New Mediterraneans ✸ New Mediterraneans

magmafest.it

MAGMA FEST'26

26th → 27th November_'26
Matera

CASA DELLE TECNOLOGIE EMERGENTI

Walking Seamlessly Between Land And Sea

EVENTO PRESENTATO DA

materahub

NELL'AMBITO DI

MATERA 2026 CAPITALE MEDITERRANEA DELLA CULTURA E DEL DIALOGO

UN PROGETTO DI

COMUNE DI MATERA

FONDAZIONE MATERA BASILICATA 2019

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MAGMA FEST'26

Bāyna – ةَنِّيَب
Walking seamlessly between land and sea

Looking back at history, we often feel the pull of nostalgia. But here in the Mediterranean, the past isn't just behind us - it is an ever-present force that shelters us, welcomes us, crumbles, and reassembles.

In a place like this, boundaries become relative.

Meaning never stays static; it settles, shifts, and rewrites itself.

The Mediterranean is a tapestry in constant motion. Layer builds upon layer, giving rise to a living crossroads where ideas, practices, and cultures seamlessly weave together."

Bāyna, the Mediterranean between us.

We gaze across from shore to shore, from island to continent, tracing ancient routes that shift and evolve, yet never fade.

Bāyna, the Mediterranean between us.

Together, almost imperceptibly, we continue to rewrite this shared landscape, crafting a new Mediterranean way of being.

MAGMA 2026

In 2026, the Mediterranean is often associated with a grammar of crisis.

In contemporary public discourse, the crisis is framed first of all as a migration crisis: the Mediterranean remains one of the deadliest routes in the world. In 2025 alone, data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) record at least 2,185 people dead or missing at sea, an order of magnitude that keeps the route within the bounds of a permanent emergency. In its operational updates, UNHCR also continues to publish figures on arrivals and on the "dead and missing" along Mediterranean routes, pointing to the persistence of the phenomenon as a structural feature of the region. The grammar of crisis is further fuelled by the chronic nature of conflict and instability in the area, which directly affect mobility, security and economies. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a case in point. The crisis is also climatic and ecological: the Mediterranean is widely recognised as a hotspot of climate vulnerability, with more frequent heatwaves, droughts and coastal risk. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights marked vulnerability, increasing drought in an already dry climate, and coastal risks.

These three dimensions (migration, conflict, climate) intertwine in local territories, shaping access, security and the material conditions of living.

MAGMA 2026 starts from here. Without amplifying the emergency or removing it from view, it proposes the collective construction of new Mediterranean imaginaries.

Nuovi Mediterranei (New Mediterraneans) is the title of the 2026 edition of MAGMA. The new Mediterraneans are the younger generations, the hybrid communities and the diasporas who bring languages, skills, economies, practices of care and ways of being together. They are also the territories that change shape under the combined pressure of migration, tourism, infrastructure, economic precarity, and water and climate crises. Within this frame, the Mediterranean layers, absorbs and transforms; it produces coexistence and conflict, and from this material it continually generates new conceptions of the world.

MAGMA 2026 takes place in Matera, Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue 2026, and adopts the city as its vantage point. Matera makes tangible the Mediterranean capacity to build up in layers and to transform through dialogue between differences. In this sense, MAGMA aims to produce an imaginary that makes the Mediterranean legible as a system of coexistences, economies, ecologies and mobilities, where regeneration often happens "from below", through practices that hold continuity and change together.

Over two days, artists, researchers, institutions, cultural enterprises, activists and communities will meet to build a shared imaginary of the contemporary Mediterranean, bringing artistic practice, scientific research, social innovation and the cultural and creative industries into dialogue. Among the highlights of the programme, the **Open Day of the EIT Culture & Creativity Regional Hub South** will open a space dedicated to cultural innovation, international cooperation and development opportunities for the Mediterranean creative sector. Alongside it, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Cultural Heritage (CNR-DSU) of the National Research Council of Italy joins the festival as its strategic scientific partner.

