



## Earth Day Med – Festival - The first climate festival in the Mediterranean

Under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Department of Territory and Environment, and the Municipality of Palermo.

April 6-12, 2025 Palermo, Italy

## Why a Climate Festival in the Mediterranean?

At the crossroads of three continents, Europe, Africa, and Asia, the Mediterranean region is both a space of unity and division. As starkly emerged in the past few years, the region maintains significant strategic importance for global security, geopolitics and economy. In addition to the current geopolitical instability, recent extreme weather events, such as the floods in Libya, Italy and more recently in Spain, have also demonstrated the tragic effects of global warming on people and communities. According to the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “The Mediterranean is one of the most important and vulnerable places to climate change”. The region has in fact been defined as a climate hotspot, an area where the impacts of climate change manifest themselves more rapidly than in other parts of the planet. Increasing mean temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, rise in the intensity and frequency of heatwaves, droughts and extreme events have direct impacts on the ecosystem and cascading effects on security, economic activity and human mobility. Climate change has been widely recognized as a threat multiplier: cascading climate impacts affect the wellbeing of communities and the social stability of countries, both exacerbating already existing social and geopolitical tensions, such as competition over natural resources, and creating new challenges. In the Mediterranean region, cascading climate impacts are bound to complicate the already fragile and complex security landscape in the long term.

Nevertheless, Mediterranean countries are facing the most complex challenge of our time deeply divided, with different means and tools and therefore different degrees of vulnerability. Throughout the past decade, institutional, economic and political gaps alongside the North-South shore divide have persisted

and sharpened, leading to the perception of the broader Mediterranean not as a region itself, but as a space of division between the three continents. Failing to grasp the continuity of the Mediterranean as one broad region translates into a lack of coordinated actions necessary to respond to interdependent challenges, among which climate change figures prominently. The region remains highly fragmented in terms of political and institutional capacity, thus hindering the development of long terms policy frameworks that can ensure an effective response to existential challenges, with uneven levels of vulnerability specifically across the North-South shore divide.

## **The Mediterranean Climate Festival – Earth Day Med**

The EarthDay Palermo Festival aims to open a space for dialogue between Mediterranean experts, civil society and citizens in the city of Palermo and in Sicily. At the center of the Mediterranean region, the city of Palermo and Sicily represent a crossroads between the northern and southern shores of the basin. Sicily and Palermo are deeply affected by the impacts of climate change: according to data from the Italian environmental organization [Legambiente](#), more than 170 extreme weather events have been recorded on the island, including extreme temperatures, droughts, floods and storm surges. Yet, Palermo and the Sicilian region are also navigating complex socio-economic conditions, often shaped by a legacy of marginalization within the Italian context.

The year 2025 will be crucial for developing a new model of cooperation between key political actors in the Mediterranean region, including the European Union, North African and Middle Eastern countries. At this critical conjecture, the Mediterranean region holds the potential to become a laboratory of solutions for a shift in the energy paradigm that leaves no one behind.

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mediterranean Climate Festival - Earth Day Med aims to contribute to the urgent and collective efforts in search of a common framework of unity, providing a space for dialogue between different actors, with a specific focus on the internationalization of the festival towards the southern shore.

Under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean, and in the crucial year of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, this edition of the festival comes at a time when Mediterranean countries are more determined than ever to become active agents of transformation. To this end the festival offer a dynamic program that alternates expert panels and public debates with moments of play, learning and artistic activities for experts, citizens, students and youngsters. This edition will see the convergence of international and Mediterranean networks such as: [Rhizome Cities](#) and the network event of the [Building Bridges](#) project, a platform for citizens and municipalities that aims at creating paths for communities to directly participate and influence politics; the [AgriFood Network](#), a multi-stakeholder governance platform of diverse voices aiming at informing policy and urban planning processes that promote food and nutrition security and environmentally regenerative practice, the MATTCCh – Mediterranean Alliance of Think Tanks on Climate Change, a network of 25 institutions across the Basin focused on shaping policy process on energy and climate.

## **Programme**

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

### **With the Trees on the Move - The Millenary Olive Tree of Palermo**

16.00

Meeting of the participants at 3:45 PM in front of the entrance gate to the Palazzina Cinese (Piazzetta Niscemi) for the delivery of earphones to facilitate listening.

A walking tour with readings and music featuring: Giuseppe Barbera (Professor of Tree Crops), Francesco La Bruna on violin, and Fabrizio Augugliaro on accordion (Conservatory of Music A. Scarlatti of Palermo). Followed by a tasting of Sicilian organic olive oil and citrus preserves.

