



FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS
Portugal



**KUNSILL LOKALI
HAL SAFI**
MUNICIPALITY OF SAFI
Malta



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MUNICIPALITY OF SUHINDOL
Bulgaria



MUNICIPALITY OF LWOWEK SLASKI
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Croatia



MALTAS APVIENĪBAS PĀRVALDE
MUNICIPALITY OF REZEKNE
Latvia



MUNICIPALITY OF CURTEA DE ARGES
Romania



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**ASSOCIATION POUR LE SOUTIEN
A LA CITOYENNETE EUROPEENNE**
France



**CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI PROGETTAZIONE
E HOSTING INTERNAZIONALE**
Italy



ASOCIACIÓN XUVENIL



ASOCIACION XUVENIL VRENZA
Spain



Best practices for coastal or riverside sustainability: the sea, the land and the community

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Federación de Redeiras 'O Peirao': Leading the Circular Blue Economy in Galicia

The 'Federación de Redeiras Artesás de Galicia O Peirao' represents a transformative model of gender empowerment and environmental innovation within the traditional fishing sector of Spain. The 'redeiras' are the artisanal female net-makers of the Galician coast, a workforce that has historically been vital to the industry yet often remained in the shadows. Through their federation, these women have professionalized their craft and emerged as recognized leaders in the 'Blue Economy.' Their primary climate contribution involves the mitigation of 'ghost nets' and marine plastic pollution through a formal system of net recovery and upcycling. By meticulously cleaning and repairing abandoned fishing gear, the redeiras prevent these materials from damaging marine biodiversity and contributing to the global plastic crisis. This initiative not only restores marine ecosystems but also ensures that the ancestral knowledge of the Atlantic coast is preserved and adapted for a sustainable, modern context.

The methodology of the federation involves a sophisticated collaboration with international fashion designers and sustainable brands, turning discarded fishing nets into high-value luxury products and architectural installations. This diversification provides the redeiras with a stable and resilient income that is not solely dependent on the fluctuations of the fishing industry, which is increasingly threatened by climate change. Each upcycled product tells a story of cultural preservation and environmental restoration, raising public awareness of the importance of the circular economy. The program's development includes rigorous quality control and the use of eco-friendly cleaning processes, ensuring that the entire lifecycle of the material is managed sustainably. By dignifying their work and moving to the forefront of the circular economy, the redeiras of Galicia demonstrate how traditional artisanal skills can be repurposed to solve 21st-century environmental challenges. This model provides a powerful example for coastal communities worldwide, showing that heritage and sustainability can be combined to create a more equitable and resilient future.

Web for more information: <https://www.redeirasdegalicia.org>



MUNICIPALITY OF LWÓWEK ŚLĄSKI
Poland

Green Lwówek Śląski: Transforming Local Culture into Environmental Action

The Lwówek Cultural Center (LOK) in Poland, driven by the innovative leadership of Joanna Jobda-Olechowska and Anna Druzd, has redefined the role of cultural institutions by placing climate action at the heart of community life. Their flagship initiative, 'Green Lwówek Śląski in Action,' tackles the root causes of environmental degradation through grassroots education and a fundamental shift in consumer habits. A central pillar of the project is 'Lwówecki Szafing' (Wardrobe Exchange), a circular economy system that directly combats the 'fast fashion' industry—one of the world's largest polluters. By facilitating the free exchange of clothing and providing tailoring workshops to teach residents how to repair and alter their garments, the center promotes a 'Zero Waste' lifestyle. This approach not only reduces the carbon footprint and water consumption associated with textile production but also builds a sense of community resilience and mutual support, proving that cultural centers can be powerful engines for ecological and social transformation.

Another vital component of the LOK program is the 'Zielony Azy!' (Green Sanctuary) project, which fosters intergenerational climate education by connecting school children with seniors. Through the creation of school gardens and planter boxes, seniors act as mentors, passing on 'forgotten' agricultural skills of self-sufficiency to the younger generation. This initiative builds local 'bio-resilience' and educates the community on the importance of biodiversity and food security in the face of climate instability. Furthermore, the center utilizes large-scale events like the 'Lwówek Agate Summer' to promote local artisans and shorten supply chains, effectively reducing transportation-related emissions. The methodology used by Joanna and Anna is deeply participatory, relying on constant dialogue with residents to ensure that every project meets local needs and utilizes existing community resources. Their work demonstrates that culture is the foundation of a sustainable future, showing how to turn global climate challenges into local opportunities for empowerment, education, and meaningful social change.

