



PLACES FOR PEOPLE: ESPON PEER-LEARNING WORKSHOP
ARCHITECTURAL POLICY: FROM THEORY TO IMPLEMENTATION

Thursday, 19th February 2026

Amphitheatre of the Department of Town Planning and Housing, Nicosia, Cyprus

ESPON – the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion – in cooperation with the Cyprus Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of Interior, presents a Peer-Learning Workshop on Cyprus's first national policy on architecture. The ESPON programme supports territorial development and cohesion by providing evidence, data and analysis on spatial trends across Europe.

The aim of the workshop is to bring leading national policy experts on architectural and design policies from selected European Member States together with policymakers, public officials and stakeholders from Cyprus, to provide a better understanding of architectural policies in the EU, showcasing best practices from ESPON and facilitating exchange of experiences and knowledge.

PROGRAMME

- 9:00 Welcome address by Mr. Kyriakos Koundouros, Director of the Department of Town Planning and Housing
- 9:05 Welcome address by a representative of the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber
- 9:10 Opening introduction by the Department of Town Planning and Housing
- 9:20 A National Architecture Policy for Cyprus (Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber & Cyprus Architects Association)

SESSION I – LEARNING FROM PEERS

- 9:35 Architectural Policies in Europe: An Overview (Dr. João Bento)
- 9:50 National Architecture and Landscape Policy in Portugal (Ms. Marta Rodrigues)
- 10:20 Learning from the Netherlands (Dr. Kirsten Schipper & Ms. Nicoline Kok-den Exter)
- 10:50 **Coffee break**
- 11:15 Finnish Architectural Policy (2022-2035): From Programme to Implementation (Dr. Aleksi Lohtaja – online)
- 11:45 The Development of a New National Architecture Policy in Spain (Ms. Maite Verdú – online)
- 12:15 ESPON Case Study: HOUSE4ALL Project (Ms. Sandra Di Biaggio)
- 12:45 Moderated discussion
- 13:00 **Lunch break**

**SESSION II – PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

14:00 Parallel workshops on architectural policies and ESPON projects

- Workshop 1: The Visionary "Why" – The value of architecture
- Workshop 2: The Strategic "How" – Implementation
- Workshop 3: The Tangible "What" – Housing & architecture quality

15:30 Presentations of the outcomes of the workshops

16:00 Conclusions and further steps