DAY 1 • 26 November 2026

Mediterranean Economies and Skills

Culture & Creativity

Co-funded by the European Union

OPEN DAY
EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY REGIONAL HUB SOUTH

The economies of the Mediterranean coast have long been viewed through a negative lens - characterised by businesses deemed too small or informal compared to models developed elsewhere. The opening day of MAGMA 2026 examines these same traits from a fresh perspective, asking what they actually make possible: economies where trust and proximity replace rigid formal structures, and where adaptability is a rational response to unstable environments. We aim to put this hypothesis to the test - including its grey areas, from precariousness to unrecognised labour.

This same inquiry applies to skills. Those who cross the Mediterranean bring knowledge forged through mobility and community networks - qualities that formal certification systems often fail to capture. Which skills can we truly define as "Mediterranean"? Who validates them today, and what do local territories lose when these capacities remain invisible?

The event coincides with the 2026 Open Day of the EIT Culture & Creativity Regional Hub South, which has chosen Matera as its venue, supported by the scientific expertise of the CNR-DSU. Together with our participants, we aim to discover whether the practices observed across these regions constitute a distinct model - and under what conditions they can form a shared, cross-shores agenda for cultural and creative enterprises. In the evening at the TAM (Tower Art Museum), the conversation shifts to a personal scale: To which world do we belong?

Programme 26 november

The event will be conducted in English except where specified.

9.30 – 10.00	Welcome for participants
10.00 – 10.15 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**Institutional greetings** **Paolo Montemurro** - Director Materahub **Angelica Monaco** - EIT Culture & Creativity Municipality of Matera **Rita Orlando** - Fondazione Matera Basilicata 2019 **Salvatore Capasso** - CNR-DSU (remote)
10.15 – 10.45 Conference Room Fourth Floor	KEYNOTE SPEECH **We are the mediterranean - How design turns culture into connection, innovation and new possibilities** **Ghada Wali** - Founder & Creative Director, Wali's Studio *by EIT Culture & Creativity* *The Mediterranean has never been one culture, one language, or one story. It has always been a place of exchange - where people, traditions, images, ideas and identities have travelled across shores, collided, evolved and become something new. In this keynote, designer, artist, educator and founder Ghada Wali traces her own journey from Cairo to Florence and beyond, exploring how design became more than a profession: a way of navigating between cultures, translating heritage, and creating new possibilities.*
10.45 – 11.15 Conference Room Fourth Floor	LECTURE **Is There a "Mediterranean Way" of Doing Business? A Historical and Contemporary Perspective** **Luca Forte** - CNR-ISMed *by CNR-DSU* *The countries of the Mediterranean show marked structural differences in socio-economic terms, and these differences are sources of complementarity among the countries of the basin. The talk will focus on the most relevant data characterising the Mediterranean countries in economic and social terms (population age structure, sectoral composition of value added, per capita income). In all three areas a clear North-South gradient emerges; differences are also found among the countries of the southern shore, both in productive structure and in per capita income. The talk will also present case studies of companies from the northern shore operating in southern-shore countries, highlighting the factors that make these countries attractive.*
11.15 – 11.25	Break
11.25 – 12.00 Conference Room Fourth Floor	PANEL **Innovating to Compete: New Routes in the Mediterranean** **Francesca Barisani** - Director of Innovation, EIT Culture & Creativity **Mirella D'Agnano** - Business Development Manager, EIT Culture & Creativity Regional Hub South **Maria Tartari**, Programme Portfolio Coordinator, EIT Culture & Creativity *Moderated by **Angelica Monaco*** - Director, Regional Hub South, EIT Culture & Creativity *This panel explores how innovation can strengthen the competitiveness of the Cultural and Creative Industries across the Mediterranean. Drawing on the experience of EIT Culture & Creativity, it will examine innovation as a continuum spanning technological development, creative entrepreneurship, and social transformation. The discussion will also assess the Mediterranean region's innovation potential, highlighting opportunities to leverage culture and creativity as drivers of sustainable growth, resilience, and international competitiveness.*

