

The Meet the Sea and Dive Against Debris events are planned by the MarLitCy project for the 9th of October 2021 at Ayia Napa port. The project 'MarLitCy' innovates, transforming marine litter into a powerful peacebuilding tool, developing synergies, building capacity and fostering partnerships on the island. MarLitCy brings together children and youth, fishermen, divers and coastal businesses from across the divide who want to fight marine litter, an environmental and social problem of common concern.

On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 the MarLitCy project is tow events on the same date, one Meet the Sea event and one Dive Against Debris event. The Meet the Sea event involves a group of volunteers cleaning the beach nearby Ayia Napa port. The event also includes an introductory free diving lesson for youth. The Dive Against Debris event will involve volunteer divers who will collect any litter or debris from the sea floor. All the litter data collected will be included in the marine litter database of the project.

The project, with a duration of 36 months (December 2018 – November 2021), is funded by the European Union under the Cypriot Civil Society in Action VI grant scheme and implemented by four civil society organisations with significant experience in bi-communal activities and the blue sector: Famagusta Walled City Association (MASDER), AKTI Project and Research Centre, North Cyprus Diving Centers Association and Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre.

MarLitCy builds on the success of a previous EU-funded project titled "Marine Litter: Together for Clean Coasts!", which was implemented 2 years ago by the same partnership and engaged over 30,000 people, mainly students and youth. MarLitCy will replicate and augment this success by bringing the island's communities together to work. This will be achieved through the implementation of various novel activities such as the European best practice 'Fishing for Litter', which will be launched in four fishing harbours on the island, the expansion of the existing Responsible Coastal Business Network, interactive presentations at schools and universities, 'meet the sea' days with free diving lessons for youth, beach and seabed cleanups, and participatory decision-making workshops. The activities have been designed to reach out to specific target groups, including children and youth, educators, fishermen, divers, decision-makers and the general public.

## For more information about the project, visit www.marlitcy.eu or contact:

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## Invitation:



