

OBJECTIVE

04

To support the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism

NATURE AND ME

Çatalköy Association for Culture and Development (ÇADER)

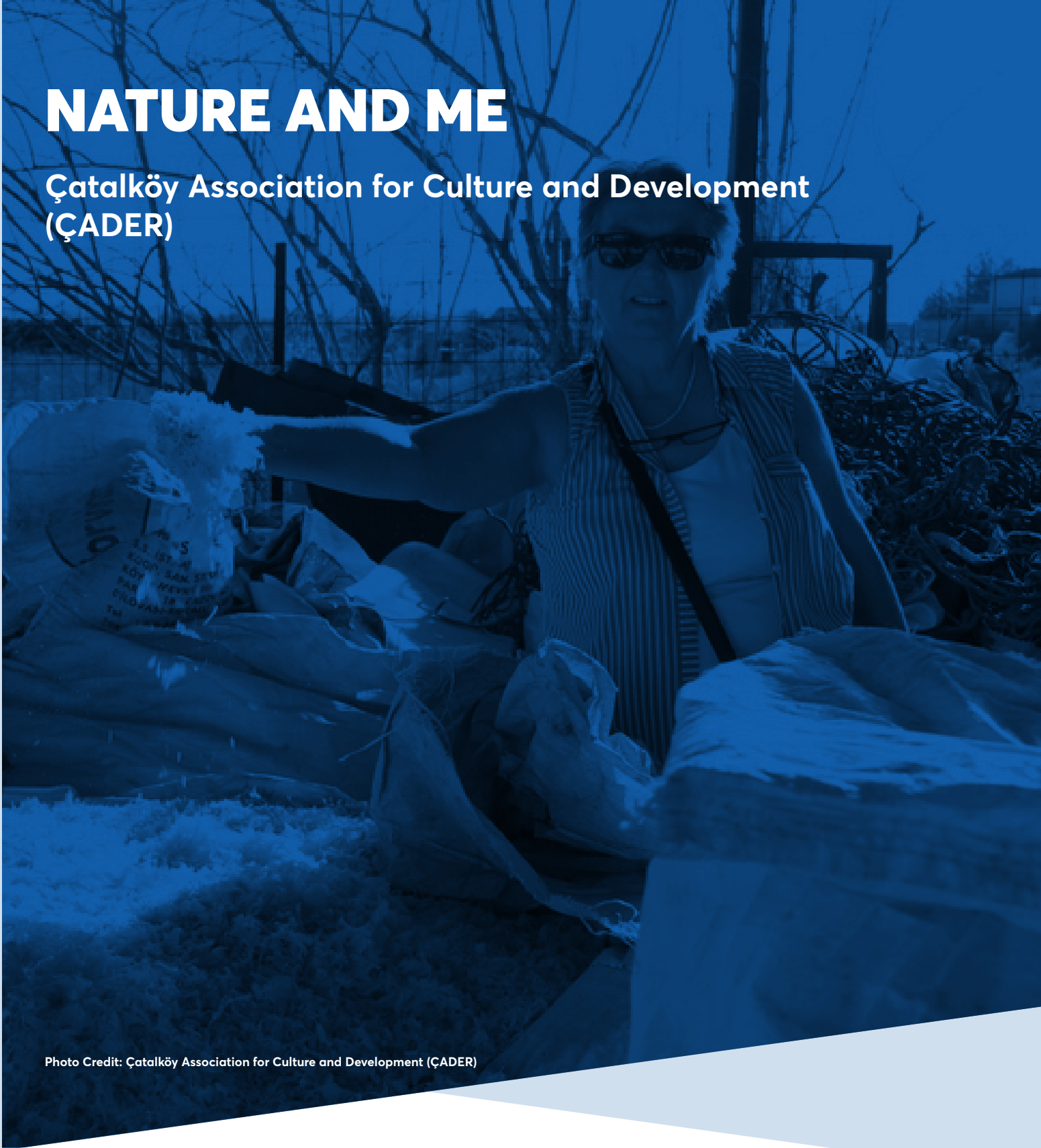


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THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Raising awareness on environment in the northern and southern parts of Nicosia

A study tour to Mindelaltheim, Dürrlauingen Germany by members of ÇADER, one representative from Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy local community and one journalist, 6-10 May 2019.

A study tour to the northern part of Cyprus by a group from Burgau, Germany, 10-14 October 2019.

Production and dissemination of a short film entitled "Environment and me".

ABOUT ÇATALKÖY ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT (ÇADER)

The association was formed in 2005 to inform people about social, cultural and environmental issues, protect the village's surroundings and organising educational, social and cultural events. They have contributed to the Çatalköy primary school, cancer charities and the local public hospitals, along with many more.

STORY OF THE ACTION

The purpose of the action was to improve waste management practices in Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy by building the capacity of ÇADER, Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy local community and local people via knowledge and experience exchange with a good practice example in Mindelaltheim, Dürrlauingen in Germany. Irene Raab Marancos explained their motivation as follows:

"The villagers, in general, are expecting the local community to be responsible for waste. This action will show that the first step regarding waste management lies in the action of each individual. Starting with understanding that they are consumers with rights and responsibilities, they can start their compost heap and stop using plastic bags. The villagers will also understand the advantage in following new schemes. The local community will be encouraged to start pilot projects and benefit through reduced waste and reduced costs"

Irene Raab Marancos

In the study tour to Germany, the participants witnessed the separation and organisation of municipal household waste and their reuse and recycling. Visits were made to places regarding waste management, and communal institutions such as municipalities, schools, waste sorting stations, heating plants and farmhouses. Participants gained a greater understanding of the relationship between consumer behaviour and the impact on the environment through experiencing how other consumers reduce household waste and dispose of different types of waste.

In the second part of the action, their counterparts from Germany came to Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy where they met with members of the local community and visited the waste transfer station. The group made suggestions of changes and improvements to recycling the household waste in Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy.

A report of the visits and progress achieved and an action plan for future steps and lobbying towards the Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy local community was prepared. A short film promoting the action was produced and was broadcasted on TV and Youtube. A citizens' network was established between the two communities.



Photo Credit: Çatalköy Association for Culture and Development (ÇADER)

"We became friends with our German counterparts. The return visit strengthened the bonds and the discussion about waste organisation and separation was continuous while visiting Cypriot hot spots. Through all those visits of institutions and facilities we all experienced a new confrontation with the topic of waste, in both places. We cooked and ate together, met with the families and experienced how much pleasure and satisfaction serious work can produce."

Irene Raab Marancos

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The CSO learned about waste management and its efficient organisation. They also strongly understood that the best way to separate waste was to do it with the local community. Following the visit, the local community has agreed to start a pilot scheme for waste separation. ÇADER ensures constant contact with the local community, discussing the next stages of the joint project to which other stakeholders such as plastic recycling companies are also involved.

By setting up educational activities and collaborating and constantly following up with the local community, ÇADER thoroughly used the rights-based approach to raise awareness about waste management, both at the citizens' and the duty bearers' levels.

"We have started the initial steps of the journey to making Agios Epiktitos/Çatalköy a truly green village, reducing household and garden waste going to landfill"

Irene Raab Marancos

WHAT'S NEXT?

The local community announced the pilot area for waste separating and will start the shredding of garden waste within the private gardens for mulching, composting and collecting separated plastic from house to house. ÇADER will continue its collaboration with the local community and pursue its educational aim.

TO FIND
MORE ABOUT
THE ACTION



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Grow Civic movie: /civicspacesivilalan



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