Sessioni Parallele

12.00 – 13.00 Room 20 Third Floor	PARALLEL SESSION 1 **Mediterranean Innovation Showcase: Driving Impact Through Culture, Creativity and Technology** *By EIT Culture & Creativity* *Facilitated by **Gaia Costantino** - Women lead* *Discover a selection of pioneering startups, scaleups and European initiatives supported by EIT Culture & Creativity, showcasing new approaches to education, business and tech challenges. In a dynamic and participatory format, project teams will engage directly with the audience through questions, feedback and live exchange. Join us for an inspiring hour of ideas and meaningful connections with the people shaping the future of the Mediterranean's cultural and creative sectors.*
12.00 – 13.00 Conference Room Fourth Floor	PARALLEL SESSION 2 **Connecting Mediterranean Shores – Solutions for Territorial Innovation & Cultural Resilience** *By Materahub* *Showcase of projects highlighting how cultural, social, and economic transformations are actively reshaping the Mediterranean. Rooted in MAGMA Fest's ambition to explore New Mediterraneans, this session showcases concrete solutions and collaborative approaches for regional transformations.*
13.15 – 14.30	Light lunch
14.45 – 15.15 Conference Room Fourth Floor	LECTURE **What Are Mediterranean Skills?** **Stefania Bocconi** - CNR-ITD *by CNR-DSU* *As societies accelerate and technology reshapes every dimension of life, traditional forms of literacy can no longer keep pace. They are not enough to help people realise their potential, make sense of change and act with confidence amid uncertainty. New forms of knowledge are emerging to fill this gap: hybrid, rooted in context, often built outside formal institutions, through mobility, relationships and lived experience. Among them, futures skills open up a new space: the capacity to anticipate, imagine and find one's way among possible futures, rather than simply adapting to change when it arrives. The Mediterranean offers a privileged vantage point for exploring this transformation, as a space where knowledge has always been generated at the crossroads of cultures, geographies and traditions of thought. The talk reflects on how to recognise these emerging skills and why doing so matters, for individuals, for educators and for the communities living in contexts of profound transformation.*
15.15 – 15.35 Conference Room Fourth Floor	EDUCATION SPEECH **Opportunities in Education and Training at EIT Culture & Creativity** **Maxi Torau** - Education Manager, EIT Culture & Creativity *by EIT Culture & Creativity* *EIT Culture & Creativity develops the vital skills, entrepreneurial know-how, and innovation capacity for accelerating the green, digital, and societal transformation of Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI). This presentation introduces the Education Area at EIT Culture & Creativity and its vision to support the CCSI in Europe by integrating creativity into innovation capacity building and future-proofing CCSI students and professionals through essential skills. Education and training initiatives are strategically structured across programme themes that target specific skill sets relevant for the emerging needs of the CCSI.*
15.35 – 15.45 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**Workshop presentation** **Becky Riches**, **Angela Dibenedetto** - Materahub, **Maria Tartari e Federica Colombo** - EIT Culture & Creativity, Transformation Area *by Materahub & EIT Culture & Creativity*

Sessioni Parallele

15.45 – 16.45 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**WORKSHOP 1** **Regional Skill South Partnership: Designing an Ecosystem for Mediterranean Economic Development** **Paolo Montemurro, Becky Riches** - Materahub **Simona Martini** - ArtLab *by Materahub in collaboration with ArtLab* *Within the framework of the Pact for the Mediterranean promoted by the European Commission, what role can continuing education and skills development play in strengthening the connections between the cultural and creative ecosystems on the region's various shores? Building on the European experience of the Pact for Skills, this session will explore the conditions for a possible trans-Mediterranean alliance on skills: an initial discussion to identify shared needs and priorities, and to define actors, tools, and forms of collaboration for learning pathways based on reciprocity.*
15.45 – 17.45 Room 20 Third Floor	**WORKSHOP 2** **Mediterranean perspectives on NEB-driven entrepreneurship** **Maria Tartari**, Programme Portfolio Coordinator, EIT Culture & Creativity **Federica Colombo**, Ecosystem Transformation Programme Manager *by EIT Culture & Creativity, Transformation area* The Mediterranean remains an elusive yet deeply rooted landscape of many genius loci, offering alternative ways of imagining innovation, belonging and transformation. In this interactive workshop, led by the Transformation & New European Bauhaus team at EIT Culture & Creativity, participants will explore how Mediterranean values and practices can inspire new forms of NEB-driven entrepreneurship. Through a design-driven experience, they will identify shared principles and emerging opportunities for building entrepreneurial ecosystems that are beautiful, sustainable and inclusive, co-creating narratives and actionable ideas for future collaborations across the Mediterranean.
16.45 – 17.45 Room 24 Third Floor	**WORKSHOP 3** **Shared Thresholds** **Khaled Jarada** **Angela Dibenedetto, Giulia Fornari** *by Ipogeos in collaboration with Casa del Mediterraneo* *Far beyond its geographical boundaries, the Mediterranean is a living threshold: a place of informal encounter and a dynamic archive of shared stories, flavours, gestures, images and memories. Led by the artist Khaled Jarada, "Shared Thresholds" invites participants to explore this question through artistic reflection and visual storytelling. Individual memories and cultural intersections will be transformed into a collective manifesto of words and images, redefining what it means to belong to a plural Mediterranean.*
17.45 – 18.15 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**Workshop Outcomes: Public Wrap-Up** *by Materahub in collaboration with EIT Culture & Creativity*
18.15 – 19.15 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**Closing and networking aperitif**

Venue: TAM - Tower Art Museum
Limited capacity & event in Italian language with English translation

Evento Serale

19.30 – 20.45 **TAM** Tower Art Museum Via Ridola 13	TALK **What World Do We Belong To? Identity and Belonging in the New Mediterraneans** **Takoua Ben Mohamed** (remote) **- Khaled Jarada** *moderated by **Carlo Ferretti** - Materahub* *in collaboration with TAM – Tower Art Museum* Which world do we belong to, when every form of belonging seems to ask us to choose just one? The categories we still use to think about ourselves, East and West, North and South, are largely a colonial legacy. They keep working from within, in those who have learnt to see themselves through other people's eyes. The history of the Mediterranean tells a different story: identities have taken shape through mixing and rarely trace back to a single origin. Takoua Ben Mohamed, born in Tunisia and raised in Rome, uses comics to tell the story of an identity that refuses labels. Khaled Jarada, born in Gaza and now living in France, paints the body and memory of those who live far from their own place. Their stories, and their work with younger generations, lead to the question that remains open: if we already live in a world of blurred identities, how can culture and education help us dismantle the categories that still keep us from seeing it?
21.00 - 23.00 **TAM** Torre del Capone via gradelle pennino 9	**DJ SET** **Turbosud** *by Open Sound Festival* *in collaboration with TAM - Tower Art Museum*

DAY 2 • 27 Novembre 2026

Communities and New Mediterraneans

For thirty years, Euro-Mediterranean policies have promised peace and shared prosperity, yet their centre of gravity remains security. Meanwhile, migration, the climate crisis and conflict are redrawing the territories of the Mediterranean faster than institutions can register. In the spaces left uncovered by policy, new forms of coexistence and community are taking shape: in villages that empty out and take in new residents, in cities transformed by those who arrive, in new generations who demand and propose forms of protection, freedom and agency.
The second day of MAGMA 2026 starts from here and follows this movement from policy to practice, seeking a better understanding of what it means today to build community in the Mediterranean, and how to do it.

Programme 27 november

The event will be conducted in English except where specified.

