

Founding Workshop of the EMMENA Sustainable Energy Research and Innovation Platform

Practical Information



9–10 November 2026
Nicosia, University of Cyprus



Funded by
the European Union

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Republic of Cyprus

This project is funded by the Government
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Message from the Organisers

Prof. Constantinos Christofides
Chairman of the Board of Directors
PHAETHON Centre of Excellence
University of Cyprus

On behalf of the PHAETHON Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the University of Cyprus, I am pleased to invite you to participate in the Founding Workshop of the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa (EMMENA) Sustainable Energy Research and Innovation Platform, to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 9–10 November 2026.

Under the theme **“Convening regional stakeholders to shape a collaborative framework for sustainable energy research, innovation and capacity building across the EMMENA region”**, the Workshop will bring together representatives of universities, research institutions, innovation organisations, government bodies and other relevant stakeholders from across the EMMENA region.

According to Greek mythology, Phaethon, the son of Helios, once took his father's chariot and drove it across the sky. However, he was unable to control the reins of the chariot, which was pulled by untamed horses. This caused the Sun to veer wildly, threatening the Earth with destruction—at times freezing it with glaciers and at other times engulfing it in flames. To prevent further catastrophe, Zeus struck Phaethon down with a thunderbolt, causing him to fall into the River Eridanus, where he met his end. Despite his tragic fate, Phaethon has endured as a symbol of courage throughout history.

We have named our CoE PHAETHON with the ambitious goal of establishing it as a leading, innovative, and modern European organisation in the field of green energy, with a particular focus on solar energy. In the highly competitive European landscape, we believed this venture required a spirit of creative boldness to position ourselves among the established European and international energy research centres with greater history and tradition.

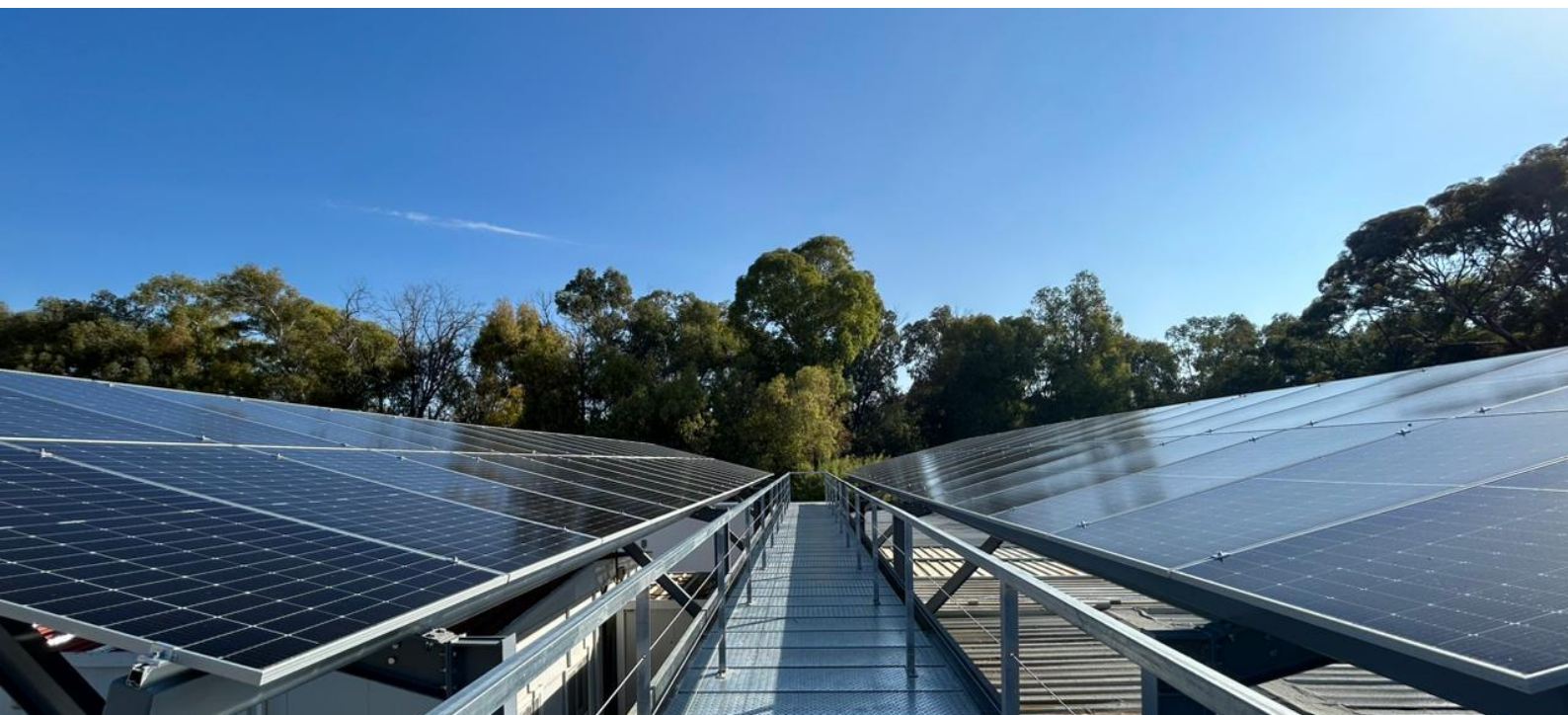
A central strategic priority of PHAETHON CoE is the establishment of a Sustainable Energy Research and Innovation Platform for the EMMENA region, coordinated by the Centre. The EMMENA region is characterised by rapidly increasing energy demand, exceptional renewable energy potential, climate vulnerability, water scarcity, and complex geopolitical dynamics. At the same time, it presents significant opportunities for large-scale deployment of solar energy, green hydrogen production, smart grid integration, and cross-border energy cooperation. These shared structural challenges and opportunities create a strong basis for coordinated research and innovation action. Located at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Cyprus occupies a unique geostrategic position within the wider region. In this context, PHAETHON CoE is strategically

