



## GROW CIVIC FINAL REPORT

Action Number	Reference	11087
Name of Contact Person	Iosef Boraei	
Address	Avli initiative is an online platform with physical volunteers and do not have an address or office. If an address is needed then we can provide a volunteer's address: Theodorou Kolokotroni 26, Ayio Dometio	
Primary E-mail	avli@info.org	
Secondary E-mail	jo_bo@live.com	
Phone Number	00357 97605421	
Mobile Phone Number	00357 97605421	
Name of CSO (if relevant)	Avli	
Name of Partner(s) (if relevant)	Gastivist Collective	

- Please provide brief information about activities conducted with the Grow Civic Support** (i.e. name, place, participants, date and any other important information about the activity). Please refer to your Annex 1 (Action Plan). You are more than welcome to add photos, participant lists, or any other form of supporting documentation to this report.

Avli and the EU partners - Gastivists - have successfully completed both activities proposed for our project 'Environmental Peacebuilding in the East Mediterranean region gathering' within the time frame requested. In addition to that, an extra activity was added to enhance the dissemination of the outcomes of the expert request.

**Activity 1: 'Kick off Meeting':** We consider that Activity (A.1.) has been successfully



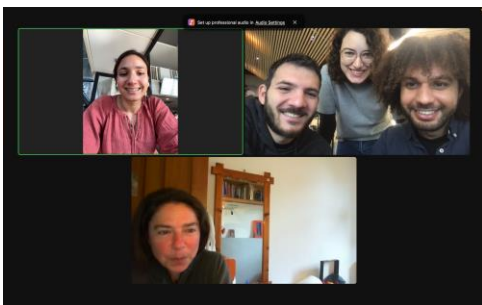
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implemented as initially proposed. The core team main organising team met together in Athens for 4 days to plan concrete steps of the overall project, design the approach, sessions and ensure a smooth flow of its objectives. Unfortunately one of the core team members (Gastivists Collective) could not physically join due to the unexpected health situation of a family member. However, we connected online with her for several planned sessions in order to adapt and proceed with the meeting in a hybrid format. All objectives were reached, including the target groups, learnings, outputs and communications. It is important to mention that on the last day of the meeting a tour was included in a relevant location (social space with a long history and experience of environmental actors, working horizontally similar with the project objectives). This was a great opportunity to visit, talk and share experiences with such a group of people. Due to confidentiality, we are not able to share more information (as per their request).

In addition to that, two opportunities occurred during A.1. The first one was participation in a national event in a relevant context and engaging with the local community as well as presenting some of the objectives of the project. The event was in an open discussion format with the title 'Greece and Cyprus in the midst of extraction', with several topics covered during the open discussion including: fossil gas in Eastern Mediterranean; the situation in Greece and Cyprus; the case of EastMed and the geopolitics surrounding it and how can activism in general and environmental peacebuilding act as a form of resistance against these extractivist, militarist, and destructive agendas. After this, bi-weekly online meetings were held till the implementation of Activity 2.



### Participants Lists:



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**Participant list**

Request Number: 11087  
 Request Name: Environmental Peacebuilding in east Mediterranean region gathering  
 Location/Venue: Athens  
 Date: 23/11/2022  
 Activity name: kick off meeting

AA	Name / Last Name	Organisation	Email	Phone Number	Signature
1	ELWAN YILMAZATA	AVLI	elwanyilmazata@gmail.com	0537 860 2572	
2	VISDAN SENIGOR	AVLI	visdansenigor@gmail.com	05358674622	
3	Iosef Boraçi	AVLI	jo-bor@live.com	9700524	
4	Emmanuel SAVVAKIS	Gostivisa	m.savvakis@protonmail.com	+30 693677412	
5					

The rest can be found [here](#) - but they were previously sent to the finance officer of CS.

**Activity 2: 'Environmental Peacebuilding Eastmed regional gathering':** We strongly believe that the 2nd Activity (A.2.) was not only implemented, but it was a huge success, considering the circumstances of bureaucratic, racist and discriminatory visa processes, followed by unnecessary delays to attain entry in the RoC. On top of that, the devastating earthquake in Turkey and north Syria, affected deeply our activity, mainly emotionally, where we had to facilitate necessary spaces to accommodate grief and other emotions felt by our participants before and during the A.2.

During A.2. we have reached the specific objectives, the activity and the overall project



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objectives even though the training had logistical difficulties - as mentioned. The coordination team managed to gather 24 participants including 2 experienced facilitators/trainers from our European partners, the Gastivists Collective, who brought the global perspective to similar issues across the world.

A.2 was managed to bring young people and adults from Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean region (Italy, Greece, Turkiye, Israel, Palestine) and EU (Belgium and Switzerland). The participants were from the below groups: Cyprus Natural Coastline - Πρωτοβουλία για την Διάσωση των Φυσικών Ακτών, Fridays For Future Thessaloniki, Gastivists, Gastivists Italia, Gastivists Greece, Kazdaği Doğal ve Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği, StopTheWall.org, L.E.A. Berta Cáceres, One Climate, Collettivo NOTAP Melendugno, Vrisoules, Friends of the Earth Cyprus, ReCommon, Rosa Lux.

A.2 contributed to the development of knowledge and skills of the concept of environmental peace building, intersectionality and inclusivity. The local and regional groups gained the capacity to build a diverse national and regional movement that encompassed many groups working on different social justice values, as well as one which strives to overcome the current geopolitical struggle in the region. Another important contribution of the Activity (A.2) was to the general flow of the project proposal as well as its final objectives. Moreover, the expected outcomes as well as skills to develop collaborative visioning and campaigning on common resistance struggles as a long term outcome.



