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**Our group is an independent  
initiative of Limassolians.**

“We were united by our love for our city. We were bonded by our reflections, our concern, and our expectations for Limassol. We are opening up a public debate about the challenges of our times, aiming at innovative solutions that will turn Limassol into a modern European Mediterranean city.”

*Yannis Armettis*

architect and active citizen



# The challenges our city faces and our proposals

Solution of the traffic problem through a mobility plan.

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Upgrading culture and cultural production.

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Strengthening social cohesion with action plans to support vulnerable groups.

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Strengthening the identity of the city as a modern, European Mediterranean city.

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Search for modern ways of approaching young people, using incentives that amplify their involvement.

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Fostering of green areas and addressing a variety of environmental issues.

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Development of infrastructure projects and innovative approaches to tourism.

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Use of good practices and European programmes to cover the needs of our city.

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Digital switchover of services in order to provide fast and transparent services to the citizen.

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Revitalization of neighborhoods so that they become self-sufficient and connected to the city center through a smart road network.

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# What opportunities does Limassol have to offer?

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Limassol has all the prerequisites and can mobilize great forces to meet modern challenges so that the city is properly developed, thus providing benefits to all of its citizens.

Applying inclusiveness, good organization, and systematic actions we can plan in the long run and create opportunities and prospects for the city and its people.





# Opportunities Limassol has to offer

**1/** With a comprehensive plan we can achieve the financial support and social cohesion of the city in terms of autonomy, which will make it a driving force for growth, as well as a city that is an example of life quality.

**2/** Through the utilization of its human resources and the city's own sources, both public and private, the Municipality can be rendered independent from the national budget so that it can independently implement the necessary projects for the city.

**3/** With proper planning it can attract new international companies which, having Limassol as base of their operations, will render the city an important business center.

**4/** Through the transformation of Limassol into an attractive tourist destination as a city that combines history with tradition, natural beauty with a modern urban landscape, achievements of technology, architecture, transport, etc.

**5/** With the creation of new high-quality jobs for its citizens and principally for the Young and an enhanced social policy so that poverty and social exclusion be addressed.



# Limassol 2031

## Green City

A Green City which will create infrastructure on the basis of a wider planning that will include new and flagship projects, such as the Metropolitan Park, the Linear Park of the Coastal Road (Aktaia Street), the unification of large suburban parks along with the enhancement of urban green areas in streets and squares.

## City Connection

Connection with cycle paths / pedestrian zones between the Ancient Kourion and the Akrotiri Alikí (Salt Lake) ecosystem and the Amathus archeological site with an extension to the Governor's Beach.

## 15-minute City

Design of the "15-minute City". With an expanded network of pedestrian zones and cycle paths that will connect neighborhoods, schools, local shopping centers with the city center and the beach.

<b>Tech City</b> <p>Techcity with the creation of the technology “park” in the area between the Marina and a vertical road of the Port having Franklin Roosevelt Avenue as boundary. This demarcated area shall become an attractive space where enterprises active in modern technologies shall be located.</p>	<b>City Ring Road</b> <p>Construction of the Northern Bypass that shall connect Polemidia with Aghios Athanassios and Akti Olympion as the city ring road.</p>	<b>Public Transport Network</b> <p>Design of an integrated public transport network, with reduction of the use of conventional cars, increase of alternative transport means (such as bicycles, electric bicycles, walking). Promotion and implementation of the actions and projects that are provided for by the Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) for Limassol.</p>
<b>Tramway</b> <p>Construction of a tramway from the area of the Casino, with a new passenger station, to the city center and creation of peripheral parking areas at the New Port and the Tsirion Stadium.</p>	<b>Cultural Centers</b> <p>Strengthening of the cultural identity of the city and development of its cultural infrastructure, either tangible or intangible. Open museums, construction of a Museum of Modern Art, creation of cultural centers, strengthening of cultural creation through the support of cultural operators and programs.</p>	<b>Sports Areas</b> <p>Creation of infrastructure for sports areas such as a Municipal Swimming Pool, use of sports facilities of schools in the afternoon, and sports facilities in large parks.</p>



