

Green Cluster Recorded Synergies

1. Melissokampos & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Melissokampos Director, Miranda Lysandrou: Member of The Hub and Green Cluster with AKTI Project and Research Centre have collaborated on the following occasions:

- Melissokampos was invited to deliver the 3rd sector specific Green Cluster training (Act 2.4) on 'How to make beeswax'. At this event, Melissokampos promoted their natural beeswax products and also had the opportunity to expand their network of suppliers. For example, Be Natural, also a Green Cluster member was interested in building future collaborations with Melissokampos.
- Melissokampos designed the invitations (using natural products) for AKTI's Green Cluster events.
- Christmas presents of AKTI were purchased from Melissokampos

2. Women's Association of Rural Larnaca & AKTI Project and Research Centre

The Women Association of Rural Larnaca is a non-profit organisation that promotes entrepreneurship of its members. The Association organises several events which primary aim to empower women entrepreneurs in rural Larnaca.

- The Association invited AKTI, within the Green Cluster, to the Festival of Tradition and Culture in Kornos, Larnaca where AKTI held the 1st Green Cluster training (Act 2.4) on Woodchip demonstrations.
- AKTI in cooperation with the Association will hold the 16th Green Cluster training on 'Traditional Products and Services in a Global Market: Basic Principles of Marketing and Branding', primarily addressing the members of the association.
- This collaboration is ongoing, with AKTI and the Women Association planning several upcoming events for the members of this Association.

3. 'To Sklinitzi' & AKTI Project and Research Centre

The Sklinitzi is a small family-run business based in rural Larnaca, which makes homemade traditional pasta. Within this project, AKTI's team supported Sklinitzi with the branding of their product and helped with the publicity on social media, i.e. supported them to create their business facebook page and to plan their social media marketing approach. Their business facebook page was met with interest from restaurant owners in Nicosia. In fact, two restaurants (which names can't be mentioned without their consent) approached Sklinitzi to discuss future collaborations.

4. Be Natural & Melissokampos

Be Natural is an organic food store based in Nicosia. At one of the Green Cluster training/networking events, Be Natural and Melissokampos discussed future collaborations, with regards to Be Natural becoming Melissokampos distributor.

5. AKTI Project and Research Centre & CYMEPA

The principal aim of the Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association (CYMEPA) is to encourage and actively assist effective efforts to prevent all forms of pollution of the sea. The Association also helps seafarers and executives to be more aware of safety and the protection of the marine environment. CYMEPA also operates extensive public awareness campaigns. CYMEPA supports and assists the Government of Cyprus in ratifying and implementing international conventions addressing the protection of the marine environment.

AKTI Project and Research Centre have been collaborating with CYMEPA for many years, in the context of the Green Cluster, the synergies developed are the following:

- AKTI invited one of CYMERA's experts to deliver one of the sector specific trainings (Act 2.4) on the Blue Flag.
- AKTI invited one of CYMERA's experts to deliver one of the sector specific trainings (Act 2.4) on the Green Key, to go through the application process for Green Cluster Members and potential members; agritourist accommodation members and how to get certified
- CYMEPA adopted AKTI's MarLitCy initiatives as mandatory environmental activities for Blue Flag beaches
 - Blue Flag certified beaches on the island will carry out beach clean-ups using the internationally recognized Ocean Conservancy Protocol and submit the data collected to the Cypriot Marine Litter Database developed by AKTI.
 - Additionally, all snack bars located on Blue Flag beaches will join the "Responsible Beach Bars" programme, essentially adhering to a Decalogue of Good Practice that aims to protect the coast and the marine environment.

6. Nicosia Science and Space Café & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Nicosia Science and Space café is a coffee shop based in Nicosia that offers lectures and workshops on topics of science, and organizes various events. AKTI Project and Research Centre held one of the Green Cluster training/networking events (Act 2.4) at the Science Café, to promote the newly established café.

