

***ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING EXCHANGE INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOSPITALITY  
SMEs IN THE BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN REGION***

Subsidy Contract No. BMP1/1.3/2616/2017

**Company name: Zening Elia Village**



Source: <https://www.zening.eu/index.php/zening-gallery/>

**Country/region of operation:** Latchi village, Cyprus

**Sustainability dimension:** environmental, social, economic

**Description of the enterprise/initiative:** Zening Elia Village is a green and healthy holiday resort village offering wellness vacation with deep relaxation. ZENING is a village style holiday experience on principles of sustainability and inner wellbeing.

The resort village has winding walking paths and steps through herbal gardens that provide a chance to exercise walk in nature with stunning views of Mediterranean. The resort offers choice of yoga and meditation sessions, relaxing spa therapies, delicious and nutritious cuisine and a chance to disconnect and detox for a holistic mindful vacation.

Studio and one-bedroom cottages are in two level blocks, each one with balconies and verandas opening on to gardens spread through wild landscape, giving space, privacy and joy of living. Two outdoor swimming pools, one of them in the quiet adults' only zone provide a chance to soak in the sunshine under palm trees. Soma Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with amazing sea views.

ZENING is a slow life resort where nothing is rushed. Residents of this region are known for their genuine smile and hospitality and guests are requested to respect their culture, lifestyle and slow pace of life.

ZENING has no lifts, no carpeted corridors, no formality and no pretensions of luxury so as to create a laid back, casual and truly zen holiday.

ZENING is a quiet resort and guests are requested to leave their personal devices in rooms. Cars, vehicles are not permitted.

**Social/ community impact sought:** ZENING is dedicated to promoting Cyprus culture and traditions and does not embrace industrial practices that may have negative impact on climate and nature.

**Stakeholders:** travellers who value nature, tradition and heritage

**Approach applied:** Resource utilization, Use of renewable energy resources, waste management, organic and local products, self-sustainment

**Innovation applied:** A rainwater harvesting program is being designed that provides nearly 20% of all water consumed annually at ZENING.

**Social impact and business results achieved:** Reduced expenses on electricity and water, reduced waste and environmental impact; increased profits

**Financial situation / sustainability of the business model:** ZENING is in a unique nature reserve zone of Cyprus at the confluence of Asia, Africa and Europe. It is a European Union designated NATURA 2000 conservation area.

Annual Mediterranean turtle nesting and arrival of millions of birds each spring from Africa and the North is a testament to abundant natural richness of this region.

ZENING is dedicated to preservation and enrichment of nature. Guests may expect to hear cheerful birdsong, see many native creatures, wild flowers and plants and be prepared to be amazed by varied gifts of nature. Living at ZENING is to “be in nature.” Sustainable effort is an integral part of ZENING lifestyle and philosophy.

The process of rebuilding and renovation at ZENING involved enormous recycling of old furniture, fittings and furnishings. Nearly 80% of 15 to 25 year old furniture has been reused in new construction. The Hut and SeaBreeze Fitness areas are just two of the examples of recycling. The “buy local” policy means no processed frozen foods or international products are used in ZENING. The hotel serve as per” 15 minutes from farm to Fork” policy. The fish is local – bought from fishermen in Latchi harbour and a vast majority of vegetables, fruits and wines are sourced from within a 50 km radius. The staff members grow organic vegetable and fruits for their consumption on site. They say no to imported wines and serve local wines of Cyprus wineries.

The hotel have invested in energy saving and invite guests to join in responsible living of water and energy conservation. The management have replaced all possible lighting with LED and energy saving lamps thus saving nearly 40% on electricity bills. State of the art air conditioning without harmful gases has been installed in rooms to provide major electricity savings. Street lights are LED, and flood lights are replaced with motion sensor LED lights.

Spa design provides for sea-breeze ventilation thus eliminating air conditioning as much as possible in summer. Fitness area has been relocated to a sea-front location with fresh sea breeze instead of enclosed air conditioning rooms for ideal workout conditions. The yoga rooms have no air conditioning – on rare days when there is no breeze and temperatures reach orange levels, centrifugal fans and humidifiers that have no adverse effect on nature are provided.

ZENING is an “in the nature” resort which means that meetings, yoga, dance and entertainment are organized in outdoor venues. All events are held “barefoot” on grass or wooden floors. Plastic bottled water transportation emissions and waste have reached dangerous levels in tourist destinations. At ZENING plastic bottles are not used and free drinking water is provided to all guests. Water stations have been built to pump drinking water all around the property.

ZENING is a 100 hectares of territory with hundreds of trees and flower beds. The organic waste is composted to fertilize the flowers and vegetable gardens.

Cleaning supplies are biological and chemical use is shunned as much as possible. All staff are given First Aid, Emergency drills and “Green Team ” training to check energy use.

**Key success factors:** own organic herb and vegetable garden; locally sourced foods; energy efficiency, water conservation, recycling, unlimited free spring water; minimal chemical use and renewable energy.

**Challenges and problems:** The resort is not handicapped accessible and no vehicle access is permitted

**Year when the enterprise was created:** n/a

**References (web-site, intent links, video, etc.):** <https://www.zening.eu/>