# 'EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS NETWORK FOR CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES'



**HORIZON – WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05** 

EDU4CLIMATE | GRANT No. 101071247

# D6.5 Report on the project's Kick-off Meeting (KoM)

### NOVEMBER 2022

























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### 1. Introduction

The 'European Higher Education Institutions Network for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences' Project (Edu4ClimAte, HEU GA no.101071247) will design, implement, test and refine, a joint long-term collaboration Action Plan between HEIs. The ambition is that through its Action Plan, Edu4ClimAte will engage a wide range of Networks of Research and Innovation in Atmospheric Sciences; including more leading HEIs in Europe and the EMME, to address the effects and societal challenges posed by climate change and air pollution.

**Deliverable 6.5** at hand, as per the GA, reports on the **Project's Kick-off Meeting**. On 4<sup>th</sup> **October 2022** the kick-off meeting of Edu4ClimAte Project was organised in Larnaca, Cyprus. The project is funded by the European Union under the Agreement No. 101071247. The meeting was held to introduce the Project Management teams and beneficiaries, explain the general objectives of the project and Work Packages as well as define the actions and activities of the upcoming 12 months.



M6.1. Project Start/Edu4ClimAte kick-off meeting organized, 4th October 2022, Larnaca, Cyprus

The list of attendees is attached in Annex I and the Final Agenda of the meeting in Annex II of this report.

The main aim of this report is to describe the meeting activities and the actions that have been agreed during Edu4ClimAte's Kick-off meeting that set the basis for the work to be carried out for the next 12 months.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting

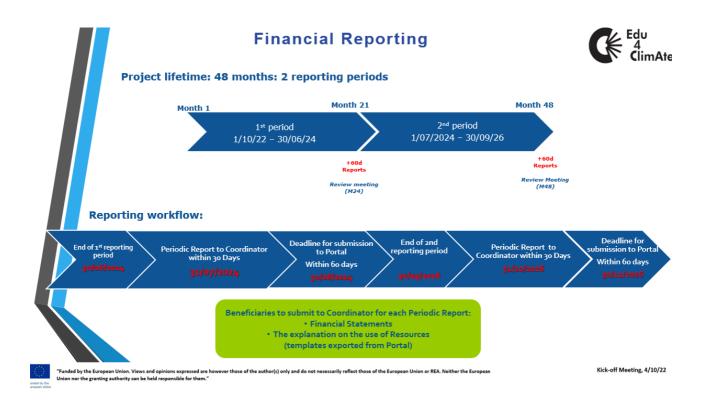
**09:30 – 11:00a.m:** Prof. Jean Sciare **(Cyl)**, Edu4ClimAte Coordinator, started the meeting with a welcome greeting. Then the coordinator presented the project's vision, objectives and made a brief overview of the different WPs. Afterwards, a brief presentation was delivered by each partner beneficiary:

Beneficiary No.	Beneficiary Name	Short Name	Country
1	The Cyprus Institute	Cyl	Cyprus
2	University of Crete	UoC	Greece
3	Universite De Versailles Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines	UVSQ	France
5	Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance	DLI	Cyprus
6	Raymetrics Anonymi Etairia Anaptyksis Systimaton Ipsilis Technologias	RAYMETRICS	Greece
7	Additess Advanced Integrated Technology Solutions & Services Ltd	ADDITESS	Cyprus
8	Universitat Wien	UNIVIE	Austria
9	Altus LSA Commercial And Manufacturing SA	ALTUS	Greece
10	Municipality of Aglantzia	AGLANTZIA	Cyprus
11	Helsingin Yliopisto	UHEL	Finland

