

— MEDITERRANEAN MAKERS INITIATIVE

The Mediterranean Makers Manifest

Forging a shared future through
innovation, skills and sustainable
production.

A civil-society, private-sector and educational
response to the
Pact for the Mediterranean (M-PACT) & the New
European Bauhaus.
Submitted in the context of the 2026 Croatian
presidencies · Zagreb

IN PARTNERSHIP

The Mediterranean as a common space

We see the Mediterranean not as a dividing line, but as a Common Space for Innovation and Creative Production.

The Mediterranean has historically been a cradle of civilization, trade and exchange — yet today it is often viewed as a border or a site of crisis. We, the Makers, propose a different vision: a region driven by a new generation of entrepreneurs, artisans and innovators who use technology and tradition to solve shared challenges.

This Manifest is a civil-society, private-sector and educational response to the Pact for the Mediterranean and the New European Bauhaus. It addresses the urgent need to revitalize remote and rural areas — islands, mountains and plains — by empowering citizens to become active problem solvers rather than passive consumers.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Inclusive

Holistic

Practical

Sustainable

Experimental

Intergenerational

Human-centred

Accessible

Affordable

Sharing

Empathy

Resilience

Participatory

The Maker ethos

Human-centred, holistic and intergenerational. Drawing from the global Maker movement and the specific needs of our region, we stand on three pillars of value.

01 THE SOCIAL PILLAR

Community & resilience

Inclusive & intergenerational

Bridging youth and elders — digital-native skills meet traditional wisdom.

Fighting loneliness

Spaces as social sanctuaries that rebuild community ties in remote areas.

Empathy

Solutions designed around the real needs of people, not market trends.

02 THE OPERATIONAL PILLAR

Openness & sharing

Culture of sharing

Open-source knowledge — a solution on a Croatian island instantly reaches a village in Egypt.

Connecting boundaries

Rejecting silos; linking diverse communities, disciplines and cultures.

Accessibility

Tools and technology affordable and accessible to all citizens.

03 THE ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR

Sustainability & autonomy

Circular & practical

Repair, reuse and local production over global consumption.

Self-sufficiency

Communities resilient to external shocks through local manufacturing.

Regeneration

Guided by circularity and care for place across every project.

One model, three territories

A response to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, based on the Pact for the Mediterranean launched in Barcelona on 28 November 2025. The initiative uses the Adriatic GreenLab (AGL) as a "living laboratory" — inspired by the New European Bauhaus — connecting creators, experts and citizens.

Adriatic GreenLab (AGL) is our proven island flagship, now scaling across the Mediterranean — one of three territorial contexts, alongside agricultural plains and mountain & forest. These are not general-purpose labs but targeted resilience hubs tuned to their territory: each a civil-defence centre in crises and a community centre in peacetime.

CONTEXT 01 · ISLAND

Adriatic GreenLab

Water conservation, marine protection and isolated energy systems; rainwater micro-grids and circular use of marine waste.

CONTEXT 02 · PLAIN

Farming & food systems

Smart agriculture, precision farming, food repair and bio-based materials from agricultural waste.

CONTEXT 03 · MOUNTAIN

Forestry & wood

Sustainable forestry, digital fabrication in wood, remote connectivity and eco-tourism tools.

ACCESSIBLE · RESPONSIBLE · INCLUSIVE

Adriatic GreenLab — established in Zagreb as a citizens-science NGO working in social innovation and entrepreneurship — is the defining hub of this model.

Aligned to the Pact for the Mediterranean

01

People & innovation

Ljudi i inovacije

People as a driving force for change and innovation — higher education, vocational training, skills, jobs, youth and civil society.

STRATEGY

- Collaborate with the Mediterranean University.
- Establish the Distributed Designing the Future Academy (DFA).
- Use social entrepreneurship as a tool for development.
- Promote Living Archives of cultural heritage.

02

Sustainability & connectivity

Održivost i povezivanje

Stronger, more sustainable and integrated economies — clean tech, energy, water resilience, blue economy and connectivity.

STRATEGY

- Accelerate the Green Transition through regenerative projects.
- Network makerspaces via Fablab through Vulca.
- Expand the AGL model across island, plain and mountain.
- Align with the New European Bauhaus (NEB LAB for Med).

03

Security & resilience

Sigurnost i otpornost

Security, preparedness and migration management — regional disaster preparedness and community self-reliance.

STRATEGY

- Develop local maker networks for rapid response.
- Leverage local resources and knowledge for self-reliance.
- Build replicable models that adapt across borders.
- Strengthen emotional networking with people and places.

Five commitments that turn vision into reality

1

A distributed network of resilience hubs

GOAL

Create a physical infrastructure of makerspaces in remote areas.

EXECUTION

Replicate the AGL model — hubs as civil-defence centres in crises and community centres in peacetime.

2

The Distributed Designing the Future Academy

GOAL

Democratise education and validate "maker knowledge".

EXECUTION

With the Mediterranean University, issue micro-credentials for informal skills currently unrecognised by formal systems.

3

The Euro-African Innovation Bridge

GOAL

Strengthen geopolitical stability through shared innovation.

EXECUTION

Frugal-innovation partnerships combine high-tech fabrication with resource-efficient innovation; a Nomadic Maker programme links both shores.

4

The Green Transition through "Local Loops"

GOAL

Replace global supply chains with local circular economies.

EXECUTION

Every signatory implements a Repair & Reuse Protocol — citizens repair devices and make spare parts locally.

5

Living Archives of heritage

GOAL

Preserve cultural identity through emotional networking.

EXECUTION

Use 3D scanning and VR/AR to document crafts and heritage at risk, keeping makers' stories alive.

A maker network across the Mediterranean

NETWORKING

Vulca partnership

Connects and networks the makerspaces across the Mediterranean.

EDUCATION PRACTICE

The DFA

The primary education-practice infrastructure for citizen empowerment.

CORE HUB

Adriatic GreenLab

Established in Zagreb;
ACCESSIBLE · RESPONSIBLE · INCLUSIVE.

CROATIAN PARTNERS

- Udruga Fablab (Fablab Association)
- Institute for Entrepreneurial Education and Innovation
- Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb
- Association of Islands (Udruga Otoka), Prvić Island

VULCA PARTNERSHIP · 12 COUNTRIES

01	Portugal	02	Spain
03	France	04	Italy
05	Slovenia	06	Croatia
07	Bosnia & Herz.	08	Albania
09	Greece	10	Malta
11	Türkiye	12	Egypt

12

COUNTRIES

20+

MAKER HUBS

— CALL TO ACTION

Do not just buy the future — help make it

To policymakers

Recognise makerspaces as essential public infrastructure — like libraries or schools — and support the Distributed Academy to validate the skills of the future workforce.

To educators

Partner with us. Move out of the lecture halls and into the Living Labs where practical innovation happens.

To citizens

Join us. Do not just buy the future; help make it.

The Mediterranean is our home. Let us build it together.

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