



**TARANTO 2026**  
XX MEDITERRANEAN GAMES



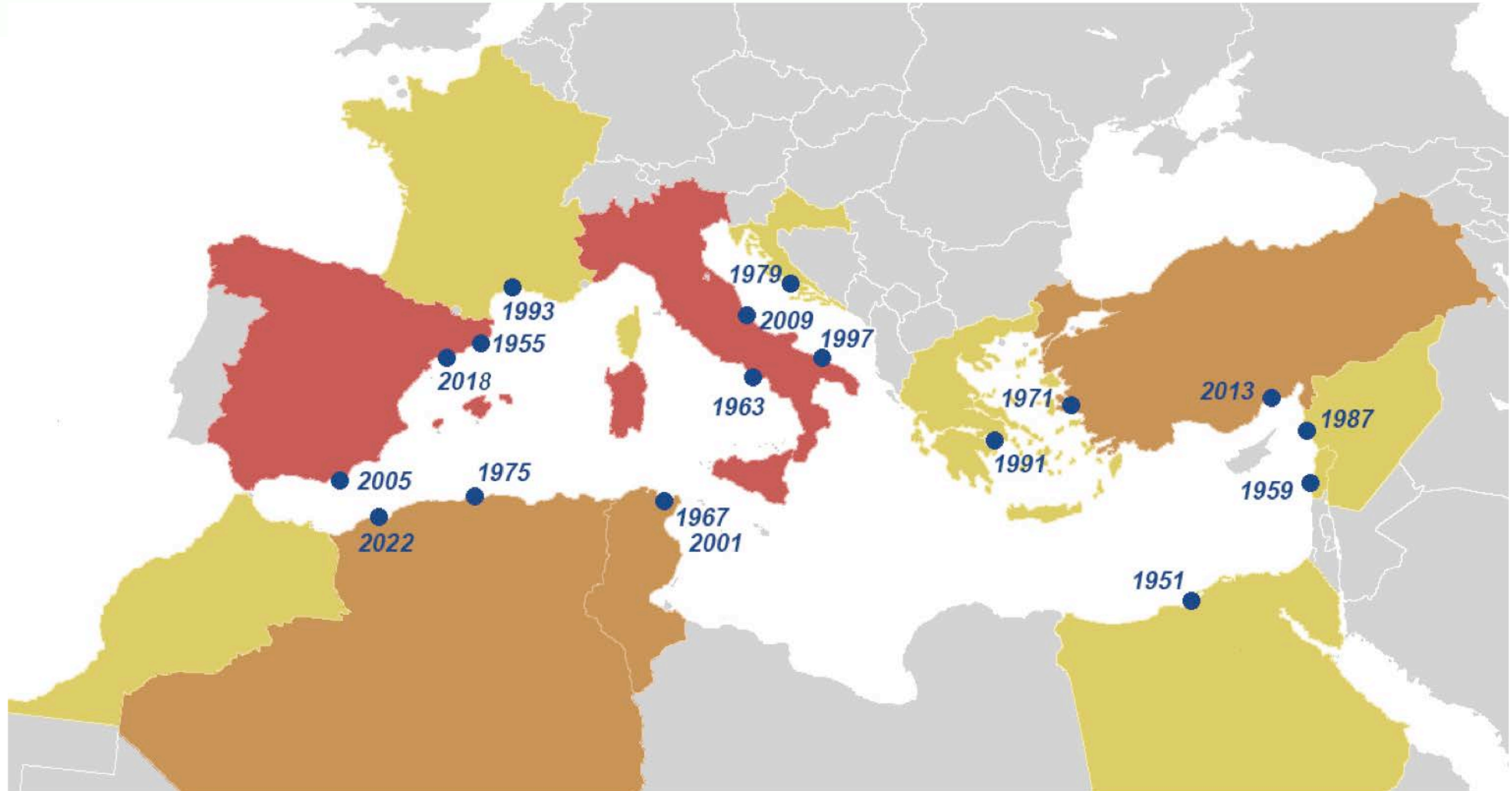
# The Mediterranean Games: an International Sports Event



**first edition 1951**  
Alexandria of Egypt



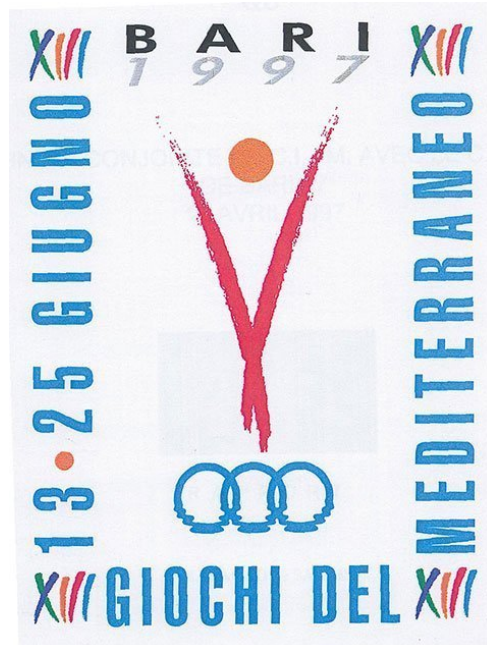
**current edition 2022**  
Oran - Algeria



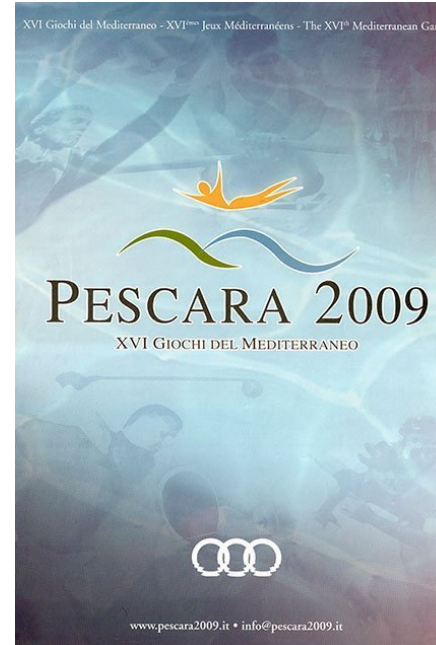
# The Mediterranean Games: Italian editions



**Naples** in 1963



**Bari** in 1997



**Pescara** in 2009



**Taranto 2026**  
is the fourth time in Italy

# Taranto 2026 Partecipating Countries

## 26 partecipating Countries

The importance of such event both in terms of sports and politics might gain even more momentum, in the hope of **Peace and Reconciliation** in the **Mediterranean** area by 2026.





# Welcome to Puglia



## PUGLIA, ITALY

Greeks and Goths, Romans and Normans, Byzantines and Venetians: All put their feet, and flags, in the heel of Italy's boot. There, the region of Puglia stretches a strategic 250 miles along the Adriatic Sea (and 95 miles on the Ionian), making it a key connection between Italy and Europe's east.

Puglia is a land rich of **History and Culture**, not only for the seaside Town, Apulian people are proud of their region's ancient **vineyards** and **olive grove**, medieval castles, cone-roofed Trulli dwellings and white-sand beaches.