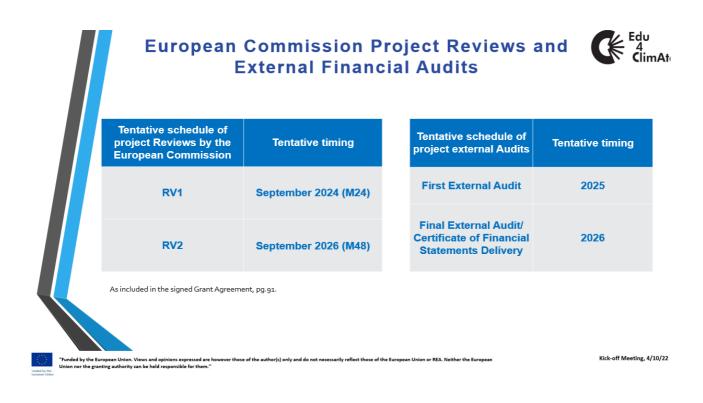
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.: Project Manager, Mrs. Andri Charalambous (Cyl), presented the Coordinator's Management Team for WP6 and gave a brief overview of the WP's objectives, tasks, deliverables and milestones. Then, she presented the financial management oversight of the project giving advice to beneficiaries on what to do and not to do during project execution, their responsibilities as beneficiaries and their contribution to Technical and Financial Reports. Among other things, it was mentioned that in total within the project 4 annual meetings will be organised (2 in Cyprus and 2 in Greece). Additionally, the payment schedule and bank transfers to beneficiaries was presented, which is in line with the payments that will be received by the funding authority as follows:

PAYMENT GRANT AMOUNT TO BETRANSFERED		TRANSFER TIMING	PRE-CONDITIONS FOR TRANSFERS	
PRE- FINANCING	60% of the maximum Grant amount – 5% kept as Guarantee Fund	Receipt of Advance Payment : 27/09/2022 Partner transfers performed: 27/10/2022	Receipt by Cyl of Advance Payment by Funding Authority	
INTERIM PAYMENT	Reimbursement of the eligible costs incurred for the implementation of the action during the respective Reporting Period	Following 1st Reporting Period: 01/10/2022 – 30/06/ 2024	Upon acceptance of all deliverables and report for the respective Reporting Period by the Funding Authority, and receipt by CYI of relevant Payment by the Funding Authority	
BALANCE	Final Payment	Following Final Reporting Period: 01/07/2024 - 30/09/ 2026	Upon acceptance of all deliverables and reports for the Final Reporting Period by the Funding Authority, and receipt by Cyl of relevant Payment by the Funding Authority	

Then, Mrs. Charalambous presented the reporting workflow and the responsibilities of the beneficiaries for each reporting period as shown below:



Last but not least, the Project Reviews from the European Commission were presented as well as the schedule for the project's external audits:



Finally, the deliverables of the first 21 months of the project (1st Reporting period) were presented:

Deliverable	WP	Lead Beneficiary	Due Date	To be sent to Coordinator for Review/Validation
D1.1 Report 'Training Hub Action Plan'	WP1	UOC	M6	M5
D2.1 The EMME Decarbonization Observatory	WP2	UVSQ	M15	M14
D2.3 Flagship research initiatives mid-term report	WP2	UNIVIE	M24	M23
D4.1 First version of the Edu4ClimAte Action Plan	WP4	Cyl	M12	M11
D5.1 Plan for the D.E.C.	WP5	Cyl	M6	M5
D5.2 Data Management Plan (DMP)	WP5	Cyl	M6	M5
D6.1 Project Management Coordination Structure	WP6	Cyl	M1	M1
D6.2 Quality Assurance and Risks Management Plan	WP6	Cyl	M3	M2
D6.3 Ethics Compliance Report	WP6	Cyl	M12	M11
D6.5 Report on the project's Kick-off Meeting (KoM)	WP6	Cyl	M24	M1

11:45 – 12:15 p.m.: Dr. Nikos Kalivitis (UoC), presented WP1 'High quality Education and Training'. In his presentation he highlighted the objectives, tasks, deliverables and milestones of WP1, and also presented critical risk and proposed mitigation measure for a specific task of WP1: 'Task 1.2. Joint PhD program'. More specifically it was identified that there is the possibility that HEIs fail to recruit competitive PhD students in the first 6 months of the project with the level of Likelihood: Medium - Level of Severity: Medium to High. For this, the WP leader proposes the below Mitigation Measure:

'Joint PhD projects will be turned into Joint Post-doc Projects of 24 months (instead of the initial 36 months for PhD projects). This will not affect budgets and deliverables. The number of joint PhDs (6) will lower the severity.'

