



Reos Partners



European
Climate
Foundation

Heat & Climate Extremes Forum

FROM EXTREME HEAT TO SYSTEMIC RISK
PREPAREDNESS. COLLABORATION. RESILIENCE.

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30–16:30 EEST

MEGARON – THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL

MUSIC LIBRARY OF GREECE “LILIAN VOUDOURI”

Hosted by **Mindworks Lab** in partnership with **National Observatory of Athens (NOA)**
and **REOS Partners**

with the support of the **European Climate Foundation**

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CLIMATE
CHANGE
HUB

ABOUT THE FORUM

As heatwaves and climate extremes increasingly shape everyday life across Europe, preparedness is no longer only a matter of emergency response. It has become a question of health, food security, finance, tourism, communication, social cohesion and collective resilience. Bringing together scientists, civil society organisations, emergency responders, psychologists, journalists, investors, public institutions, and community leaders, the Forum is designed as a shared space for exchange, relationship-building and collaboration among those already working on heat and climate extremes. Its objective is simple: to strengthen preparedness ecosystems and foster stronger cooperation at local, regional and national levels. More than a climate conference, this Forum is an invitation to build a growing community of practice around heat and climate disaster preparedness.

AGENDA

9:00–9:30 | ARRIVAL

9:30–9:45 | WELCOME

- **Jozsef Feiler**, Director for SouthEast Europe & Hungary, European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- **Dr Vassiliki Kotroni**, Director of Research, National Observatory of Athens (NOA)
- **Diya Deb**, Executive Director, Mindworks Lab

9:45–10:15 | KEYNOTE SPEECH

Haris Doukas, Mayor of Athens

**10:15–11:15 | CHAPTER I – HEAT & CLIMATE EXTREMES:
UNDERSTANDING RISK, ANTICIPATION & PREPAREDNESS**

Framing Insight: Dr Katerina Papagiannaki, Researcher, National Observatory of Athens

As heat increasingly interacts with droughts, wildfires, floods and cascading societal impacts, how can climate science help societies prepare for a more uncertain future?

PANEL I – FROM HEATWAVES TO COMPOUND CLIMATE RISKS

Moderator: Ioanna Kardara, Journalist, Athens-Macedonian News Agency

- **Dr Katerina Papagiannaki**, Researcher, National Observatory of Athens
- **Nikos Charalampides**, Executive Director, Greenpeace Greece
- **Elias Tziritis**, Wildfires Actions Coordinator, WWF Greece
- **Maria Logotheti**, Chair and CEO, Climate Change Hub

Spotlight: Dr Vassiliki Kotroni, Researcher, National Observatory of Athens

From Monitoring to Action: Presenting NOA's systems for anomaly detection, heat monitoring, early warning and preparedness, and discussing how climate intelligence can support institutions, municipalities and citizens in anticipating climate extremes.

11:15–12:15 | CHAPTER II – FOOD SECURITY, FORESIGHT & CLIMATE INTELLIGENCE: PREPARING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Framing Insight: Jozsef Feiler, Director for SEE & Hungary, European Climate Foundation (ECF)

Introducing the AUGURES project and exploring the importance of climate foresight — not simply prediction — in supporting food security, agriculture, investment planning and long-term decision-making.

PANEL II – FOOD SECURITY IN AN AGE OF CLIMATE UNCERTAINTY

Moderator: Giannis Panagos, Publisher & Managing Director, Agrenda – Agronews

- **Dr Kostas Lagouvardos**, Research Director, National Observatory of Athens
- **Dr Dimitris Bilalis**, Professor, Agricultural University of Athens
- **Representative**, International Sustainable Finance Centre
- **Elena Danali**, Agri-Food Sustainability Advisor

12:15–13:00 | NETWORKING OVER PLANT-BASED LUNCH

13:00–14:00 | CHAPTER III – COMMUNITIES, NARRATIVES & COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE: FROM AWARENESS TO AGENCY

Framing Insight: Diya Deb, Executive Director, Mindworks Lab

What helps people move from awareness to action; how community-led initiatives build agency and trust; the role of narratives in shaping what people believe is possible; mental wellbeing and collective efficacy during climate extremes; how local experimentation can connect with institutions and longer-term adaptation.

