

## Students Cleaned up Beaches in Famagusta and Yeniboğaziçi/Agios Sergios to raise awareness on waste reduction and recycling

The European Commission highlighted the importance of waste reduction and recycling during two beach cleaning activities on Thursday, 27 April 2017 in Yeni Boğaziçi/Agios Sergios with Bekirpaşa High School and on Friday, 28 April 2017 in Famagusta with Gazimagusa Turk Maarif College (GTMK).

The beach cleanings were organised by the EU Infopoint and the Environmental Sector Capacity Building Project in partnership with Famagusta Walled City Association (MASDER) who are working on an EU funded "Marine Litter – Together for Clean Coasts" Project, and two host local communities: Yeni Boğaziçi/Agios Sergios and Famagusta; and the Education Department. The EU funded "Marine Litter – Together for Clean Coasts" Project has been awarded the Stelios Cyprus Bicomunal Award 2016.

The clean-up activities involved three steps consisting of: providing a briefing on the purpose of the activity and health and safety procedures; collecting the litter and separating the materials for recycling; and categorizing the waste and data entry by MASDER into the International Ocean Conservancy database.

Marine litter is a global as well as local problem. Every year, millions and millions of tonnes of litter end up in the ocean worldwide. Micro-plastics in the marine and coastal environment kill marine life, including turtles, and also enter the human food chain. The problem of marine pollution starts with our behaviour on land. Over-consumption of plastic bags and other plastic products, littering of beaches, and dumping of waste uncontrolled into the environment are examples of such behaviour.

### EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community:

As part of the EU's Financial Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, a budget of €32,5 million was allocated for important project such as the construction of a central sanitary non-hazardous landfill in Koutsoventis/Güngör which also includes a small-scale hazardous waste storage facility, the construction of a waste transfer station in Famagusta and the restoration of the Dikomo/Dikmen dumpsite. The projects covered short-term priority measures foreseen in the solid waste master plan adopted by the Turkish Cypriot community in 2008.

In addition to these, the EU has been supporting various projects aimed at the protection of environment and raising environmental awareness among Turkish Cypriot community through its portfolios with respect to the schools and strengthening civil society. Strengthening civil society in the northern part of Cyprus is a key actor in the development of a culture of dialogue; participation in community life; and the promotion of values of tolerance, peace, active citizenship. During the period 2007-2015 for a total amount of €9.5 million was allocated for civil society. The European Union, through 7 calls for proposals have allocated a total amount of €7.5 million to schools and lifelong learning centres. Until 2006, a total of 97 schools and lifelong learning projects benefited from such grants.

### Background:

The European Union's approach to waste management is based on the "[waste hierarchy](#)" which sets the following priority order when shaping waste policy and managing waste at the operational level: prevention, (preparing for) reuse, recycling, recovery and, as the least preferred option, disposal.

In line with this the [7th Environment Action Programme](#) sets the following priority objectives for waste policy in the EU:

- To reduce the amount of waste generated;
- To maximise recycling and re-use;



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- To limit incineration to non-recyclable materials;
- To phase out landfilling to non-recyclable and non-recoverable waste;
- To ensure full implementation of the waste policy targets in all Member States.

Turning waste into a resource is one key to a circular economy. The objectives and targets set in European legislation have been key drivers to improve waste management, stimulate innovation in recycling, limit the use of landfilling, and create incentives to change consumer behaviour. If we re-manufacture, reuse and recycle, and if one industry's waste becomes another's raw material, we can move to a more circular economy where waste is eliminated and resources are used in an efficient and sustainable way.

*Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.*

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