Info & reservations: + 39 3201169455.

**Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8 – 2025**

### **Workshop with schools "*Health in Motion*" (*We between Food and Nature*)**

IIS Vincenzo Ragusa-Otama Kiyohara P.zza G. Turba, 71 & Istituto Tecnico Statale Filippo Parlatore P.zza Montevergini, 8

Heinrich Boll Foundation and LIPU Rome

A project focused on high school students on the importance of sustainable agriculture for our health and of our planet. LIPU develops its educational activities with schools, because only by working together is it possible to stimulate critical thinking in students, to ensure that they can become citizens capable of understanding and giving value to their territory, to the environment and to their own health. Schools can play a fundamental role in educating young people on the difference they can make for their health and that of the planet by choosing sustainable agriculture and fighting food waste.

**Monday, April 7 & Tuesday, April 8 2025**

### **Closed door workshop: *Mediterranean Alliance of Think Tanks on Climate Change: Unifying experts' voices for a just energy transition in a climate-resilient Mediterranean Region***

Palazzo Butera, Palermo

Stanley Center for Peace and Security, ECCO Think Tank, IMAL Initiative for Climate and Development, Sefia

**Tuesday, April 9, 2025**

### **International Conference: *Just Transition and Climate in the Mediterranean: Challenges and Opportunities for a Shared Common Good***

**Aula Magna Palazzo Steri, University of Palermo**

Earth Day Med Scientific Committee

Day 3 – Wednesday  
April 9

9.00 - 9.40	Welcome remarks
	<p><b>International Conference: Just Transition and Climate in the Mediterranean Challenges and Opportunities for a Shared Common Good*</b></p> <p>Aula Magna, Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri, University of Palermo</p> <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Massimo Midiri, Dean, University of Palermo</li> <li>- Gianpiero Cannella, Palermo City Council</li> <li>- Maurizio Cellura, Director, Centre for Sustainability and Ecological Transition (CSET), University of Palermo</li> <li>- Patrizia Pozzo, Fondazione Studio Rizoma, Earth Day Med Fest Coordinator</li> </ul>
9,40 – 10.00	<p><b>Opening Address: The Mediterranean at the center of the climate space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (video message)</li> <li>- Giulia Giordano, Director of Strategy Med and Global, ECCO Think Tank</li> <li>- Rei Tang, Programme Officer, Climate Change, Stanley Center for Peace and Security</li> <li>- Hajar Khamlichi, North Africa Director, Pool fund for International Energy (PIE)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Energy Pillar: Towards a clean, low carbon energy space in the Mediterranean region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair: Gabriele Cassetti, Senior Researcher Energy Systems, ECCO Think Tank</li> <li>- Bengisu Özenç, Director, Sefia (Ankara, Türkiye)</li> <li>- Laury Haytayan, Middle East and North Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute (Brussels, Belgium)</li> <li>- Jauad El Kharraz, Senior Associate, ECCO Think Tank</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.45	Q and A
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
	<p><b>Food Pillar – The climate-food nexus, challenges and policies in the Mediterranean hotspot</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair: Bianca Minotti, Researcher and Consultant, Està—Economia e Sostenibilità</li> <li>- Javier Albarracin, Senior Mediterranean Advisor CREAM (Barcelona, Spain)</li> <li>- Emna Mornagui, Hivos, Program Coordinator, Food sovereignty and climate justice &amp; AfriFOODlinks project (Tunis Governorate, Tunisia)</li> </ul>
11.15 - 12.15	
	<p><b>Water Pillar: The water-food-climate nexus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair: Francesca Greco, University of Bergamo</li> <li>- Silvio Greco, Director, National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnology. “Anton Dorhn” (Rome, Italy)</li> <li>- Maria Giovanna Parisi, Professor of Earth Sea and Science, University of Palermo (Palermo, Italy)</li> <li>- Jauad El Kharraz, Senior Associate, ECCO Think Tank</li> </ul>
12.30 – 13.15	

13.15 – 13.30	Closing remarks
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\*to be confirmed

**Transnational Citizens' Assembly: 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.**

**Palazzo Butera, Palermo and Museo delle Marionette**

Fondazione Studio Rizoma, ECCO Think Tank, Està – Economia e Sostenibilità, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