9.30 – 10.00	Welcome for participants
10.00 – 10.20 Conference Room Fourth Floor	**Institutional greetings** **Simona Orsi** - Municipality of Matera **Luigi Martulli** - Materahub President
10.20 – 11.00 Conference Room Fourth Floor	LECTURE **Policies and practices. What pact for the Mediterranean?** **Stefania Panebianco** - University of Catania *by Materahub* *In 1995 the Barcelona Process promised both shores an area of peace, stability and shared prosperity. Thirty years later, the Pact for the Mediterranean puts people at the centre and broadens the agenda to the green and digital transition, climate and migration. Its invisible centre of gravity, however, remains security, and its declared aims are diluted as a result. If policies provide only part of the answers, where should we look for the rest? Our gaze then turns to the territories, where administrations, associations and citizens govern what policies leave uncovered.*
11.00 – 11.40 Conference Room Fourth Floor	PANEL **What models of Mediterranean coexistence exist in local communities?** **Giovanni Lombardi** - CNR-ISMed *by CNR-DSU* *The inner areas of southern Italy were long lands of arrival before they became lands of emigration. Today they are losing their young people and, at the same time, taking in farmworkers, refugees and new residents. What conditions enable a territory to generate coexistence? What turns the side-by-side presence of those who stayed and those who have just arrived into community? When this happens, coexistence goes beyond mere co-presence and becomes the capacity of territories to build relationships, trust and shared opportunities.*
11.40 – 12.00	Break
12.00 – 13.30 Conference Room Fourth Floor	WORKSHOP 1 **Whose city is it? Migration, maps and the right to inhabit** **Nausicaa Pezzoni** - Polimi *by Materahub* How do cities change when we observe them through the migrations that cross them? What does a map make visible, and how can it guide those who work in local territories? The workshop explores the value of mapping as a way to read people's movements, forms of dwelling and the relationships that transform urban space. Drawing on the work of Nausicaa Pezzoni, it offers a comparative perspective across cities on different shores of the Mediterranean, bringing to light routes, places of arrival, support networks, and visible and invisible borders.
12.00 – 13.30 Room 20 Third Floor	WORKSHOP 2 **Cooperating to stay. Art, cooperation and communities on the move** **Rabii Brahim** - Milano Mediterranea *by Materahub* How do we build a community able to protect those who belong to it and to widen the possibilities of each of them? What practices allow collective bonds to become a force for emancipation? Drawing on the artistic research of Rabii Brahim and Milano Mediterranea, the workshop explores how art and movement can create bonds, support forms of cooperation and make relationships possible. At its heart is the building of collectives able to work across differences, conflicts and multiple belongings.

Sessioni Parallele

13.30 – 14.30	Light lunch
14.30 – 15.10 Conference Room Fourth Floor	TALK **Who makes cultural policy in the Mediterranean?** **Giuliana Ciancio** - Liv.In.g **Fanny Bouquerel** - Université Paris 8 *In collaboration with ArtLab* *Who supports culture in the Mediterranean today? Particularly on the southern and eastern shores, foundations, networks and funders are taking on the role of intermediaries, compensating for the absence of national cultural policies. It is often these intermediaries who set priorities and allocate resources, making cultural policy without any formal mandate to do so: a bottom-up approach that connects and cares for artists and cultural workers where institutions do not reach. Participation, however, requires time and resources, reproduces power asymmetries and cannot fully replace the public sector. The panel asks what cultural cooperation can achieve where politics stops, and under what conditions "bottom-up" truly becomes policy.*
15.10 – 15.50 Conference Room Fourth Floor	LECTURE **Who is changing the Mediterranean? Young people and new forms of engagement** **Giovanni Cordova -** Università Federico II di Napoli *by Materahub* *Fifteen years after the Arab Spring, the gap between expectations of change and the living conditions of the new generations continues to fuel tension and protest. From the Maghreb to the Middle East, young people face unfulfilled promises of prosperity and development, unemployment and new inequalities. The search for alternatives takes shape in everyday life: in neighbourhoods and cities, associations and informal groups emerge in which trust, mutual recognition and collective projects are built. Drawing on Giovanni Cordova's ethnographic research, the lecture explores emerging subjectivities and the community ties that run across the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the experiences of young people and women. At its core is the possibility that these everyday practices may become a force capable of transforming power relations.*
Sessioni Parallele 16.10 – 17.40 Room 20 Third Floor	WORKSHOP 1 **Building sustainable community across the Mediterranean- a toolkit for forging radical kinship.** **Kanwal Hameed** - Arab Council for Social Sciences **Stella Saliari** - Fierce Commons Institute *by Materahub* The Mediterranean has long been shaped by exchange, migration and commerce, but also by war, enslavement, debt and colonial domination. This session examines the factors that forge and fracture it as an imagined and lived community, amid the genocide in Gaza, recurring wildfires, deaths at sea along the southern crossings, and local struggles against rising costs of living, gentrification, golden visa schemes and the privatisation of public services. How can forging sustainable communities help us imagine a different future for the region and beyond? In this interactive workshop, participants will build a toolkit grounded in radical kinship, solidarity and an ethics of collective care, treating "kinning" not as a feeling but as an intentional practice requiring commitment and labor (Bradway & Freeman 2022). The workshop draws on relationality across difference, shared commitments and resources.