<div>City Center</div> <div>City with a lively center 24 hours a day. Motives for the increase of entrepreneurship and the return of permanent residents, with reuse of the old buildings, pedestrian zones, green areas and zero emissions, and strengthening of the public space element.</div>	<div>Smart City</div> <div>A smart city that will invest in digital technology and provide with applications directly serving the citizen.</div>	<div>Social Support</div> <div>A city with a social face and sensibilities, with a sustainable housing program and strong services of social support for the family, the children, the minorities and people most in need.</div>
<div>Municipal Infrastructure</div> <div>Organization of the Municipal Infrastructure with a new organization chart, planning office and e-governance.</div>	<div>Environmental Infrastructure</div> <div>Development of the city infrastructure to address perennial problems, in terms of sustainability and circular economy, environmental protection, saving resources and energy, use of new technologies in projects such as flood protection, the fundamental change in the way of management of waste and garbage on the basis of modern environmental parameters, recycling, the development of networks, etc.</div>	<div>European Funds</div> <div>Fundraising from the EU with synergies between the public and private sector, scientific institutes and specialized bodies for flexible partnership schemes, and the utilization of municipal property.</div>

# Who will benefit from the initiative

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The vulnerable social groups. Families and children, disabled people, women, and the groups that are discriminated against, elderly people, young people that face difficulties in their vocational rehabilitation.

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The people who support a society which fights inequalities and demand an adequate welfare system which corresponds to the levels of prosperity.

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People of knowledge, science, technology, who invest in culture, education and technological training.

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All the people who live and work in Limassol and look for a better quality of life in a city that embraces them.

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The enterprises, through energy saving and a better traffic network.

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The corporate world that wants to invest in or develop its business.

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Employees, through the creation of jobs.

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# Action Plan :

## The pillars of the initiative

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“We believe in dialogue, inclusiveness, and the exchange of ideas.  
With transparency and democracy”





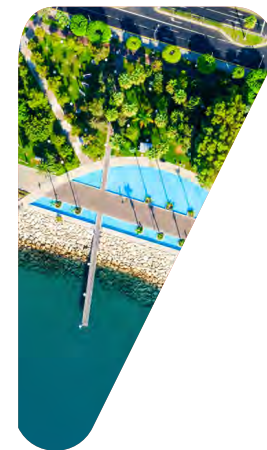
city's  
identity



innovation-  
development-  
tourism



culture



green areas-  
environment-  
health



people  
and society



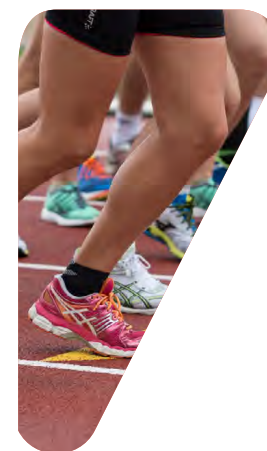
traffic-  
mobility-  
public space



governance-  
planning



neighborhoods

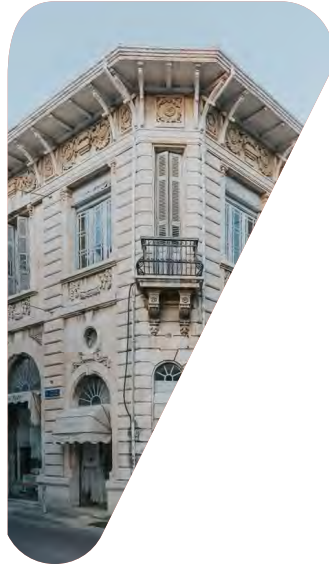


sports-  
education-  
youth



european  
prgrammes-  
funding





## city's identity

The most characteristic part of the landscape of Limassol is the sea. The redefinition of the coastal and marine space throughout the coastline of the city is necessary, so that more options of experiential relationship with the sea are available to all citizens and visitors. Through a series of actions and an innovative planning and intervention the organic connection between the Limassolians and water can be achieved.

The goal shall undoubtedly be the quality of water as well as the quality of life the citizens enjoy due to the sea: physical exercise, tranquility, socialization, recreation, jobs. The old and the new port, the marina, the embankment, are elements which strengthen the identity of our city; therefore Limassol shall become a modern coastal metropolis.