15.30 - 16.00	Plenary sessions - the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly
16.00 - 18.00	Parallel workshops
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palazzo Butera</li> <li>LIVING LAB by AfriFOODlinks</li> <li>The Living Lab (LL), by Està-Economia e Sostenibilità, 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.</li> <li>Facilitators: Giacomo Petitti, Chiara Pirovano, Bianca Minotti, ESstà – Economia e Sostenibilità</li> <li>Among the participantsInputs: Hanane Afassi Idrissi, Vice mayor of the City of Chefchaouen (AfriFOODlinks project city); Emna Mornagui, Program Coordinator Food Sovereignty and climate justice, and Coordinator for the City of Tunis in AfriFOODlinks project at HIVOS Tunis; Javier Albarracin, Senior Mediterranean Advisor, CREAM, – Barcelona and + others</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Museo delle Marionette</li> <li>A just transition for all. The role of cities, research, institutions and activists, and the importance of networking</li> </ul> <p>Michele Fiorillo, Giulia Giordano , Patrizia Pozzo</p>
18.00 – 18.30	

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

**Teatro Garibaldi**

9:30 - 10:00 Breakfast and a brief introduction and recap by the organizers/hosts

10:00 - 11:30 World Café: Reflections on the inputs from Day 1 - Development of final recommendations; including observations 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

**Ecomuseo Memoria Viva**

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.

**17.30 – 18.30 For "Cinema for the Earth" documentary film section:**

- *Until the end of the world* (environment award 2024) Docu film Italia, Grecia, Francia  
sea bream, sea bass, food security, land and water hoarding. the documentary is a journey across 3 continents to investigate the world's fastest growing food industry: fish farming.

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

**18:30 - 20:30 Fulvia Larena food performance :The gastronomic habits of the Aeolian Islands in the face of climate change**

Human activities on the Aeolian Islands have always been strongly intertwined with the territory's natural resources: first through the trade in obsidian and pumice, then with the cultivation of capers and malvasia, until fishing became one of the archipelago's main economic engines. This deep bond with the sea and the land has given rise to a rich and deep-rooted gastronomic tradition, handed down orally and still today an identity symbol and attraction for international tourism. The landscape from which these traditions draw is however today undergoing rapid transformation. Phenomena such as mass tourism, industrial fishing and climate change intersect with each other, modifying the social and economic structures of the territory. Against this backdrop of change, can gastronomy become a lens through which to understand the dynamics of these phenomena? The food performance by Yolenn Farges, presented as part of the Earth Day Festival

and curated by Fulvia Larena, resident taken FSR in 2025, will guide us on a journey between past and present, exploring the delicate balance between tradition and adaptation in an ever-changing ecosystem.

### **Friday, April 11, 2025**

#### **Field Exercise: Practical Training on Green Education**

**09:30 - 13:00** > Foro Italico Cliffs

Let's take action for the care of Common Goods and clean up the Foro Italico Cliffs together with Retake Palermo and students from the "Pietro Piazza" Vocational Institute.

### **Saturday, April 12, 2025**

#### **Workshop on Nutrition**

**10:00 - 13:00** > *Radici – Piccolo Museo sulla Natura*, Via Antonio Gagini, 23

**The Rhythm of Nutrition** - Nutrition Lab with Francesca Maria Lapis, doctor and expert in natural nutrition, to learn how to choose the most useful foods and medicinal plants to restore digestive function balance.

Followed by:

**The Fermentation Lab** - Learn fermentation techniques safely with Caterina Iemmolo, food expert, evolutionary plant-based chef, and founder of *CreoVivo*.

**Info & reservations:** +39 3278694037 (contribution of €2 for tastings).

#### **Children's Workshop**

**17:30 - 19:00** > *Radici – Piccolo Museo della Natura*, Via A. Gagini, 23

**I Tell You with the Earth** – A workshop on artisanal techniques, artistic experiments, and naturalistic observations to connect with the Earth element.

For children aged 6+ with accompanying adults.

**Info & reservations:** +39 3518340526

### **Sunday, April 13, 2025**

#### **Side Event - Earth Day Med Closing Section**

**6:15 AM** > Parco della Salute (Foro Italico)

To relax the body and mind, restore balance to our breath, and connect it with that of the Universe. Earth Day Med 2025 concludes a week of events and activities at dawn on Sunday, April 13, with an outdoor Yoga session, in collaboration with the Rishi Cultural Center in Palermo.

The Yoga session is open to everyone. Contribution: €5 – Please bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

**Info & reservations:** +39 338 7169008.

