

# OBJECTIVE 03

To support reconciliation, dialogue, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities

# WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT OUR COASTS!

## IMAGINARY FAMAGUSTA INITIATIVE



These events are financed by the EU



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## ABOUT THE HANDS-ON FAMAGUSTA PROJECT AND THE IMAGINARY FAMAGUSTA INITIATIVE

The action was a part of Hands-on Famagusta project implemented by Imaginary Famagusta Initiative. "Hands-on Famagusta" is a project created to facilitate dialogue on the future of Famagusta, using participatory urban design processes. It contributes to the building of a common ground between groups in conflict and supports the participatory planning of contemporary urban environments. For this, the project aims at empowering the Cypriot civil society to participate in the urban transformation towards a unified future. It is based on the on-going work of the Imaginary Famagusta initiative in collaboration with the Laboratory of Urbanism, the University of Cyprus, and the ALA/Stratis.

## THIS ACTION INVOLVED

A 5-days exhibition in Limassol entitled "We Need to Talk About Our Coasts!", 28 June-2 July 2017.

## STORY OF THE ACTION

Through the exhibition, the "Hands-on Famagusta" team wanted to present a new vision of Cyprus and initiate discussions on common concerns, particularly around the specific case of Famagusta. The exhibition presented the Cypriot coastlines as a means for reconciliation and was named "We need to talk about our coasts!"

Held in Limassol, it included: a 15 meters long map of the entire island's coastline ignoring the political division and bringing forward contested issues about the island's coastline; a 6 meters long physical model of the entire city of Famagusta; an additional model depicting the extreme fragmentation of Famagusta; a tri-lingual interactive web platform; video projection on the model showing the three unifying visions for a "common urban future for a post-conflict Famagusta" and further data graphics about the Cyprus coastline. The showcase also displayed posters and banners of activist groups working on Cypriot coastline.

"The exhibition highlighted the public's need to learn about and discuss the island's coastlines as a whole and move away from the common concerns about the Famagusta Waterfront. The visitors had the chance to follow the coastlines contested issues and the reasons behind them. It also highlighted the urban actors involved and visually presented their points of view on how to create a public coastline."

Münever Özgür Özersay

"It changes the public's mindset by presenting the island as unified. We hope that such a shift in vision will also inspire a shift in mindset for the Famagusta inhabitants and all Cypriot citizens, regarding their right to the Cypriot coastal commons. We tried to convey the message that closer relationships and dialogue between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities is a must to claim and protect our coasts."

Münever Özgür Özersay

## RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Throughout the action, the team aimed to maximize local impact by involving different actors in the discussion on a unified wide public Cypriot coastline, starting with the Famagustian waterfront. Various stakeholders supported the action, and planners, architects, and experts involved in decision-making processes, visited the exhibition.

Photo Credit: Imaginary Famagusta Initiative



## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Initiative will continue promoting civil society involvement in urban transformation and a unified future. It will initiate other debate platforms for collective questioning or imagining the future of cities.



The initiative encouraged the Turkish Cypriot Famagustians to travel to Limassol for the exhibition and meet Greek Cypriot Famagustians who were displaced to Limassol in 1974. The exhibition attracted visitors from municipalities, including the former mayor of the Greek Cypriot Famagusta Municipality.

Photo Credit: Imaginary Famagusta Initiative

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION



handsonfamagusta



www.handsonfamagusta.org



This Project is funded by the European Union.