Web for more information: <http://www.lok.lwowekslaski.pl>

Ing. Abigail Cutajar: Engineering a Carbon-Neutral Future for the Maltese Islands

As the Chief Executive Officer of Malta's newly established Climate Action Authority (CAA), Ing. Abigail Cutajar is at the forefront of the nation's strategic response to the climate crisis. With an extensive background in building services engineering and sustainability certification, she brings a highly technical and visionary approach to her role. The CAA is the first of its kind in Europe, a dedicated regulatory body tasked with coordinating all national efforts to achieve climate neutrality. Abigail's work involves the development of robust legislative frameworks that drive energy efficiency in the construction sector, the integration of renewable energy sources into the national grid, and the implementation of comprehensive adaptation strategies for the island's vulnerable coastal areas. Her leadership is crucial in ensuring that Malta not only meets its international climate obligations but also transforms its economy to be more resilient, sustainable, and competitive in a rapidly changing global landscape, making her a key architect of the country's green transition.

Abigail's methodology is characterized by a strong emphasis on data-driven decision-making and cross-sectoral collaboration. She works closely with the Climate Action Council and various government ministries to ensure that climate goals are integrated into all aspects of national policy, from transport to industry. Under her guidance, the CAA is developing innovative pilot projects that test new technologies for carbon capture and smart grid management, positioning Malta as a living laboratory for Mediterranean climate solutions. Furthermore, she is a vocal advocate for the 'professionalization' of sustainability, encouraging the training of a new generation of green engineers and technicians. Her role also involves extensive public engagement, as she works to build a national consensus on the necessity of the green transition and the benefits it brings in terms of energy security and improved public health. By combining technical expertise with strategic governance, Abigail Cutajar is paving the way for a sustainable future for the Maltese Islands, demonstrating that small island states can lead the way in ambitious and effective climate action.

Web for more information: <https://climateaction.gov.mt>



ОБЩИНА СУХИНДОЛ

MUNICIPALITY OF SUHINDOL

Bulgaria

Municipality of Suhindol: Empowering Women in Sustainable Rural Development

The Municipality of Suhindol, located in the north-central region of Bulgaria, has pioneered a strategic initiative focused on integrating women into the front lines of climate resilience through sustainable agricultural practices. This project addresses the dual challenges of rural depopulation and environmental degradation by providing local women with technical training in organic farming, water conservation techniques, and soil health management. By focusing on the 'green transition' at a grassroots level, the municipality empowers participants to become leaders in their own communities, managing small-scale ecological farms that utilize composting and drought-resistant crop varieties. This approach not only provides a stable income for families but also fosters a cultural shift towards environmental stewardship, ensuring that traditional knowledge is preserved and updated with modern climate adaptation strategies. The initiative stands as a testament to the power of municipal leadership in creating inclusive green jobs that specifically target the vulnerabilities of women in rural settings, effectively turning them into key agents of change for a sustainable future.

The methodology of the program is built upon a continuous education framework and the creation of local support networks that allow women to share resources and best practices. Implementation involves workshops led by agricultural experts who teach low-impact cultivation methods and the use of natural fertilizers, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of local food production. Furthermore, the program encourages the development of short supply chains, connecting these sustainable producers directly with local markets to minimize transportation emissions and enhance regional food security. By integrating gender equality into the municipal climate action plan, Suhindol demonstrates that ecological resilience is inextricably linked to social equity. The project's success is measured by the increased biodiversity in participant-managed lands and the measurable improvement in the economic independence of the involved women. This comprehensive model serves as a blueprint for other rural municipalities across Europe, showing how to effectively combine social welfare with ambitious environmental goals, ultimately creating a community that is better prepared to face the uncertainties of a changing climate while promoting a fair and inclusive society for all its citizens.