7. AKTI Project and Research Centre & Riverland Dairy Bio Farm

Riverland Dairy Bio Farm is based in Nicosia and produces organic dairy and vegetables, but also offers outdoor activities like trekking, horse riding, kayaking and others. Riverland is also self-sufficient in energy and water, with the use of solar energy systems, rainwater harvesting and recycling. AKTI held the 12th Green Cluster Training in collaboration with Riverland Dairy Bio Farm, entitled 'Self-Sufficiency and Sustainability'. The training was so successful, this collaboration is ongoing, with AKTI and Riverland planning several upcoming events for Green Cluster members and the wider public, with similar topics.

8. Vouni Lodge, Outdoor & Leisure and AKTI Project & Research Centre

Vouni Lodge offers eco-friendly accommodation for tourists and locals, whilst Outdoor and Leisure offers hiking and camping excursions across the island. Both were invited to participate at one of the trainings in Israel (Minorities on the Israel National Trail) for which AKTI Project and Research Centre was a project partner to SPNI (Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel) planned for February 2016. Both have already discussed the possibility of future collaborations.

9. G.S. ECOPHYSIS, Vavla Rustic Retreat & AKTI Project and Research Centre

G.S. Ecophys is a sustainable tourism enterprise in Vavla, Larnaca offering alternative tours on beekeeping, nature trails and others. Vavla Rustic Retreat is an eco-agritourist accommodation also in Vavla, Larnaca. In collaboration with both, AKTI organised the 13th Green Cluster training on 'Sustainable Tourism: Nature and Beekeeping' at G.S. Ecophys, followed by honey tasting at Vavla Rustic Retreat, thus promoting both enterprises. G.S. Ecophys & Vavla Rustic Retreat committed to repeating this activity in the future for their customers.

10.G.S. ECOPHYSIS & Vavla Rustic Retreat

The members regularly cooperate in combining their services for their customers- nature tours and beekeeping by Ecophys and honey tasting at the retreat. They are currently working on expanding the range of the joint activities they offer.

11. G.S. ECOPHYSIS and Members of Women's Association of Rural Larnaca; Myrianthi and Theodora

Members of the Women's Association of Rural Larnaca regularly supply traditional homemade products like bread, sweets and squash for picnics held by G.S. ECOPHYSIS as part of the activities offered to their customers. G.S. ECOPHYSIS also suggests to its customers visits to the local crafts and artisans workshops of the association.

12. Riverland Dairy Bio Farm & Aperanti Agrotourism

Aperanti Agrotourism is a traditional agro ecotourism accommodation located in Pera Orinis village in Nicosia. Guests can enjoy homemade breakfast and dinner prepared using homemade products (jams, halloumi and anari cheese, olives and olive oil) and home-grown organic fruits and vegetables. Also on offer are local activities like traditional halloumi cheese making, olives collection etc. Aperanti recommends and organizes day trips to the nearby Riverland Dairy Bio Farm for its guests. In addition, Riverland's products, for example milk, are used by Aperanti for its meals and workshops for example on halloumi making. In turn, Riverland recommends Aperanti for accommodation to its visitors.

13. Cyprus Excursion & Aperanti Agrotourism

Cyprus Excursion is the very first project with the aim to support, develop and promote sustainable tourism in Cyprus. Cyprus Excursion offers private excursions, corporate team building activity excursions and builds a powerful network of local partners to offer private or corporate excursions within the partner's network. "Trips Tips" are published in order to recommend the partners to locals and tourists on regular basis.

Cyprus Excursion and Aperanti have been partners, but without actively supporting each other's activities, until a first contact was made at one of the Green Cluster training events at Aperanti. Since, Cyprus Excursion has committed to organise excursions in cooperation with Aperanti Agrotourism as part of its activities, and to include Aperanti in the 'Trips Tips'.

14. Cyprus Excursion & Riverland Dairy Bio Farm

Cyprus Excursion (CE) and Riverland are partners, with the former organising regular excursions to Riverland for its customers.

15. Cyprus Excursion & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Cyprus Excursion has agreed to include all upcoming events and trainings of AKTI in its newsletter, and to promote the AKTI's Green Cluster as supporters of sustainable tourism on its website.