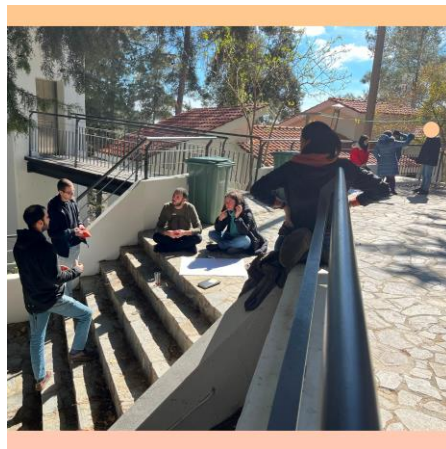
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## THE REGIONAL GATHERING



CYPRUS-PALESTINE-TURKEY-ITALY-GREECE



The last day of the meeting was done in the buffer zone by conducting an environmental peacebuilding tour in the last divided capital of the world, Nicosia. This was done in an effort to learn by doing, seeing and listening to the views, experiences and stories of activists on the ground. On the same day, we hosted a public 'Stories of Resistance with activists from the Eastern Mediterranean region' for additional new people interested in taking an active role in the establishment of the movement to join us. The event was held in the buffer zone (Ledra Palace) to allow each community easy accessibility for additional new people. The public had the opportunity to hear from activists and affected communities who are under threat and who resist. A selection of inspirational cases from the Eastern Mediterranean region were presented, directly by the people who lead the resistance. The event was well attended with approximately



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60 people present.



The co-hosts of the public event were: Avli, Cyprus Natural Coastline, Fridays for Future Thessaloniki, Gastivists Collective, Gastivists Italia, Gastivists Greece, Kazdağı Doğal ve Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği, Yesil Baris Hareketi, YEU & Stop the Wall. The event was supported by the Grow Civic Program funded by the European Union and also supported by UNFICYP.

As a follow-up, one social media post was shared, a blog post was written highlighting the public event and explaining through the stories of resistance the importance of environmental peacebuilding.



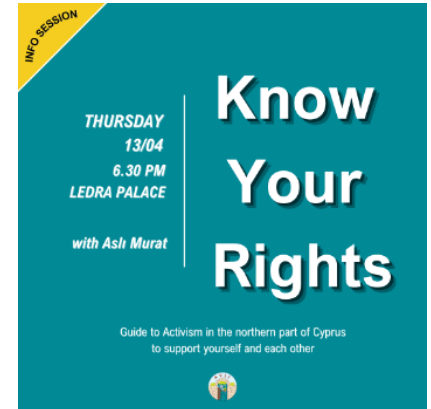
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Last but not least, the last output/activity has been added to the action as the tendency to limit and violate fundamental freedoms is gaining more force, specifically in the northern part of Cyprus. Therefore, Avli, with support of a legal expert, Asli Murat, conducted preliminary research for those in organising roles in activities, events, protests and activism in general, and for anyone wanting to know more about their rights. The 2 outputs/deliverables expected from the NKE are as follows:

- One pager - Guide to Activism in the northern part of Cyprus (EN/TR)
- Bust card - Know your rights on peaceful protest and other relevant events in the northern part of Cyprus (EN/TR)

Following this, a public informal session was held to disseminate the [results](#) with an opportunity to share publicly the most important points of our research, as well as a question-and-answer space directed towards the legal expert.



## LEGAL ADVICE

Even if the person asking for your ID is a uniformed police officer, **ask them to introduce themselves and show their police ID first.**

If there is no investigation initiated and conducted into a crime, **you do not have to answer questions** about yourself or someone else asked by the police.

Unless you are arrested, you do not have to allow your body size, voice, fingerprints, palm prints and photos taken. If your statement is to be taken as a suspect rather than a witness, you have the right to **seek assistance of a lawyer before speaking.**

You do not have to accept the charges. **Police can not search you without a warrant,** unless you are caught red handed or there is a reasonable doubt that you committed a crime.

## LEGAL RIGHTS TO ARREST IN PROTESTS

If you have not been caught red-handed or there is no reasonable and serious reason to believe you have committed a crime, **request a judge-issued arrest warrant from the police.**

During the investigation, **you can benefit from the support of a lawyer.** You can access the numbers of all lawyers on the website of the **Cyprus Turkish Bar Association** <https://www.kibristurkbarolarbirligi.org/>. If you do not have the financial strength, **the Human Rights Platform (hotline: 0542 862 00 60)** offers you free legal aid.

If you can not communicate in Turkish, the police must provide you with **free interpreter assistance.**

You must be taken to court within 24 hours at the latest. **You can object to the continuation of detention.** You can not be detained for more than 3 months. The arrested person can be **searched by the same sex police.**



## HUKUKI TAVSIYE

Kimliğinizi göstermenizi isteyen kişi üniformalı polis olsa bile, önce kendini tanıtmasını ve polis kimliğini size göstermesini isteyin.

Eğer bir suça ilişkin başlatılan ve yürütülen bir soruşturma yoksa, polisin kendiniz veya bir başkası hakkında sorduğu sorulara cevap vermek zorunda değilsiniz.

Tutuklanmadığınız sürece vücut ölçünüz, sesiniz, parmak - avuç içi izlerinizin alınmasına ve fotoğraflarınızın çekilmesine izin vermek zorunda değilsiniz. Tanık değil de zanlı olarak ifadeniz alınacaksa, konuşmadan önce avukat desteğinden yararlanma hakkınız vardır. Suçlamaları kabul etmek zorunda değilsiniz.

Suçüstü halî veya polisin suç işlediğinden makul şekilde şüphelenmesini gerektirecek bir durum yoksa arama emri olmadan üstünüzü arayamazlar.

## PROTESTOLARDA TUTUKLANMAYA İLİŞKİN YASAL HAKLAR

Suçüstü yakalanmamış iseniz veya suç işlediğinize ilişkin makul ve ciddi bir sebep yoksa, sizi tutuklayacağını söyleyen polisten yargıç tarafından verilen tutuklama emrini talep edin.

Soruşturma süresince avukat desteğinden yararlanabilirsiniz. **Kıbrıs Türk Barolar Birliği'nin** web sitesinden <https://www.kibrisurkbarolarbirligi.org/> tüm avukatların numaralarına erişebilirsiniz. Maddi gücünüz yoksa adli yardım sunan İnsan Hakları Platformu (hotline: 0542 862 00 60) size ücretsiz hukuki destek sunacaktır. <https://insanhaklariplatformu.eu/?lang=en>

Türkçe iletişim kuramıyorsanız, polis size ücretsiz tercüman desteği sunmak zorundadır. En geç 24 saat içinde mahkemeye çıkarılmalısınız. Tutukluluğun devamına itiraz edebilirsiniz. 3 aydan fazla tutuklu kalamazsınız.

Tutuklanan kişinin üstü aynı cinsiyetteki polis tarafından aranabilir.

## Guide to Activism in the northern part of Cyprus

## Aktivizm Rehberi Kuzey Kıbrıs Hukuku ve Polis





We strongly believe that by establishing and strengthening links between groups from climate and social justice organisations and marginalised communities in the EastMed region, we build solidarity and empowerment that extends beyond borders. Therefore, we consider our action successful.

#### **Additional information:**

- Gender perspective: Avli and Gastivists are mainly composed of female volunteers. During the action we used the intersectional approach, which overcomes individual barriers to participation linked to power imbalances related to gender, skin color, sexual identity, abilities etc. Thus, Activity A.1 and A.2 directly empowered women and LGBTQIA+ participants by using tools and methods for inclusive participation and healthy dynamics (such as the Diversity Welcome, etc.) and by building safer spaces and developing a group agreement. Also, by using gender-inclusive processes, we do not assume gender and tackle gender stereotypes with use of non-binary language and pronoun rounds and gender neutral toilets.
- Visibility of the project: We have ensured that our produced materials (invitations, social media posts etc.) have included Grow Civic and EU acknowledgment, and mentioned it during the introduction of Activity A.1 and A.2.



Additionally, this activity was brought together for 4 days (16th - 20th of February 2023) by volunteers across Avli, Gastivists organizations and other organizations and individuals across the region, to follow 15 sessions in total (including learning, strategizing and planning) with wide regional representation.

The program of Activity A.2 can be found below along with other relevant information.

### Participants List:

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ANNEX9-ParticipantsList

Request Number: 11087

Request Name: Activity 2: Environmental Peacebuilding in the East Mediterranean region gathering

LOCATION /VENUE: Cyprus/Limassol/Pano Platres / Poed Residency

DATE: 16-02-2023

ACTIVITY NAME: Activity 2: Environmental Peace building Eastmed regional gathering

PARTICIPANTS

NO	NAME-LASTNAME	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL	PHONE	SIGNATURE
1	FRUIONI FRIZOU	GASTIVISTS GR	ermio.pastivists@gmail.com	+50 6 972090258	[Signature]
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5	OIGA DUREL	Kozdagi Ass.	durel.oiga@gmail.com	+905332102043	[Signature]
6	XHEJN XHINDI	L.E.A. BERTA CAERES	xhejn.xhindi@earthshkr.org	+39 3282651536	[Signature]
7	FEDERICO PINCA	MOTAP COLLECTIVE	PINCA.FEDERICO@GMAIL.COM	+039 3298422530	[Signature]
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9	ELVAN YILMAZATI	AVLI	elvanilmazati@gmail.com	+90 5338402572	[Signature]
10	Aliyan Alkayali	Kozdagi Ass.	alkayali.aliyan@gmail.com	+905322161140	[Signature]
11	MARIA MADJIMICH	ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΜΟΧΕΤΗΣΗΣ	madjimich.maria@gmail.com	+35799558550	[Signature]
12	VITDAN SENGJOR	AVLI COASTLINE	vitdansengjor@gmail.com	+00905338674622	[Signature]
13	ANNABELLA DA RE	GASTIVISTS	annabelle.dr@gmail.com	+39 03516478369	[Signature]
14	RODOLFO NASSIM	Demolition	rodolfo.nassim@gmail.com	+33 641357599	[Signature]
15	FILIPPO MARA TAGHERI	RECOMMON	FILIPPO.MARA@RECOMMON.ORG	+39 3497925863	[Signature]
16	Sara Monica Viganò	FoE Cyprus	saramonica.vigano@foe.org	+357 99821283	[Signature]
17	Raya Rachwan	stop the wall	raya.rachwan@stopthewall.org	+972 99404520	[Signature]
18	Yaraq Paratz	GASTIVISTS	yaraq@GASTIVISTS.ORG	+972 548114124	[Signature]
19	Miyato Skouroupathi	Avli	miskouroupathi@yahoo.com	+3799240835	[Signature]
20	Margolis Savvatis	Gastivists	m.savvatis@yahoo.com	+30 6936719418	[Signature]
21	Iosif Baraci	Avli	io-ba@live.com	97605124	[Signature]
22	Monaer suhaeen	One Climate	monaer.suhaeen@gmail.com	+9725495620	[Signature]
23	ELENI TACHIRISTA	Visaules	elentachirista@outlook.com	+30 698528	[Signature]
24	Milos PAPAETHANOU	INITIATIVE PROTECTION NATURAL COASTLINE	M.Papathianou@gmail.com	99520444	[Signature]
25					

The rest can be found here: [PL A2.pdf](#) - but they were previously sent to the finance officer of CS.