Web for more information: <https://www.suhindol.bg>



ASSOCIATION POUR LE SOUTIEN
À LA CITOYENNETÉ EUROPÉENNE
France

Association 'Le monde dont elles rêvent': Social Solidarity and Ecological Transition in Martinique

Based in the unique island context of Martinique, the association 'Le monde dont elles rêvent' (The World They Dream Of) operates as a dynamic 'third place' dedicated to social inclusion and environmental stewardship. The initiative recognizes that insular territories are particularly vulnerable to climate change and that traditional social structures must be reimagined to foster collective resilience. By creating a community space where individuals from all walks of life can gather, the association promotes the principles of the circular economy through practical, everyday actions. Their activities range from organizing waste-reduction workshops and tools-sharing programs to teaching low-cost, eco-friendly lifestyle choices such as natural recipe making and sustainable gardening. This model moves away from top-down environmental directives, focusing instead on grassroots solidarity and the belief that every community member possesses valuable skills that can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable social fabric, particularly empowering women to lead these transitions within their own neighborhoods.

The program's development is rooted in the concept of 'experiential learning,' where participants engage in hands-on activities that demonstrate the immediate benefits of ecological living. The association serves as a laboratory for social experimentation, testing new ways of living that prioritize human relationships and resource conservation over mass consumption. By fostering a culture of mutual aid, 'Le monde dont elles rêvent' helps to mitigate the social isolation often exacerbated by economic instability and environmental crises. The organization also acts as a bridge between scientific climate warnings and the practical needs of the island's population, translating global sustainability goals into local cultural contexts. Through their work, they prove that the ecological transition is not just a technical challenge but a social opportunity to build a more resilient and connected society. This holistic approach, which treats environmental protection as inseparable from social justice, provides a powerful example for other island nations and coastal regions facing similar challenges in the era of the climate emergency, highlighting the vital role of local associations in driving meaningful change.

Web for more information: <https://www.lemondedontonreve.com>



MUNICIPALITY OF KLANJEC
Croatia

Ivana Belić: Strategic Communication as a Catalyst for Regional Energy Transition

Ivana Belić, the Head of Strategic Communications at the North-West Croatia Regional Energy and Climate Agency (REGEA), is a leading figure in the Croatian environmental sector, dedicated to bridging the gap between technical climate data and public understanding. Her work focuses on the premise that large-scale energy transitions are impossible without broad social acceptance and proactive participation from all sectors of society. By leveraging high-profile platforms such as Forbes and various digital media channels, Ivana has successfully integrated sustainability into the core of economic and business discourse in Croatia. She translates complex concepts like carbon neutrality, energy efficiency, and renewable investments into actionable narratives that resonate with both corporate leaders and everyday citizens. This strategic approach ensures that climate action is not viewed merely as a regulatory burden but as a significant opportunity for innovation, economic growth, and improved quality of life, positioning REGEA as a central hub for environmental advocacy in Southeast Europe.

The core of Ivana's communication methodology involves 'democratizing' climate knowledge, ensuring that every stakeholder, from local mayors to students, understands their specific role in the green transition. Her leadership has been instrumental in the development of award-winning campaigns that highlight the local benefits of climate adaptation, such as reduced energy costs and increased urban resilience. Through her work, she emphasizes the importance of 'Blue Economy' principles and the intersection of traditional craftsmanship with modern environmental standards. Ivana's role extends beyond mere messaging; she actively shapes the strategic direction of REGEA by identifying emerging trends and fostering international partnerships that bring global best practices to the Croatian context. Her efforts have significantly raised the profile of women in the male-dominated fields of energy and engineering, proving that effective communication is a vital technical skill in the fight against climate change. By building trust and fostering transparent dialogue, Ivana Belić has created a robust foundation for sustainable development that continues to inspire similar initiatives across the European Union.

Web for more information: <https://regea.org>



FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS
Portugal

Ana Pêgo: Advancing Ocean Literacy through Creative Climate Advocacy

Ana Pêgo, a marine biologist and the founder of the 'Plasticus Maritimus' project in Portugal, has gained international recognition for her innovative approach to ocean literacy and climate advocacy. Her work centers on the intersection of science, art, and environmental education, using the plastic debris she collects from Portuguese beaches as a powerful pedagogical tool. By identifying and classifying marine litter as if it were a new 'invasive species,' Ana creates a visceral and engaging narrative that highlights the devastating impact of human consumption on marine ecosystems and global climate health. Her project seeks to increase public understanding of the ocean's role in regulating the climate and the urgent need to protect its biodiversity from the twin threats of pollution and rising temperatures. Through her workshops and exhibitions, she inspires a wide range of audiences—from schoolchildren to policy-makers—to reconsider their relationship with plastic and to advocate for more sustainable coastal management policies.