16. Fornelia & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Fornelia Ltd has developed a line of high-efficiency, affordable solar cookers that can be used as an alternative to solid fuels, natural gas or electricity. One of them Fornelia Mini is a parabolic portable solar cooker that resembles a suitcase and is easy to operate in locations such as the balconies of apartment buildings, picnic areas, and remote, rural areas. It achieves cooking temperatures that range between 100°C – 220°C and can be deliberately adjusted to the desired temperature. This results in cooking times that are comparable to gas or electric stoves.

Fornelia has provided the solar cooker for the delivery of interactive trainings. AKTI is also helping with the promotion of Fornelia's technology. Fornelia will participate at the environmental Green Dot Festival through AKTI.

17. Women's Association of Rural Larnaca, Rouvis Lace and Silver, The Beautiful Lefkara, Vavla Rustic Retreat, G.S. Ecophysys, Tavern Mamas to Vasano, Petros Nikolaou, Marina Xenophontos (& AKTI Project and Research Centre)

All of these Green Cluster members participated in one of the Green Cluster Interactive trainings, which was a gastronomy tour through rural Larnaca, co-organised by AKTI and the Women's Association. The U.S. Ambassador was invited to attend, and the members got the chance to showcase their activities and products to all participants. The gastronomy tour was initially conceived for the Green Cluster training series, however, the Women's Association in collaboration with these members, are working to formalize this and other different tours throughout rural Larnaca as tourist packages.

18. Marina Xenophontos and Taverna Mama to Vasano

Marina Xenophontos supplies the tavern with her traditional pasta products.

19. Treis Elies NGO, Treis Elies Art and Nature Club, To Spitiko tou Archonta (& AKTI Project and Research Centre)

Treis Elies NGO, Treis Elies Art and Nature Club and To Spitiko tou Archonta provided a Green Cluster Interactive Training, where the ecovillage Treis Elies was introduced, there was a short walk along the nature trail of the village, with the training finishing at the agritourist accommodation To Spitiko, with the art and nature club demonstrating how to make cherry liqueur!

Beyond this training, the three members cooperate between them on a regular basis. The guests staying at To Spitiko, attend arts and crafts workshops provided by the Art and Nature club. The NGO cooperates with both for the overall coordination and marketing of the ecovillage. The members share 'infrastructure' as well. All members have small patches of agricultural land which they cultivate, and exchange produce depending on needs- for the workshops of the art and nature club, for the meals at the agritourist accommodation etc.

20. Cubix Events and Vavla Rustic Retreat

The two members met at a Green cluster training event at Vavla Rustic retreat, and have begun exploring possibilities for collaboration, in the form of traditional wedding planning- organised by Cubix and to be hosted by the retreat.

21. Marios Frixou Web Developer & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Marios Frixou has created the Green Cluster Website, and subsequently became a member!

22. LUMINA INFORMATICS & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Lumina informatics provides IT and technical support to AKTI, in return, AKTI promotes Lumina informatics through the organisation's network.

23. Elena Charitou Graphic Designer & AKTI Project and Research Centre

Elena has worked with AKTI as the photographer in several events and trainings, and has designed poster material for AKTI. AKTI in turn is promoting Elena's work through social media.

24. Ecolife Element & AKTI Project and Research Centre

The two have had an initial meeting to discuss possibilities for future collaboration. Common ground was established and the organisations are at the brainstorming phase. Initially Ecolife will present its work at AKTI's offices and AKTI will initially hold a training with Ecolife as the trainers.

25. Women Association of Rural Larnaka, Environmental Information Centre of Mountainous Larnaka, G.s Ecophysis and Vavla Rustic Retreat

The Synergy has the title "Rural Interactive Experiences" and the concept is based on a rural route that is offered as an alternative tourism choice. The main idea is to organize an educational tourism route that differs from the existing ones, combining the natural environment with tradition in rural areas which thrive of local privileges. Members involved in the Synergy are well equipped to offer local and foreign visitors, not just typical sightseeing, but also a general package that combines experience and knowledge. The proposal's goal is to motivate visitors, to interact and enroll in the whole process.

