

1st International School on Landscape, Heritage and Sustainable Development

Cilento - Economic development, nature, culture, governance, practices and policies

Marina di Ascea, Salerno, Italy: 7-11 October 2026

The *1st International School on Landscape, Heritage and Sustainable Development (Cilento 2026)* is conceived as an intensive, interdisciplinary training and co-design programme addressing key challenges of territorial development through an integrated perspective on **landscape, cultural heritage, local governance, and climate transition**.

The School combines **high-level scientific lectures, applied fieldwork, and a continuous Policy Lab**, enabling participants to translate knowledge into **operational policy recommendations and place-based development strategies**.

Participants are invited to present their project ideas and draft papers that will be selected for discussion with experts during daily sessions addressing a range of topics, including landscape and community-related initiatives, cultural heritage and landscape as drivers of local development, landscape governance in fragile contexts, and natural landscapes in the context of global change.

Across the four days, participants progressively build a **shared analytical and strategic framework**, culminating in the production of **policy briefs and pilot project proposals**, co-developed with experts and local stakeholders.

The School adopts a **strongly practice-oriented learning approach**, designed to equip participants with **transferable analytical and operational skills for both research and professional practice**.

Each session combines conceptual inputs with methods, tools, and case-based applications, enabling participants to directly apply the knowledge acquired.

Through **the continuous Policy Lab**, participants develop **concrete outputs** (policy briefs, project concepts, and analytical frameworks), while acquiring competencies in impact evaluation and policy analysis, territorial diagnostics and spatial interpretation, project design and public-private partnership development, stakeholder engagement and co-design processes.

The School is deliberately designed as a **bridge between academic knowledge and professional application**, supporting participants in developing skills that are immediately transferable to research, policy, and project implementation contexts.

In cooperation with:

Day 1 – Landscape, Policy, and Socio-Ecological Systems

Landscape as a socio-ecological system, a common good, and a strategic resource for territorial cohesion, in line with European policy frameworks (e.g. the European Landscape Convention). Attention is given to territorial diagnostic approaches for reading, planning and managing the landscape, with a focus on the case with cultural routes in Europe. Local cases are presented and analysed in the framework of the first session of the School Policy Lab.

Morning Session (09:00 – 13:00)

Opening Keynote & Policy Dialogue

09:00–11:00 | Keynote Lecture

Title: *The Evolution of Landscape in Europe: Ontology, Identity, Policies*

Speaker: (European Landscape Convention/Unesco)*

11:30–12:00 | Institutional Seminar

Title: *The European Landscape Convention and the Council of Europe Landscape Award*

Speaker: (Italian Ministry of Culture – MIC)*

12:00–13:00 | Structured Project Presentations and Analytical Framing

Title: *Participants' Project Presentations and Expert Feedback*

Discussants: Invited experts (including keynote speakers and institutional representatives)

Afternoon Session (14:30 – 18:30)

Field Laboratory & Launch of the Policy Lab

Participants are introduced to a common analytical framework (territorial diagnostics and landscape reading tools) to be applied during the afternoon fieldwork.

14:30–15:00 | Introductory Workshop

Title: *Landscape Project and the Role of Communities*

Leader: (European Landscape Observatories, School of Architecture and Design-University of Camerino)*

15:00–15:30 | Thematic Input Session

Title: *Cultural Routes as Tools for Territorial Cooperation and Heritage Interpretation*

Speaker: (Council of Europe/ EU Commission Forum on Cultural Heritage/HII)*

15:30–18:30 | Applied Fieldwork & Co-design Activities

- Participatory mapping and landscape observation
- Ecological and cultural analysis of the territory
- Collection of field-based data for Policy Lab

In cooperation with:

Policy Lab Launch (continuous activity)

Interdisciplinary teams are formed and begin developing **territorial diagnostics**, establishing the knowledge base for **policy briefs and project proposals**.

Day 2 – Cultural Heritage, Economy, and Innovation

Cultural heritage and natural assets are critically discussed as drivers of local development, with emphasis on economic valorisation, PPP models, and innovation mechanisms.

Morning Session (09:00 – 13:00)**Heritage Economics and Innovation****9:00-10:30 | Applying Heritage Economics**

Title: *From Cultural Heritage to Local Development: Impact Evaluation, Business Models, and Public-Private Partnerships*

Speaker: (Centre for the Economics of Culture)*

10:30-12:00 | International Keynote

Title: *Economic Indicators and Innovative Finance for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes*

Speaker: (OECD, Centre for Landscape Economics)*

12:00-13:00 | Interactive Session

Title: *Participants' Project Presentations and Peer Review*

Discussants: Academic experts and practitioners

Afternoon Session (14:30 – 18:30)**Field Experience and Applied Heritage Management****14:30-15:30 | Scientific Case Study**

Title: *Beyond Archaeological Heritage: Integrated Management Models*

Speaker: (Paestum–Velia Archaeological Parks)*

15:30-17:30 | Technical Field Visit

Activity: Management Dialogues and Guided Visit to Paestum and Velia archaeological sites.

