



Επιμελητήριο
Κυκλάδων

ΕΤΟΣ ΙΔΡΥΣΕΩΣ 1836

General Assembly & Annual Forum INSULEUR 2025 *October 17, 2025*

Aegean Cuisine Symposium Cyclades 2025 *"The Taste of Authenticity"* *October 18, 2025*

Under the auspices and support of





With the Support of



th the Institutional Support



 **Dates: Friday, October 17, 2025 & Saturday, October 18, 2025**

 **Venue:** Ermoupolis, Syros

Friday 17 October 2025

G.A. & Annual Insuleur Forum

Building Resilience in Island Economies through Sustainable Agriculture

Empowering Island Communities to Strengthen Resilience

It is organized by the

Network of EU Island Chambers (insuleur)

Hosted

the Chamber of Cyclades

Interpretation in English, Spanish and Greek

***The General Assembly concerns only the members
of the Network of Island Chambers of the EU (insuleur)***

Saturday 18 October 2025

Aegean Cuisine Cyclades Symposium 2025

"The Taste of Authenticity"

Symposium organized by the Chamber of Cyclades and the Aegean Cuisine Network

Background

Island economies can be competitive – not only in agriculture, but also in many other sectors – if they strategically exploit their unique strengths and address their structural challenges.

Due to geographical isolation, limited arable land, and vulnerability to the effects of climate change, island regions face significant obstacles. These factors often lead to a high reliance on food imports, making enhancing resilience a vital priority.

Sustainable agriculture is a key factor in enhancing resilience by reducing dependence on imports, enhancing food security, and promoting the diversification of the local economy.


Challenges:

- **Climate Change:** Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and saltwater infiltration cause crop damage and reduce yields.
- **Dependence on Food Imports:** Dependence on global supply chains makes island regions vulnerable to price disruptions and fluctuations.
- **Limited Resources:** A lack of fresh water and arable land limits the growth of agricultural production.
- **Economic Instability:** Over-reliance on tourism makes island economies vulnerable to external shocks.

Strategic Opportunities:

- **Reducing Dependence on Imports:** Enhancing local food production protects island economies from fluctuations in global markets.
- **Job Creation:** The agricultural sector contributes to employment and income diversification.
- **Food Security:** Enhances access to fresh, nutritious, and locally produced food.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Regenerative practices contribute to the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Livestock farming, and in particular **sheep and goat farming**, plays a crucial role in island



agriculture, contributing to the production of unique dairy products and traditional cheeses with high added value.

The **European Union** supports sustainable agriculture through the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, with the objectives of **environmental sustainability, innovation** and **rural development**. Key tools include:

- **Eco-Schemes**
- **CAP Strategic Plans**
- **The Farm to Fork Strategy**

The **sustainable development of the agri-food sector** is a cornerstone for building **resilient island economies** — strengthening **food systems, empowering local communities** , and **ensuring long-term prosperity**.



General Meeting & Annual Forum Insuleur

(Chamber of Cyclades Conference Hall)

Friday 17 October 2025

08:30 - 09:00 | Registration of Participants

09:00 - 10:00 | INSULEUR General Assembly (for members only)

10:00 - 10:40 | **Opening Session - Greetings of Official Guests**

Moderator: Yiannis Roussos, President of the Chamber of Cyclades & President of INSULEUR

- **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament (online)
 - **Costas Kadis**, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans (online)
 - **Seamus Boland**, President - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (online)
 - **Themis Christophidou**, Director-General DG REGIO (online)
-

10:40 - 11:45 | **The role of the agricultural sector in island regions**

Moderator:

George Asonitis, UHC European Affairs Advisor and member of the Technical Committee of INSULEUR

Keynote Speaker:

Gonzalo Piernavieja Izquierdo, Director of Research, Development and Innovation, *Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias*

Speakers:

- **Penelope Bebeli**, Director of the Plant Improvement and Agricultural Experimentation Laboratory of the Agricultural University of Athens
- **Petros Kokkalis**, Vice-President of the *Kokkalis Foundation*, Member of the European Parliament 2019–2024, AGRI-ENVI Committees
"Innovation in the Agri-Food Sector in Greece: Presentation of projects of the European Innovation Partnership Task Forces"
- **Dr. Alexandros Stefanakis**, President and Scientific Director at BIOLAB CRETE

Presentation: Alicia Bueno, Head of Foreign Trade of the Chamber of Mallorca and member of the Technical Committee of INSULEUR



11:45 - 13:00 | Island Voices for a Sustainable Agriculture

Moderator: James Ellsmoor, CEO Island Innovation

Speakers:

- **Eleftherios Kechagioglou**, President of the Small Islands Network of Greece, Vice President of the European Small Islands Federation (ESIN)
- **Maria Garcies-Ramon**, Deputy Secretary General of the CPMR Islands Commission (online)
- **James Ellsmoor**, CEO Island Innovation
- **Tasos Giapanis**, Secretary General, Cyprus Agricultural Association
- **António Jardim Fernandes**, President of the Madeira Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vice-President of INSULEUR
- **Gianni Chianetta**, President of Greening the Islands (online)
- **Ileana Coiana**, Member of the Committee of Women Entrepreneurs of the Cagliari-Oristano Chamber of Commerce

Suggestion: Sofia Sotiriou, Project Manager INSULEUR

13:00 - 14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:30 | How European/Regional/Local Policies can support the primary sector of the Islands

Moderator: Manolis Koutoulakis, Secretary General of the Aegean and Island Policy

Speakers:

- Representative of the **European Commission - DG AGRI**
- **Dionysios - Fredis Beleris**, MEP
- **Filip Reinhag**, President of the Conference of Coastal Regions (CPMR)
- **Moschos Korasidis**, EESC Member, Director General of the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives

Presentation: Daniel Borg, CEO of the Gozo Chamber of Commerce, Member of the INSULEUR Technical Committee

16:30 - 17:00 | Conclusions & Closing of Proceedings

Manolis Koutoulakis, Secretary General of the Aegean and Island Policy



Επιμελητήριο
Κυκλάδων

ΕΤΟΣ ΙΔΡΥΣΕΩΣ 1836



17:00 - 18:00 | Agreement on a Common Roadmap for Island Entrepreneurship in the New Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU between the following bodies:

- *Conference of Coastal Regions (CPMR)*
- *Network of Island Chambers of the EU (INSULEUR)*
- *European Federation of Small Islands Municipalities (EDMN)*
- *Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KEEE)*
- *Chamber Group for the Development of the Greek Islands (EOAEN)*

With the organization, coordination and participation of the General Secretariat of the Aegean and Island Policy (Prassakakis Building)

20:30 | Flavors of the Aegean (Cocktails, Beers, Cycladic Pies) (Kyveli House)

Open event for all guests of the two-day event

**You can watch the INSULEUR Annual Forum live via video conference [here](#)
or from the channel of the Chamber of Cyclades on [YouTube](#).**

The **Aegean Cuisine Network** is supported by the Chambers of Cyclades and the Dodecanese in order to promote Aegean gastronomy, offering visitors authentic experiences through local products and traditional recipes. The members of the Network, restaurants and producers, act as ambassadors of the local culture and hospitality, creating a unique gastronomic journey. In the Cyclades, 190 restaurants on 23 islands have received the Aegean Cuisine label, while 506 products from 101 local producers have been registered in the Aegean Cuisine Recommended Register. The Network aims to promote the islands as gastronomic destinations, strengthening the relationship of visitors with the cultural and culinary heritage of the Aegean.

