

BuildingBridges

CREATING
BRIDGES
BEYOND BORDERS

Citizens' Assembly 4: PALERMO

9-10 April 2025

PROGRAMME



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With the Palermo stage, and in the context of the **Earth Day Med festival**, the new assembly of **Building Bridges** aims to focus on reflecting how the Mediterranean area can be a laboratory to overcome climate diplomacy to overall climate borders.

Climate crisis will be one of the main drivers for the movement of people in the next incoming years, and the Mediterranean region is both a space of unity and division. Over the millennia, similar weather conditions, trade and exchanges forged a shared culture and sense of belonging. The region still maintains significant strategic importance for global security, geopolitics, trade and economic development. However, it is characterized by great diversity at political and governance level, uneven economic development and high degree of inequalities and a complex security environment.

The region is recognised to be a hotspot of climate change. Countries face similar worsening climate risks: high temperatures, extreme droughts and water scarcity, extreme wildfires, sea levels rising. The impacts of climate change have huge repercussions on economic growth, trade, social and political stability. Worsening climate impacts can become a major security risk for both regional and global stability, if they trigger mass migration, mass unemployment of a very young population and contribute to radicalisation, new conflicts and the backsliding of the democratic transition.

In the next building bridges assembly, we want to put our attention to the role of cities, institutions and activists and the importance of networking to find shared solutions to common problems. We will discuss with experts, civil society actors, artists, civil servants, migrants, farmers and citizens about the challenges of inclusive ecological planning through food, water and energy and how it impacts our understanding of borders today.

The assembly will also see the presentation of the conclusions of results of previous assemblies and a presentation of the roadmap for the upcoming months from citizens' assembly experts.

April 9, Palazzo Steri

9.00 - 13.30 | International conference - Just Transition and Climate in the Mediterranean: Challenges and Opportunities for a Shared Common Good. (Simultaneous translation is available)

9.00 - 9.40 | Greetings and introduction.

Massimo Midiri, Dean of the University of Palermo.

Giampiero Cannella, Palermo City Council.

tbc, Councilor for Territory and Environment, Sicily Region.

Maurizio Cellura, Director CSTE University of Palermo.

Patrizia Pozzo, Fondazione Studio Rizoma, Earth Day Med Fest Coordinator.

9.40 - 10.00 | Opening address: The Mediterranean at the center of the climate space.

Patrick Simmonet, EU Special Envoy for the Mediterranean*.

Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Giulia Giordano, Director of Strategy Med and Global, ECCO Think Tank.

Rei Tang, Programme Officer Climate Change, Stanley Center for Peace and Security.

Hajar Khamlichi, North Africa Director, Pool Fund for International Energy.

10.00 - 10.45 | Thematic Panel: Energy Pillar – Towards a clean, low carbon energy space in the Mediterranean region. The panel will be followed by a Q&A with the public.

Chair: Gabriele Casseti, Senior Researcher Energy Systems, ECCO Think Tank.

Bengisu Ozgenc, Director, Sefia.

Laury Haytayan, Middle East and North Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute, Brussels.

10.45 - 11.15 | Coffee Break.

11.15 - 12.15 | Food Pillar – The climate-food nexus, challenges and policies in the Mediterranean hotspot.

Chair: Bianca Minotti, Researcher and Consultant, Està - Economia e Sostenibilità.

Emna Mornagui, Hivos, Program Coordinator Food sovereignty and climate justice, AfriFOODlinks project, Tunisi.

Javier Albarracin, Senior Mediterranean Advisor CREAM – Barcelona.

12.30 - 13.15 | Thematic Panel: Water Pillar – The Water-Food-Climate Nexus.

Chair: Francesca Greco, University of Bergamo.

Silvio Greco, Director National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology "Anton Dorhn", Rome.

Maria Giovanna Parisi, Professor of Earth Sea and Science, University of Palermo, Palermo.

13.15 - 13.30 - Closing remarks.

April 9, Palazzo Butera

15.00 - 18.00 | Building Bridges Beyond Borders The Mediterranean Area as a Laboratory for Climate Diplomacy to Overcome Climate Frontiers. Energy, Water, and Food: How They Act and Tackle the Ecological Challenge.

15.30 – 16.00 | Introduction to workshops.

16.00 - 18.00 | Parallel workshops 1 - Food and Climate: Rethinking policies on Local Food Systems for a more sustainable Mediterranean.