26. Cyherbia Botanical Gardens with Golden Donkeys Farm

This Synergy has the title Donekeys and Herbs and collaborate in the following ways:

- Cooperation in the sector of production of olive oil and essential oils and their combined array of products: Olive oil produced at Golden Donkeys Farm gets infused by essential oils of oregano, basil and rosemary distilled at Cyherbia. The essential oil is added to the olive oil creating new, aromatic culinary oil.
- Manure produced by the donkeys at Golden Donkeys Farm to be used to fertilize the trees and herbs at Cyherbia.
- Cooperation in the tourism sector by hosting events, workshops and festivals together
- Cooperation in organizing tourist excursions to both parks

27. To Spitiko tou Archonta, Parhelia, Treis Elies Art & Nature Club

The title of this synergy is Sustainable Agrotourism in Treis Elies: Ecology, Gastronomy and Art and they collaborate through a range of activities available to guests at Spitiko (such as cooking lessons or an art session with Tris Elies Art and Nature club connected to local ecology) and 3-day gastronomic packages.

More specifically:

-Organized seasonal activities for guests at Spitiko you Archonta, such as cooking lessons with organic ingredients, foraging for wild greens, harvesting and preserving fruits, or natural dyeing with local materials.

-3-day gastronomic holiday package for small groups, with an emphasis on traditional cooking and organic/sustainable agriculture, connected to the newly established organic gardens. We hope to offer a unique, immersive experience, much like an intimate gathering of friends, where we share the authentic flavors of Cyprus cuisine and guests have an opportunity to participate in all aspects of it.

Besides accommodation and meals cooked largely with organic ingredients, the package will include one trip outside of the village (for example to a nearby winery or monastery) a seasonal field activity (for example to harvest olives, or fruit or to collect herbs) 3-4 cooking lessons, tasting of local products and a recipe booklet. Lessons will include traditional and modern preservation methods, such as making jams, sweets and liqueurs.

28. Aperanti Agrotourism, To Spitiko tou Archonta and Parhelia

The collaboration between Spitiko Tou Archonta and Aperanti Agrotourism aims to promote sustainable tourism and biological agriculture in two different areas of Troodos mountains and with the hope to revive rural villages, specifically Treis Elies and Pera Orinis.

The goal of the future synergy is to offer a unique, immersive experience, much like an intimate gathering of friends, where not only we share the authentic flavors of Cyprus cuisine and our love for nature but we also encourage our guests to fully embrace our ecofriendly lifestyle.

Besides accommodation and meals cooked largely with organic ingredients, we organize seasonal activities for our guests, such as cooking lessons, harvesting olives/fruits, herbs collection, jam/liqueurs preparation and halloumi cheese making.

The members of the synergy have already been collaborating by exchanging products/services/clients and by promoting each others on their own websites/social media. In particular, discount vouchers have been issued by each accommodation to encourage the visit to both locations.

As gastronomic tourism is a promising growing trend, the new venture of our synergy is to propose a 6-day gastronomic package, with an emphasis on traditional cooking and organic/sustainable agriculture. The package includes accommodation and meals, 2 trips in the countryside (to a nearby winery or monastery or hiking trail), 2 seasonal field activities (olives/fruits harvesting or halloumi cheese making), 4-5 cooking lessons, tasting of local products and a recipe booklet. Lessons will include traditional and modern preservation methods, such as making jams, sweets and liqueurs.

29. Riverland Bio Farm, Aperanti Agrotourism and Cyprus Excursion

With a clear niche in the market, the collaboration between Aperanti Agrotourism and Riverland Biofarm aims to promote sustainable tourism and to support organic agriculture and farming in the off-the-beaten-track countryside of Pera /Kambia. This network was extended a year ago with the addition of Cyprus Excursion, a local travel agency which supports sustainable tourism in Cyprus and organises unique excursions to discover traditional activities and local products.