The benefits that will occur for all citizens, regardless of their occupation, social status or origin, are many. On one hand foreign companies will be attracted which will base their operations in Limassol, which gives prestige to the city, as a highly valued business area. On the other hand jobs for the citizens will be created.







## city's identity

Through the financial support of the city financial independence is ensured, a condition which will free the Municipality from the absolute financial dependence on the national budget. Thus, the Municipality will be able to implement independently more projects. All the above will have as final target the citizens themselves, as the social policy of the Municipality will have the opportunity to expand and meet more needs.

Through its branding (creation of a city “identity”) Limassol will enter the international ranking of most attractive cities. Tourism can develop in many ways, as Limassol is a city which can combine the achievements of technology in transport, architecture, health, etc. with tradition and history. The greatest challenge for every city is to tackle poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. By making Limassol a business center, a tourist destination, an area of innovation, technology, trade and development, the conditions for the integration of all citizens are created through the professional space that will occur. The final beneficiaries shall be the Limassolians themselves.





# innovation- development- tourism

Limassol has all the potential to become an important center of the Eastern Mediterranean. It can become an attractive destination for businesses, research, innovative investment, and tourism in a way that is beneficial to the society, the economy, and the environment. In order to achieve the above goal, the part of the Municipal Authority is quite important as it must facilitate, contribute in, plan, organize, and promote development and innovation policies. As a result of the above, Limassol can evolve into a modern Technopolis which promotes innovation and technology start-ups, providing opportunities and motivation to businesses, and attracting foreign investors who are active in state-of-the-art technologies.

The promotion of blue growth is a key target for the next decade. A necessary prerequisite is the creation of infrastructure for the enrichment and promotion of professions that are related to the sea. An important part in this endeavor must be played by the Port of Limassol, which must receive the necessary development so that a long-term strategy is established for the sustainable support of the sustainable development of shipping. The port can also contribute to the creation of an identity (branding) of a Mediterranean city.







## innovation- development- tourism

The branding of the city may contribute significantly to attracting foreign visitors as well as foreigners who will choose to settle in Limassol. Both in cooperation with the Cyprus Tourism Organization (CTO), and in cooperation with independent operators and enterprises in the tourism sector, Limassol has the capacity to highlight its special features, in order to become an attractive city for its visitors.

The constructor sector should not be based on unsustainable development models promoting projects that in the long-term shall harm instead of benefiting the city since they will not be used (such as the connection of buildings with the sale of passports), but should instead create infrastructure for the other activities we have mentioned. Construction projects which create infrastructure in sectors such as tourism, the use of the port, offices, parking spaces, flood defense works, pedestrian zones, cycle paths, are imperative for the city of Limassol for the next decade.

With innovative solutions, by the participation of young people, and the use of human resources of the city, various sectors can benefit: education and training, tourism, pharmaceutical companies, medicine. The city should be staffed with people who are continuously trained and contribute to the development of the region. Science and the production of knowledge in Limassol are directly linked to the development of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), which must play a leading role in the sectors of research and innovation, which are factors that are necessary for a sustainable local economic development. Technological and social innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity shall benefit from the existence of a high level of education. Innovative solutions shall contribute so that the Municipality of the city is modernized in preventing or resolving problems.





# culture

Culture is inextricably linked with Limassol. Samples from both the ancient and modern civilization are scattered everywhere, as Limassol has been a cradle of civilization for centuries now. The city pulsates with artistic creators composing a dynamic cultural sector, a modern entertainment industry. Hundreds of artistic creators, players, visual authors, poets, dancers, musicians, actors, live and create in Limassol, giving prominence to the city as a cultural center of Cyprus.

In a necessary cultural planning for the next decade, claiming the title of European Capital of Culture of 2030 could be one of the key objectives as well as a driving force for the development and enhancement of cultural life of the city with multiple benefits both at a social and an economic level. No city can flourish without arts, it is doomed to intellectual impoverishment. Tens of artists of the city daily resist this intellectual decline. With their initiatives, their actions, their daily struggle, either operating on their own or representing smaller as well as larger institutions, they try to pass on their love for culture, raising the intellectual level of the city. These foci of culture shall be supported by the Municipality, through the creation of conditions for independent production and creation.