Finally, Dr. Kalivitis presented the key activities of WP1 for the first year of the project as follows:

- > Task 1.1. "A Climate & Atmosphere Training Hub" has to be completed by M6
  - D1.1: Training Hub Action Plan (M6)
- Task 1.2. "Joint PhD program"
  - Initiate the scheme (M1-M6)
  - Publication of Joint PhD projects (connected Task 2.3) (M1-M6)
  - joint admission of 6 PhD students (M3-M6)
  - M1.1: Joint PhD students selected and engaged in Research (M6)
- > Task 1.3. "A joint upgraded educational curriculum"

- Review and benchmarking (gap analysis, market needs) (M6-M9)
- identification of available resources within the consortium (staff, material, equipment)
   (M9-12)

**13:15 – 13:30 p.m.:** Dr. Maria Korda, EC Project Adviser from Unit REA.C3 briefly presented findings from EEI Projects.

**13:30 – 14:00 p.m.:** Dr. Andreas Plach **(UNIVIE)**, delivered a presentation for **WP2** 'Flagship Research Initiative and Infrastructures'. He made an overview with the objectives, tasks, deliverables, milestones and research infrastructure that will be used among the different tasks of WP2. It was mentioned that the deliverables are not only reporting on the activities but also the development of the strategy-building a roadmap/strategy that will additionally include a gap analysis. Dr. Plach also highlighted the fact that there is a critical risk for the collaboration among others proposing as a mitigation measure to minimize this risk by relatively large number of research projects (6).

Finally, Dr. Plach presented the key activities of WP2 for the first twelve months of the project as shown below:

- ➤ M2.2 EMME Atmospheric Modelling Platform on-line (M9)
  - > EMME-AMP website online
- connected M1.1 Initiating the Joint PhD scheme (M9) + recruiting

**14:30 – 15:00 a.m.:** Prof. Jean Sciare **(CyI)**, made a brief overview of **WP3** 'Flagship Innovation & Policy Support Initiatives' highlighting that the first step is to build a joint innovation strategy that will be implemented through Flagship initiatives engaging widening HEIs and their surrounding ecosystems in the co-development of highly specialized (high added value) environmental services and products for Policy Support (Task 3.1) and further commercialization (Task 3.2).

Afterwards, Prof. Sciare presented for each task the people that will be involved as well as the KPIs, challenges, risk analysis and mitigation strategy and interactions with other WPs. More specifically:

#### **Task 3.1 Flagship Policy Support Initiative**

**Lead:** CYI - Staff: CARE-C Emission Team (<u>J. Kushta</u>, A. Violaris, D. Dimitriou, C. Mc Intok, F. Dubard)

Contribute: DLI

**KPIs:** Technical training on MRV, Timely submission of Reports to EU/UNFCCC, Information on new (specific) features to be accounted.

Identified Challenges: Need to discuss the continuation/extent of the current direct assignments

Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy: Activity already ongoing. Need to keep it connected with Edu4ClimAte

#### Task 3.2.: Flagship Innovation initiatives

Within **Task 3.2** three 'boost innovation' projects will be implemented in order to test and strengthen more tangibly the innovation capacity/capability of the widening partners and boost technology transfer. The 'boost' projects selected are involving 3 different businesses (RAYMETRICS, ALTUS, ADDITESS/SKYLD) from widening countries. Although relatively small in size and ambitions, these boost projects will engage widening partners in developing, testing, validating new features related to drones/sensors that will enhance the competitiveness of products/services already commercialized by the private partners.

For the first two projects the researchers that will be involved from Cyl are: <u>J. Sciare</u>, M. Kezoudi, F. Marenco, C. Keleshis, A. Papetta, and USRL technical team.

Contribute: RAYMETRICS - ALTUS

Within the first two projects, two field campaigns will be organized (Jan. 2024 and Apr. 2025), the first in collaboration with Raymetrics (Project 1) and the second one with ALTUS (Project 2). Most probably both of them will be organized in Limassol Port in Cyprus. More specifically:

- ➤ **Project-1** (CyI, RAYMETRICS) (M12-M24) a) UAV-PM sensor system ready to fly (M15), b) 1-month field test of PMeye + UAV-PM in Cyprus (M16), c) data analysis (M17-M21), d) scientific communication (M24).
- ➤ **Project-2** (CyI, ALTUS) (M18-M36): a) benchmarking of SO2/CO2 sensors (M18-M24), b) integration of new CyI sensors in CyI UAVs and OURANOS RPAS (M24-M30), c) Field test in port/open sea (M30-M33). d) scientific communication (M36).