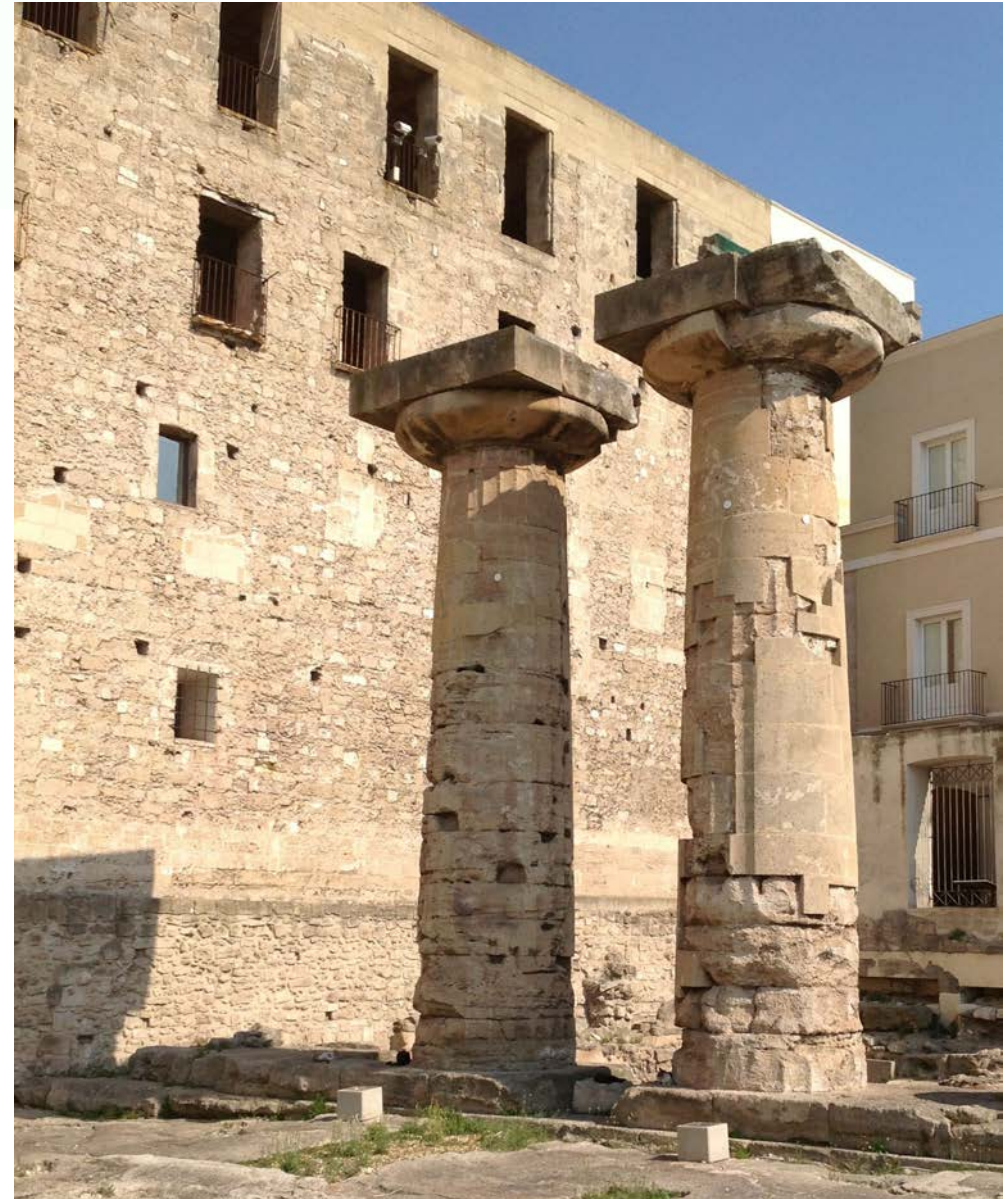


# Welcome to Magna Grecia



Founded by Spartans in the 8th century BC during the period of Greek colonisation, Taranto was among the most important in **Magna Graecia**, becoming a cultural, economic and military power that gave birth to philosophers, strategists, writers and athletes. By 500 BC, the city was among the largest in the world, the seven-year rule of the enlightened **philosopher Archytas** marked the apex of its development and recognition of its hegemony over other Greek colonies of Southern Italy.

The ancient origins of Taranto *the city of two seas* and its province can still be admired in the remains of cave civilization and **Greek culture** which are considered still today a vibrant element of the local social fabric. In the inland areas of Taranto, characterized by landscapes where dominates the green of olives and grapes, lie numerous inhabited centres, the origins of which are deeply rooted in the ancient history of the Messapian civilization. This territory includes archeological and nature parks of great ecological interest.







Trulli, Valle d'Itria



Giò Ponti Cathedral



Martina Franca

# Relevant cultural attractors



Gravine canion, Massafra



MARTA



Ceramics from Grottaglie





### Ikkos, an Athlete of Taranto

Taranto and sports are closely related in the name of **Ikkos**. Born in Taranto, Ikkos was a **Magna Graecia Olympic athlete**, a Pentathlon victor (discus throw, long jump, javelin throw, running and wrestling) during the 84th Games (444 BC). He is considered the father of athletic dietology; he prepared himself physically before competing, according to ethical-religious Pythagorean concepts, including a specially prepared frugal diet.

Pausanias calls him the best gymnast of his age, and Plato also mentions him with great praise, mentioning his courage and glory. Iamblichus calls him a Pythagorean, and Plato reckoned him among the Sophists.

The Athlete of Taranto's tomb is currently located in the **National Archeological Museum of Taranto (MArTa)**, was exhibited in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games.