positioned to serve as a regional reference point for sustainable energy research and innovation, facilitating structured cooperation between European and EMMENA stakeholders and contributing to policy alignment and knowledge exchange.

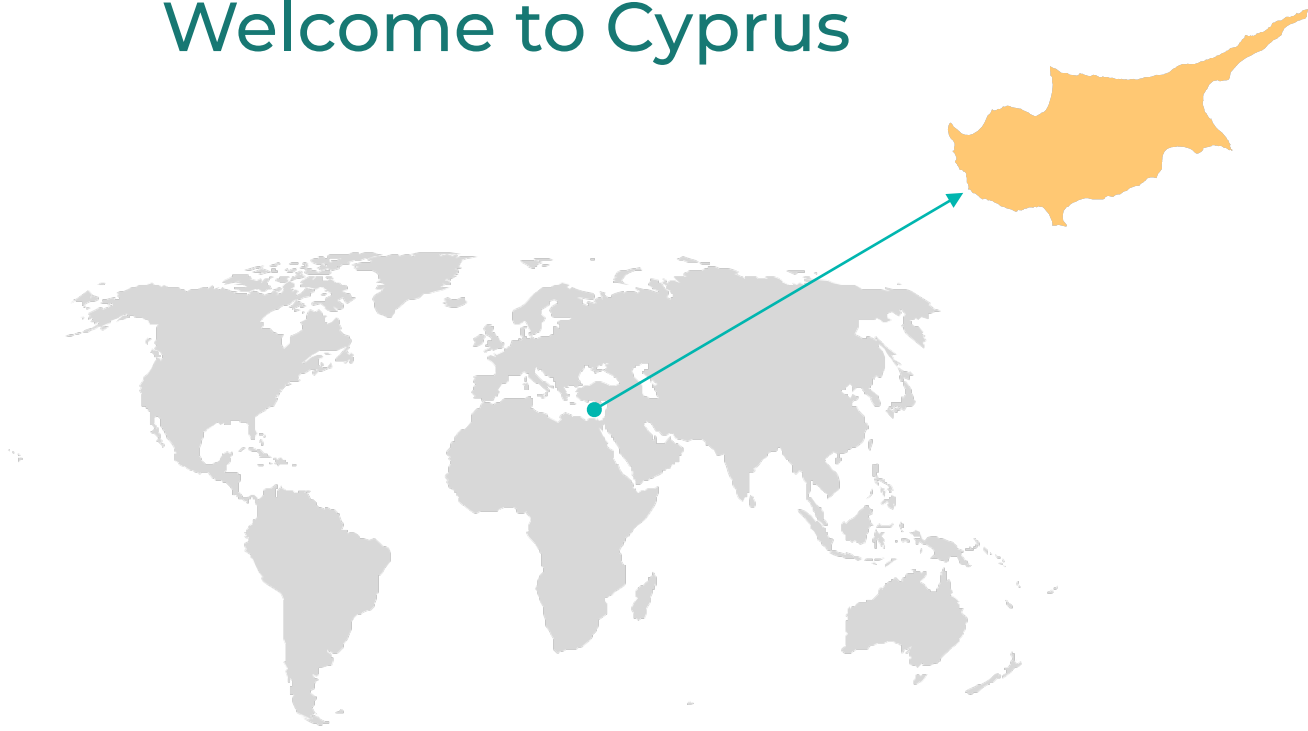
The EMMENA Platform will consolidate established collaborations and develop new institutional partnerships across the region, with the objective to:

- Advance joint research initiatives addressing common regional priorities, including renewable integration in isolated and weak grids, energy storage, green hydrogen systems, the energy–water nexus, and energy governance.
- Support the alignment of regional strategies with European climate and energy objectives.
- Facilitate coordinated participation in European and international funding programmes.
- Strengthen regional research capacity through mobility schemes, training activities, and knowledge-transfer mechanisms.
- Promote evidence-based policy dialogue through targeted studies and regional outlook reports.

We look forward to welcoming you to Cyprus and to working together towards the establishment of a strong and impactful regional platform for sustainable energy research and innovation.



Welcome to Cyprus



Cyprus is a small island with a long history and a rich culture, spanning over 11,000 years. It is situated in the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at the meeting point of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The island's primary Greek heritage is enriched by the many and diverse cultures that followed, including Phoenicians, Egyptians, and Romans, along with Crusaders, Byzantines, Franks, and Ottomans, who have all left an indelible legacy for the modern visitor to see and admire.

Cyprus is endowed with golden beaches, virgin green forests, and other natural wonders, inviting visitors to take full advantage of one of the most developed tourism infrastructures per-capita in the world. Moreover, the island is recognised as one of the safest countries in the world by the World Health Organisation, with the Cypriot people renowned for the warm welcome they extend to visitors.

Cyprus is also an important financial and business centre, owing to its modern legal and tax environment, highly educated workforce, and excellent quality of life; with over 70% of the economy focused on financial and professional services, banking, investment management, shipping, tourism, and real estate.

Read more information
on the Deputy Ministry of
Tourism website [here](#).

PHAETHON CoE Founding Workshop

Establishing a Sustainable Energy Research and Innovation Platform for the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, North Africa (EMMENA) Region

Monday 9 November 2026, 09:00 – 15:30

University of Cyprus, UCY Library Stelios Ioannou Learning Resource Centre LRC 012, Amphitheatre “Philippos Tsimpoglou”

09:00 – 09:15 Arrival at the University of Cyprus and Registration

09:15 – 09:45 Session A: Welcome; Introductory Remarks and Keynote Speech

Prof. Constantinos Christofides, Chairman, Board of Directors, PHAETHON CoE
Prof. Tasos Christofides, Rector, University of Cyprus
Dr Constantinos Kombos, H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus

09:45 – 10:30 Keynote Speech

Prof. Yannis Maniatis, MEP (PASOK), Vice-President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D) (International Relations, Defence, Energy Security and Cooperation), f. Minister