The methodology of 'Plasticus Maritimus' is rooted in 'participatory science,' where Ana encourages citizens to become active observers and protectors of their local environment. Her workshops are designed to be interactive, inviting participants to participate in beach clean-ups and to use the recovered materials to create artistic installations that serve as a call to action. This approach not only educates people on the scientific realities of ocean pollution but also empowers them with the creative tools to communicate these issues within their own communities. Ana's work is deeply aligned with European sustainability goals and the UN Decade of Ocean Science, as she works to foster a generation of responsible citizens who are equipped to address the challenges of the climate emergency. By transforming waste into art and scientific data into compelling stories, Ana Pêgo has created a unique and effective model for environmental education that resonates far beyond the borders of Portugal, proving that creative communication is essential for driving the behavioral changes needed to protect our blue planet.

Web for more information: <https://plasticusmaritimus.com>



C.E.P.H.I.
CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI
PROGETTAZIONE E HOSTING
INTERNAZIONALE

CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI PROGETTAZIONE
E HOSTING INTERNAZIONALE

Italy

Orange Fiber: Leading Female Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Textile Innovation

Orange Fiber is a revolutionary Italian startup founded by Adriana Santanocito and Enrica Arena, representing a paradigm shift in how the fashion industry addresses environmental waste through female-led technological innovation. Based in Sicily, the project addresses the significant environmental challenge posed by the massive citrus by-product industry in Italy, where hundreds of thousands of tons of orange peels are typically discarded as waste each year. Adriana, leveraging her expertise in materials science, developed and patented an innovative process to extract high-quality cellulose from these citrus leftovers, transforming a potential environmental burden into a luxurious and sustainable textile fiber. This initiative not only promotes a circular economy model within the Mediterranean region but also positions Italy as a global leader in sustainable textile manufacturing. By turning agricultural waste into high-value raw materials, Orange Fiber demonstrates the immense potential of bio-based solutions in reducing the fashion industry's carbon and water footprints while fostering a new era of eco-conscious entrepreneurship.

The implementation and strategic development of Orange Fiber are built upon a rigorous phase of research, collaboration, and international design integration. The company's methodology involves a patented technological process where the extracted citrus cellulose is spun into a fine yarn, which can then be used on its own or blended with other sustainable materials like silk or organic cotton. This versatility has allowed Orange Fiber to collaborate with major international fashion houses, bringing high-end, eco-friendly garments to global runways and proving that sustainability does not require a compromise in quality or aesthetics. Enrica Arena's leadership in communication and marketing has been instrumental in building these partnerships and advocating for a more ethical fashion industry through strategic dialogue and public awareness campaigns. Furthermore, the initiative serves as a powerful inspiration for women in STEM and social entrepreneurship, showing that creative leadership can successfully merge industrial innovation with environmental stewardship. Orange Fiber continues to expand its impact, working towards a future where the textile industry operates in harmony with nature's cycles, creating beauty from what was once considered waste.

Web for more information: <https://orangefiber.it>



MUNICIPALITY OF BUZINA
Slovakia

Lucia Szabová: Mobilizing Society for Ambitious Climate Policy

Lucia Szabová is a leading Slovak climate activist and expert in environmental communication who has spent decades shaping the national discourse on sustainability. Currently serving as the coordinator for the Climate Coalition, a platform of numerous non-governmental organizations, she is a critical link between civil society and policy-makers in Slovakia. Her work focuses on advocating for effective climate legislation, promoting the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels, and ensuring that the country's transition to a green economy is both ambitious and socially just. Lucia's deep understanding of strategic campaigning, honed during her early career at Greenpeace, allows her to translate complex climate policy into compelling public calls for action. By fostering collaboration among diverse NGOs, she has created a powerful and unified voice for the environmental movement, successfully influencing national climate targets and increasing the political visibility of sustainability issues across the country.

One of Lucia's most impactful contributions is the co-founding of 'Znepokojené matky' (Concerned Mothers), an initiative that brings a personal and emotional dimension to the climate debate by focusing on the rights of future generations. This grassroots movement engages parents in climate advocacy, highlighting the direct threat that the climate crisis poses to the health and safety of their children. By organizing high-profile public activities and social media campaigns, 'Concerned Mothers' has succeeded in mobilizing a broad segment of the population that was previously disengaged from environmental issues. Lucia's leadership emphasizes that climate action is not just a technical or political matter, but a moral imperative to protect the people we love. Her holistic approach, combining expert-level policy advocacy with emotional storytelling and broad community engagement, has been instrumental in building a resilient and motivated climate movement in Slovakia. Lucia Szabová remains a vital figure in the European climate landscape, demonstrating how dedicated leadership can drive the systemic changes needed to secure a sustainable future.