The cooperation among the members of the synergy allows them to join and maximise their sustainable initiatives and at the same time to expand their market potential. The collaboration includes: a) exchange of products, services and clients, b) exchange of knowledge and information and c) promotion.

The overall goal of the synergy is to reinvent agrotourism in Cyprus by offering a unique experience that goes beyond the simple accommodation. Our clients have the opportunity to learn and participate in agricultural/farming practices, become engaged in the making of local products, taste homemade cuisine, enjoy activities in nature and visit cultural/religious sites. Moreover, the synergy has a strong educational element in the form of school visits, workshops and festivals.

30. Ktima Christoudia, Vavla Rustic Retreat, Our House, G.S Ecophysis

'Experience The Countryside' is a joint synergy that is exclusively led by women. The aim of the synergy is to increase the marketability of our businesses and bring more tourism to the area around Vavla, whilst also assisting the local economy. The concept is to be able to form a complete package that fully embodies the internationally accepted definition of Agrotourism, thus redefining the generally accepted notion of Agrotourism here in Cyprus. Through our synergy we will be able to offer eco-friendly traditional accommodations, locally sourced, Cypriot-inspired cuisine, and a range of activities that connect tourists with the land and traditional Cyprus culture, offering a complete Agrotourism experience.

Our unique synergy creates a tourist package that will focus on experiential, rural tourism in the traditional Cypriot countryside. Our ideal guests are those who are seeking to reconnect with and experience what rural areas and nature have to offer – to get in touch with their roots – and can consist of families with older children, individuals and couples of all ages, groups of friends, and anyone who has an appreciation for nature, history, tradition & culture.

Activities will take the form of hands-on education, experience and discovery, including such activities as guided nature hikes, picnics, being a "beekeeper for a day", grape harvesting or wine bottling, fruit picking or olive harvesting, and more. This combination will ensure a high quality product for visitors, extend the local tourist season, stimulate the economy of local products and businesses, and most importantly share the passion for agriculture and tradition with others.

31. Garden Kamara Complex, Bee and Embroidery Museum, Iacovos Korniotis

The agrotourism accommodation and the Museum are located in Kato Drys village. The museum visitors are informed about the accommodation and the agricultural and beekeeping activities that take place. The accommodation's guests take a free museum tour; get informed about the rural life, and the history of the village and region. The welcoming of guests is accompanied with a basket full of local products, such as honey, olive oil, olives, Cypriot herbs and seasonal fruits. The visitors are also informed beforehand about the activities they can participate in.

32. Fornelia: Solar Oven Everywhere

FORNELIA LTD produces high efficiency solar ovens. The Fornelia Mini portable mobile model is a parabolic type solar oven, with dimensions 60 cmx20cmx50cm and weighs 10 kilograms. It looks like a suitcase and operates in areas such as balconies, picnic areas, and remote rural areas, on the beach or on the boat.

It reaches cooking temperatures between 100 °C -220 °C and can be adjusted to the desired temperature. This results in baked foods of all types at times similar to electrical cookers or stoves.

Particularly for the Cypriot 'kleftiko' there is no need for five hours of preheating wood and the meat cooked in two hours. Bread and fish cooked in 40-50 minutes. The oven features special round stainless pan of 5 liters.

To monitor the sun, it is placed in a special aluminum base which comes with the set and is very easy to use. The collector acts like a Thermos enabling operation even in ambient temperatures below 5° C, and keeps the food warm for several hours.

Theodoulos Koullapi deals with environmental journalism with extensive experience in the sector. In the last two years he specifically deals with issues relating to recycling and reducing consumption in general. This environmental sensitivity makes him a valuable partner for the promotion of FORNELIA LTD products as it can fill the needs relating to the improvement of the company communication policy. It is obvious that with his knowledge he will give a big boost to sales, which is the requirement for every healthy cooperation.