Program:

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16th of Feb, Thursday	Times	17th of Feb, Friday	18th of Feb, Saturday	19th of Feb, Sunday	20th of Feb, Monday	21st of Feb, Tuesday
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	7-9.00	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Free time</b>
	9.00-10.30	Welcome session	Welcome to the day	Welcome to the day	Pack	
	10.30 - 11.30	Why are we here ?	Exploring Climate Justice in EM	How can we work together at a regional level (how can we not) / part 1	Driving to Nicosia	
	11.30 - 12.00	coffee break	coffee break	coffee break		
	12.00 - 13:30	Regional work / what is specific to the East Mediterranean region	Concrete solidarity	How can we work together at a regional level (how can we not) / part 2	Environmental Peacebuilding tour	
	13.30 - 14.45	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>		
	15.00 - 16.45	Getting to know each other and our local context	Walking	Timeline and sharing plans	Free time	
17.00-19:30: driving	16:45-17:00	coffee break	coffee break	coffee break		
17.00-19:30: driving	17.00 - 18.00	Close of the day	Open Space	What is the strategy for this "network" to go on sustainably	Free time	
19.30 - 20.00 : Logistical info & settling	18.00-18:30		Close of the day	Close of the day	Stories of Resistance	
	18:30-19:30			Evaluation of the meeting	Stories of Resistance	
<b>DINNER</b>	20.00 - 21.00	20:00 - DINNER	20:00 - DINNER	20:00 - DINNER	20:00 - DINNER	
FREE TIME	21.00-22.00	cultural night		Goodbye party		





2. Please provide information about the outcomes/results achieved by the Action implemented with Grow Civic support? Please refer and compare the outcomes/results achieved with those that were foreseen in your request form.

### Activity 1

A.1 has contributed greatly in providing a space for the main organizing team to come together to plan concrete steps of the overall project, design the approach, sessions and ensure a smooth flow of its objectives. A.2 was a great opportunity to share strategies between the two organisations (Avli and Gastivists) on ways of working and the links and spaces that we can work together between Cyprus, East Med region and EU.

A.1 built the cohesion of the group and set the common rules for the project, including the safer space agreement and other mechanisms which guarantee the respect of all participants and the ownership of the programme by the participants as well as measure to reach the target groups and ensure equality and balanced representation (regional, gender etc).

Also - as a follow up - the participants received detailed explanations about the project itself and had the opportunity to give their preferences regarding the specifics of the content and to suggest adaptations and improvements and a co-designed program was produced.

Generally, thanks to A.1 we built the core team group, explained the details of the programme, collected the preferences of the coordination team, as well as creating the smaller "working groups" to ensure that the objectives will be reached.

### Overall for A.1 we had:

- 2 Young people and adults from northern part of Cyprus and 1 from the Republic of Cyprus from Avli
- 2 Young people and adults from our European partners Gastivists, located in Greece who understand both the European and the regional context.

### Learnings & Outputs for A.1:

- 5 young people or adults from Cyprus and Greece region were equipped with concrete skills, knowledge and tools between the two groups both during the kick-off meeting and the bi-weekly meetings.
- Co-creation of Activity 2 program and concrete implementation plan of the Activity 2

### Comms:

- Pictures will be taken for internal use and proofs



Finally, at the last day of the meeting we had a tour in a relevant location to experience environmental actors working horizontally similar with the project objectives. In addition to that, we participated in a national event in a relevant context and engaged with the local community as well as presented some of the objectives of the project.

## Activity 2

A.2 contributed in providing a space to both Turkish and Greek Cypriots and other communities to intercommunally learn and better understand - *with other young people and adults from Cyprus, and the Eastern Mediterranean region & EU* - the importance of intersectional approach, environmental peacebuilding and justice issues. It is worth mentioning that A.2 has enabled local, regional and EU level discussions on building resistance against a common issue in the Republic of Cyprus and the northern part of Cyprus and regionally.

Therefore, A.2 developed a knowledge about environmental peacebuilding, intersectionality and inclusivity, where the local and regional groups gained the capacity to build a diverse national and regional movement that encompasses many groups working on different social justice values, as well as one which strives to overcome the current geopolitical struggle in the region.

## Overall we had:

- A diverse and inclusive group of people of at least 24 activists across the East Mediterranean region will work together and develop the ownership of the meeting by creating courageous spaces for meaningful content.
  - Countries participating: Republic of Cyprus and northern part of Cyprus, Eastern Mediterranean region (Italy, Greece, Turkiye, Israel, Palestine) and EU (Belgium and Switzerland).
- 20 activists mastered relevant knowledge and skills, which enabled them to lead a regional climate justice movement.
- Participants developed concrete next steps to lead campaigns and actions to address militarization, fossil gas extractivism and tackling climate crisis, inequalities and conflict.

## Knowledge gained by participants:

- Introduced to the concept of 'environmental peacebuilding' and why it is important to not only work on environmental issues but also on other social justice issues (such as environmental discrimination etc), which put rights of marginalised individuals to the centre of climate change debates.
- First-hand experience from, and built friendships with, those who are affected by environmental and social injustice
- Facts of how climate change affects different communities (migrant, LGBTQIA+, BME, women, indigenous communities, etc.).



- Visit a local environmental struggle as a hands on experience to listen and discuss with directly affected people (environmental tour across the last divided capital city in the world)

#### Skills gained by participants:

- Developed skills in facilitation and gained practical skills on inclusive organising, informal education tools and solutions of working with marginalised and affected communities.
- Different organising skills on inclusive facilitation and working in groups, non-violent direct action & sustainable activism.
- Community organising and democratic movement building.