10:30 – 10:45 Session B: Setting the Scene; The PHAETHON Centre of Excellence

Prof. George E. Georghiou, CEO, PHAETHON CoE

10:45 – 11:00 The PHAETHON Centre of Excellence Infrastructure

Dr. Georgios Makrides, COO, PHAETHON CoE

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 11:30 Green Hydrogen

Prof. Panos Papanastasiou, Director of Research, PHAETHON CoE

11:30 – 12:15 Session C: Energy Geopolitics and Governance, Socioeconomics and Environmental Sustainability

Prof. Klaus Hubacek, University of Groningen
Prof. Georgia Panayiotou, Clinical Psychology & Psychophysiology Lab, University of Cyprus

12:15 – 13:15 Networking Lunch

13:15 – 15:00 Session D: Potential Areas of Collaboration with EMMENA Region Universities and Research Centres (Research, Access to Infrastructure, Education, Internships)

Prof. Constantinos Christofides, Chairman, Board of Directors, PHAETHON CoE

- **Open Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges**
All Participants

15:00 – 15:30 Session E: Recap of the 1st Day / Take-home Messages

Open Discussion
All Participants

17:00 – 18:30 Guided Tour to the Old City of Nicosia

19:30 – 21:00 Networking Dinner

1888 Wine and Cocktail Bar, Lefkonos 23, 1011 Nicosia

Tuesday 10 November 2026, 09:00 – 17:30

University of Cyprus, UCY Library Stelios Ioannou Learning Resource Centre LRC 012, Amphitheatre “Philippos Tsimpoglou”

09:00 – 09:15	Introductory Remarks
	Prof. Constantinos Christofides , Chairman, Board of Directors, PHAETHON CoE Roberta Boniotti , Secretary General, Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER)
09:15 – 10:30	Session F: The Energy Innovation Ecosystem in the EMMENA Region Maria Markidou Georghiadou , Managing Director, Cyprus Seeds
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:30	Session G: Presentations from EMMENA Region Representatives
12:30 – 13:30	Networking Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Session G (cont.): Presentations from EMMENA Region Representatives
14:30 – 16:30	Session H: Concluding Discussion and the Way Forward All Participants
	Open discussion on key strategic decisions regarding: • The potential forms of collaboration with each organisation / country (e.g. Letter of Intent, MoU, Joint Proposals) • Participation in the EMMENA Region Platform • Interest in specific activities
16:30 – 17:30	Tour to the PHAETHON CoE Infrastructure Facilities

How to Register

Participants should register by filling in the online [Registration Form](#).

It should be noted that representatives from Universities and Research Centres based in the EMMENA countries are invited to express their interest to present their research activities and potential areas of cooperation.

Getting to the Republic of Cyprus



Travellers to the Republic of Cyprus may enter only through the legal points of entry: [Larnaca \(LCA\)](#) and [Paphos \(PFO\)](#) International Airports, or the ports of Larnaca, Limassol, Latsi, and Paphos, which are situated in the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The closest airport to Nicosia is Larnaca International Airport (LCA) (49 km).

Entry to the territory of the Republic of Cyprus via any other port or airport in the area of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic does not exercise effective control (Turkish-occupied area) is **illegal**.

Read more information on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website [here](#).

The Capital City of Nicosia



The University of Cyprus is located in Nicosia (Lefkosia), the island's capital city. It serves as the administrative, commercial, cultural, educational, and religious centre of the country, while also geographically at the heart of the island.

Nicosia is a bustling city, where the ancient past and contemporary present blend seamlessly. The city comprises an ancient, walled city and a modern, fast-paced metropolis that is the epicentre of the island's business and commercial activity.

The city offers something of interest for everyone, with an alluring mix of events, sports, sights, shopping, arts and culture, catering to a multitude of tastes.

Moreover, Nicosia was recently ranked First by the Financial Times among Europe's cities of similar size for Human Capital and Lifestyle, ahead of Oxford, Geneva, and Basel, making it a popular destination for over 20,000 university students.

