

# ENERGY TRANSITION IN PORTS AND CITIES & TERRITORIES

COST Action– Port City Territories in  
Action: A Collaborative Laboratory for  
Inclusive Energy Transition (PACT)

TRAINING COURSE AND WORKSHOP  
CHIOS, GREECE, 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2026



## Overview

Climate change represents a critical challenge. It has already prompted urgent calls for an accelerated energy transition across key sectors. Given their strategic importance, ports have moved to the forefront, emerging as key energy hubs within the global system. At the same time, their relationship with cities and related territories creates both critical challenges and opportunities for coordinated developments. In this context, understanding the interplay between ports, spatial development, and the energy transition is essential for integrating strategies that fully support sustainable, effective and inclusive growth across ports, cities, and related territories.

The three-day training course (TC) of the COST Action PACT will explore the intersection of port ecosystems, spatial urban development and the energy transition with a particular focus on how ports, cities, and related territories interact, evolve, and adapt in response to sustainable energy transition practices. It will be structured into two complementary parts, moving from spatial perspectives to applied solutions, combining perspectives from the port and the broader maritime sector, territorial governance, spatial urban development, and energy transition systems.

Methodologically, the training course will be based on a mix of lectures, case study presentations, and workshops. The scope is to generate interactive discussions, encouraging knowledge exchange and collaborative learning. Two main objectives will guide the program. First, to provide participants with a clear understanding of the evolving yet complex relationship between ports, cities, and energy transition systems. Second, through collaborative practices, to identify key challenges, explore sustainable solutions, and support the development of integrated and inclusive strategies for the energy transition in port cities. The training course aims to attract active students, researchers, academics and industry professionals.

Organised by members of the Department of Maritime Studies, University of Piraeus, Greece, who are active in the COST Action PACT (Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Athanasios Pallis), the event will take place on the eve of the European Conference on Shipping, Intermodalism and Ports (ECONSHIP), to be held in Chios, Greece, from 23-25 September 2026. The program of the latter contains a special session "Energy Transition: Ports and Cities & Territories" co-organised by the COST Action PACT.

**Dates:** 20 – 22 September 2026

**Location:** Chios, Greece

**Venue:** Korai Library (Building B), Chios, Greece

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## Objectives:

The objectives of the Training Course are fully aligned with the COST actions rules and include:

- **Capacity Building:** Provide participants with a clear understanding of the evolving yet complex relationship between ports, cities, and energy transition systems.
- **Research Coordination:** Through collaborative practices, to identify the key challenges, explore sustainable solutions and support the development of integrated and inclusive strategies for the energy transition in ports, port cities & territories.

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## What the Training Course Offers

- Lectures from experts in maritime spatial planning, urban development, maritime and port industry and energy transition.
- Workshops on real-world case studies.
- Ongoing research projects presentations.
- Networking opportunities.

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## Guidelines for expression of interest:

- Applicants are required to submit a brief statement of interest outlining their background and motivation for participation, along with a CV.
- Submissions should be sent directly to: Drs. Andreas Hadjikofinas via [hadjikofinas@unipi.gr](mailto:hadjikofinas@unipi.gr)
- Further info: contact Prof. Thanos Pallis ([apallis@unipi.gr](mailto:apallis@unipi.gr)) or Drs. Andreas Hadjikofinas [hadjikofinas@unipi.gr](mailto:hadjikofinas@unipi.gr)

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## Important Dates

- **Application Deadline:** July 25
- **Notification of Acceptance:** July 30
- **Training Course Dates:** September 20 to September 22, 2026
- \*The final programme and detailed agenda will be announced at a later stage.

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## Funding

A limited number of participants may receive funding to cover travel and daily allowance (accommodation, local travel, etc.) as per COST guidelines. Further arrangements will be communicated upon acceptance.

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