

OBJECTIVE 03

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

PEACE MURAL

POST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

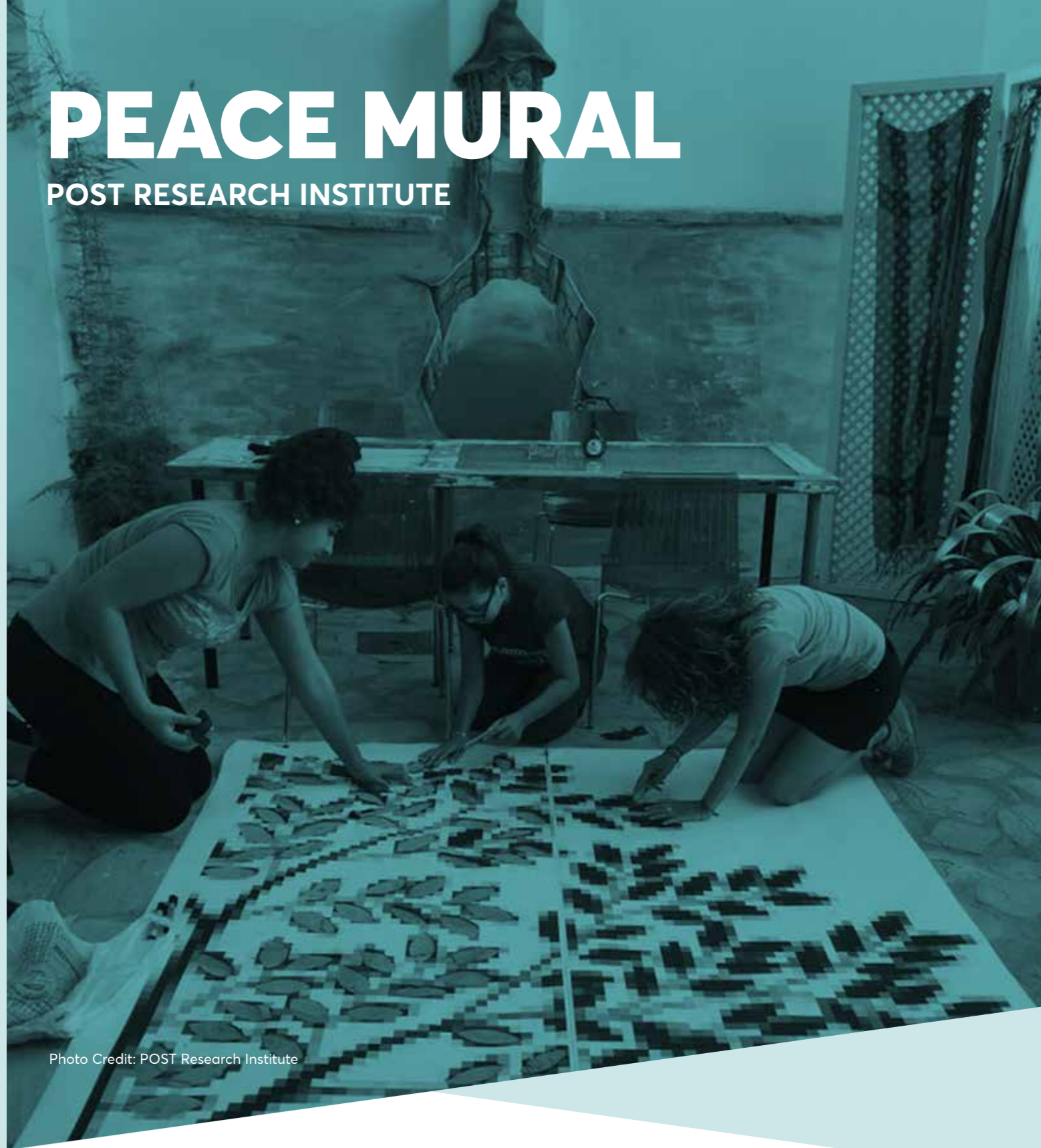


Photo Credit: POST Research Institute



THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Seven mural design workshops.

Creation of the final mural design.

Installation of the mural in the Arabahmet neighbourhood on 17th October 2016, as part of the first Open Door Festival, organized by Civic Space together with the civil society organisations.

ABOUT POST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

POST Research Institute is a non-profit, independent research institution engaged both in social and educational projects in Cyprus. They are looking to build a culture of critical perspective in fields related to peace such as human rights, conflict resolution and peace-building, gender equality, ecology and animal rights. The goal of the Institute is to enhance and strengthen endeavours for social change with academic expertise and a strong international network.

STORY OF THE ACTION

"Let's draw a Peace Mural together! Let's draw peace, equality and friendship on the walls of Nicosia together. Let's expose xenophobia, homophobia and inequality together! Let's colour the walls of Nicosia with expressive art!"

Mehveş Beyidoğlu Önen

As described by POST Research Institute, the Peace Mural action provided an alternative to the predominant symbols of the "official history" in the walled city of Nicosia. The purpose was to teach participants how art can be therapeutic and how they can advocate for a multicultural and diverse society in which all differences are recognized, understood and accepted. The mural workshops focused on helping participants, mainly women and children, to express their feelings through art.

Following the workshops, the artist Aslı Bolayır designed and painted a mural in collaboration with POST Research Institute representatives, local people (especially children and women) from the neighbourhood, activists and volunteers.



Photo Credit: POST Research Institute



"At POST, we want to protect our cultural heritage and carry out projects to further embellish and bring colour to the walled city of Nicosia. We painted a giant tree upside down on one of the city's largest facades in the Arabahmet neighbourhood. The tree's roots are looking upwards to symbolize our strong roots while the branches and colourful leaves convey the idea of our multiculturalism. The tree symbolizes a 'lasting peace in Cyprus'."

Mehveş Beyidoğlu Önen



RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The Peace Mural was successful in bringing relevant stakeholders to support and sustain the action. The Nicosia local community gave the necessary permits to draw the art piece and presented the participants with a proper wall to ensure its sustainability. The action was replicated and now many walls in Nicosia are covered with meaningful artworks. The action encouraged both the activists and the duty bearers to support freedom of expression through street art.



Photo Credit: POST Research Institute

WHAT'S NEXT?

POST Research Institute will continue its efforts to promote the fundamental values that will bring visible and lasting improvements in the equality of opportunity and welfare available to each and every citizen.



Photo Credit: POST Research Institute

TO FIND
MORE ABOUT
THE ACTION

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