



## **NETWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

**JANUARY 2007 – JUNE 2008**

### **Some words about the programme's approach:**

We thought a lot about the difficulties, the deficiencies and the struggle we have been facing during recent years in order for our organisations to survive and work in Cyprus while considering the submission of our proposal for the creation of a non-governmental, non-profit organisations' network. Our aim was for the network to focus on issues related to sustainable development, the environment and society, reaching across Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region as well as Europe. Life is difficult for NGOs in Cyprus, but we won't start complaining here!

Our proposal was structured along the lines of the following issues:

- √ The history of NGOs in Cyprus is very recent and there is no tradition of an active civil society. In reality, it is in the last decade that NGOs have been really activated, mainly on issues relating to the environment, social problems, and gender equality.
- √ There is no appropriate institutional background for the smooth operation of NGOs and there is no governmental or other official support. This is a significant problem.
- √ The cooperation among Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots needs fostering and support. A different attitude must be adopted, which will aim to develop long-lasting relations and not occasional partnerships for one-off programmes.
- √ Networking and cooperation between Cypriot NGOs and the international community are also at very low levels. Cypriot NGOs suffer from introversion; they usually work on their own and limit their actions within Cyprus. Extroversion and internationalisation of Cypriot NGOs, especially by encouraging them to participate in networks and to create networks themselves



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is one of the challenges faced by civil society in Cyprus, and a necessity in the new era of a larger European family and globalisation.

### **Some words about the programme:**

Considering all the above, the proposal for the creation of the *Network For A Sustainable Future* was structured and submitted to UNDP-ACT. The programme was approved in the framework of Network and Partnership Grants and it officially started on January 1st, 2007. The programme is affiliated with the Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum, the pancyprian platform which aims to increase environmental consciousness and action across the island.

The project will last two years. Under the auspices of the Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum, the programme aims to provide Cypriot partners with possibilities for:

- √ Networking: to develop such dynamics that the creation of a network with representation of NGOs from the Mediterranean and the European-international arena on issues related to the environment, sustainable development and the encouragement of the participating actions of civil society will become a reality.
- √ Education
- √ Development of the skills and human resources needed to successfully run an NGO
- √ Development of organisational skills

These purposes are promoted and effectuated through implemented practice and activities. The programme has been structured around a specific theme: **Sustainable Coastal Development**. It is around this matter that the planning and realisation of joint activities is developed to address society and social partners:

- √ Development of a common strategy for informing the public about Sustainable Coastal Development
- √ Implementation of public awareness campaigns
- √ Planning interactive educational activities



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- √ Creation of online brochures
- √ Creation of joint publications
- √ Creation of joint services (e.g. a Help Desk facility)

and many other activities which encourage partnership and create a dynamic for expansion of the network and its goals. It is exactly this dynamic that we hope to develop and exploit during the two-year programme.

### **What has happened so far?**

**Six months have already passed since the programme started, much has already done with great enthusiasm by its partners. Just to mention some of our activities:**

1. Inception phase is completed: Akdeniz coast in Morfou and Pervolia in Larnaca are the two coastal areas that have been selected as pilot sites for the focalisation of public awareness activities. The areas have been selected using a multi-parameter method, a simple multi-criteria analysis. The Coastal Info Data Base is also completed, with information in three languages (Turkish, Greek and English) and it is uploaded in Akti's site for the final tuning/calibration from the partners.
2. The first e-newsletter is ready and it uploaded in AKTI's website.
3. The Network has joined international portals and is taking part in two significant events:
  - √ After contacting the Priority Action Program of Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP (PAP/REC MAP) the Network will be run the first COAST DAY campaign in Cyprus (24<sup>th</sup> of October 2007). The campaign is launched by PAP/RAC for the first time, and the Network is one of the 6 organisations that are going to organise it in Europe.
  - √ to UNEP's campaign for planting 1 billion trees, the first organisation from Cyprus which has joined this worldwide effort.



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4. The **Integrated Coastal Management and the Role of Civil Society Conference**, which was open to the public was held on **March, 15, 2007** in Nicosia.
5. The Network has contacted international and European organisations. They have been informed on the project and they will support our effort:
  - ✓ **ENCORA**, the European Network of Coastal Research ([www.encora.org](http://www.encora.org)). ENCORA has been represented in our ICZM workshop.
  - ✓ **PAP/RAC** (Priority Actions Program/ Regional Activity Centre) of UNEP/MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan”, “The Coastal Management Centre”, in Split, Croatia (<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/>). Brief Project Officer for ICZM projects, Mr Niven Stipica on the project
  - ✓ **EUCC**, the European Union of Coastal Conservation [www.eucc.org](http://www.eucc.org)
  - ✓ (Head of ICZM, Dr Alan Pickaver).
  - ✓ The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development **MIO-ESCADE**, ([www.mio-ecsde.org](http://www.mio-ecsde.org)). MIO-ESCADE participated in our ICZM workshop.
  - ✓ **The CAMP for Cyprus** national group. CAMP group participated in our ICZM workshop.

**The programme's partners:**

- ✓ **The Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum** (supervision of the programme)
- ✓ **AKTI Project and Research Centre. The coordinator**, a Greek Cypriot NGO ([www.akti.org.cy](http://www.akti.org.cy))
- ✓ **CYMEPA**, Greek Cypriot NGO, [www.cymepa.org.cy](http://www.cymepa.org.cy)
- ✓ **KAYAD Community Centre**, a Turkish Cypriot NGO, [www.kayadcommunitycentre.com](http://www.kayadcommunitycentre.com)
- ✓ **The Mediterranean Youth Centre (AGEM)**, a Turkish Cypriot NGO
- ✓ **Mediterranean SOS Network**, a Greek NGO based in Athens. [www.medsos.gr](http://www.medsos.gr)
- ✓ **Environmental and Cultural Heritage Conservation Association**, a Turkish NGO based in Istanbul.



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- ✓ The programme is supported by the network of Mediterranean NGOs, **MARE**.

**For further details please contact AKTI (22458485) or visit our webpage [www.akti.org.cy](http://www.akti.org.cy). This programme is funded by UNDP-ACT.**

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