Web for more information: <https://www.klimatickakoalicia.sk>



MUNICIPALITY OF HÉHALOM
Hungary

Szabó Amanda Imola: Bridging Climatology and Public Education for a Resilient Hungary

Based in the unique island context of Martinique, the association 'Le monde dont elles rêvent' (The World They Dream Of) operates as a dynamic 'third place' dedicated to social inclusion and environmental stewardship. The initiative recognizes that insular territories are particularly vulnerable to climate change and that traditional social structures must be reimagined to foster collective resilience. By creating a community space where individuals from all walks of life can gather, the association promotes the principles of the circular economy through practical, everyday actions. Their activities range from organizing waste-reduction workshops and tools-sharing programs to teaching low-cost, eco-friendly lifestyle choices such as natural recipe making and sustainable gardening. This model moves away from top-down environmental directives, focusing instead on grassroots solidarity and the belief that every community member possesses valuable skills that can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable social fabric, particularly empowering women to lead these transitions within their own neighborhoods.

The program's development is rooted in the concept of 'experiential learning,' where participants engage in hands-on activities that demonstrate the immediate benefits of ecological living. The association serves as a laboratory for social experimentation, testing new ways of living that prioritize human relationships and resource conservation over mass consumption. By fostering a culture of mutual aid, 'Le monde dont elles rêvent' helps to mitigate the social isolation often exacerbated by economic instability and environmental crises. The organization also acts as a bridge between scientific climate warnings and the practical needs of the island's population, translating global sustainability goals into local cultural contexts. Through their work, they prove that the ecological transition is not just a technical challenge but a social opportunity to build a more resilient and connected society. This holistic approach, which treats environmental protection as inseparable from social justice, provides a powerful example for other island nations and coastal regions facing similar challenges in the era of the climate emergency, highlighting the vital role of local associations in driving meaningful change.

Web for more information: <https://www.lemondedontonreve.com>

Jolanta Smane: Integrating Traditional Agrifood Wisdom with Climate Mitigation

In the Rēzekne region of Latvia, Jolanta Smane has established 'Slāņu labumi,' a flagship project for sustainable agriculture that merges traditional farming wisdom with modern climate mitigation strategies. Her initiative focuses on high-quality, low-impact food production, centered around organic goat farming and the artisanal creation of cheeses. The project is a prime example of 'regenerative agriculture,' where the farming process actively contributes to the health of the local ecosystem. Jolanta uses her goats as a natural and ecological solution for managing invasive plant species, such as the toxic Giant Hogweed, thereby avoiding the need for harmful chemical herbicides and promoting local biodiversity. This approach not only produces superior food products but also demonstrates how small-scale farming can be a powerful tool in the fight against climate change by maintaining carbon sinks and reducing the environmental footprint of the food supply chain. Through 'Slāņu labumi,' Jolanta has become a key voice for rural sustainability in Latvia, proving that ecological integrity and economic viability can go hand in hand.

The development of Jolanta's program is characterized by a commitment to the circular economy and a 'zero-waste' philosophy. Every aspect of the farm is designed to minimize resource consumption, from using traditional fermentation techniques that reduce energy needs to implementing a returnable glass packaging system for her products. By focusing on local sales and short distribution networks, she drastically reduces the emissions associated with food transport, fostering a resilient regional economy. Jolanta also uses her farm as a platform for education, hosting workshops that teach visitors about the importance of biodiversity and the benefits of sustainable consumption. Her work highlights the critical role of women in the 'green transition' of the agricultural sector, where they often lead the way in innovative, community-focused solutions. 'Slāņu labumi' serves as an inspiring model for other rural entrepreneurs across the Baltic States, showing that by respecting the land and utilizing natural processes, it is possible to create a thriving business that protects the environment and enhances the well-being of the local community.

