

Alina Östling

Title: Connecting Critical Pedagogies, Inclusive Art Forms and Alternative Barometers for Urban Sustainability (CIRCUL'ARTs)

Start and end date: 21 Apr 2026 to 28 Apr 2026.

In the framework of the STSM mission, the host, Prof. Loizos Symeou, Lefkios Neophytou (also supporting the STSM) and Alina (the grantee) worked in view of achieving the set goals by conducting the following activities:

- Literature review of more-than-human design practices and their application in real life settings in different countries (European countries, and countries in the Global South)
- Joint discussion and development of a framework for the practitioner toolkit
- Compilation of findings in a structured format, that can serve to support the planned WG deliverable
- Brainstorming about ideas for publications and joint projects in line with the scope of the WG and the COST Action as a whole
- Drafting the mandatory STSM scientific report

In addition to the planned activities, we also drafted a joint working paper, laying out its structure, including conceptual and theoretical framework, and proposing application through practical activities with design probes.

The main outputs of the visit were:

- Established contacts with academics at European University of Cyprus, at the University of Cyprus and at Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education.
- A joint working paper, entitled "What Would Soil Say? From engagement to Freirean praxis in soil literacy", including conceptual and theoretical framework, and application through practical activities with design probes. The draft is available at request.
- Development of a "Framework for the practitioner toolkit: Soil literacy as a generative, reconstructionist curriculum" with focus on more-than-human design practices. The draft is available at request.

Follow-up activities:

- Alina will continue discussions about ideas for joint projects in line with the scope of the WG, and the COST Action as a whole, internally in her organisation (RISE), and reach out externally to talk with potential project partners in Sweden and abroad to discuss collaboration on project proposals in line with the joint interest of the hosts.
- We will jointly finalize the framework for practitioners toolkit and the working paper over the coming weeks and find a relevant publication outlet for it.