## culture

Living in a multicultural city, Limassolians get lots of impacts that could be expressed in a wide range of cultural activities and events. There are many initiatives for the development of culture which are unfortunately not implemented because there is no integrated cultural planning, promotion and support policy. The goal of the Municipality must be the contribution to education, culture and formation of citizens with intellectual and artistic pursuits, focusing on children and teenagers. The development of the public and the raise of its awareness in matters of culture and arts shall be proven as the optimal investment. The Municipality should target long-term practices which shall help in the establishment of important actions on one hand, and shall support and develop the intellectual and aesthetic level of the city and its citizens on the other hand. There is a persistent audience that is thirsty for arts, therefore the goal of the Municipality should be the development of intellectual culture.

Culture, apart from its intellectual benefits, also contributes to the economic and social development through the creation of jobs, international collaborations, and a large creative capital. The benefits for the citizens of Limassol as well as the ones who have selected the city as their place of residence are many, primarily the upgrade of the quality of life. The existing spaces (even the municipal ones) can be supported as well as transformed, and their uses can expand. There are initiatives. In the context of a long-term planning the Municipality should strengthen and operate as an intermediary for the development of European and international cultural programs. The world of arts contributes not only to our inner and human culture, but also to the development of our society and its citizens.





## green areas- environment- health

The biggest bet for the entire planet is tackling the environmental crisis. Ideas are not enough. Responsibilities must be taken and acted upon. This is the duty primarily of the local Authority of every city in Europe and the world. Over the past few years it has been proven how important collaboration is at a local level to tackle global challenges, such as climate change. With the preparation of a strategic plan for Limassol we prove that we can plan and build spaces with respect to/respecting the environment and, at the same time, provide to the communities the possibility to develop. Building sustainable and resilient cities is a target of the EU.

The European Green Deal is our roadmap to achieve our goals. This shall be accomplished if we can turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities in all sectors. Within such a framework the citizens of Limassol will be able to enjoy the ecological development of urban spaces and green areas, transport, traffic, while at the same time, the quality of air, land, and sea will improve.







green areas-  
environment-  
health

The development of a Green Life attitude is the result of education, works, the use of technological breakthroughs and, principally, of a targeted action plan and proper planning. The optimum waste management, the municipal incentives to the people who practice their environmental instincts, the education and training of municipal officials and citizens with environmental awareness programs and practices, the creation of “green” municipal plots with the social synergy of citizens, the incentives against the use of cars, the digitized access to services so that traffic needs are reduced, compensations in development licenses and the non-negotiable habitat protection policy, are examples of a good start for the use of green policies.

We strongly believe that the young people of our city will take action and with innovative ideas they shall exploit European programmes creating jobs and improving at the same time the quality of life at all levels.





# traffic- mobility- public space

The environmental deficit of Cypriot cities was generated by a particular combination of conditions that are very different from the ones of foreign cities of the respective size. Therefore, actions that have a good understanding of local particularities and have a social basis can thrive. Mobility and public spaces are a key field. If the means and opportunities are provided to the citizens, established choices and attitudes can be overturned.

An open and hospitable city for all its users: children, elderly people, people with reduced mobility, visitors, immigrants, workers, etc. requires space and must emphasize on the pedestrian and the cyclist, however not through fragmentary or individual projects, not only for the weekly walk or ride, but also for everyday life. With the same diligence and persistence in all these years when the main road network was completed, a green network must rapidly connect the places of work, leisure, trade and services, as well as the future metropolitan park in the north, with the residential areas, the city center and the coastline. It has been already designed by the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), and all that remains is an ambitious and fast implementation program.







## traffic- mobility- public space

The creation of an attractive and continuous public space, the removal of traffic load from the roads with smart policies, and the encouraging of other means of transport must actively involve all social partners. Cities such as Limassol with strong economic operators and large educational institutions, have the opportunity to integrate mobility into their corporate social responsibility, encouraging and rewarding a range of actions and efficiency indicators. The works for the promotion of more space concessions to cars instead of easier accesses and movements should have been off the agenda.

