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PRESS RELEASE

Nicosia Open Up Festival – A festival open to all

The *Nicosia Open Up Festival – A festival open to all* is a multi-dimensional arts festival that features an art exhibition, performances, an open discussion, lectures–performances, video-installations, multifaceted art activities, music, screenings, a street party, culinary events and workshops. The four-day events of the festival begin on Thursday, 19 October 2023, with the opening of the Open Up exhibition at NiMAC [The Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre, Associated with the Pierides Foundation] and conclude on Sunday, 22 October 2023, with a large street party.

The *Nicosia Open Up Festival* (<https://openupeu.com/activities/nicosia-festival/>) is organized by the Pierides Foundation within the framework of the European project OPEN UP (<https://openupeu.com/>) in collaboration with six other major and renowned partners: Publics Agency, Helsinki (Finland), Valand Academy, Gothenburg (Sweden), New Hand Lab Center, Covilha (Portugal), University of Thessaly, Volos (Greece), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain), University of Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens (France).

The festival presents works by artists who participated in workshops, seminars and various other activities organised and implemented by all partner-institutions participating in the OPEN UP project during the four-year programme (2019–2023). The aim of the programme and of the festival itself is to promote talented artists from Cyprus, Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Greece, Spain and France who for various reasons –political, geographical, social and economic– were not able to present their work at local or European level. The *Nicosia Open Up Festival* is the last and major event of the European project and reflects the programme’s vision: Faith in the value of human creativity.

This is the first time that such a festival is organised in Cyprus; one that seeks to bring to the surface and give a platform to 70 artists. During the four-day festival, various events will be held in four venues (NiMAC, Theatro Polis–OPAP, Gardens of the Future, and various outdoor spaces around NiMAC), the entrance to which will be free for the public.

The *Nicosia Open Up Festival – a festival open to all* aspires to become an event of inclusion and common understanding of numerous diverse artists and practices.

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