**KPIs:** TRL of UAV-sensor systems, Sensor performance, Timely achievement of Field tests, Scientific Comm.

**Identified Challenges:** Integration of sensors in UAVs (Cyl & ALTUS), Logistic of the campaigns (port)

Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy: Port & DCA authorizations / Get application approvals well ahead.

Interactions with other WPs: Innovation Strategy to be reported in Edu4ClimAte Action Plan (WP4)

Finally, under task 3.2 a third project will be completed under which S. Bezantakos, G. Biskos and R. Papaconstantinou will be involved from Cyl in collaboration with ADDITESS/SKYLD. More precisely:

➤ **Project-3 (Cyl, ADDITESS, UoC)** (M12-M36): a) Operational web platform (M21), b) interface with sensors, quality control algorithms (M27), c) interface with EMME-AMP & online open access (M36).

**KPIs:** Timely achievement of operational (on-line open access) web platform, integration of sensors, users/followers

**Identified Challenges:** Integration of sensors in web platform

#### **Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy:**

**Interactions with other WPs:** *Task 5.3 Air Quality Living Lab prototype (M12-M36)* 

Finally, Prof. Sciare presented the key activities of WP3 for Year 1 of the project as bellows:

- > Task 3.1. Discussion on possible trainings on MRV
- > Task 3.2. Projects 1 & 2: Final planning (dates), Authorizations, Logistic requirements
- > Task 3.2. Projects 3: Discussion on the technical requirements for the web platform

**15:00 – 15:30 p.m.**: Prof. Philippe Ciais **(UVSQ)**, presented **WP4** 'Networks and Alliance'. The main objective of this WP is to prepare a first version of a long-term collaboration Action Plan between HEIs will be drafted (Task 4.1) and revised in the end of the project (Task 4.4) by collecting new knowledge and lessons learned from the above WPs. This Action Plan will serve as the basis of an HEI Alliance plan (Task 4.2) and will be disseminated within international networks (Task 4.3).

Within **Task 4.1,** an initial version of the Edu4ClimAte Action Plan will be drafted. The KPI, key challenges, mitigation measures and link with other WPs are as follows:

KPI: timely delivery of review

Identified Challenges: need early discussions and agreement on content

Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy: keep partners involved and account for their specificities

Interactions with other WPs: take input from other WP

The main objective of **Task 4.2** is to prepare an alliance plan matching eligibility criteria of the 2021-2027 ERAMUS prog. Based on the above Edu4ClimAte long-term Action Plan, an initial Alliance plan will be prepared and shared for comments to key collaborators of major European HEIs in the field of climate and atmospheric sciences and the Head Office of the most relevant networks (e.g. FutureEarth, ACCC, PEEX, ICOS, ACTRIS, CU, LERU, etc.) so as to better connect the Alliance with Researh and Innovation.

However, among the discussion it was conveyed that this is not feasible at this point as the eligibility status of concerned beneficiaries has changed and they are no longer eligible to apply. More was discussed on this issue in the final session (see p.12) of the kick off meeting that was specifically dedicated for this.

Afterwards Prof. Ciais mentioned the KPIs, key challenges and mitigation measures for Task 4.3 and 4.4 as follows:

#### Task 4.3 International Research & Innovation Networks

**KPI**: timely organization of workshop / # of participants

**Identified Challenges:** outreach to advertise workshops

Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy: keep partners involved and account for their specificities

Interactions with other WPs: take input from other WP

#### Task 4.4 Final version of the Edu4ClimAte Action Plan

KPI: timely delivery of ancillary documents

Identified Challenges: ensure consistency and harmonization of input

Risk Analysis and Mitigation strategy: keep partners involved and account for their specificities

Interactions with other WPs: take input from other WP

Finally, the key activities of WP4 for the first year of the project were presented as follows:

- CYI Compilation of the joint Education, Research, Innovation and Networks strategies (M1-M9).
- CYI Review and synthesis by the HEI partners (M9).
- > UVSQ Prepare First version Edu4ClimAte Action Plan.

