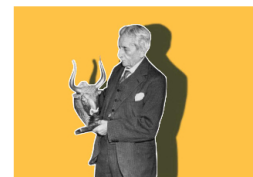
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