

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## CYCLADES, WORLD HERITAGE UNDER CHALLENGE.

### HISTORY, CULTURE, ECONOMY AND STRATEGIC ROLE OF A EUROPEAN BORDER REGION

International Conference, Ios, Cyclades, 15-17 July 2021

*Under the auspices of: The Association Save Ios* ([www.save-ios.gr](http://www.save-ios.gr))

The aim of the Conference is to gather archaeologists, historians, economists, political scientists, sociologists and environmentalists, in order to examine the cultural heritage of the Cyclades (represented by three specific historical periods, early bronze, middle-high bronze, and classical) in the perspective of their imminent devastation by prospected major private investments. Moving from the emblematic case of Ios, the Conference will examine present and prospected challenges to other Cyclades, by offshore companies, to privatize public goods. The Conference will also discuss the impact on the fragile Cycladic environment of the prospected installation of 450 wind turbines 30 meters high.

Moreover, the Conference will foster a debate on a possible alternative economic development for the Cyclades, in the perspective of the creation of the world's largest marine and terrestrial National Park, including all of them, under the auspices and the financial backing of the European Union. In addition to being the historical seat, from the third to the first millennium BC, of the birth of the European identity and civilization, the Cyclades today represent a territory of fundamental strategic importance for the European Union. In fact, they constitute the region of Europe where the power conflict between the Union on the one hand and Turkey on the other, has recently developed, due to the power vacuum created by the progressive withdrawal of the American Administration from Eastern Mediterranean. Their defense therefore directly concerns not only the Greek government, but the Union as a whole.

## *Draft programme*

### **Part One. Cultural and political heritage of the Cyclades**

• **Keros**: Center of the Cycladic civilization and first Sanctuary of the Bronze Age. • **Akrotiri**: Outpost of the Minoan civilization and model of a Middle Bronze city. • **Delos**: Financial and religious center of the Athenian Empire and crossroads of maritime trade. • **Paros**: Cultural centre of the Athenian Empire. • **Naxos**: Outpost of the Venetian Empire and center of islander rural culture. • **Tinos**: religious center of the orthodox tradition.

### **Part Two. The Cyclades as a cultural and geo-political unit**

• The sea as an element of union and construction of an identity: inter-trade relations during the three historical Cycladic periods; • Art and the creation of an identity: at the roots of the European identity; • Poetry and the creation of ethical values: epic and myths; • The role played by the Cyclades in the colonization of West and South Mediterranean; • The Cyclades and the Mycenaean world; • The Cyclades and the Athenian Empire: first model of imperialism? • The Cyclades and the Venetian Empire; • The Cyclades under Ottoman oppression; • The Cyclades as European border facing the Turkish threat.

### **Part Three. The Cyclades under challenge**

• **Ios**, an island under siege: Sharivan LTD and the occupation of public land; • **Kimolos** and **Sykinos**: projects of exploitation; • **Santorini** and mass tourism: a sustainable model? • **Myconos** and elite tourism: a replicable model? • The Cyclades and the executive installation of 450 wind turbines: economic and environmental impacts; • Private investments and the question of money laundering: powers and tools of existing control bodies.

### **Part Four. A National Park for the Cyclades**

• The Cyclades as the possible world's largest marine protected area; • The Cyclades as the possible world's largest archeological park; • The Cyclades as the possible world's largest excursion park; • The Cyclades as a model of island agriculture: the recovery of stone walls; • The Cyclades as model of a new form of tourism: from consumption to integration of local traditions with visitors; • The Cyclades as a model of economic growth: major private investments vs. small business.

### **Part Five. Round Table debate on: A strategy for a National Park of the Cyclades**

Round Table discussion among representatives of UNESCO, the European Parliament, the Greek Government and organizations promoting the Conference, on the road map to establish, under the patronage of the European Union, a National Park for the Cyclades.