PANEL III – FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: STRENGTHENING AGENCY AND COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE

Moderator: Dimitra Triantafyllou, Climate & Social Affairs Journalist, *in.gr*

- **Theodoros Tzoumas**, Mayor of Skiathos island
- **Martha Gatsinou**, Engagement & Communications Strategist | #CoolRoutes Community Initiative Lead
- **Stella Kasdagli**, Co-founder @ WHEN.org.gr, the WHEN Hub & include | ‘The Other 112’ Community Initiative Lead
- **Hope Robinson**, #HandletheHeat Campaign Coordinator, Healthcare Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

14:00–15:00 | CHAPTER IV – FINANCING RESILIENCE: INVESTING BEFORE THE CRISIS

Framing Insight: Yiannis Chrysostomidis, Senior Partner, REOS Partners

How do we finance preparedness before disaster strikes? Exploring how public and private finance can support anticipation rather than reaction, and how resilience can become a long-term investment rather than simply a recovery cost.

PANEL IV – FINANCING CLIMATE & HEAT RESILIENCE

Moderator: George Lialios, Environmental Journalist, *Kathimerini newspaper*

- **Ioanna Messini**, Actuarial Analyst, Interamerican P&C
- **Urška Jež**, Investor and innovation ecosystem builder, Transformation Lighthouse
- **Alexia Chamodraka**, Senior Programme Officer, Bodossaki Foundation
- **Henry Moatsos**, BoD Member, Hellenic Association of Insurance Companies | CEO, ERGO Hellas

15:00–15:10 | CLOSING REFLECTIONS

Kriton Arsenis, Founder & Director, reLife Earth | Former Member of the European Parliament

15:10–15:30 | THE FOUNDING OF HEATLAB – FROM AWARENESS TO PREPAREDNESS

15:30–16:30 | NETWORKING OVER COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

Hosted by **Mindworks Lab**, with the support of **REOS Partners**, the **European Climate Foundation (ECF)** and the **National Observatory of Athens (NOA)** as Knowledge Partner.

The Forum concludes with the official launch of **HeatLab** — a new collaborative platform dedicated to strengthening heat resilience and climate disaster preparedness. Building on the momentum created through Reinventing Heat and the partnerships established throughout the Forum, HeatLab will begin its next chapter as a long-term hub bringing together researchers, communities, public institutions, health professionals, innovators, businesses, philanthropies and investors around one shared ambition: helping societies become better prepared before climate-related disasters occur.

Beginning in autumn 2026, HeatLab will gradually develop around four complementary pillars:

- **Incubator** – supporting community-led ideas, pilot initiatives and practical experimentation.
- **Accelerator** – helping promising initiatives grow through mentoring, partnerships, visibility and access to funding.
- **Catalyst** – connecting science, communities, public institutions, philanthropy, finance and business to accelerate collaboration and systems change.
- **Space for Human Resilience** – supporting the psychological and social dimensions of climate adaptation through learning, peer support and community engagement for individuals and communities affected by climate change and weather-related disasters.

HeatLab is envisioned as the first hub within a growing European network. While Athens will host the inaugural platform, the ambition is to support the emergence of sister HeatLabs across Southeast Europe and, over time, other parts of Europe — creating a connected community of practice around heat resilience, climate preparedness and collective action.

CALL TO ACTION

HeatLab is an open invitation to collaborate. Communities, researchers, public institutions, businesses, philanthropies and investors are invited to become part of this growing platform — contributing knowledge, partnerships, ideas and resources to help shape the next generation of community-centred climate resilience.

Because resilience is built together — long before disaster strikes.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue: Lecture Hall, Music Library of Greece “Lilian Voudouri”, Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall

Address: Vas. Sofias & Kokkali, 11521 Athens, Greece

Forum website & registration: [Heat & Climate Extremes Forum](#)