#### Comms:

- Pictures were taken and shared on social media.
- 1 blog post produced explaining the importance of environmental peacebuilding through stories of resistance

#### Outputs:

- 25 young people and adults across Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region were equipped with concrete skills and knowledge of environmental peacebuilding, as well as active listening skills and critical thinking on environmental struggles in relation to other social and economic aspects.
- Public event: 'Stories of Resistance with activists from the Eastern Mediterranean region' (the event was well attended with approximately 60 people present)
- One pager - Guide to Activism in the northern part of Cyprus (EN/TR)
- Bust card - Know your rights on peaceful protest and other relevant events in the northern part of Cyprus (EN/TR)
- Public event: Know your rights (dissemination of the results: one pager & bust card)

3. **Which target groups directly or indirectly benefited from the Action?** (e.g. any beneficiary group, duty-bearers, institutions, organizations, individuals). Please refer to the target groups mentioned in your request form and add others if not initially foreseen and quantify as much as possible.

An important factor through the whole project and activities we learn about the concept of environmental peacebuilding with an intersectional approach and concretely plan inclusive national and regional activities on climate justice which challenge current systematic discrimination. We also established and strengthened links with youth and adult groups from





other social justice organisations and marginalised communities in Cyprus and in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Overall, directly involved target groups were young people predominantly involved in activities of Avli and trainers from our partners – Gastivists. The two groups (Avli and Gastivists) reached young people and adults from other youth and adult organisations from other social justice organisations and marginalised communities in Cyprus and in the East Mediterranean region (Cyprus Natural Coastline - Πρωτοβουλία για την Διάσωση των Φυσικών Ακτών, Fridays For Future Thessaloniki, Gastivists, Gastivists Italia, Gastivists Greece, Kazdağlı Doğal ve Kültürel Varlıkları Koruma Derneği, StopTheWall.org, L.E.A. Berta Cáceres, One Climate, Collettivo NOTAP Melendugno, Vrisoules, Friends of the Earth Cyprus, ReCommon, Rosa Lux), which are working on climate or environment; groups working on gender justice and LGBTQI+ rights etc, and which contributed to the values of the campaign as well as, young people who currently do not have access to be actively involved in such campaigning. Young people and adults aforementioned also directly benefited from the action, through enhanced skills on campaigning, communications and facilitation as well as, in-depth knowledge on how to incorporate intersectionality in our activities and gained wider perspective and information on the current state of environmental movements on regional and national levels.

As a direct result, 24 people from Cyprus (northern and southern parts), Israel - Palestine regimes, Greece – Turkiye, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland have been empowered to lead actions on environmental peacebuilding and climate justice in the region with intersectional lens.

Beneficiaries of the action results and online communication:

- Participants and their linked groups
- General public
- Relevant decision makers in the Republic of Cyprus and the northern part of Cyprus and other countries of the East Mediterranean region

**Number of people reached via social media: 8788**

**4. In which ways did Grow Civic support contribute to your action, your capacity or your field of work?**



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We have kindly asked for an amendment of A.2 to add a public event and a dissemination activity for the expert results by ensuring that the main objectives are reached. Due to delays of visual approvals, the dissemination activity was delayed at least 2 weeks and we have also requested an extension of the action (2 extra weeks). Following this, we have been receiving understanding and kind support from Grow Civic on our requests to run successful activities and to ensure that the main objectives are reached. Thus, Grow Civic was supporting the whole process and advising us. Additionally, Grow Civic provided us with all the financial support of all the requested budget to implement our activities. It enabled us access to young people and adults from Cyprus and the East Med region to join the action which wouldn't be possible with their contribution. Also, we have received support on day-to-day tasks on how to deal with all the supporting documents, receipts needed as well as logistics.

5. **Please explain if and how the action contributed to any of the targets mentioned on the following targets.** Please refer to the targets selected in your request form and explain how the action contributed to them. You can also select other targets if the Action contributed to any additional targets that you have not foreseen in your request form.

Grow Civic Targets	Explanation of results and outputs (only for relevant targets)
<p>To support mainstreaming of rights-based actions and actors including activists, citizens' initiatives and CSOs to promote and enhance democracy and human rights</p>	<p>Through providing necessary capacity for movement building (facilitation, inclusive organising, educational tools &amp; solutions, community organising and understanding on allyship), campaigning and environmental peacebuilding through intersectionality to empower young Turkish Cypriots to actively participate in local democracy together with the Greek Cypriot communities, Palestinians to work with Israelis, Greek with Turkish and overall regional collaboration. This activity promoted environmental rights and active citizenship for a better future for marginalised communities, Queer people, BIPOC etc. Campaign ideas discussed in various fields.</p>



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<p>To strengthen CSOs' capacities specifically on rights-based actions, visibility/ communication, advocacy and organisational sustainability, and to support the creation of new initiatives or organisations having a rights-based agenda</p>	<p>Through providing external project comms and supporting newly engaged people either individual applicants or new volunteers of the organisations involved. The activity reframed and challenged the ways of working on climate and social justice issues. Also the outcomes were distributed within the group, and dissemination of results to the general public was done.</p>
<p>To foster and strengthen multi-communal dialogue and collaboration, and/or to support the development of mono or multi-communal thematic or cross thematic coalitions in line with the rights-based approach and EU values and principles.</p>	<p>Through the common resistance to environmental injustice which we identified in both communities as well as in the EastMed region to build and promote not only meaningful bi-communal relationship but multi-communal and regional relationship between young people in Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities, Palestinians to work with Israelis, Greek with Turkish, Italians and EU allies. The activity included people from the communities mentioned, built relations and strategically developed several campaigns to lead.</p>
<p>To foster and strengthen networking and partnership with CSOs in the EU Member States or the IPA region for joint rights-based agendas and actions.</p>	<p>Through providing necessary space and resources establish a new youth movement for climate justice in Cyprus and in the region on a common basis (anti-military, anti-fossil gas, anti-oppression). Support was provided from both applicant activists and involved organizations, but also from 2 trainers from our European partners (Gastivists). The outcomes and learning material of the event were collected and distributed to the network of participants and allies to be used for further trainings at a local level, national, regional and EU level.</p>
<p>Involvement of / Support to disadvantaged</p>	<p>Some of the participants were from remote areas (Chios Island, Iskele in Cyprus), occupied areas</p>