The debate on track-based transport modes (locally or supra-locally) must begin with a 2050 horizon. The main priority is to determine and strengthen on time the main pillars of public transport, to strengthen them with uses/ destinations and above all with densities and population, so that the project of transition to green mobility is gradually sustainable.





## people and society

Limassol has proven over time that man is at the center of its activities. Making a little historical review we can observe that the city was developed after the Independence due to the accumulation of a labor force. As a port city, and a city of crafts, wine industry and agricultural holdings it principally needed workers. A large number of refugees from the Turkish invasion of 1974 were added to the image of the city, and soon became an important functional part of the society of Limassol.

Limassol today is a blend of classes, ethnicities, educational levels. In a spirit of co-existence Limassol embraces them all. However, unfortunately, the socio-economic problems of the 21st century exclude groups of people, deteriorating their status, creating a class gap of which the main cause is unemployment.







## people and society

A primary goal of the Municipal Authority, as it has also been mentioned elsewhere, is to create jobs. Unskilled workers, single mothers, young scientists, all have their place in the city.

A concern of the Municipal Authority is to create the conditions that will allow them to find this place and exploit it contributing constructively to the city life.

Through the economic and social development of the citizens, the entire community shall undoubtedly benefit. The risk of delinquent or criminal behavior is significantly reduced, the tendency to uses that lead to addiction is reduced, as well as school dropout rates, the citizens feel accepted, useful, happy. In the cases where living conditions are marginal, the Municipality must contribute in other ways showing its humanitarian face, proving that it has created a city for all its citizens, applying social policies of immediate action.





## sports- education- youth

“Mens sana in corpore sano” (a healthy mind in a healthy body) must be the concern of every Municipality as a harmony pattern that promotes health, relief from stress and the mental clarity of people. A healthy youth, physically and mentally, promises a healthy future for the city.

The culture of sports and well-being creates people who take care of their health, while at the same time lifelong learning is a core value for the continuous development of people of all ages. The goal is to utilize public spaces as well as people who, with their knowledge and initiatives, can contribute to the physical and mental culture of the people.

At the same time, our young people need new stimuli. They live in the era of image and sound, of social networks on the Internet. We need to recognize the fact that they are receiving challenges from everywhere.







## sports- education- youth

Through the socialization that will be created by their participation in sports or cultural clubs, young people can acquire the sense of “belonging”, a sense they often seek in wrong activities.

Our youth must be motivated to exploit the achievements of the era in which they live. Every young person can become an active, involved citizen and acquire social reflexes contributing positively to the community. In a live city of young people the conditions that will reward the young people themselves shall be surely created.





# neighborhoods

Man is the center of the wider Municipality but mainly of the neighborhoods. The goal is to strengthen relationships within a community -neighborhood and in a climate of security, solidarity and cooperation, in a space where the works of infrastructure shall make life functional and pleasant, without any problems. As works of infrastructure are considered flood defense works, sidewalks, the road network, lighting, the collection of garbage which shall be also linked to ecological awareness through incentives for recycling.

The modern trend in the cities of Europe, “the 15-minute cities”, has proven that there has been an upgrade in the quality of life of residents in the neighborhoods, providing them with self-sufficiency in services such as shops, medical centers, schools, and cultural, commercial and sports life. In order for the Limassolians to be able to meet their needs in distances of a 15-minute walk, a necessary condition is high tree planting in the streets of the neighborhoods, which will provide relief from high temperatures. This will contribute substantially to a better air quality and physical exercise and will create cohesion ties between (the) residents who will meet on their routes. This whole design shall accomplish the decentralization of the city, while







## neighborhoods

at the same time there will be connections with the city center through a design of cycle paths, pedestrian zones and a smart traffic network.

The neighborhoods of Limassol can become a reference point of life in Cyprus. The characteristic courtyards, planted and cared for with love by the residents, manifest the tendency of our fellow citizens to seek beauty and green areas around them. The most beautiful homes are those having smiling residents. This is the goal of the Municipality both in the city center and in its neighborhoods.