Explore Nicosia [here](#).

Discover the city [here](#).

Getting to Nicosia

Airport Shuttle

[Kapnos Airport Shuttle](#) costs €10 per person from Larnaca Airport to [Nicosia Station](#) and €20 from Paphos Airport to Nicosia Station. From Nicosia Station, you would need to get a taxi ride to your hotel.

Taxis

Taxi Services are available 24 hours/7 days a week at the designated Taxi area once you exit the Arrivals Hall at Level 0. However, you are encouraged to book a taxi before your flight to Cyprus via [iTaxi Cyprus](#), [Airport taxis from booking.com](#) or any other travel agency. The fare from Larnaca Airport to Nicosia is ~€65 whereas the fare from Paphos Airport to Nicosia is ~€160.

Car Rentals

[Car rental companies](#) (five) are operating at Larnaca and Paphos airports, whose offices are located in the Arrivals, after exiting the Baggage Reclaim area.



Accommodation in Nicosia

10



The city of Nicosia boasts a great variety of hotel accommodation options. A list with proposed hotels with which the University of Cyprus frequently collaborates with is provided here:



Please note that special rates for Workshop participants are offered by the SEMELI Hotel. Those interested should fill-out this [Form](#) and email to hotel@semelihotel.com.cy or fax to (+357) 22 670200.

[Semeli Hotel](#) →



NICOSIA

[Hilton Nicosia](#) →



[Centrum Hotel](#) →



[Cleopatra Hotel](#) →



The Classic Hotel
NICOSIA

[The Classic Hotel](#) →



THE
LANDMARK
NICOSIA

[The Landmark Nicosia](#) →



[MAP Boutique Hotel](#) →



[Urban Habitat Executive Suites](#) →



MADAMA
RESIDENCE

[Madama Residence](#) →

Please either contact the hotel directly to proceed with your booking or make your booking online via the selected hotel's website.

More hotel accommodations can be searched via [Booking.com](#), [Hotels.com](#), [Trivago](#), as well as via other travel agencies.

How to Reach the University

Hotel	Route	Frequency	Nearest Bus Stop
The Classic Hotel	41	Every 20'	Aigyptou Ave., Omirou Ave.
	33	Every 60'	Solomou Square
Centrum Hotel, Madama Residence	41	Every 20'	Omiron Ave., Eleftheria Square
	33	Every 60'	Solomou Square, Eleftheria Square
MAP Boutique Hotel, Cleopatra Hotel, Urban Habitat	41	Every 20'	Eleftheria Square
	33	Every 60'	Eleftheria Square
Hilton	42	Every 30'	Hilton Park 2
Semeli Hotel	44	Every 30'	Stasinou-John Kennedy

Bus Service

Above are some suggested routes from the proposed hotels list to the University campus.

Useful tips:

- The central bus station is at Solomou Square (Plateia Solomou) in the heart of Nicosia.
- Make sure to reach the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the estimated departure time.
- For the latest updates regarding routes and timetables for the Nicosia service check the official website [here](#).
- Install the [Pame](#) mobile app for planning your journey.
- You could also plan your bus journey [here](#), as you may find connecting routes that may suit you better.
- Note some bus stops may have a different name on the return journey.

Taxi Service

The University of Cyprus recommends the following list of taxi services, but they are usually more expensive than public transportation:

VIP Taxi: +357 22 318 318

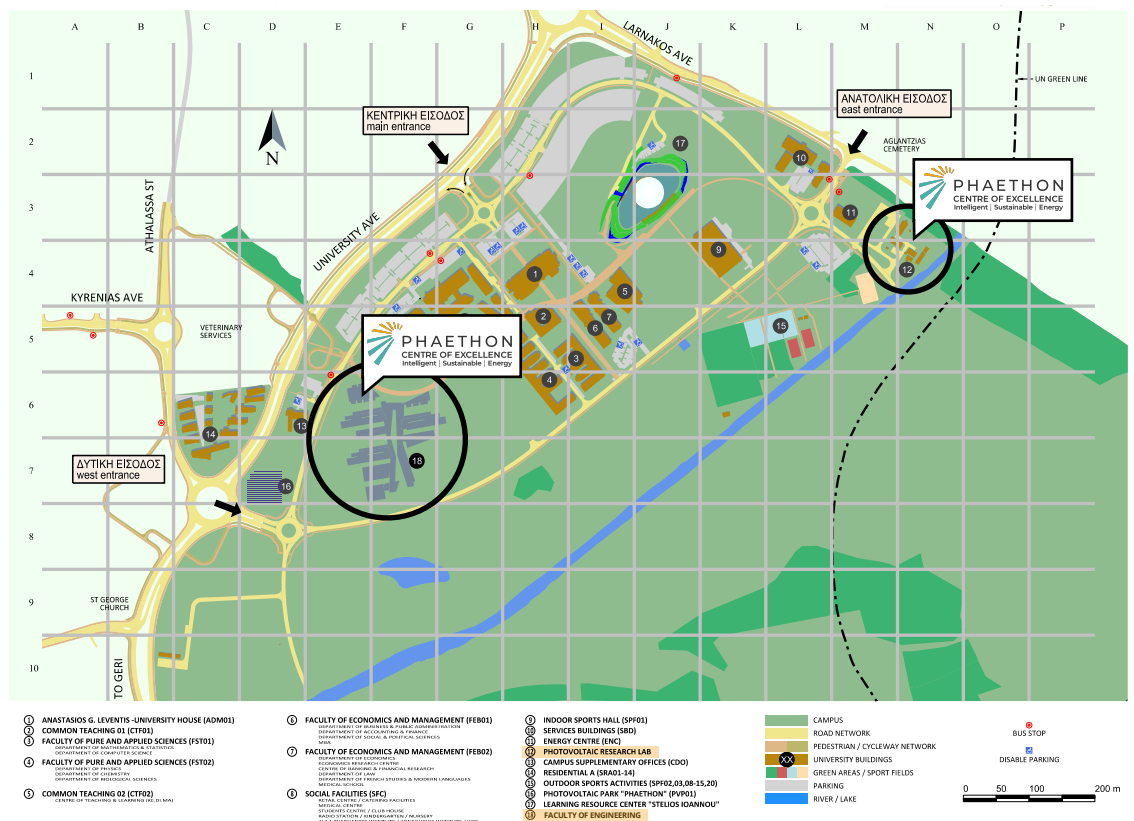
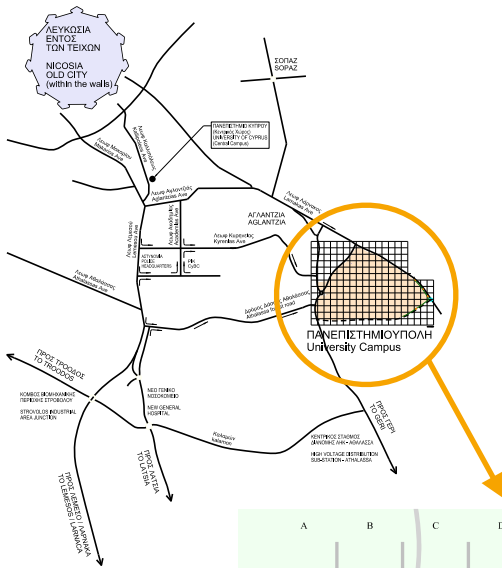
VIP Taxi Nicosia Cyprus: +357 22 107 107

Christos Chrysanthou: +357 99 653 622

Andros Christodoulides: +357 99 994 888

Where to find PHAETHON CoE

12



PHAETHON CoE

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www.phaethon.ucy.ac.cy

[LinkedIn](#)
[Facebook](#)
[X](#)

Find us in Google Maps:

[Photovoltaic Research Lab](#) →

All University premises:

[University Maps](#) →