*Funerary equipment - Tomb of the Athlete, MArTa Archeological Museum*



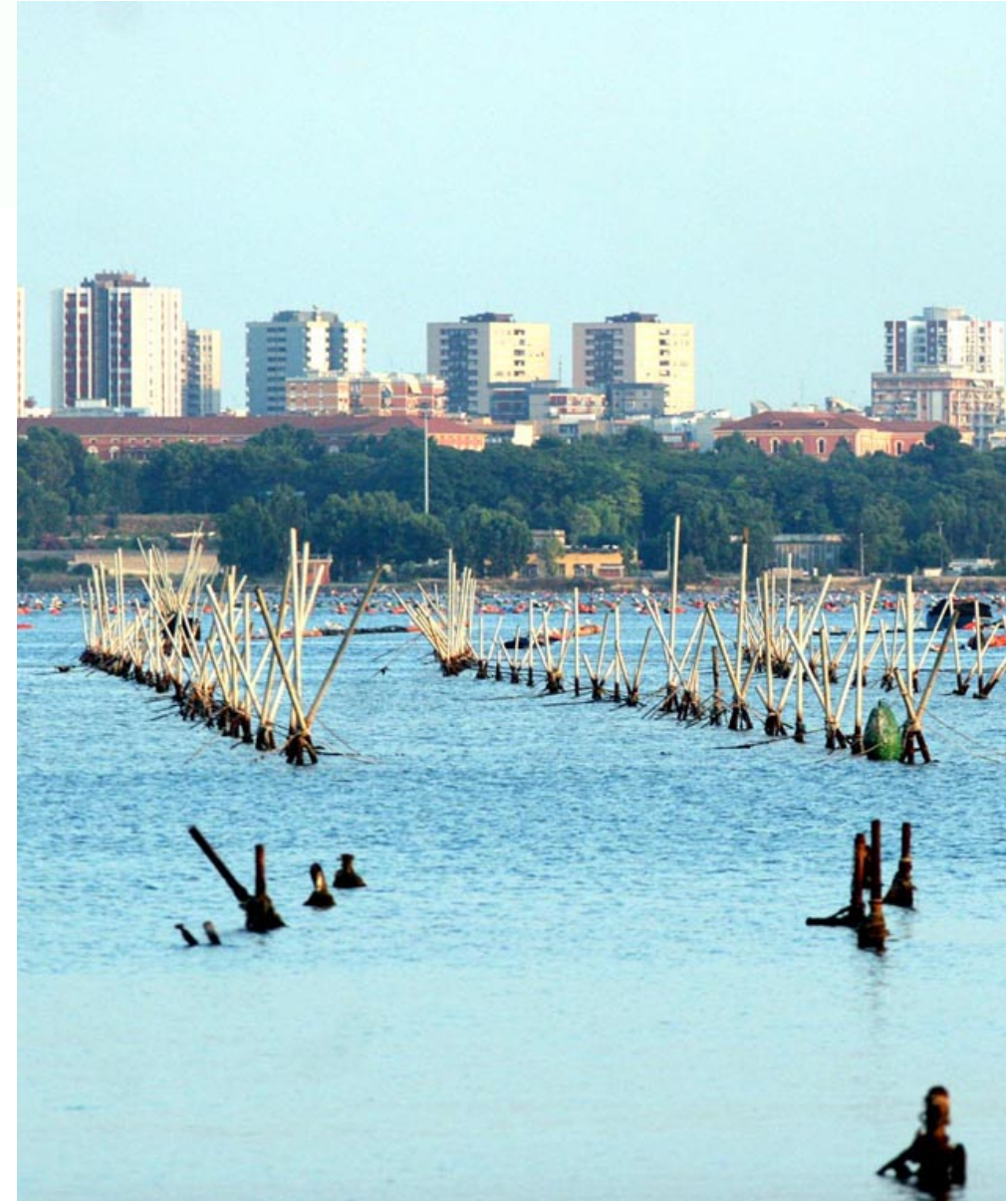
## *Black Mussel of Taranto*



### **The Mussels of Taranto**

In Taranto, mussels have been cultivated since ancient times. **Oyster farming** was already flourishing in the late Roman era and in the Middle Ages thanks to the low salinity of the Mar Piccolo.

The first documents reporting the "black mussels" date back to 1525 and indicate the presence of a native species of ***Mytilus Galloprovincialis*** (Lamarck 1819). **Current farming practices** are based on centuries-old knowledge of local mussel farmers, handed down over time **from father to son**, who still use structures similar to those used in past centuries, even if the traditional plantations on poles have been progressively replaced by more modern floating systems called *long line*.








# Taranto, the vision for a sustainable future

**Taranto** and the new vision of the City are at the center of regional, national, and european policies of strategic programs of development.





## Taranto, the vision for a sustainable future



The **Strategic Plan *Taranto Futuro Prossimo***, promoted by Puglia Region is based on the development of the **sea resources**, the enhancement of **cultural and historical heritage**, and the **environmental protection**. The *Strategic Plan* leads the City towards the **Mediterranean Games of 2026**, through a huge program of events to show to the international public the ongoing transformations of the City, which will prepare it to host the great event.



## Taranto Candidature XX Mediterranean Games



Taranto and its wider Ionian area submitted the **candidature for hosting the 2026 Mediterranean Games** with the aim of stimulating the renaissance of a wonderful land, where past decision-making on industrial development too often scarred its beauty and its potential in terms attractiveness, tourism, sports and territorial marketing.



# XX Mediterranean Games in Taranto

**sustainable** sport event

**minimizing** environmental impact **shared** **strategic action**

**urban regeneration**

research for **positive legacy**

**economic** transformation **redevelopment** of sports facilities

upgrading of the **infrastructures**



# TA2026 | Sports Venues Adjustment and set-up

## Temporary goals

- Specialized sports equipment
- Safety and security facilities
- Stands and facilities for spectators
- Functional areas for press and sponsor, athletes doping control, medical center and VIP stands

## Long-lasting goals

- Requalification of sport venues
- Urban regeneration
- Realization of sports area and equipment
- Athletes and public facilities







## Ionios, the little prince of Taranto

The Ionian coastline of Taranto features wide beaches with clear waters, characterized by gradual depths, where you can watch the **colony of Dolphins**. Ionios is a fluffy dolphin with a punk hairdo. The "little prince" of the **Mare Nostrum**, symbol of the happiness of water games and symbol of the city of Taranto. Dolphins, in addition to being a shared heritage in the waters of the Mediterranean, are a specific symbol of the **Gulf of Taranto** which still hosts thousands of specimens visible not far from the coast. The ancient history of the glorious Hellenic Taranto is full of stories in which the dolphin, symbol of Apollo's favor, has been a sign of joy and good wishes for this city so central to the **Mediterranean**, now as then.





TARANTO 2026  
XX MEDITERRANEAN GAMES



#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

[ORGANIZATION CHART](#)

[BODIES](#)

[FUNCTIONS](#)

[CONTACTS](#)

#### MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

[HISTORY OF THE GAMES AND EDITIONS](#)

[PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES](#)

[TARANTO CANDIDATURE](#)

[PRESS REVIEW](#)

#### PROGRAM

[SPORTS](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[CALENDAR FOR TEST EVENTS](#)

[SPORTS VENUES](#)

[MASTERPLAN](#)