## governance- planning

The upgrading and modernization of the way of organization and governance of the Municipality of Limassol are necessary features for a city such as our city. The expectations of the citizens in general from the Local Authorities have been similar in the ongoing, in the last years, debate on a comprehensive reform. The improvement and digitization of municipal services, the adoption of innovative forms of administration of the city through the implementation of “smart” policies, regard both the city itself, and other production, social and cultural operators which are active in Limassol.

Through the promotion and penetration of e-governance in the lives of Limassolians, targets will be achieved such as a more efficient administration, the direct involvement of the citizens in the activities of the Municipality as well as the strengthening of inclusiveness in decision making. Finally, through the revision of the Local Plan of Limassol, the city will be able to upgrade its urban planning through a comprehensive planning. Furthermore, the appropriate data bases shall be available, a condition that will help in making the most appropriate decisions.







## governance- planning

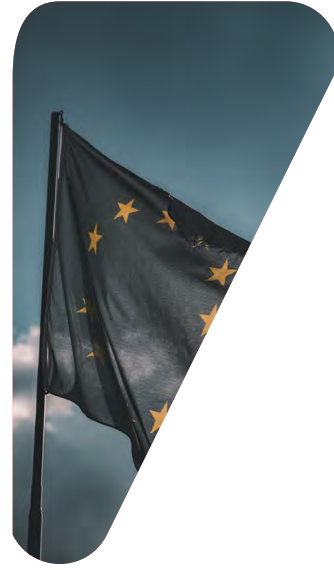
To make it possible for the Municipality to carry out its mission effectively, it needs to be organized having as goal the optimal use of its existing staff, its adequate staffing in new and demanding areas related to urban planning, the environment, social policies and digital governance, the upgrade of the systems for the evaluation, rewarding and retraining of its officials.

The main issue is a new organizational chart based on the responsibilities of the Municipality, which shall provide for a proper staffing, with particular emphasis on the necessary scientific staff. The new era brought forward new responsibilities, urgent needs. If the Municipality limits itself on the basis of its already existent functioning, its existing procedures and organization, it will be left behind. Distinct duties of its officials are needed as well as administration rules which shall enable initiatives and the development of the skills of its officials. Evaluation, rewarding, internal control, productivity, all have measurable indicators.

The creation of modern building and technological infrastructure is particularly necessary to anticipate needs in relation to direct communication and response to the needs of the city and its citizens. The Municipality of Limassol can become, through the use of digital technology, the pioneering Municipality in the development of citizen participation processes.

The achievement of strategic goals requires the mobilization of citizens, their active participation, feedback from them, and the establishment of public consultation models.





## European Programmes-Funding

The field of funding is becoming more and more competitive. The Municipality of Limassol can become a pioneer at a local and regional level to maximize the potential for our entire city. Limassol must be able to take advantage of funding and funding opportunities both from the European Union, and through partnerships with the private sector. To achieve this, strategy is required, as well as plans for mature projects, the upgrading of the Municipal Authority, flexibility and synergies with academics and experts, and networking with European and international operators.

The claim of projects and funding programmes brings multiple benefits, and the Municipality of Limassol needs to work based on specific principles: each project must be integrated into and serve the strategic orientation of Limassol, and requires a sound design and maturity that ensures funding. Therefore, the commitment and consistency in implementation schedules and the fulfillment of qualitative and quantitative objectives are required.





# Impact on Limassol



## 1. Social:

- Tightening of relationships
- Enhancing security through the sense of “belonging”
- Prevention of delinquency
- Social welfare policies for vulnerable groups



## 2. Environmental:

- Cleanliness
- Tree planting
- CO2 freezone
- Modern and ecological urban public transport
- Addressing traffic problems
- Physical exercise
- Safety of animals



## 3. Cultural:

- Development of tangible and intangible cultural infrastructure
- Creation of the appropriate conditions for cultural development
- Expansion of cultural goods
- Promotion of arts and artistic creators
- Strengthening of the culture centers
- Recognition of the city in Cyprus and abroad
- Intellectual cultivation of the citizens
- Designation of Limassol as the European Capital of Culture



## 4. Economic:

- New opportunities
- New jobs
- Development of the economy (services, commerce)
- Autonomy in the city
- Time saving
- Energy saving



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You can also participate.

## Do you want to?

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Click on the link.

declaration of participation





thank you

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