With the **Aegean Cuisine Network** as a vehicle, the aim of the Symposium is to bring together members, restaurateurs and producers, as well as to highlight the authenticity, quality and unique gastronomic identity of the Cyclades through agri-food and experiential experience, based on the values of the Network:

- **Authenticity** – flavors with history and identity
- **Insularity** – geographical and cultural unity of the Cyclades
- **Sustainability** – local production, small scale, environmental awareness
- **Interconnection** – synergies between producers, tourism, gastronomy and culture

A journey through time...

The Symposium presents the gastronomic and cultural wealth of the Cyclades. It connects **tradition - innovation - sustainability** and offers an experience that does not stop at the speeches, but takes the visitor on a journey through flavors, music and stories.

Food is not just about taste; It is memory and history...

Through time travel, **the "Taste of Authenticity"** becomes the thread that unites past, present and future...



Aegean Cuisine Cyclades Symposium 2025

"The Taste of Authenticity"

(Municipal Theater "Apollon")

Symposium Coordination: Dina Nikolaou, Chef

Saturday 18 October 2025

09:00 - 09.30 Arrival - Registration

09:30 - 10:15 Greetings by Official Guests

10:15 - 11:00 Presentation of the Aegean Cuisine network, its vision and goals

Speakers:

- **Yiannis Roussos**, President of the Chamber of Cyclades and President of the Island Chambers of the EU (insuleur)
Participation: Zoe Hatzigiannaki, Visual Artist
- **Thalia Tsihlaki**, Taste and Wine Journalist "*Tradition - Preservation of Authenticity*"
- **Yiannis Gavalas**, Araklia Restaurant, Member of the Aegean Cuisine Network - "*Iraklia - Gastronomic Destination*"

11:00 - 11:15 Presentation of the new renewed website of the Aegean Cuisine network

Speaker:

- **Athanasios Testempasis**, Head of Business Development, EU & International BU Director - Knowledge S.A.

11:15 - 12:00 The traditional cheese-making of the Cyclades on the road to UNESCO

Speakers:

- **Ioanna Tzavara**, Executive of the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture
- **Ioannis Hatzigeorgiou**, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural University of Athens
- **Dimitris Roussounelos**, Author, contributor to Gastronomos magazine



12:00 - 12.30 Coffee Break (*Apollo Theater Garden*)

12:30 - 14:00 Resilience lessons from Aegean Cuisine producers

Speakers:

- **Katerina Moschou**, "To Parion" Cheese Factory
- **Pantelis Rigoutsos**, "Tyrosyra" Cheese Factory
- **Stefanos Vakondios**, "Zozefinos" Cheese Factory
- **Manolis Koveos**, Fava Producer Schinoussa
- **Petros Vamvakousis**, Director of "Venetsanos" Winery
- **Gerasimos Skordilis**, Honey Producer "MeliSyros"
- **Marinos Souranis**, Restaurant "Marathia"
- **Kostas Prekas**, Producer of traditional products

14:00 - 15:00 Challenges and development opportunities for the Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives

Speakers:

- **Matthaios Dimopoulos**, General Manager of the Union of Cooperatives of Santo Wines
- **Iakovos Valeris**, Vice President of the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Naxos - EAS Naxos
- **Demosthenes Diamantis**, Vice President of the Agricultural Beekeeping Cooperative of Serifos
- **Yiannis Mandalas**, CEO of MastihaShop

15:00 - 15:30 (*Ermoupolis Town Hall*)

Cyclades | Wine and Cheese in Harmony: Presentation by Georgios Loukas, Sommelier Trainer & Founder of Genius in Gastronomy

15:30 - 17:00 Light lunch with traditional products (*Ermoupolis Town Hall*)

17:00 - 20:30 Free Time

20:30 GALA Dinner (*Cultural Center of the Municipality of Syros - Ermoupolis*)

with creations by a Chef of the Aegean Cuisine Network accompanied by live music

The Aegean Cuisine 2025 Symposium will be broadcast live on the Cyclades Chamber's [YouTube channel](#).