

The protection of mountain ecosystems and the promotion of their cultural identity are at the heart of PeakED's project.



The PeakED Living Lab in Jordan highlighted the power of local knowledge and international cooperation

Mountain regions, which cover approximately 36% of Europe and significant portions of the world's ecosystems, represent vital environmental and cultural assets. However, they face serious challenges due to climate change, biodiversity loss, and depopulation. At the same time, the gradual decline of traditional communities and the lack of environmental education among younger generations threaten to disconnect people from their natural and cultural heritage.

In response to these challenges, the [PeakED](#) - Environmental Involvement and Education for Young Entrepreneurs and Volunteers project, co-funded by the European Union, seeks to provide innovative solutions. Through an approach that combines experiential learning, youth empowerment, and the integration of local knowledge, PeakED aims to foster environmental awareness, strengthen social cohesion, and promote the sustainable development of mountain communities.

As part of the project, the **Living Lab in Jordan** was successfully organized and hosted by project partner **Desert Bloom**. The workshop served as a dynamic platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among young people and professionals from different countries, with a particular focus on environmental protection and the preservation of the cultural heritage of mountain regions.

Experiential Learning Against the Backdrop of Petra and the Wadi Rum Desert

The first day of the Living Lab took place in **Petra**, Jordan's legendary archaeological site and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Participants explored the ancient Nabataean water management techniques, which remain exemplary models of sustainability to this day. Discussions also focused on the contemporary threats facing the region, including climate change and the impacts of mass tourism.

The program continued with an **ascent to Jebel Umm ad Dami**, the highest peak in Jordan. This activity offered participants unique opportunities to connect with nature, study the desert ecosystem, and gain insight into the culture of the Bedouins, the local nomadic communities that have developed valuable survival practices and environmental knowledge to thrive in challenging conditions.

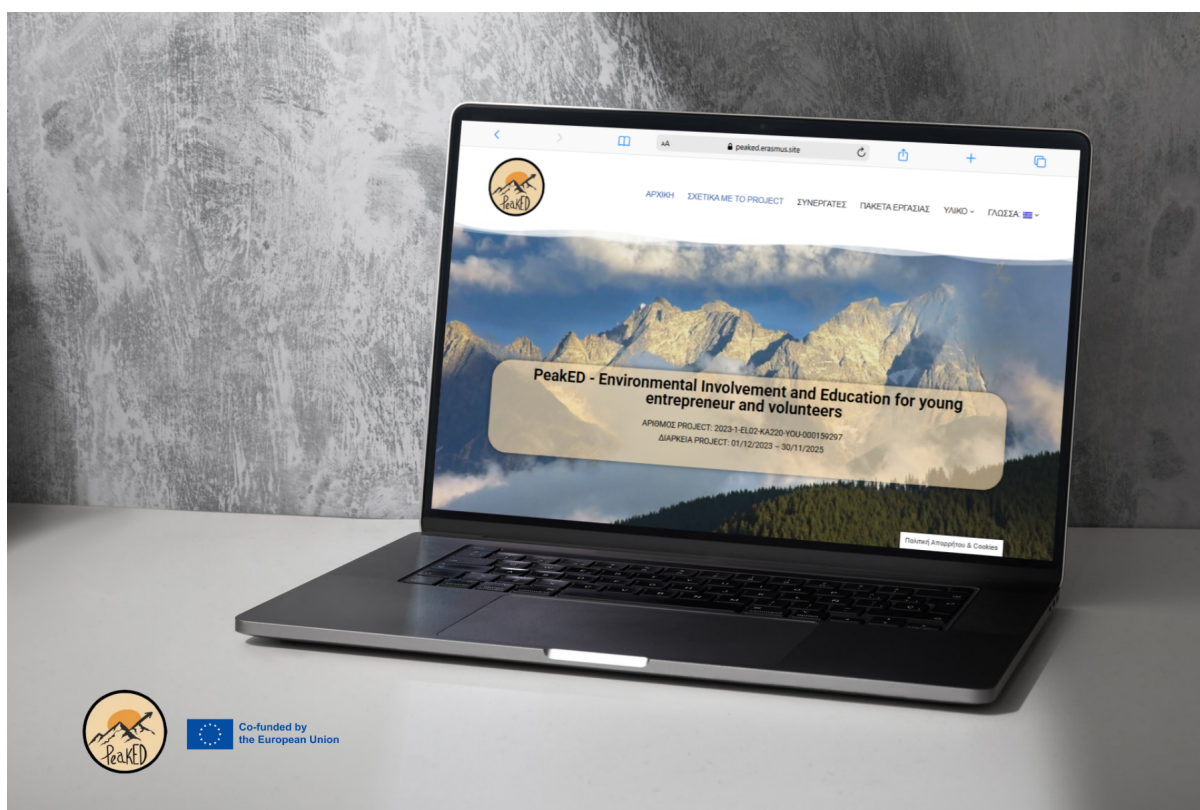


Women-Led Initiatives for Environmental Restoration

The final day of the Living Lab was dedicated to a visit to the **Disi Women's Cooperative Association**, an organization actively engaged in environmental restoration through the cultivation of native plant species, the revival of traditional practices, and the empowerment of women within the local community. Participants had the opportunity to take part in hands-

on activities and gain a deeper understanding of the connection between social empowerment and environmental action.

The Living Lab in Jordan highlighted the importance of local knowledge as a cornerstone of sustainable development. The transfer of experience and expertise from mountain community residents, combined with youth empowerment and cross-border cooperation, lies at the heart of the [PeakED](#) approach. Participation in initiatives of this kind contributes to the development of active citizens with strong environmental awareness and the capacity to drive positive change within their communities.



The next step: activities across all partner countries

Following the successful completion of the Living Lab in Jordan, the PeakED project is preparing for its next phase of activities: **Outdoor Activities to be implemented in each of the participating countries**, including Greece, Poland, and Bulgaria. These activities will take place after the summer and will focus on disseminating the project's results, engaging local communities, and further raising awareness among young people about environmental and cultural issues.

The PeakED project is coordinated by Innovation Hive (Greece) in collaboration with the following partners: Development Agency of Local Administration of the Regional Unit of Larissa (Greece), Balkan Bridge EOOD (Bulgaria), SYNERGIES FOR SOCIAL WELL-BEING – WELL GROW (Greece), DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO (Poland), and Desert Bloom (Jordan). You can follow the project's progress and access all project materials through the project's official [website](#).