<p>groups and/or people from rural areas</p>	<p>(occupied Palestine) rural areas (Turkiye) and also main participants of the projects were women and LGBTI+ community members. During the gathering inclusive approaches were applied (such as buddy systems, safer spaces, caucus spaces, etc.). We have also managed to provide support for a single mother to participate. Finally, before the gathering a peer-to-peer support was given to everyone needed to attain a Visa to attend the gathering. The organizing team provided a presentation with clear steps on the process, all the legal support (invitation letters, bank guarantees etc) as well as guidance and emotional support to enable their participation.</p>
<p>Civil society-public sector and/or civil society-private sector cooperation and dialogue</p>	<p>Participants gained the capacity to build a diverse regional and national movement that encompasses many groups working on other social justice issues.</p> <p>Avli's main aim is the interconnection between our two objectives which are peace and environment, and therefore raise awareness by providing concrete information and actions that need to be taken. Thus, all our activities were relevant to the proposal including intercommunal capacity building, research, communication and other educational activities.</p> <p>In Cyprus there are several groups that are working on one of the objectives mentioned in the proposal, but none of them have managed to intersect the topics and promote intercommunally an Environmental PeaceBuilding narrative with a truly an intersectional approach.</p> <p>We strongly believe that our activity contributed to catalyzing further inter-communal contacts. This was achieved through participation in this program, as we built lifelong personal and professional bonds</p>



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	<p>between community members in Cyprus and beyond.</p>
<p>Mutual learning, co-learning and experience sharing</p>	<p>All the participants had their own unique knowledge, skills and perspective on the issue which allowed them to share and discuss. An additional workshop session on 3 thematic areas were to be designed for co-learning and experience sharing. But also, the whole regional gathering was designed in a nature that participants were encouraged to share their own experiences (especially on peace, intersectionality on gender and environmental issues).</p>
<p>Measures taken to ensure gender equality, youth inclusion, environment protection and accessibility</p>	<p>The contact person of the coordination committee is A Queer person, and the EU-partner main contact is a Woman. Both, along with their groups, brought the gender dimension to it. As also members of other intersectional groups the principles of ways of working and values are actively promoting gender equality. Generally, Avli and Gastivists support and promote equality and inclusion, and that's how the whole project was developed. Our groups are mainly composed of female volunteers and queer people; therefore, we strive to focus on those core values of our groups.</p> <p>The selection criteria were set to allow the participation of a diverse group, in terms of region, age, gender, disability, sexuality, ethnicity and faith. The selection committee strived to ensure the representation of usually under-represented identities and marginalised youths. In addition, the selection committee selected participants according to their motivations and profiles. Therefore, diversity of profiles sought again, with e.g. experienced and less experienced activists, participants with different areas of interest, etc. Also, during the action we used</p>





	<p>the intersectional approach, which overcomes individual barriers to participation linked to power imbalances related to gender, skin color, sexual identity, abilities etc. Thus, Activity A.1 and A.2 directly empowered women and LGBTQIA+ participants by using tools and methods for inclusive participation and healthy dynamics (such as the Diversity Welcome, etc.) and by building safer spaces and developing a group agreement. Also, by using gender-inclusive processes, we do not assume gender and tackle gender stereotypes with use of non-binary language and pronoun rounds and gender-neutral toilets.</p>
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6. Provide a list of any visibility and/or printed materials/documents developed and created in your action. Please also provide one copy of these materials/documents to Civic Space as annexes. Any material/document printed should be presented in hard-copy format and others as soft-copy format.

All supporting information can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15Oo-ltytHMNsR3fM\\_P933ysPhJxbE226?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15Oo-ltytHMNsR3fM_P933ysPhJxbE226?usp=sharing)

- Visuals
- Photos
- Participants List
- Guide to Activism and bust card (EN/TR)

Outreach on Social Media:

### Activity 1

- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/p/CmJo8Rerixd/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=> (Reach: 322)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/2298601570296409/> (Reach: 2175)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/avli.org/posts/675540454236127> (Reach: 177)



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## Activity 2

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/avli.org/posts/233092622398329> (Reach: 203)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/589919819313684/> (Reach: 3840)
- **Newspaper:** <https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/02/20/regional-activists-tell-their-stories-of-resistance/> (Reach: 251)
- **Newsletter (UNFICYP):** 03/06/2023 - [Haber / Χαπάρι 19th Issue - March 2023](#) (1100 people receive the newsletter - mostly young people)
  - <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=480e3ba65829bf973f356a14c&id=101d952755> (Reach: 1100)
- **Newspaper:** [https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/03/15/stories-of-resistance-with-activists-from-the-east-med/?fbclid=IwAR1lITJh7C9G-sgTgqz1F3CWoRc7Ry6Dlum9puc7dsAwBWxAB\\_SN8WeIYCg](https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/03/15/stories-of-resistance-with-activists-from-the-east-med/?fbclid=IwAR1lITJh7C9G-sgTgqz1F3CWoRc7Ry6Dlum9puc7dsAwBWxAB_SN8WeIYCg) (Reach: 438)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/avli.org/posts/244809281226663> (Reach: 282)