#### LANGUAGE

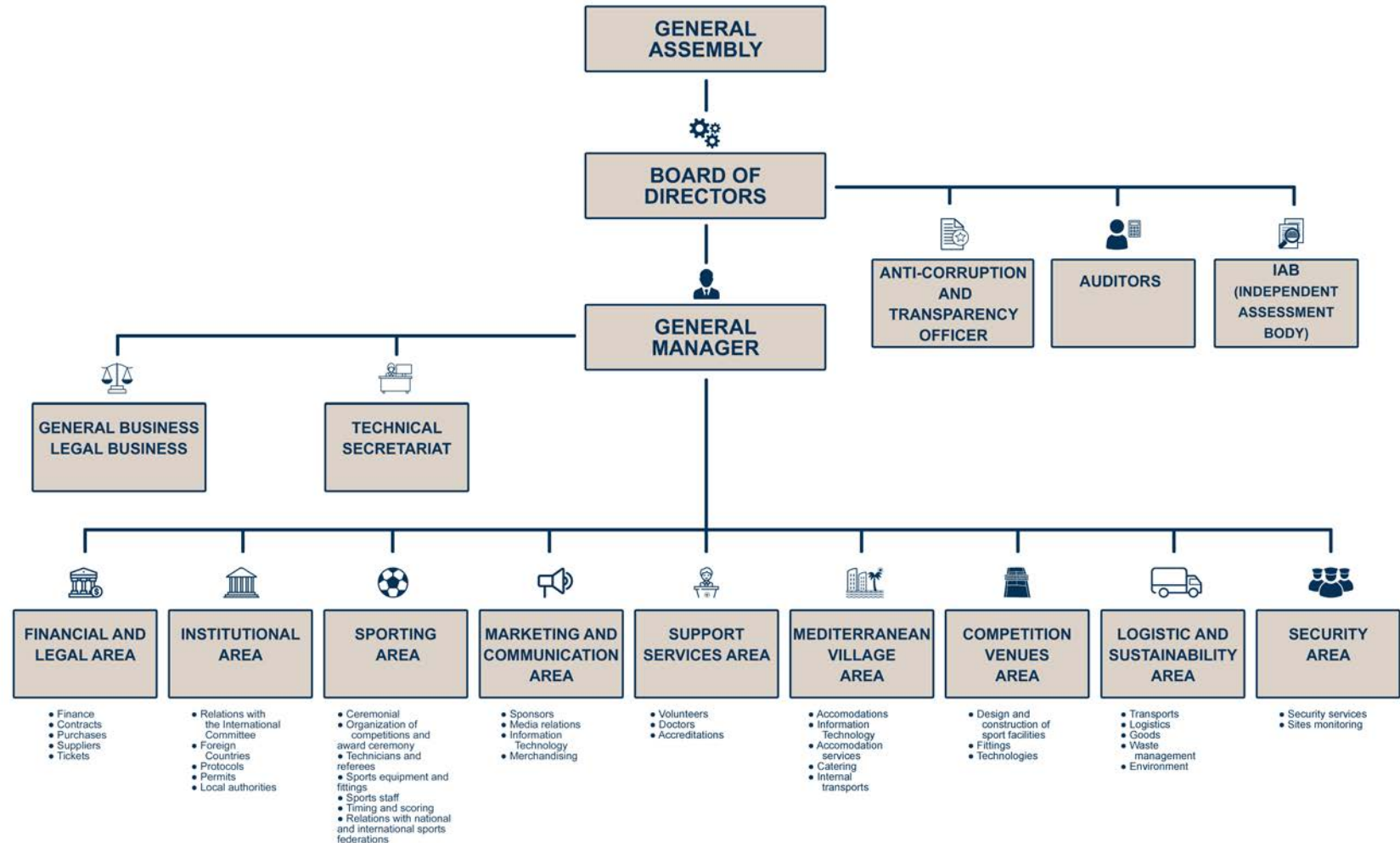
[IT](#) [EN](#) [FR](#)



The organization of TA2026 is mandated to the **Organizing Committee**, which has its own statute and is constituted according to the directions of the Executive Committee of the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games (ICMG).

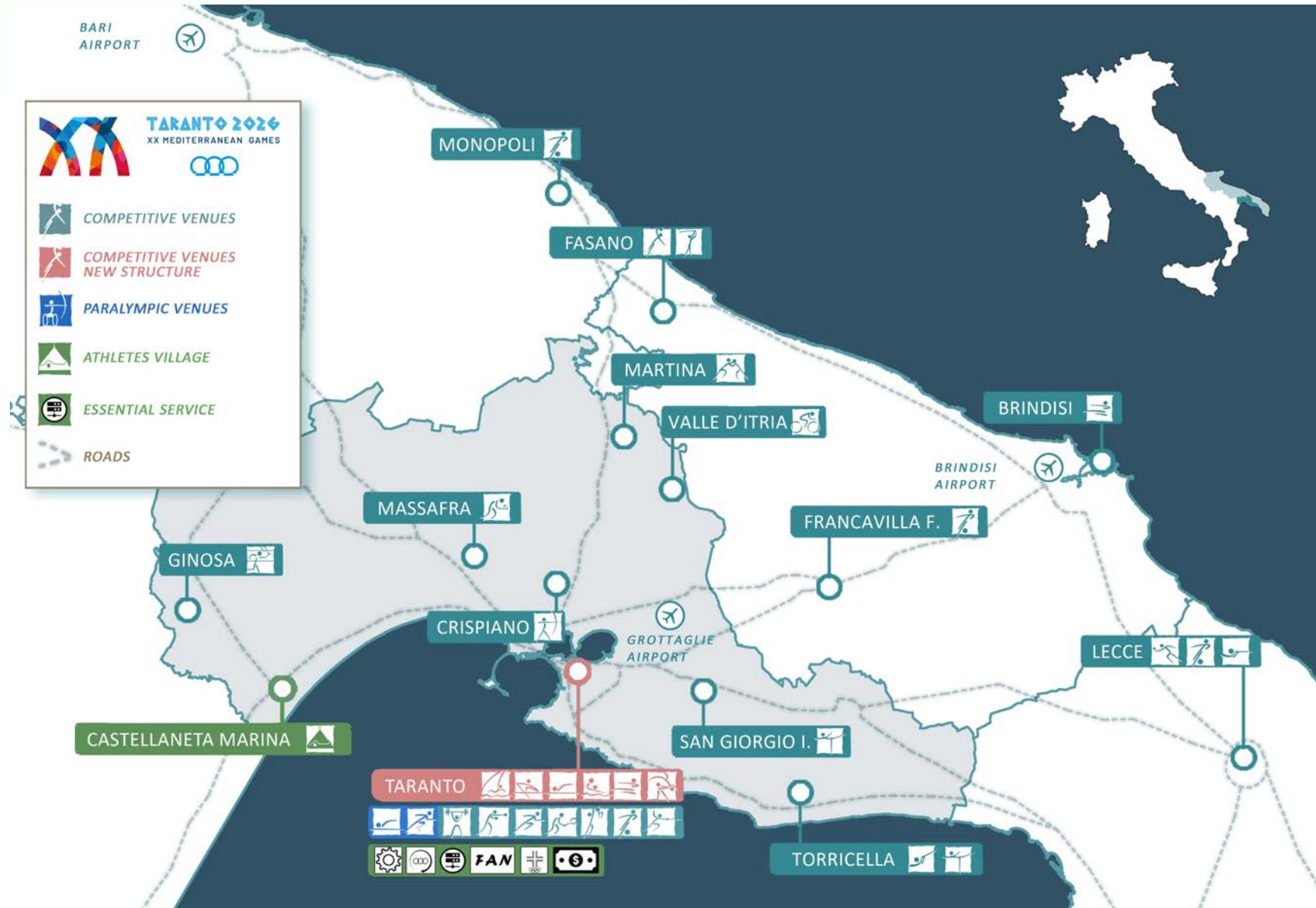
The following figures sit at the directive and executive board of the Organizing Committee:

- The Mayor of the City of Taranto;
- President of Apulia Region;
- Government delegate for Sport;
- Chairman of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI);
- Officials from local institutions.