Sessioni Parallele

16.10 – 17.40
Conference Room
Fourth Floor

WORKSHOP 2

How to build a world? A mediterranean cosmopoiesis

Francesco Caldarola - Independent Researcher and Cultural Practitioner

by Materahub

What is imagination? What if, rather than a mere faculty for representing the world, it were one of the conditions through which a world takes shape? Moving through some of the philosophical, cosmological and wisdom traditions of the Mediterranean, accompanied on the journey by legendary and archetypal figures, we will trace a genealogy of imagination and of its relationship with reality, from magic to syncretism, from the mundus imaginalis to bibliomancy. An invitation to question the elements through which we recognise and inhabit the Mediterranean, in order to explore not only the possibility of imagining other ways of living together, but also of learning to be without a world, and in the end of imagining other worlds to share.

17.40 - 18.10
Conference Room
Fourth Floor

TALK

What does it mean to be Mediterranean today?

Carlo Ferretti - Materahub in dialogue with
Rita Orlando - Fondazione Matera - Basilicata 2019

by Materahub

18.10 – 19.20

Networking Aperitif

Eventi Serale

Venue: Ecoverticale - Fra i Sassi Residence
limited capacity - booking required - call +39 3454833391

19.30 – 20.45
Ecoverticale
Fra i Sassi
Residence

TALK

Dialogues on the future of the Mediterranean

Simone Perotti - Mediterranea Project
Rocco Calandriello - Lucania Film Festival
Moderated by: **Vania Cauzillo** - Associazione Culturale ETS L'Albero

Where do we look at the Mediterranean from, when we try to imagine its future? From the sea, following the routes that link ports and shores, it appears as a space of passages and encounters. From the land, and particularly from the territories of southern Italy, what comes into view is the slow work of those who stay and build, in places that have often been narrated by others. Those who cross it and those who live in it see different parts of it. Which of these perspectives do we need today to think about the Mediterranean to come?

21.00
Ecoverticale
Fra i Sassi
Residence

CONCERTO

Amaryllis

Samuel Mele: oud & voice
Mattia Manco: accordion
Francesco Denaro: Cretan lira

by Ecoverticale · Fra i Sassi Residence

*The Amaryllis project, from the Greek word meaning 'to shine', was launched in mag2022 based on an idea by Samuel Mele and Mattia Manco, driven by the need to create music that would blend Italian influences – specifically 'Grecanic' ones – but also those of Greek and Turkish-Ottoman origin, which together form a rich tapestry spanning five centuries of our historical, religious and artistic heritage, albeit one that has been all but forgotten. In February 2024, this took shape as a research trip to Crete, during which the musicians Samuel Mele, Mattia Manco and production manager Claudia De Ventura met local musicians and poets, such as Ross Daly, Kelly Thomà, Stelios Petrakis, Evgenia Toli and Mitsos Stavrakakis, with some of whom they recorded an album of previously unreleased compositions in Griko – including instrumental pieces – collected on *O FIURO TOS KRIFÒ* (The Flower of Secrets), released by Liburia Records in April 2026, which symbolises the union between two peoples who seem never to have truly lost sight of one another.*



26.11.26 TAM

Turbo Sud: South Italian Traditional Rhythms and Their Encounters with Electronic Music

Agostino Quaranta







amaryllis.

27 11 26
MAGMA festival
Eco Verticale

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EXPOSITION

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DI
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CON ANTONIA ABLASS
E VITINA VINELLI

A CURA
DI GIULIA FORNARI & SARA SIMEONE

ALLESTIMENTO
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