The **Living Lab** (LL), by ESTà-Economia e Sostenibilità and Heinrich Böll Foundation, is co-organised in the framework of the EU H2020 project 'AfriFOODlinks' aimed at improving food security related to urban sustainability, with a focus in the African context and on open innovation. Coordinated by ICLEI Africa, the project involves 26 partners and, to varying degrees, more than 65 cities. The Living Lab is a multi-stakeholder participatory workshop focused on the relationship between food systems and climate change in the Mediterranean (climate and biodiversity hotspots) and aimed at thinking together about visions and priorities on these issues.

Question: How should policies on local food systems in the Mediterranean to jointly face the challenge of climate change?

Objectives: To stimulate dialogue between different actors within local food systems in the Mediterranean.

17.00 - 17.30 | Tea Time.

16.00 - 18.00 | Parallel workshops 2 - What does a just transition mean? About the role of cities, institutions and activists and the importance of networking.

Clima, migration, turism are some of the main and common drivers of the transformation we are currently dealing with in the Mediterranean. We must be ready to face the challenge and address the tool at our disposal to address cities' capacities and increase citizens quality of life. Shared solutions to common problems, only a team work can gain the goal. Everyone is crucial in this road map and activists will get a deeper role in the coming years. How and when an activist can act as a climatic influencer? Do we need to be more in dialogue with the institutions? How can they trust citizens' jobs and how can we address and influence their choices?

18.00 - 18.30 | How can a climate activist become a climate influence?

Moderated by Michele Fiorillo, Francesca Greco and Patrizia Pozzo.



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April 10, Teatro Garibaldi

9.30 - 20.30 | SYNDACAT- TRANSNATIONAL ASSEMBLY: Transnational Practices and Circular Economy Strategies for a Shared Ecology Accessible to All.

9.30 - 10.00 | Breakfast and a brief introduction and recap by the organizers/ hosts.

10.00 - 11.30 | World Café: Reflections on inputs Day 1.

Elaboration of final recommendations; including remarks from previous assemblies.

11.30 - 12.00 | Coffee break.

12.00 - 13.30 | Closing session.

Final Mediterranean Assembly: Presentation of final recommendations from the Building Bridges assemblies.

13.30 - 14.30 | Lunch break.



April 10, Ecomuseo Memoria Viva

9.30 - 20.30 | SYNDACAT- TRANSNATIONAL ASSEMBLY: Transnational Practices and Circular Economy Strategies for a Shared Ecology Accessible to All.

16.00 - 17.00 | *HOROI* Sound performance by Manfredi Clemente curated by Fondazione Rizoma.

Manfredi Clemente, a sound artist from Palermo who lives in Turin, has dedicated his artistic residency at the Rizoma Foundation to the ecological exploration of the Oreto River as an entity that defines a humid territory full of contradictions. The restitution of the research will consist of a performative installation that makes the river geography, both natural and anthropic, re-sound.

17.00 - 18.15 | *Cinema for the Earth* documentary film section.

Until the End of the World, investigative documentary, produced by **Francesco De Augustinis**, 2024 (58 min).

The Harvest Generation by **From Cyprian Films New York**, Neoplastics, 2024 (16 min), followed by a discussion with the director on plastic pollution, especially in the Mediterranean Sea.

18.30 - 20.30 | *INSTEAD OF FISH*, Notes for a New Mediterranean Cookbook - Food Performance curated by Fulvia Larena.

Human activities in the Aeolian Islands have always been deeply intertwined with the natural resources of the territory: first through the trade of obsidian and pumice, then with the cultivation of capers and Malvasia, and finally with fishing as one of the main economic drivers of the archipelago. This profound connection with the sea and the land has given rise to a rich and deeply rooted culinary tradition, passed down orally and still a symbol of identity and a major attraction for international tourism. However, the landscape that has shaped these traditions is now undergoing rapid transformation. Can gastronomy become a lens through which to understand the dynamics of these changes?

Fulvia Larena proposes a meeting of conviviality and scientific research, featuring a food performance by artist Yolenn Farges, in collaboration with Marine Biologist Vincent George (PhD student, University of Bologna/IRBIM CNR Mazara del Vallo). During the performance, a conversation between Fulvia Larena and Marine Ecologist Maria Giovanna Stoppani (PhD student, University of Palermo) will explore the relationship between gastronomy, ecosystems, and territorial changes.



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