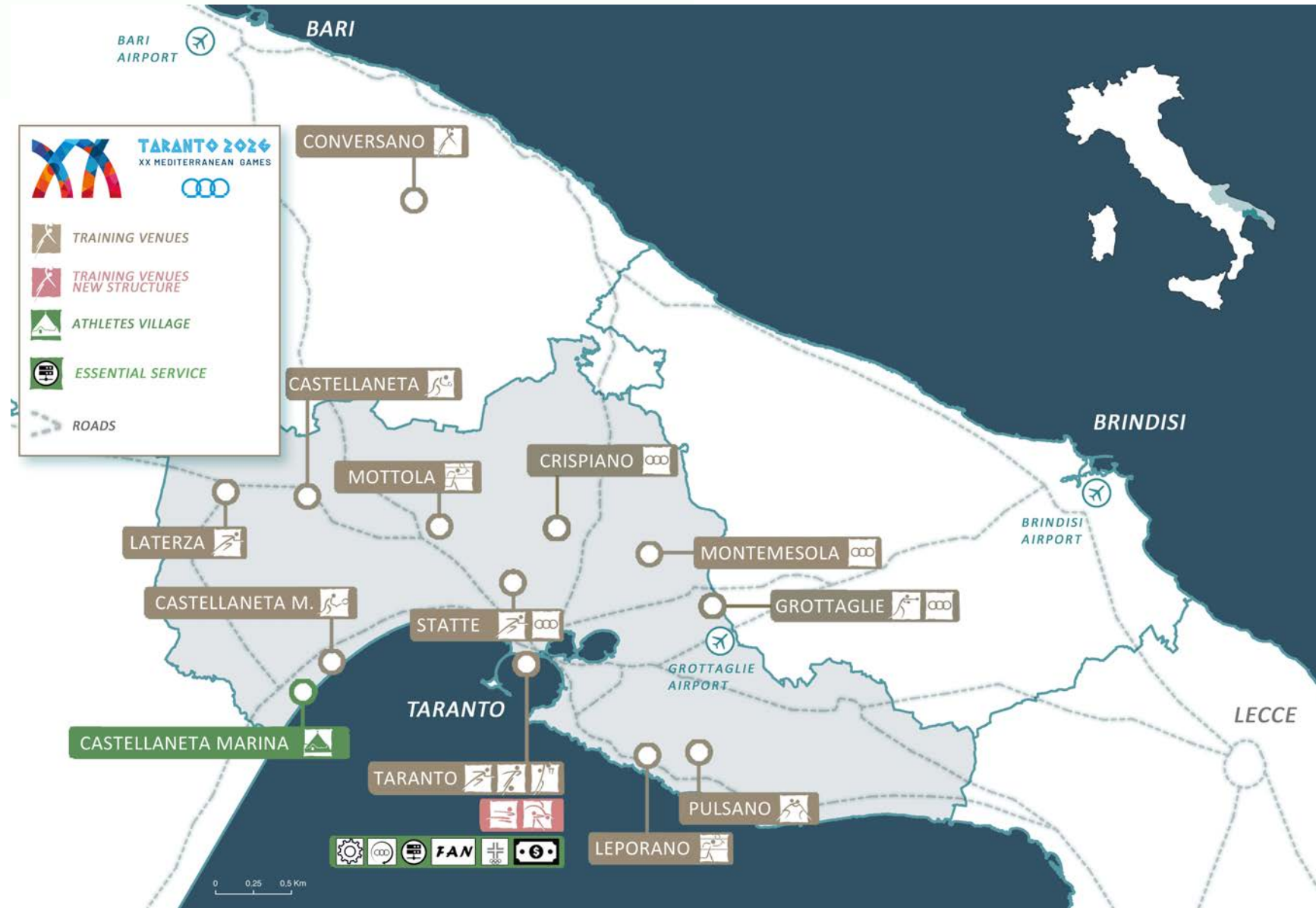


## 25 COMPETITIVE VENUES

- **redevelopment** of 22 sports facilities
- **new building** of 3 sports facilities



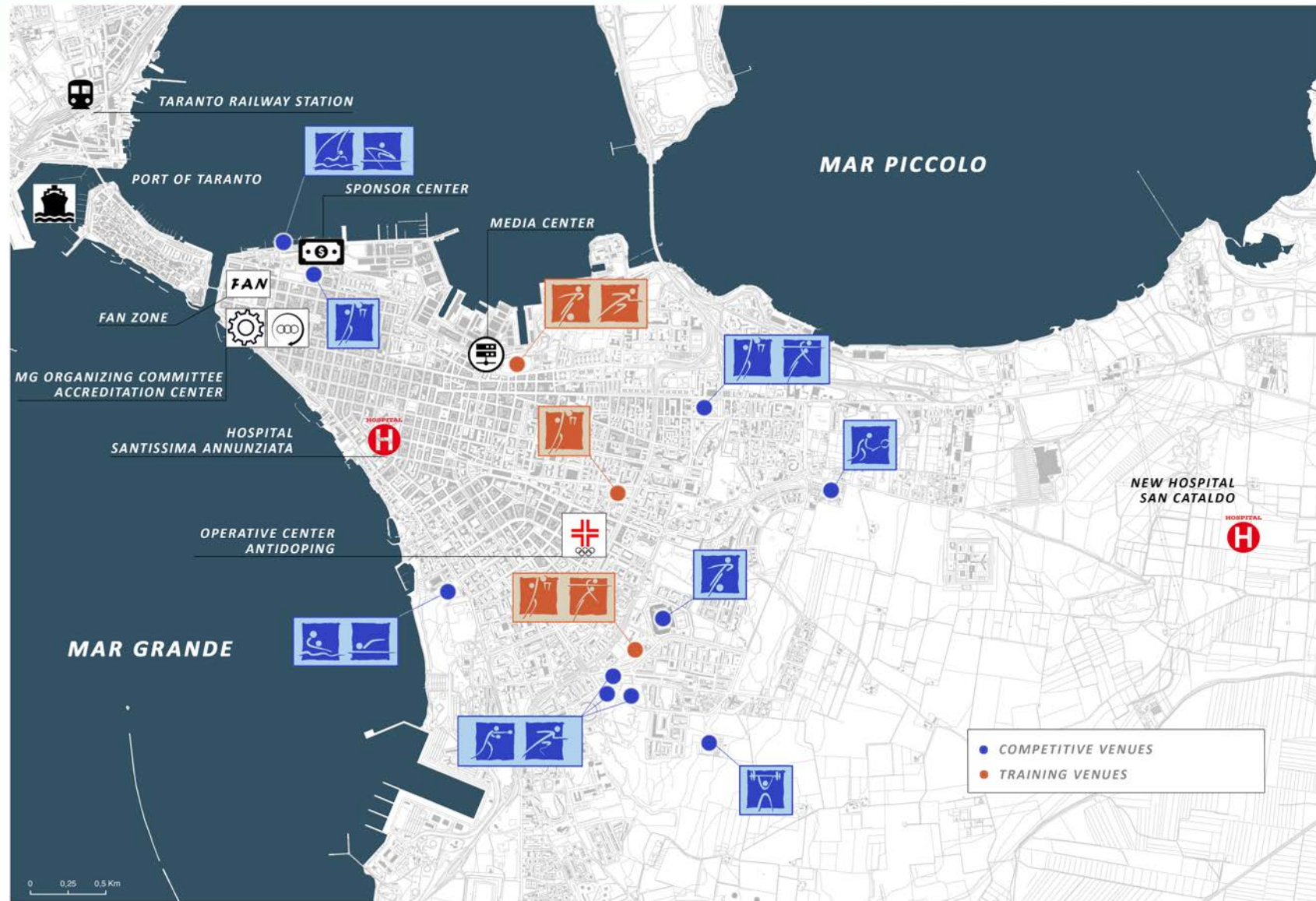
15 TRAINING VENUES





## TARANTO CITY 15 COMPETITIVE VENUES

- 11 for the **sport competitions**
- 4 for **sport training**





# TA2026 | Sports program and calendar

## June

### SPORT PROGRAMME XX MEDITERRANEAN GAMES

#### INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

Athletics	Karate
Badminton	Wrestling
Bowls	Swimming
Boxing	Taekwondo
Cycling	Tennis
Fencing	Table Tennis
Gymnastics	Shooting
Golf	Archery
Weightlifting	Sailing
Judo	