Web for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/jolanta.smane>



MUNICIPIUL CURTEA DE ARGES
Romania

Mai Bine Association: Pioneering Urban Sustainability and Ethical Consumption in Romania

The 'Mai Bine' Association, founded and led by Anca Gheorghică in the city of Iași, serves as a cornerstone of the Romanian environmental movement, particularly in the intersection of urban sustainability and social entrepreneurship. The initiative recognizes that city dwellers are both major contributors to climate change and key actors in its mitigation. 'Mai Bine' implements a holistic approach that targets the root causes of environmental degradation: unsustainable consumption, waste mismanagement, and the lack of ethical business models. Their most prominent project, 'REDU,' is a circular economy center that focuses on textile waste, where discarded clothing is collected, repaired, and upcycled into high-quality products. This process significantly reduces the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the global fashion industry and promotes a 'zero-waste' culture among the Romanian youth and general public. By integrating ecological values with community development, Anca has created a resilient framework that empowers women to lead the green transition in urban landscapes.

The development of the program is built upon the pillars of education, civic participation, and social enterprise. Beyond waste management, the association operates 'CUI' (Centrul Municipal para Inovação Social), which includes the first 100% vegetarian and fair-trade bistro in the country, demonstrating that the food industry can operate with a minimal carbon footprint while supporting local producers. The methodology focuses on 'action-oriented education,' where residents participate in workshops on permaculture, sustainable mobility, and responsible finance. Anca's leadership is characterized by a strong commitment to ethical transparency and the belief that individual behavioral changes, when supported by systemic community infrastructure, are essential for climate resilience. The association also acts as an advocate for greener municipal policies in Iași, influencing urban planning to prioritize green spaces and sustainable transport. 'Mai Bine' stands as a powerful example of how female-led NGOs can transform local economies into sustainable ecosystems, proving that grassroots initiatives are vital for achieving national and European climate goals.

Web for more information: <https://www.maibine.eu>

Ministry of the Environment: Mainstreaming Gender Perspective in the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The Finnish government has established itself as a global leader by systematically integrating gender equality into its national environmental framework, specifically through its National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Recognizing that climate change impacts are not gender-neutral, Finland has pioneered a policy approach that treats gender as a critical analytical tool rather than a secondary concern. This initiative ensures that the 'green transition' is socially inclusive and effective across all sectors of society by addressing the specific ways in which different genders interact with energy, transport, and forest management. By analyzing consumption patterns and decision-making roles, the Finnish approach ensures that climate policies do not inadvertently reinforce existing inequalities.

Instead, the government focuses on empowering women to take leadership roles in circular economy initiatives and technological innovation, based on evidence that diverse leadership leads to more robust solutions. The methodology is rooted in gender-impact assessments for all new climate legislation, requiring policy-makers to evaluate how measures—from carbon taxes to public transport—affect women and men differently. Furthermore, the initiative promotes the participation of women in STEM and green energy sectors through targeted scholarships and professional mentorship programs. The success of this model is evidenced by Finland's high level of public trust in climate policies and its status as one of the most sustainable nations in the world. By integrating social justice into the core of its environmental planning, Finland provides a blueprint for other Nordic and European nations. This demonstrates that inclusive governance is a technical necessity for achieving long-term climate targets and driving systemic change. The Finnish model proves that when gender equality is a pillar of climate action, the resulting policies are more resilient and better understood by the public.