**15:30 – 16:00 p.m.**: Ms. Marina Papageorgiou from Cyl made a brief overview of **WP5 'Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation'**, its main objective, tasks, deliverables and milestones. Under **Task 5.1 'Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC)'**, it was mentioned that each beneficiary shall assign at least one dedicated contact point.

Under Task 5.2 'Research Data Management and Open Science practices' f the data management plan (all kinds of data that is produced, monitored throughout the project) will be periodically updated to ensure open access not only to publications but also to data sets that relate to publications.

**Task 5.3** 'Air Quality Living Lab prototype', a citizen's science project (living lab prototype) will be completed in collaboration with Municipality of Aglantzia and Municipality of Agios Nikolaos engagement of citizens and involvement on citizens in the project (i.e. establishment of sensors to citizens' homes).

Task 5.4 'Research Data Management and Open Science practices' will leverage the DEC plan and results of the project and how these reach the public (science fair, and the results of the project are communicated)

Last but not least, it was decided that one social media account will be created for the purposes of the project.

Finally, the key activities of WP5 for Year 1 of the project were presented as per below:

- > **D5.1**. Refined Plan for the D.E.C. (linked to Task 5.1) (**M6**)
- ➤ **D5.2**. Refined Data Management Plan (DMP) (linked to Task 5.2) (**M6**)
- ➤ **M5.1** Project Website Online (**M6**)
- ➤ M5.2 Air Quality signposts in operation and citizens engaged in science (M12)

**16:15 – 17:00 p.m.:** A dedicated session was organized to discuss further on the ERASMUS + Call on European Universities Alliance and the possibility of the consortium beneficiaries to prepare for this call. As conveyed in the discussions of WP4, this plan is no longer feasible as the concerned beneficiaries are no longer eligible to apply for this call. More precisely, with the exception of the Cyprus Institute, there are no other beneficiaries eligible to go for an 'Alliance' under Edu4ClimAte Project as they are already part of an alliance.

However, the consortium decided for an Action plan broader than simply an 'Alliance' but still fulfilling and bringing the expected added value and impact. We believe this change would still align with the Topic Description of the European Excellence Initiative (EEI) call (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05).

A draft letter on that direction (request to amend the GA with a change of project aim) and to be sent to the EC Project Officer has been prepared by the coordinator and is under the validation of the consortium.

### 3. Summary of Actions/Key activities for Year 1

#### WP2: Flagship Research initiatives and Infrastructures (UNIVIE)

- > M2.2 EMME Atmospheric Modelling Platform on-line (M9)
  - o EMME-AMP website online
- connected M1.1 Initiating the Joint PhD scheme (M9) + recruiting

#### WP3: Flagship Innovation and Policy Support Initiatives (Cyl)

- Task 3.1. Discussion on possible trainings on MRV
- > Task 3.2. Projects 1 & 2: Final planning (dates), Authorizations, Logistic requirements
- > Task 3.2. Projects 3: Discussion on the technical requirements for the web platform

#### WP4: Networks and Alliance (UVSQ)

- Cyl Compilation of the joint Education, Research, Innovation and Networks strategies (M1-9).
- Cyl Review and synthesis by the HEI partners (M9)
- UVSQ Prepare First version Edu4ClimAte Action Plan

#### WP5: Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation

### **Deliverables**

- ➤ **D5.1**. Refined Plan for the D.E.C. (linked to Task 5.1) (**M6**)
- > **D5.2**. Refined Data Management Plan (DMP) (linked to Task 5.2) (**M6**)

#### Milestones

> M5.1 Project Website Online (M6)

M5.2 Air Quality signposts in operation and citizens engaged in science (M12)