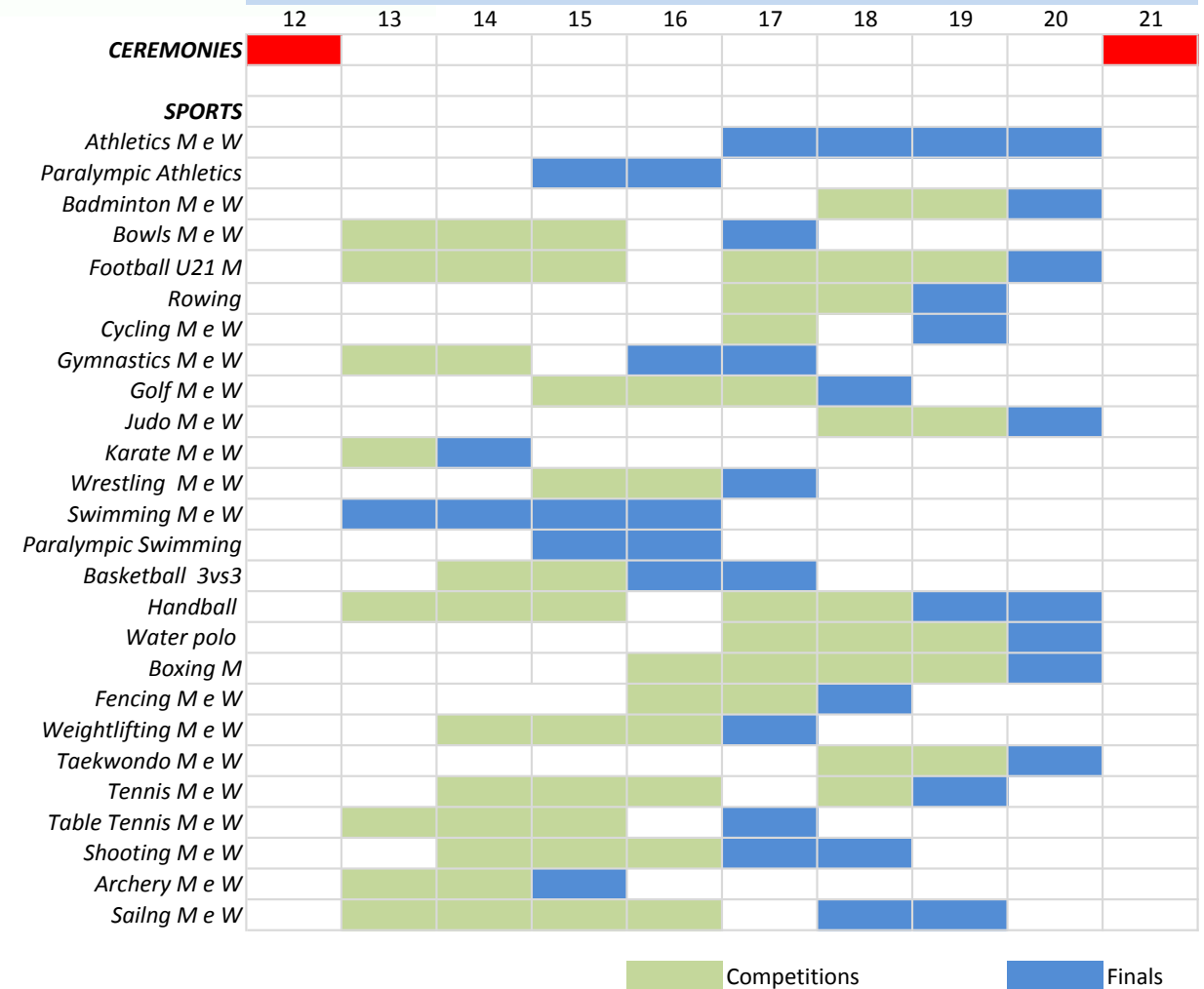
#### TEAM SPORTS

Basketball 3vs3  
Handball  
Water polo  
Football  
Rowing

#### PARALYMPIC SPORTS

Paralympic Athletics  
Paralympic Swimming

### SPORTS CALENDAR XX MEDITERRANEAN GAMES - JUNE 2026



Competitions
  Finals



# TA2026 | Test events calendar

During this five years Puglia Region will host highly-technical sports events at regional, national and international level, to drive the territory on the Mediterranean Games of 2026.

SPORTS CALENDAR TEST EVENTS - FROM 2022 TO 2026				
2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Triathlon Regional Championship	Trofeo Valle d'Itria Cycling	Table tennis Regional Competitions	Badminton National Championship	Swimming and Paralympic swimming M/W competition
Basketball M Regional Competition	Basketball 3vs3 World Cup Qualifications	Break Dance Regional Competition	Bowls M/W Regional Competition	Waterpolo competition
Orienteering World Championship	Equestrian South Italy League	Skating Regional Competition	Sailing Regional Race	Skeet shooting competition
Eurovolley U21W	Taekwondo Regional Competitions	Canoe competition	Judo Regional competition	Rowing Competition
Basketball W Regional Competition	Karate M/W Regional competition	Athletics and Paralympic athletics M/W Regional Championship	Eurovolley U22 M	Gymnastics M/W competition
Handball National Championship qualifications	Tennis Italian Championship	Golf World Cup competition	Boxing and Weightlifting M e W competition	Basketball Championship
	Football U21 Regional competition	Archery M e W competition	Shooting M e W competition	Handball Championship
	Volleyball championship	Fencing M e W competition	Wrestling M e W competition	Triathlon Championship
	Badminton Championship	Triathlon Championship	Cycling Championship	Volleyball championship
	Judo Championship	Basketball Championship	Karate Championship	
	Boxing Championship	Handball Championship	Tennis Championship	





## 1. Mediterranean Sports Park

Green area | redevelopment of: Stadium E. Iacovone;  
Gym Ricciardi, Athletics Field "Salinella", skating rink.

## 2. The New Nautical Center

Tourist port | commercial activities | Digital Immersive Center |  
parking | panoramic promenade

## 3. Digital Immersive Center of Mediterranean Sea

Experiences | research | exhibitions

## 4. Taranto Aquatic Center

Swimming pool | archeological area | parking

## 5. Reconstruction of the historical ship «Pentecòntera»

The flagship of the ancient Taranto fleet





# Mediterranean Sports Park

A large urban regeneration park in an increasingly **sustainable city**. The existing sports venues **Stadio Iacovone**, will be reconnected with the center of the city through the **enhancing of the natural area**.

The project aim to redesign the relationship between the hydrographic system and anthropization, to reconnect this part of the city to the urban and territorial system as a south-eastern piece of the **Green Belt of Taranto** green infrastructure, to enhance its attractiveness through the strengthening of **sports and free time facilities**.