Focus on:

- *Heritage management strategies*
- *Cultural promotion models*
- *Community engagement practices*

17:30-18:30 | Policy Lab Consolidation

Participants translate field insights into heritage-based development strategies, initial policy recommendations, project concepts

In cooperation with:

Day 3 – Cohesion Policy, Governance of peripheral areas, and Local Development

Policies and instruments for the regeneration of inner and marginal areas, with an emphasis on multi-level governance, territorial cohesion, rural development. Experiences of Strategies for Inner & Rural Areas in a European framework (inner peripheries), highlighting institutional coordination, policy integration, finance and innovative governance approaches. Promising practices integrating heritage, nature and sustainable resource management are presented and analysed.

Morning Session (09:00 – 13:00)

Policy Frameworks and Governance Innovation

09:00–11:00 | Keynote Lecture

Title: *Territorial Cohesion and Strategic Territorial Value (STV)*

Speaker: (University of Rome Tor Vergata, HII)*

11:00–12:00 | Policy Dialogue

Title: *EU Cohesion Policy and the “Right to Stay” Framework*

Speaker: (EU Committee of the Regions/ European Commission)*

12:00–13:00 | Interactive Session

Title: *Participants’ Project Presentations and Policy Feedback*

Participants engage with experts and local stakeholders

Afternoon Session (14:30 – 18:30)

Business & Governance Lab: Co-design for Local Development

14:30–15:30 | Applied Session

Title: *Bio-districts, Mediterranean Diet and Local Value Chains for Sustainable Development*

Speakers: Local stakeholders and practitioners

15:30–16:00 | International Perspective (online)

Title: *Global Experiences in Rural and Inner Areas Development*

Speaker: (CREA, OECD)*

16:00–18:30 | Applied Co-design Workshop

StartUp/Innovation Hub (tbd) will assist students in developing their ideas and projects based on their work for Policy Lab: Participants develop PPP models, Territorial business concepts, Pilot projects.

16:00–17:00: PPP/other model design

17:00–18:30: project development and mentoring

Outputs are integrated within the **Policy Lab** into a **coherent territorial strategy**.

In cooperation with:

Day 4 – Ecology, Natural Capital, and Climate Transition opportunities

Forward-looking perspectives on climate transition, natural capital, and innovation as drivers of sustainable territorial development. The session integrates the previous thematic areas and highlights innovative mechanisms as scalable tools for enhancing environmental sustainability, local development, and social cohesion.

Morning Session (09:00 – 13:00)

Climate, Ecosystems, and Innovation

09:00–10:00 | Scientific Lecture

Title: *Climate Change Impacts on Landscape Systems*

Speaker: (Eurac Research, IUAV)*

10:00–11:00 | International Keynote (virtual)

Title: *Landscape ecology and policy*

Speaker: (IALE-International Association for Landscape Ecology)*

11:00–12:00 | Expert Lecture

Title: *Economics and Finance from Biodiversity: towards a paradigm shift?*

Speaker: (Eurac Research/HII)*

Afternoon Session (14:30 – 19:30)

Final Synthesis and Multi-Stakeholder Validation

14:30–16:00 | Final Roundtable

Title: *Integrated Territorial Strategies and Governance Pathways*

Moderator: (HII Landscape Department)*

Participants: (Regional, National, Local institution representatives, NGOs and experts)*

16:00–18:00 | Policy Lab Final Presentations

Policy Briefs and Project Proposals Finalization Session

These outputs are discussed within a multi-stakeholder validation platform, ensuring operational relevance and policy uptake.

Each group receives structured feedback based on policy relevance, feasibility, impact potential.

18:00–19:30 | Closing session with organizers, promoters and invited experts

Discussion of results with academics, invited experts, and organising institutions

Day 5 – Free Day for Excursion

Special extra proposals to participants (to be defined with local partner institutions)

In cooperation with:

Expected Outputs of the School

These outputs are designed not only as academic exercises, but as usable tools for participants' future research and professional activities, including:

- **policy briefs** aligned with real policy processes
- **project concepts** adaptable to funding opportunities and local contexts
- **analytical frameworks** applicable to other territories

Participants are encouraged to further develop these outputs beyond the School, supporting continuity and long-term impact.

Special reporting event: HII Landscape special session at XXVIII Borsa Mediterranea del Turismo Archeologico (Paestum, Italy, October 2026)*

**Proposed or invited organisation/speaker*

How to Apply and Register

Participants interested in the School are invited to submit an **expression of interest** outlining their background, motivations, and a brief description of a project idea or draft paper relevant to the School's themes [using this online form](#)

Selected applicants will be notified and guided through the registration process, after the declared deadlines. **Early bird registration is available until 30 June**, while **standard registration remains open until 31 July**.

Given the interactive and practice-oriented nature of the programme, **places are limited** and participation is based on the quality and relevance of submitted proposals that will be assessed by the HII Heritage and Landscape Department.

Applicants are encouraged to highlight how their work engages with landscape, cultural heritage, governance, or sustainable development. For further information and submission details, participants may contact the organising team directly.

Participation Fees

Early Bird registration by June 30th: 380 €

Standard registration by July 31st: 450 €

Contacts with national sponsors are ongoing for additional agreements. Special accommodation arrangements for participants available with local partners.

Contact:

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In cooperation with: