

# 2nd Gypsum Ecosystems Research Conference



## SECOND CIRCULAR

### Announcement

Dear Colleagues, we have the pleasure to announce that the 2nd Gypsum Ecosystems Research Conference will be held in 2020 in Nicosia (Lefkosia) Cyprus. The Symposium is sponsored by the GYPWORLD H2020-MSCA-RISE project and organised jointly by the Open University of Cyprus and the Department of Forests, MANRE

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### Background

This conference originates from the activity of the GYPNET network, a network of scientists working on gypsum ecosystems and is part of the activities of the H2020-MSCA-RISE GYPWORLD project, aiming at promoting international research on gypsum ecosystems. As such, it aims to initiate a series of International Conferences focused on any research done on gypsum ecosystems. It will offer an International forum to interested scientists from around the world to present and discuss research results in all aspects related to gypsum ecology.

### Location and Dates

Monday to Friday: 27 April to 1 May 2020  
Nicosia (Lefkosia), Cyprus.

### Venue

The Conference will be held at the HOTEL CLASSIC (<https://www.classic.com.cy/>)  
Please note that the short courses will be hosted at the premises of MANRE.



## Language

The official language of the conference is English.

## Scientific Program

The Conference will focus on different aspects of research carried out on gypsum ecosystems globally. It will consist of key speakers plus oral talks and poster presentations providing an ideal background for scientific interactions and interchange of ideas. Young researchers will have the opportunity to attend to short courses on Biological Soil Crusts and Functional Traits.

## Field trip

A one-day field trip is planned which will take place at the Rizoelia National Forest Park and to take place mainly at the Rizoelia National Forest Park and the gypsum outcrops in the wider area of Tochni-Psematismenos-Maroni.

## Cyprus flora and vegetation

Cyprus lies at the eastern most end of the Mediterranean basin. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean (after Sicily and Sardinia) and it covers an area of 9251 km<sup>2</sup>. The climate of Cyprus is typically Mediterranean, with relatively short, mild and humid winters and prolonged, hot, dry summers. Cyprus is considered as a biodiversity hotspot due to its geological structure, climatic conditions, geographic location (isolated island), the topographical configuration, as well as the human presence for the last 12000 years. The rich and diverse vegetation consists mainly of pine forests, sclerophyllous evergreen, high and low maquis, garigue and phrygana. Local formations are the riparian vegetation of the oriental plane and alder, the endemic cedar forest, the cypress forests and the Cyprus oak relic forests. The flora comprises 1649 indigenous taxa of Spermatophytes and Pteridophytes (species and subspecies), 254 introduced taxa occurring in the wild, 43 hybrids and 81 species with unclear status. The endemic flora consists of 141 taxa, of which 114 are species and 27 subspecies. More information on Cyprus flora can be found at the website <http://www.flora-of-cyprus.eu/>

## The city of Nicosia

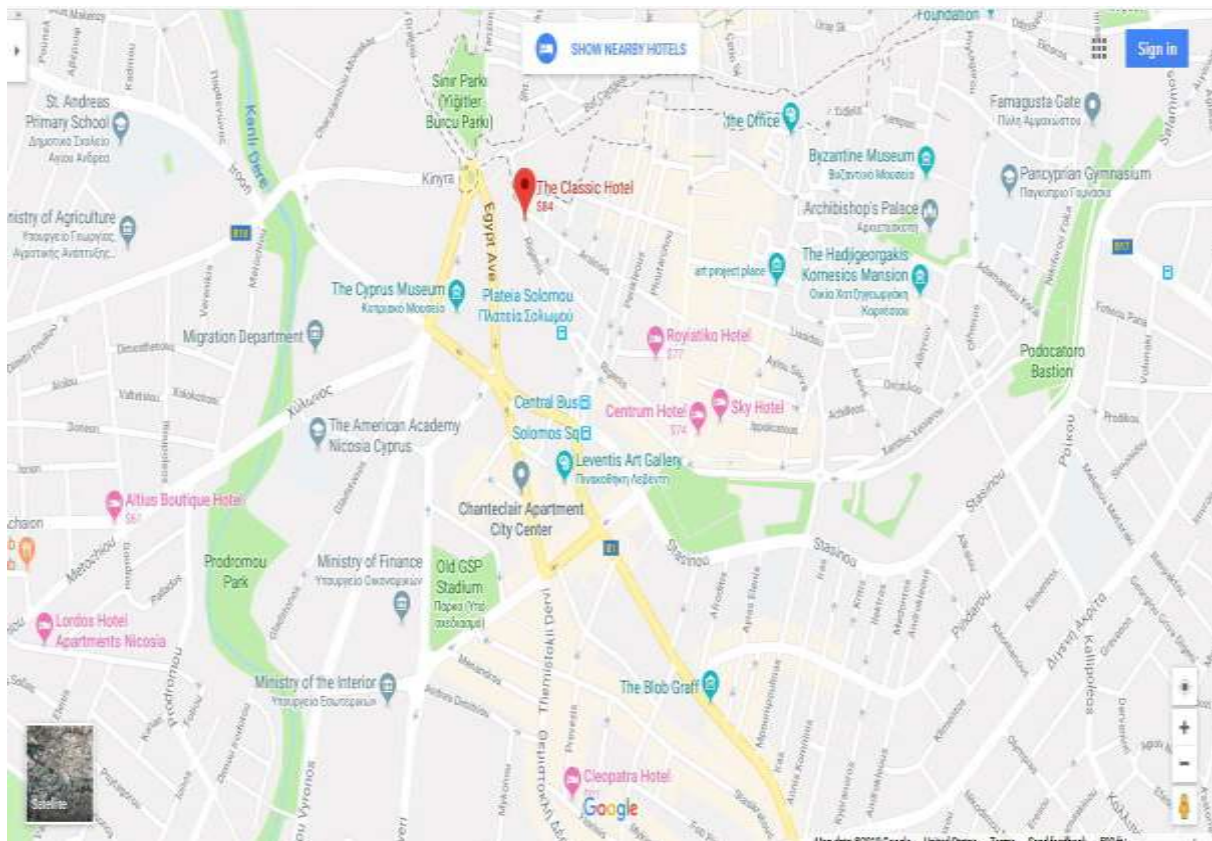
Cyprus is an island with a long turbulent history. It gained its independence from the British Empire in 1959 and in 1960 the Republic of Cyprus was established. However, in December 1963, a constitutional crisis led Nicosia to be divided into Turkish and Greek quarters. The dividing line, which cuts through the city, was named Green due to the colour of the pen used by the UN officer to draw the line on a city map. Turkey invaded the island on 15.7.1974 and Nicosia thereafter remains the last divided capital city



of Europe until today. As for its name, Nicosia was initially known as Lefkousia. Most probably, the name “Lefkousia” (Nicosia in Greek) comes from Lefkos, son of Ptolemy I of Egypt, who rebuilt the city in the 3rd century. There are many attractions to visit within the city walls. Please visit the site of Nicosia Municipality for more information on the city (<http://www.nicosia.org.cy/en-GB/home/>) and the site of Cyprus Tourism Organization for further information on the island (<http://www.visitcyprus.com>)

**Accommodation**

Many accommodation opportunities and cheap rooms are available in close distance to the conference venue and can be reached through any accomotation booking site. Below there is a list of hotels located in Nicosia, most of them within walking distance from the venue. In addition to the Classic Hotel, other hotels nearby include (sorted by distance from the venue): - Castelli - Centrum - Cleopatra - Altius Boutique Hotel (see map below)



**Castelli Hotel is literally next to Classic Hotel**



## Travel

The main international airports of the Republic of Cyprus, Larnaka (LCA) and Pafos (PFO) are connected with most major European and other destinations, and also serve several charter flights from many airports after Easter. From Larnaka and Pafos you could take the bus to Nicosia. See <https://www.kapnosairportshuttle.com/?locale=en> for timetable, ticket cost and booking. You could take a taxi also, a reasonable fare from Larnaka to Nicosia is 50-60 euros and from Pafos to Nicosia 110-120 euros. Rent a car options are available in the airports (Larnaka and Pafos)

## Out and About

If you are staying in the city center there are a lot of options for Cypriot and international cuisine [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g190383-zfp58-Nicosia\\_Nicosia\\_District.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g190383-zfp58-Nicosia_Nicosia_District.html)

## Registration Fee

Attendance is free of charge however **registration is required**. Please visit

<https://sites.google.com/view/2nd-gypsum-conference/register>

## Travel Grants

The GYPWORLD project is now offering travel grants to students interested in attending the 2nd Gypsum Ecosystems Research Conference (GERC-2020), to be held from the 27th April 2020 – 1st May 2020. GYPWORLD has a total of 3000€ for the travel grants. Half of this amount will be reserved for students from low and middle income countries (as defined by the World Bank: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>), the criteria for the selection of candidates will be a motivation letter and the contribution to be presented at the conference, which will be evaluated by the scientific committee of the conference.

Candidates should send their motivation letter and contribution to the GYPWORLD project manager: Emma Lythgoe: [emma.lythgoe@csic.es](mailto:emma.lythgoe@csic.es)

## Deadlines



Abstract Submission Opens	1 February 2020
Abstract submission Closes	15 March 2020
Notification of acceptance	31 March 2020
Deadline for Travel Grants Applications	20 March 2020

### Scientific Committee

- **Dr. Adrian Escudero** (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos)
- **Dr. Aran Luzuriaga** (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos )
- **Dr. Charalambos Christodoulou** (Department of Forests Cyprus)
- **Dr. Ioannis Vogiatzakis** (Open University of Cyprus)
- **Dr. Mike Moore (Oberlin College, US)**
- **Dr. Sara Palacio Blasco** (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

### Organising Committee

- **Dr. Charalambos Christodoulou** (Department of Forests Cyprus)
- **Dr. Dimitrios Sarris** (University of Cyprus / Open University of Cyprus)
- **Ms. Elli Tzirkali** (Open University of Cyprus)
- **Ms. Georgia Chrysostomou** (Department of Forests Cyprus)
- **Dr. Ioannis Vogiatzakis** (Open University of Cyprus)
- **Dr. Paraskevi Manolaki** (Open University of Cyprus)
- **Dr. Sara Palacio Blasco** (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)
- **Ms. Stalo Leontiou** (Open University of Cyprus)
- **Dr. Vasilis Litskas** (Open University of Cyprus)

### Invited plenary lecture speakers

- Dr. Alexander Rudov (RUS)
- Dr. Ana Sánchez (ES)
- Dr. Charalambos Christodoulou (CY)
- Dr. Ebru Özdeniz (TR)
- Dr. Ignacio Querejeta (ES)
- Dr. Irene Pisanty (MEX)
- Dr. Juan Lorite (ES)
- Dr. Nicole Pietrasiak (USA)
- Dr. Yolanda Pueyo (ES)
- Dr Carmelo Musarella (IT)

**Webpage** [constantly updated] : :

<https://sites.google.com/view/2nd-gypsum-conference/home>

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