### 4. ANNEX I

### **List of Attendees**

/A	Name/Surname	Organization	Participants List Email	Signature
L	Chrysanthos Savvides	DLI	csavvides@dli.mlsi.gov.cy	Lacks -
2	Emily Vasileiadou	DLI	evasiliadou@dli.mlsi.gov.cy	Em. Vos
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ı	Philippe Ciais	UVSQ	philippe.ciais@lsce.ipsl.fr	1.1
	Katja Lauri	UHEL	katja.lauri@helsinki.fi	Kohet
5	Stephany Mazon	UHEL	stephany.mazon@helsinki.fi	All The Teller
,	Nikos Kalivitis	uoc	nkalivitis@uoc.gr	Namburna
3	George Georgousis	RAYMETRICS	georgoussis@raymetrics.com	av
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0	Yiangos Yiangou	AGLANTZIA	yiangos.yiangou@aglantzia.org.cy	7.00
1	Demetra Katechaki	AGLANTZIA	demetra.katechaki@aglantzia.org.cy	M
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5	Marina Papageorgiou	СуІ	m.papageorgiou@cyi.ac.cy	The same of the sa
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### 5. ANNEX II

### **Final Agenda**



## 'European Higher Education Institutions Network for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences'

(Edu4ClimAte)

Kick-Off Meeting - Tuesday, 4th October 2022

Venue: The Golden Bay Hotel Larnaca

#### **Final Agenda**

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Familiarize the project team with the project approach including scope, goal and objectives of the project, as well as to convey the philosophy and the modus operandi for the activities of Edu4Climate.
- Clarify project team roles and responsibilities.

Times in the agenda are provided in **EEST**.

Time	Topic	Facilitator	
Project & Consortium  a) Welcoming address (5' presentation by Coordinator) b) Project presentation (Vision, Objectives, and alignment with the EEI call Scope, Destinations, and Expected Outcomes/Impact) (25' slide presentation by Coordinator) c) Consortium presentation (5' slide introduction per beneficiary, see PowerPoint template)		Prof. Jean Sciare, Cyl, Edu4ClimAte Coordinator	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break		
	Work Packages Presentations		
11:15 – 11:45	<ul> <li>WP6 - Management &amp; Coordination</li> <li>(20' slide presentation by Coordination Team + 10' discussion)</li> <li>a) Reporting process (Milestones, Deliverables, EC review)</li> <li>b) Financial management &amp; reporting</li> <li>c) Quality and Ethics</li> </ul>	Project Management Team, Cyl	
WP1 – High Quality Education and Training (20' presentation by WP leader and 10' discussion) (see PowerPoint Template)  a) Objectives b) Tasks/deliverables/milestones c) Key activities (and Challenges) for year 1		Dr. Nikos Kalivitis, UoC	
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch Break		
13:15 – 13:30	Findings from EEI projects – Project Overview	Dr. Maria Korda (PhD), Project Adviser, Unit REA.C3	
13:30 - 14:00	WP2 – Flagship Research Initiatives and Infrastructures (20' presentation by WP leader and 10' discussion) (see PowerPoint Template) a) Objectives b) Tasks/deliverables/milestones c) Key activities (and Challenges) for year 1	Dr. Andreas Plach, UNIVIE	
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee Break		



1		
14:30 – 15:00	WP3 – Flagship Innovation and Policy Support Initiatives (20' presentation by WP leader and 10' discussion) (see PowerPoint Template) a) Objectives b) Tasks/deliverables/milestones c) Key activities (and Challenges) for year 1	Prof. Jean Sciare, Cyl
15:00 – 15:30  WP4 – Networks and Alliance (20' presentation by WP leader and 10' discussion) (see PowerPoint Template) a) Objectives b) Tasks/deliverables/milestones c) Key activities (and Challenges) for year 1		Prof. Philippe Ciais, UVSQ
15:30 - 16:00	WP5 – Dissemination, Exploitation, Communication (20' presentation by WP leader and 10' discussion) (see PowerPoint Template) a) Objectives b) Tasks/deliverables/milestones c) Key activities (and Challenges) for year 1	Ms. Marina Papageorgiou, Cyl
16:00 – 16:15	Final Comment & Closure	Prof. Jean Sciare, Cyl, Edu4ClimAte Coordinator
16:15 – 17:15	ERASMUS + Call on European Universities Alliance (follow-up of EEI call) - (opened to Higher Education Institution partners)  a) Call description ( <i>M. Papageorgiou, CyI</i> )  b) Lessons learned from an ongoing European University Alliance (UHEL)  c) Strategy (Objectives, Consortium, timelines, etc.) (J. Sciare, CyI)	Cyl, UHEL, All HEIs



VENUE: Golden Bay Hotel Dhekelia Road, Larnaca

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