## Total reach: 8788

- *Through the action, we promised to reach 5000 people through online communication in the short term, and 2500 in the long term. We have exceeded the number before even reaching the long term results. Thus, we consider this as achieving the comms goals.*

## Additional posts:

- <https://twitter.com/GGastivists/status/1597930029027299330>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/2298601570296409?ref=newsfeed>
- <https://left.gr/news/ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon-ekdilosi-syzitisi-tin-kyriaki-27-noemvri>
- [https://www.rednblack.gr/nea/ekdilosi-syzitisi-tin-kyriaki-27-11-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon/?fbclid=IwAR2tmeLLzbxu\\_8vTidKnyB1ves6on4fXyUn\\_1KcXzdKiYHm5BnvizBL9dGo](https://www.rednblack.gr/nea/ekdilosi-syzitisi-tin-kyriaki-27-11-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon/?fbclid=IwAR2tmeLLzbxu_8vTidKnyB1ves6on4fXyUn_1KcXzdKiYHm5BnvizBL9dGo)
- [https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/periballon/368620\\_ekdilosi-syzitisi-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon](https://www.efsyn.gr/ellada/periballon/368620_ekdilosi-syzitisi-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon)
- <https://www.kinimatorama.net/event/144731>
- <https://www.pellanews.gr/ekdilosi-sizitisi-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-eksorykseon-104858>



- <https://www.inewsgr.com/351/ekdilosi---syzitisi-ellada-kai-kypros-sti-dini-ton-exoryxeon.htm>
- <https://www.facebook.com/coastlinecy/posts/5801431193319962>

**7. Did you experience any problems or challenges at any stage of Grow Civic support? (i.e. prior to making request, during request and eligibility check, implementation). If yes, please briefly explain.**

It was for the first time that the visibility checks of communications were so intensely checked and controlled. As an organising team experienced in EU projects in other EU countries, this was not the case at all. We could understand that the northern part of Cyprus could be a special case where EU and EU values need more visibility, however this should not be at the cost of pressure, stress and as a result more time and consumption caused on and bore upon the volunteers who are trying to make a positive impact on their free will and using their free time. In addition to that, the team had thoroughly read and followed the provided visibility guidelines however were faced constantly with new amendment requests that were unnecessary and time consuming. We would like to make this an official complaint that the EU visibility standards practised in the northern part of Cyprus is a racist and discriminatory act against TCc to limit civil societies actions by making them go through confusing, time consuming bureaucratic processes. We believe that the EU visibility practices in the northern part of Cyprus is beyond EU promotion and results in discouragement of volunteers to do future projects and / or takes from the time where an activity with positive impact can be implemented.

**This is serious feedback that should be taken into consideration, investigated and we would like to officially complain about it.**

Also, during the project, as we were following the implementation guidelines, a list of providers was given to select the ones fitting our needs. We may give feedback that all the documentation and process needed to add a new provider was unnecessary, stressful, and long. Also, as we are fighting for human rights, environmental protection, and much more we believe it is hypocritical to 'punish' the providers for last minute dropout(s) when there is a 'force majeure' for non attendance. In our case, that we have been dealing – and challenging – a racist, discriminatory visa process, many participants were getting emotional and were on the edge to give up the process. Applying in advance for a visa is one aspect of understanding the process, the intense feelings that both the organisers and the applicant are going through should be respected, appreciated, and have the same value as 'applying in advance'. Indeed, we had a participant who





gave up the process, as the gathering was approaching and she felt that she had to stop, although we were providing all the technical support and a listening ear. For that reason, a minus one person from the total number of participants in the list of what was promised and therefore the finances had to be calculated with a minus one person. Our values do not match the 'simple calculations' and we don't see numbers. We see humans, we see feelings, we see preparation of food, sleeping places etc that cannot be neglected and simply cancelled out. A flexibility and adaptation on real obstacles and challenges should be made.

#### 8. What are your recommendations to improve the Grow Civic In-Kind Support Programme?

- **Same visibility checks as all EU-funded projects**
  - Overseeing other EU funded projects in the RoC or EU-based countries we have never seen such an intentional, strict and unhelpful process.
- **Clear visibility guidelines**
  - The rules were randomly changed without updating the guidelines and the main focus was given to the EU logo and not the content. This undermines the scope of the whole action and the existence of such projects and initiatives.
- **Faster, easier, and less complex payment of the providers**
  - As we are accountable to people (providers) that we are working with, if the process is so complex, unnecessary and late then we, as organisers, are being the direct face of the community. If it takes 2 + months to do a payment, we are creating more obstacles and losing trust with the people worked with us.
- **Expand or completely remove the provider list.**
  - The providers on the list do not necessarily fit our needs, values, and expectations. By having such long processes of paperwork, it does not help the people working on the ground.

9. **Can you share a story, a message, a quotation, or any other piece of experience from the action, which in your opinion symbolizes its aims and its spirit?** *(Please note the information you provide under this question might be used by Civic Space to communicate and disseminate the results of your action supported by Grow Civic)*

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10. **Any other issue you would like to share with us.**

Your support is very much appreciated to implement our ideas to create a better future for



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Cyprus and the region.

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**Blog post:** Stories of Resistance with activists from the Eastern Mediterranean region *By Josef Boraai and Myrto Skouroupathi*

Various initiatives and groups hosted the event “Stories of Resistance” as a symbolic and powerful tool to learn, unpack buried narratives, and navigate us through our common futures. The event was part of the Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Peacebuilding gathering aiming to establish and strengthen links between groups from climate and social justice organisations and marginalised communities in the EastMed region, learn about environmental peacebuilding and plan joint activities on climate justice.