# ***Athletics Field “Salinella”***

A new eight-lane athletics field





# *The new Nautical Center*

Tourist Port | Commercial Activities | Digital Immersive Center







# *Digital Immersive Center*

experiences | research | exhibitions







## TOPICS

Mediterranean Sea

Marine resources

History

underwater archeology

mussel farming

sea therapy

marine ecosystem

Cultural hub

biodiversity

environment

marine litter

sustainability

## ACTIVITIES

scientific research

Interactive laboratories

experiential activities

Exploration of seabed

Videomapping

Talassographic exhibition

pet-watching

Cetacean therapy

Educational activities

Animated cartoon film

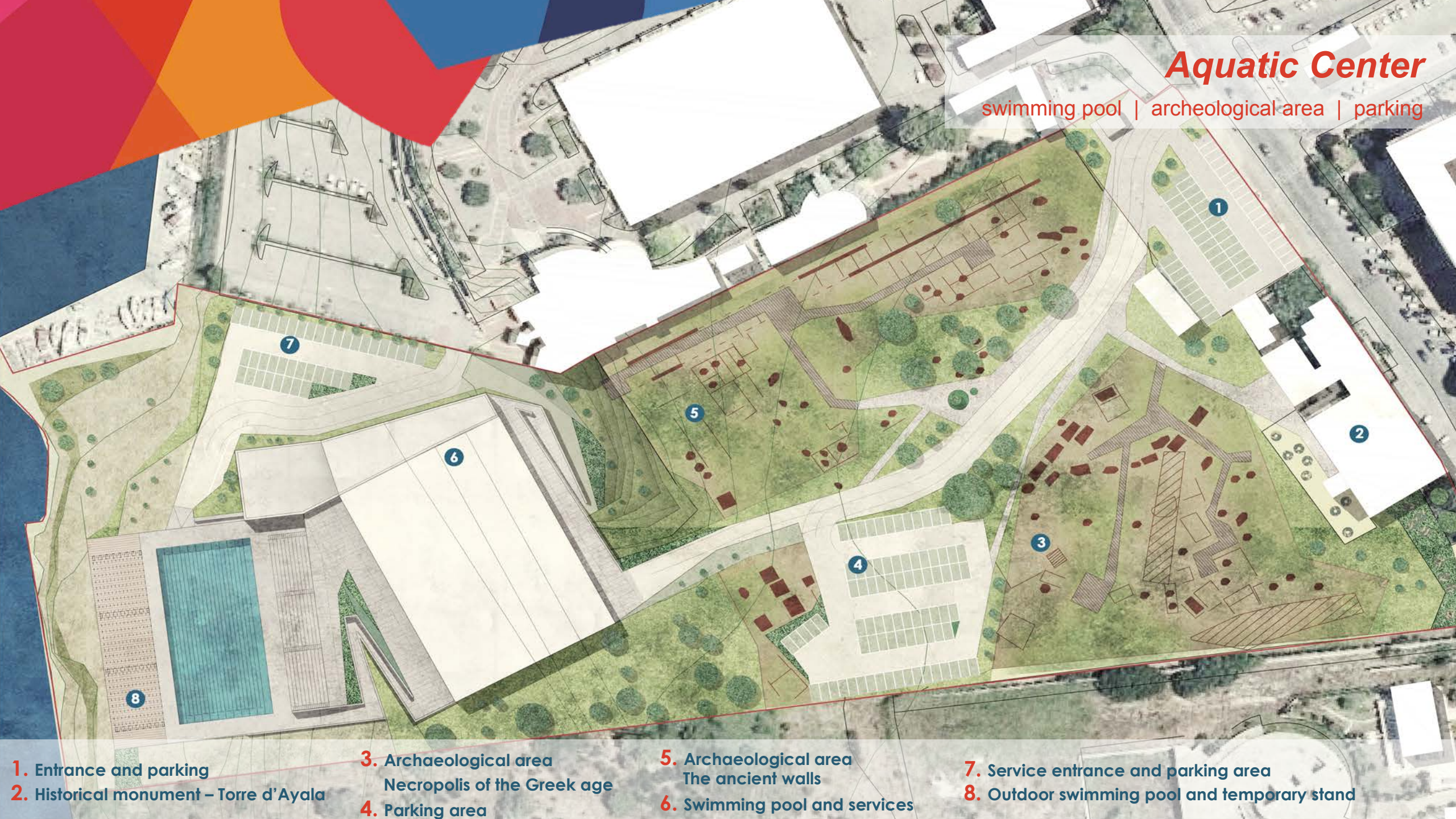
Fun activities

Activities for Children



# Aquatic Center

swimming pool | archeological area | parking



- 1. Entrance and parking
- 2. Historical monument – Torre d' Ayala
- 3. Archaeological area  
Necropolis of the Greek age
- 4. Parking area
- 5. Archaeological area  
The ancient walls
- 6. Swimming pool and services
- 7. Service entrance and parking area
- 8. Outdoor swimming pool and temporary stand





TORONTO 2026

TORONTO 2026  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Toronto





TARANTO 2026  
XX GIOCHI DEL MEDITERRANEO





### The flagship of the ancient Taranto fleet

The reconstruction of an **ancient Greek ship** has an evocative value for Taranto: due to its origins as a Spartan colony in 706 B.C. and for the maritime routes that for centuries have been connecting Taranto to the Balkan peninsula, transferring the Taranto athletes to the Olympic Games held in Olympia, Greece. Iconographic sources provide us with a vivid image of the most glorious battleship of the Taranto fleet.

The construction of the Taranto “Pentecòntera” is configured as an experimental archeology project, intended as a tool for the enhancement of the local cultural heritage. To this purpose, the reconstruction will be carried out by soliciting the active involvement of the local nautical schools and cultural associations.

#### related event

**The launch of the Pentecòntera:** students, citizens and tourists are invited to participate to the navigation, in the role of oarsmen.





### **International meeting of Government**

Solidifying the Mediterranean as the sea that unites people.