33.Kouyioukas Watermill, Droushia Dairy Products, Traditional Products Giotas, Sophia's Traditional Sweets

This synergy was based on the need to bring together the small businesses and bring them to our space in order to promote their traditional products. In this Synergy, Kouyioukas' Watermill provides the place and coordinates the whole event, aiming to invite people to come and taste the traditional goods of various producers in collaboration with the Evangelismos Hospital

34.Dia Xilou Texni with The BirdHouse Etc and Friends

The Birdhouse Etc and Friends is an art collective that hosts the work of a wide range of artists. 'Dia Xilou Texni' creates a wood work and is based in the Paphos region.

The BirdHouse hosts the work of 'Dia Xilou Texni' at the art collective in Nicosia- promoting like this the artists work.

35. The Melissokampos and The BirdHouse Etc

The Birdhouse Etc and Friends is the main distributor of Melissokampos soaps in Nicosia

36.Katerina Xenophontos with Yialodimiourgies

Katerina Xenophontos and Yiolas Nestoros from Yialodimiourgies are both artists that share the same workshop space promoting each other's art work and business.

37.Ta paradosiaka tis Argyris with The Little Shop

The Little Shop is a shop based in Paphos and is the main distributor of the "Ta Paradosiaka tis Argyris" products that is based in Nicosia.

38. Paradosi Konta mas with Ta paradosiaka tis Argiris

"I Paradosi konta mas" designs traditional baskets in collaboration with "Ta paradosiaka tis Argyris", a business with traditional products. They distribute the baskets to hotels and work in collaboration with the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

39. Yalodimiourgies with Katerina Xenofontos and Dia Xilou Texni

"Yalodimiourgies" with "Katerina Xenofontos" and "Dia Xilou Texni" are all handcrafted that started a common annual art festival, promoting each other's art work and businesses.

40. The Love Bite with CubixMinds and Vavla Rustic Retreat

The Love Bite with Roots Synergy (CubixMinds and Vavla Rustic Retreat) collaborate in the wedding planning industry, with The Love Bite distributing wedding cakes. Vavla Rustic Retreat offering accommodation and CubixMinds planning events and weddings.

41. Triclus Eco Fun for Kids with Riverland Farm

Triclus Eco Fun for kids distributes eco-bikes for kids at Riverland Farm. Riverland Farm is able to create a space for children's activities promoting the Triclus eco-bikes.

42. Cyprus Wine Museum with Cubix Minds

The Cyprus Wine Museum is the main distributor of wines for CubixMinds events.

43. Cyprus Wine Museum with Vavla Rustic Retreat

The Cyprus Wine Museum is the main distributor of Cyprus wines at Vavla Rustic Retreat. Vavla Rustic Retreat, an Agrotourism accommodation promotes the Cyprus wines of the museum.

44. Sykaminia with Zambartas Winery

Sykaminia, a traditional Cypriot restaurant distributes Cyprus wine from Zambartas wineries.

They also collaborate in planning events, like wine tasting promoting both the restaurant and the Zambartas Winery.

45. Kallena Arsos Botanic Gardens with Arsorama

Kallena Botanic Gardens is the main distributor of herbal tea in the Arsos area. Arsorama, an Agrotourism accommodation offers herbal tea to guests by Kallena Arsos Botanic gardens, promoting like this, the local herbal tea of the area and business.

46. Kallena Arsos Botanic Gardens with Arsos Restaurant and Cafe

Arsos Restaurant and Cafe is a cafe based in Arsos Village. Kallena Arsos Botanic Gardens distributes its herbal tea to the cafe restaurant.

47. Taverna Agora with Kallena Arsos Botanic Gardens

Taverna Agora is a restaurant based in Arsos. Kallena Arsos Botanic Gardens is the main distributor of herbal tea.

48. Our House with Vavla Rustic Retreat

Our House and Vavla Rustic Retreat are both in the Tourism Services sector offering Agrotourism accommodation to guests. In addition, Our House offers breakfast to guests, whether Vavla Rustic Retreat does not have the infrastructure required to serve breakfast and Vavla Rustic Retreat refers guests for breakfast to Our House.