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Cultural/Natural Heritage in the Prespa Lake Area as a Means of Communication Between Centuries – Contemporary Perspectives

Call for Abstracts

About the ACT4PRESPA Project

ACT4PRESPA is an EU-funded project focused on the protection, valorisation and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage of the Prespa Lake area as a basis for sustainable socio-economic development.

The project combines archaeological and cultural heritage research, conservation, digitalisation and public engagement. Its activities include underwater archaeological research in Prespa Lake, conservation of significant cultural monuments and fresco paintings, documentation and valorisation of tangible and intangible heritage, development of an interactive 3D cultural heritage map, digitalisation of local oral traditions, as well as exhibitions, conferences, study visits and public events.

ACT4PRESPA is implemented by five partner organisations from North Macedonia, Greece and Albania within the **EU for Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lake Area** programme.

Introduction

The Prespa region is a unique cross-border cultural and natural landscape shared by North Macedonia, Greece and Albania. Its heritage reflects centuries of historical, cultural and social interaction and represents an important resource for contemporary regional development.

The Student Conference **“Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Prespa Lake Area as a Means of Communication Between Centuries: Contemporary Perspectives”** will bring together students and young researchers to explore different approaches to the research, interpretation, protection and sustainable use of the cultural and natural heritage of Prespa and the wider cross-border region.

The conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform for presenting research, exchanging ideas and discussing the role of heritage in cross-border cooperation, tourism, local development, identity and sustainability.

Over three days, the programme will combine academic sessions, field-based learning and interactive **Heritage Living Labs**, where international teams will work together on practical ideas and digital content related to the promotion and sustainable use of Prespa's heritage.



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Objectives of the Conference

The Student Conference on Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Prespa Lake Area aims to strengthen academic cooperation, intercultural dialogue and cross-border collaboration among students, young researchers and higher education institutions from North Macedonia, Greece and Albania. The conference seeks to provide an inclusive platform for participants to exchange knowledge, present research findings and discuss common challenges and opportunities related to the preservation, interpretation and sustainable management of Prespa's rich cultural and natural heritage. Through a combination of academic sessions, field-based learning, digital heritage initiatives and networking activities, the conference will promote experiential learning, peer-to-peer exchange and active engagement with local stakeholders. Furthermore, it aims to foster long-term academic and professional partnerships, encourage joint research and innovation, support the development of future cross-border heritage initiatives, and contribute to the recognition of cultural heritage as a driver of sustainable regional development, tourism and European cooperation in the Prespa region.

Key Topics

Abstracts may address, but are not limited to:

- Cultural heritage of the wider Prespa region;
- Natural heritage of the wider Prespa region;
- Building technics and architecture;
- Digital tools and the process of digitalization of cultural heritage;
- Memories and collective identities;
- Social practices;
- Touristic potentials;
- Inter/national policies and economic impact on bordering regions;
- Challenges and benefits of cross-border cooperation;
- Sustainable development of the shared regions etc.

Participants

The conference is open to **Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students and young researchers** in anthropology, ethnology, architecture, cultural heritage, media, history, tourism, sociology, political science, economics and other related fields.

Participants from **North Macedonia, Albania and Greece** are particularly encouraged to apply.



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Submission Guidelines

- Abstract length: maximum **300 words**
- Short biographical note: maximum **150 words**
- Joint papers: maximum **two authors**
- Working language: **English**
- Deadline for abstract submission: **2 October 2026**
- At least **16 abstracts** will be shortlisted for presentation
- Only selected participants will present at the conference
- Selected participants are expected to actively participate in the conference programme, including the **Heritage Living Lab**
- The conference will be organised in a **hybrid format**, allowing both in-person and online participation
- Each selected participant will have a maximum of **15 minutes** for their presentation.
- Abstracts and short biographical notes should be submitted by email to: info@predaplus.eu and etno_m@yahoo.com

Conference Format

The conference will include keynote lectures, thematic panels, academic presentations, roundtable discussions, field visits and interactive Heritage Living Labs designed to foster interdisciplinary exchange, peer-to-peer learning and networking.

Moderators and keynote speakers will be confirmed and announced at a later stage.

Selected participants will be invited to submit their full papers within one month after the conference for publication in the **Conference Proceedings**. Each author will receive a copy of the published proceedings.

Date and Venue

15–17 October 2026

Prespa Region, North Macedonia

Exact venue to be announced.



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Participation Costs

The following expenses will be covered by the organizers:

- Transport
- Accommodation and food
- Participation certificates
- Conference materials
- Conference proceedings

ACT4PRESPA project has been implemented under the program EU for Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lake Area, as a restricted call for proposals implemented under the EuropeAid/178154/DD/ACT/MK, Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development, and it is dedicated only to the activities that are supposed to be implemented in Prespa Lake Area, Republic of North Macedonia.



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