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.

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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, **Dr Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons**, Former Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention)

11:30–12:00 | Institutional Seminar
Title: *The European Landscape Convention and the Council of Europe Landscape Award*
Speaker: (Italian Ministry of Culture – MIC, **Dr Luigi La Rocca, Dr Fabrizio Magani, Dr Isabella Fera***)

Title: *Heritage and Landscape as Drivers of Sustainable Development: Perspectives from the Cilento Territory*

Speaker: Superintendency for Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape of Salerno and Avellino, Italian Ministry of Culture (MiC), Superintendent, **Dr Anna Onesti***)

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: a dialogue*
Speakers: European Landscape Observatory Arco Latino and Campus Mediterraneo, **Dr Domenico Nicoletti**, University of Camerino, **Prof Massimo Sargolini**)

15:00–15:30 | Thematic Input Session
Title: *Cultural Routes as Tools for Territorial Cooperation and Heritage Interpretation*
Speaker: (EU Commission Forum on Cultural Heritage and HII – Heritage and Landscape Department, **Dr Eleonora Berti**)

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

Case Studies: *The Phocaeans' Route: a new international cultural route* (Municipality of Ascea, **Dr Stefano Sansone,** Archaeological Parks of Paestum and Velia, **Dr Tiziana D'Angelo**, **Dr Francesco Uliano Scelza**)

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

Policy Lab | Launch, Tools, Aims (Eurac Research, **Dr Luca Cetara,** Heritage International Institute – Heritage and Landscape Department, **Dr Maria Teresa Idone)**

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

9:00-11:30 | Applying Heritage Economics

Title: *Cultural Heritage as a Driver of Local Development: Impact, Governance and Innovation Ecosystems*
Speaker: (University of Catanzaro, **Prof Michele Trimarchi**)

11:30–12:00 | International Keynote (online)
Title: *Economic Indicators and Innovative Finance for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes*
Speaker: (OECD, tbc)*

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: (Archaeological Parks of Paestum and Velia, **Dr Tiziana D'Angelo**)

15:30–17:30 | Technical Field Visit
Activity: Management Dialogues and Guided Visit to Paestum and Velia archaeological sites (Archaeological Parks of Paestum and Velia, **Dr Francesco Uliano Scelza, Dr Silvio Leone, Dr Chiara Cammarano**). Case Studies and focus on *heritage management strategies, cultural*

promotion models, community engagement practices. Case study: Velia beyond Velia project towards a Local Museums Network for landscape archaeology.

17:30–18:30 | Policy Lab Consolidation
Participants translate field insights into heritage-based development strategies, initial policy recommendations, project concepts

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

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

Morning Session (09:00 – 13:00)

Policy Frameworks and Governance Innovation

09:00–11:00 | Keynote Lecture
Title: *Territorial Cohesion, Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA) and Strategic Territorial Value (STV)*
Speaker: (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Heritage International Institute – Heritage and Landscape Department, **Prof Maria Prezioso**)

11:00–12:00 | Policy Dialogue
Title: *EU Cohesion Policy and Right to Stay: from EU frameworks to local strategies*

Speaker: (EU Committee of the Regions, **Dr Carmine Pacente**) *

Title: *Parks and Inner areas: planning and development perspectives in the Apennines*

Speaker: School of Architecture and Design, University of Camerino, **Prof Massimo Sargolini**)

Title: *Land Tenure, Natural Resource Governance and Community Participation* (title tbc)
Speaker: (University of Otago, NZ, **Dr Francesca Marzatico**) *

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

14:30–16:00 | Thematic Input Session
Rural and inner areas regeneration and development: theory and practices through RURACTIVE, RURITAGE and Qui Val di Fiastra, **Dr Claudia De Luca,** University of Bologna

Experiences in Rural and Inner Areas Development; Archaeology and agriculture: a project in the Paestum and Velia sites **Dr Francesco Uliano Scelza,** Archaeological Parks of Paestum and Velia

Shaping the Landscape Through Sustainable Farming, **Edmondo Soffritti,** Top 50 Farmer 2026, Climate Farmer, La Petrosa Farm*****

16:00–19:00 | Applied Co-design Workshop

Technical assistance provided to students in developing their ideas and projects based on their work for Policy Lab: Participants develop PPP models, Territorial business concepts, Pilot projects.

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

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 | International Keynote (virtual)
Title: *From Landscape Ecology to Policy Action: Science for Resilient Territories*
Speaker: (IALE-International Association for Landscape Ecology, **Dr Serena D'Ambrogi**)*****

10:00–11:00 | Scientific Lecture
Title: *Landscape Systems under Climate Change: Impacts, Resilience, and Adaptation Pathways*
Speaker: (Eurac Research – Institute for Alpine Environment, **Dr Lukas Egarter Vigl**)

11:00-12:00 | International Input

Title: *The European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage: a new research-funding instrument at the nexus cultural heritage-climate change*

Speaker: (European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH), **Dr Miruna Gaman**)

12:00–13:00 | Lecture
Title: *Climate policies for Quality of Life and Quality of Landscape*
Speaker: (Eurac Research and HII – Heritage and Landscape Department, **Dr Luca Cetara**)

Afternoon Session (14:30 – 19:30)

Final Synthesis and Multi-Stakeholder Validation

14:30–16:30 | Policy Lab Consolidation

Participants work on their heritage-based development strategies, initial policy recommendations, project concepts.

16:30–18:00 | 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
Title: *Integrated Territorial Strategies and Governance Pathways*
Moderator: (HII Heritage and Landscape Department, **Dr Maria Teresa Idone**, Eurac Research and HII Heritage and Landscape Department, **Dr Luca Cetara**)

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)

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) (tbc)

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 31 July**, while **standard registration remains open until 31 August.**

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.

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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 July 31st: 380 €

Standard registration by August 31st: 450 €

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

Contact – Scientific Coordination

Maria Teresa Idone (HII): mariateresa.idone@hii.institute
Luca Cetara (HII, Eurac Research): luca.cetara@hii.institute

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