



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2026*

Municipality: Geçitkale-Serdarlı Municipality
Cyprus (TRNC)

Country: Turkish Republic of Northern

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Name project

Living Culture Through Producing Hands:
Traditional Basket Weaving Workshop

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- ☐ Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- ☐ Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- ☐ Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualità urbana);
- ☐ Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- * Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalità, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- * Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

Cyprus, a historic crossroads of civilizations and cultures, carries a rich heritage shaped by centuries of shared traditions and community life. Among the island's most valuable intangible cultural heritages is the traditional art of basket weaving – locally known as sele and sesta weaving – a craft that reflects collective memory, sustainable living and cultural identity. The Geçitkale-Serdarlı Municipality Handicrafts Workshop was established not only to preserve this endangered tradition, but also to transform it into a living model of social inclusion, women's empowerment and cultural sustainability. Through the workshop, women and individuals from different social backgrounds come together in a shared production space where traditional weaving techniques are taught using natural local materials and environmentally friendly methods.



This project goes beyond safeguarding a traditional handicraft. It creates a strong social impact by strengthening community solidarity, encouraging intergenerational knowledge transfer and supporting women's active participation in economic and social life. By combining cultural heritage with sustainable local production, the project contributes directly to the core values of the Cittaslow philosophy.

Today, the workshop stands as a powerful example of how traditional knowledge can become a tool for cultural dialogue, local development and social cohesion. It demonstrates that cultural heritage is not only something to be preserved, but a living value capable of connecting people, strengthening communities and inspiring future generations.

Goal project

- To preserve and transmit the traditional basket weaving culture of Cyprus to future generations.
- To strengthen cultural dialogue and social cohesion through collective handicraft production.
- To support women's active participation in social and economic life.
- To create sustainable local production using natural materials and traditional methods.
- To promote local identity and cultural heritage through Cittaslow principles.

Result project

- Approximately 40 women actively participate in handicraft training and production activities.
- Traditional basket weaving techniques are being preserved and taught to younger generations.
- Handmade products are produced using environmentally friendly natural materials.
- Participants gain social interaction, self-confidence and economic support through production.
- The project has increased awareness of local cultural heritage and strengthened community solidarity.

Finance (costs and benefits)



The project is supported by municipal facilities, local resources and workshop equipment. Handmade products produce during the workshop contribute to the local economy through exhibitions and sales. The project creates both cultural and social benefits by preserving traditional knowledge while supporting women's economic participation.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

- Handicraft instructors and local artisans
- Municipality cultural affairs staff
- Workshop coordinators and volunteers
- Participants attending regular weekly training sessions and production activities

Additional information (if necessarily)

The project represents an important example of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through local participation and sustainable production. It also contributes to intercultural dialogue and community-based learning by bringing together individuals from different generations and social backgrounds around a shared cultural tradition.

Link website
(if available)

Geçitkale-Serdarlı Municipality social media

Once filled in this form please send it to: info@cittaslow.net

- Participation Deadline, 19 May 2026 -