Local activists are fighting for climate justice, as a framework which covers a series of topics, from protecting the natural environment to working on socio-economic manifestations in our society. People from all over the world with diverse backgrounds are experiencing the climate crisis differently and disproportionately.

The event, held in the Buffer Zone, aimed to catalyse further inter-communal discussions, with an opportunity to explore the struggles shared by those leading the fight.

As it was mentioned by the co-host, **Ya'ara Peretz from Gastivists** *“the speakers addressed the effects of the climate crisis in their communities and land, and how natural resources are being used for the violation of human rights and division of communities.”*

The event started with an acknowledgment of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. **Josef Boraai from Avli, Cyprus** said: *“We stand in solidarity with everyone affected. Our thoughts and spirits are with them”. He also mentioned that “we are climate justice activists living in different locations, working together to build more collaboration and resistance against the oppressive systems we live in. We just finished a regional gathering where we tried to develop exactly this and connect each other’s struggles”.*

**Maria Mavronicola, YEU**, commented that the stories *“offered the opportunity to get informed about similar environmental issues in the region and learn from our struggles and success stories”.*

The speakers had various backgrounds and experiences, coming from Cyprus (across the divide), Greece, Turkey, Palestine, and Italy. The stories shared, clearly communicated the necessity of working together in the region by overcoming the barriers and narratives of division.



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**Vijdan Şengör from Avli (Cyprus)** shared what it means to be an activist on the ground in Cyprus, and especially in the northern part of the divide. A key element of her work within Avli is *"the intersection of peace and environment which enables us to understand and see the whole picture"*. The division of Cyprus prevents meaningful climate work instead of using it as an opportunity for common ground and peace. One of Avli's main aims is the interconnection between its two objectives which are peace and the environment.

**Andreas Riris from Cyprus Natural Coastline, Cyprus** shared the long fight of the Cyprus Natural Coastline Initiative from the privatisation of beaches to the destruction of the sea caves in Peyeia and the development plans in Akamas. He stated that *"the Initiative was formed in 2014 and aims to defend not just the island's coasts but also its mountains and all natural habitats. Cyprus' economic model, largely depending on tourism and real-estate, caused negative impacts on large areas of the island's coastline. Our ongoing efforts has helped defend important areas like the Akamas peninsula and Limni Polis Chrysochous. Exchanging experiences during this event has helped us improve our understanding of the issues other comrades face in the region. From Palestine to Italy and from Greece to Cyprus, we need to keep fighting to protect our commons, our natural habitats, and our heritage"*.

Defending nature and human rights does not stop at borders and nor the climate crisis. One of the crucial topics in our region is the production of energy, and how that relates with the energy crisis and increase of militarisation and conflict.

**Pavlos Laskos, Fridays for Future Thessaloniki, Greece** explained that *"the mainstream narrative is that Greece is going to be turned into an energy hub. Instead of reducing gas emissions, our government's plan is to promote economic growth by the exploitation of fossil fuels."* Pavlos' story resonated with participants from Cyprus and Italy. *"Those plans lead to tensions between neighbouring countries, as creating gas infrastructures is connected to the increase of militarization. Several movements in Greece are fighting against these projects and run nationwide and international campaigns, such as the recently started Hellenic trench campaign (<https://hellenictrenchsos.gr/>)."*

Extraction and mining are, also, a major issue in the EastMed. **Süheyla Dogan, the representative of the Kazdagi Association for The Protection of Natural and Cultural Assets, Turkey,** shared her story of Kirazlı Gold mining. The story starts with a forest area close to a dam providing drinking water to the city of Çanakkale. After the licence was given to Alamos Gold, a Canadian company, the Ministry of Forestry itself started cutting down the forest for the company. Activists camped near the mine and people from all over Turkey joined them. Many actions were taken throughout their stay, such as an occupation of the mine by 20,000 people



and a live piano concert from the famous composer Fazil Say. The resistance at the camp lasted for over 400 days, when security forces evicted the activists. Activists continued protesting and the mining company was eventually denied an extension of their licence. *"Since then, we have demanded the rehabilitation of the area. This is the story of resistance and solidarity. Kicking a transnational company out of our country."*

The discussion continued with the story of Palestinian resistance by **Raya Radwan from Stop the Wall**. Raya described the story of the creation of the Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions campaign (BDS) back in 2005 by Palestinian civil society. *"This has given us another way of action, not only going to the streets and protesting but also changing the policies that institutions, governments, and local authorities have, in order to be more respectful of the International Human Rights Law. Apartheid Israel and its corporations, who illegally expand on the Palestinian land stealing resources, export Walls of Climate Colonialism."* One such policy change was made by the local council of Barcelona, becoming the first city to suspend ties with Israel.

**Mona**, another Palestinian climate activist, said *"I find it important to look at the complex political aspects of climate injustice and especially under the situation of occupation. During this very special time together, I came to realise how much similarities there are in these struggles. It helped me look at the situation from a wider perspective and know now that we all need to work together"*.

On the other side of the East Mediterranean, we find **Federico from No Tap movement, Italy**. The No TAP movement is a local initiative fighting against the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). *"We started from a very specific struggle against a big project, during which various people came to show solidarity and to fight alongside us."*

The local residents have been fighting against the pipeline which would destroy their land and are now facing severe prosecution by the authorities.

**Annabella Da Re (Bu), Gastivists Italy**, said that *"trying to make your fight as intersectional as possible takes time, energy, and effort. It's a long process but it's an investment, it's worth it. When you realise that for different struggles the source of the problem is the same, you have many new possibilities to act, different sides to "attack" and you can do it together."* This event tried to bring the affected and marginalised voices of those who are defending their lands and fighting against systemic oppression. The societies that we live in are exploiting the people and our commons. Yet, we find hope in each other's stories of resistance.