Web for more information: <https://ym.fi/en/climate-change>



otigroup.org

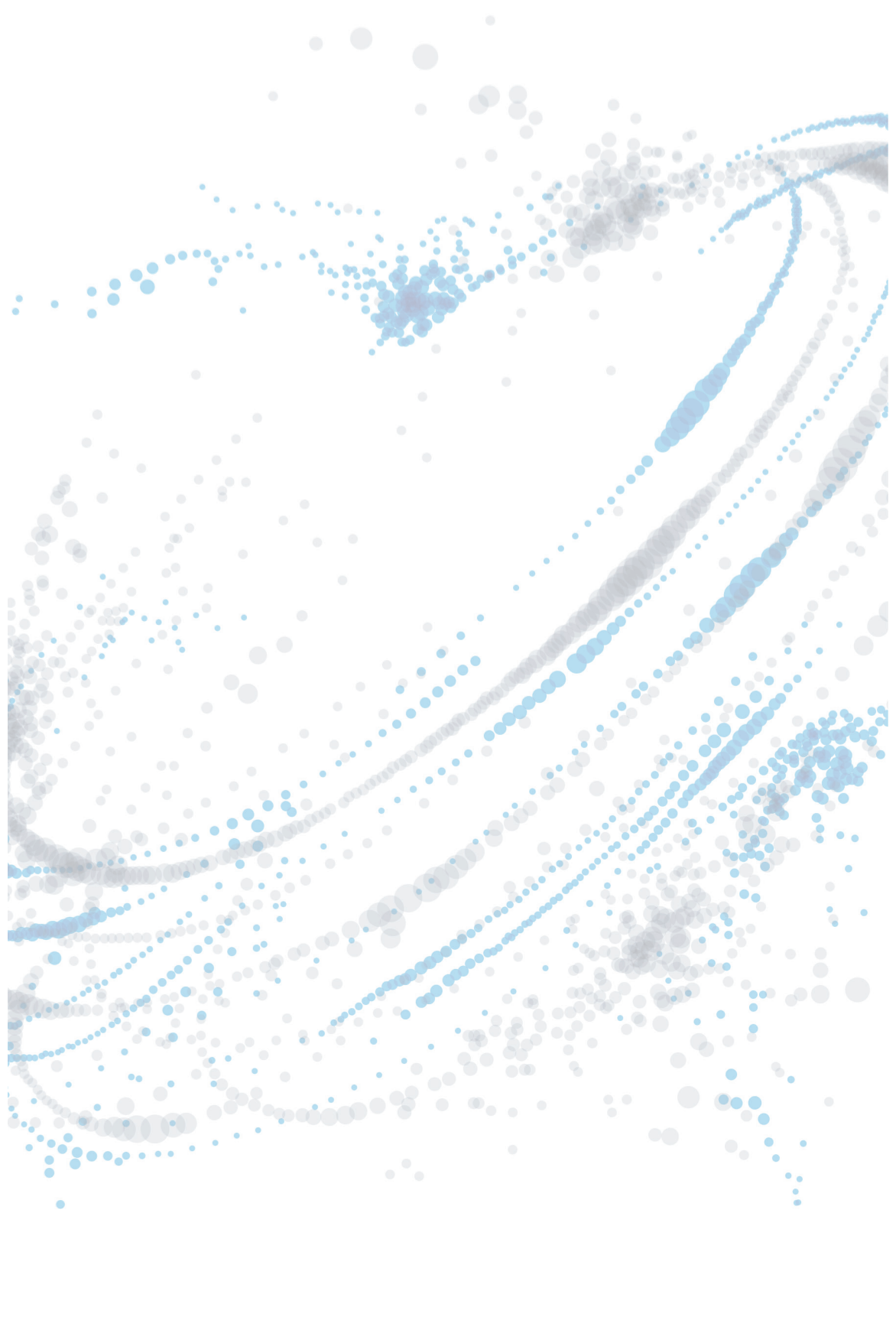
ONE TERRENE INTERNATIONAL GROUP
Cyprus

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS): Strengthening Rural Resilience and Water Stewardship

In response to the severe threats of desertification and prolonged droughts in the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in Cyprus has pioneered an initiative focused on the intersection of gender and rural development. This project specifically targets the vulnerabilities of women in the Cypriot countryside, who are often the first to face the consequences of water scarcity and land degradation. Historically excluded from formal resource management, these women are now provided with the technical tools and advocacy skills needed to lead water conservation and sustainable agricultural efforts.

Through specialized training programs, participants learn to implement precision irrigation systems and cultivate drought-resistant local crop varieties, reducing reliance on dwindling water supplies. By positioning women as 'water stewards,' the program transforms them from passive observers into active managers of their community's most precious resource. The methodology involves a combination of technical capacity building and social empowerment, facilitating local networks where women share best practices in sustainable land use. The initiative recognizes that women hold traditional knowledge about local ecosystems that is vital for climate adaptation but often remains undervalued in male-dominated agricultural forums. The impact is measured by the increased adoption of sustainable farming techniques and the enhanced economic independence of the women involved. By advocating for gender-sensitive environmental policies at the national level, MIGS has successfully influenced Cyprus's approach to rural resilience. This model serves as a vital example for other Mediterranean and island nations facing the 'climate front line,' proving that the fight against desertification is inseparable from gender justice. Through their work, the women of rural Cyprus are demonstrating that local leadership and artisanal wisdom are essential components of a climate-resilient future.

Web for more information: <https://www.medinstgenderstudies.org>



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