### **Mediterranean healthy and plastic free**

International competition of ideas for promoting clean-up actions

### **The Great Mediterranean Concert**

Promoting intercultural dialogue and brotherhood among the people

### **International Forum: 3,000 Years of Mediterranean Sailing**

Celebrate the thousand-year-old epic history of navigation and great shipmasters





## International Forum: 3,000 Years of Mediterranean Sailing



**SESSION 1**  
THE  
GREATEST  
SEA TALES  
OF ALL TIME



**SESSION 2**  
BLOCKBUSTIN  
G SEA  
ADVENTURE  
MOVIES



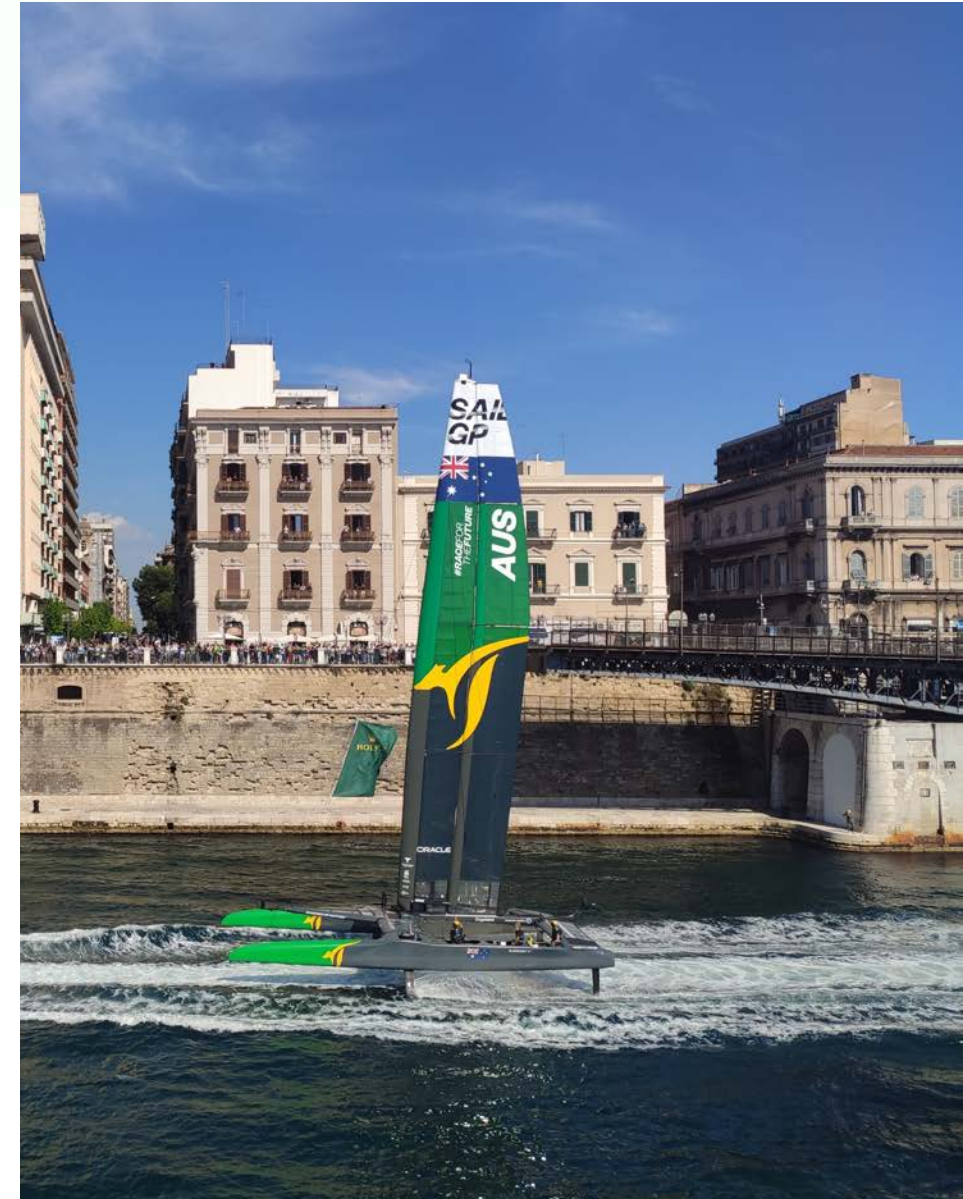
**SESSION 3**  
WORLD FAMOUS  
SEA  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
S



**SESSION 4**  
MEDITERRANEAN  
BOATS  
AND VESSELS



**SESSION 5**  
GREAT  
CAPTAINS AND  
THEIR EPIC  
QUESTS





### Medimex Taranto

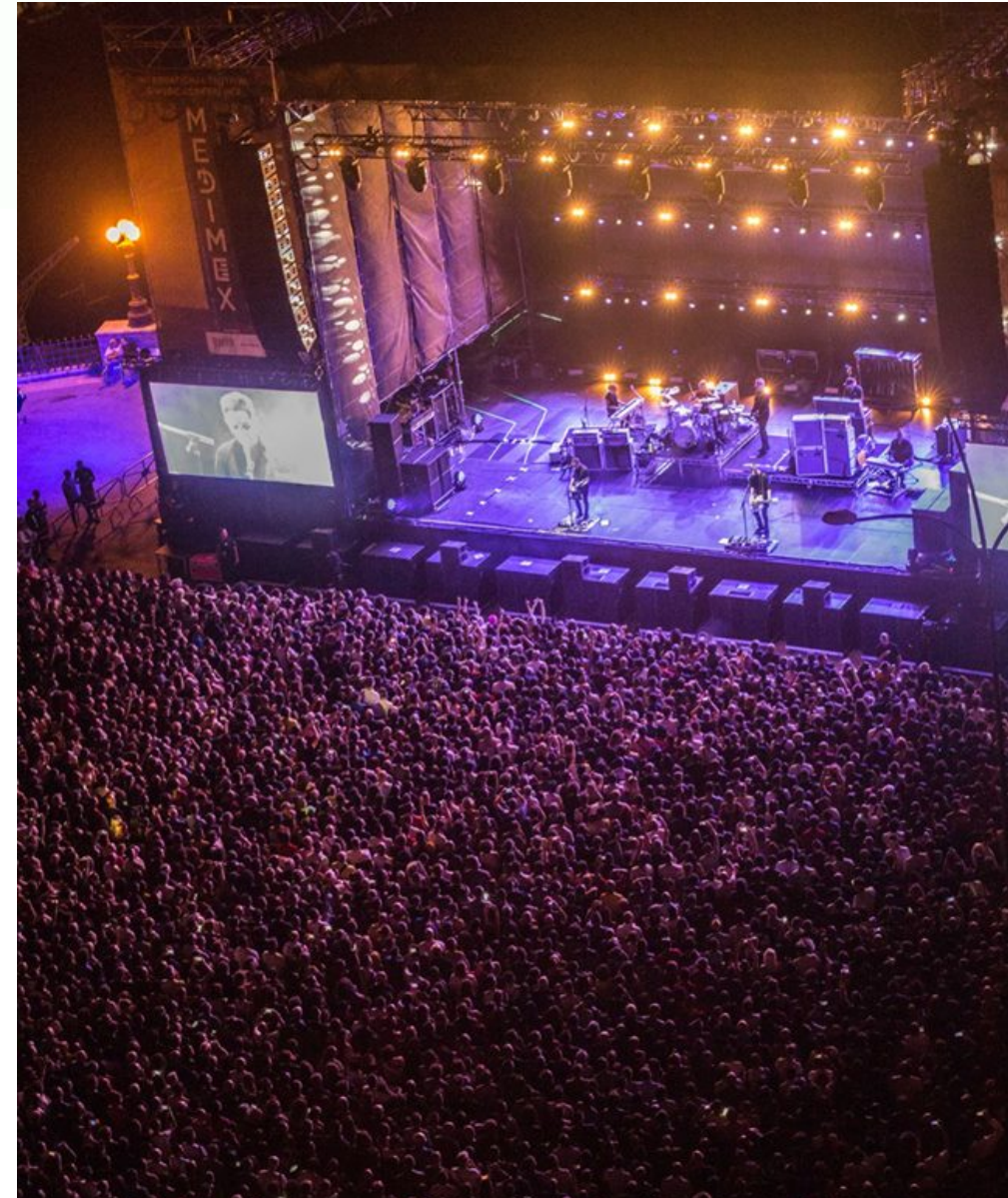
The collaboration with the well-established international festival organized by Puglia Sound will celebrate the union of people through music, with the involvement of the major artists of the Mediterranean music scene.

### Valle D'Itria Festival

In collaboration with the historic international cultural event of Martina Franca, which has produced, over 48 years, opera and musical reviews and artistic projects of national relevance, an evening event will be organized entirely dedicated to the Mediterranean Games of 2026.

### Mediterranean Biennale

The first edition of the Biennale will be held in Taranto, promoted by the Ministry of Culture, the Puglia Region and the Municipality of Taranto. Through contemporary art, the crucial role that the city has had in the dynamics of the Mediterranean history will be highlighted.







**Waiting for you  
in Taranto !**