

Let's Do It, Mediterranean!

Press Release – 08.05.2015

We are a movement of volunteers of 22 countries spanning 3 continents located around Mediterranean, mobilized to clean it in a single day...

In 2014 we have performed the first of Let's Do It, Mediterranean! movements in 10 Mediterranean cities in Turkey in synchronization with 22 Mediterranean countries. This year, on May 9th, 2015, we'll be on the coast again to clean our Mediterranean. Our coordination center is in Izmir, Turkey. We have teams in 10 Mediterranean cities in Turkey. Our local representatives in each city provide the link between local teams and coordination center. This movement will be organized together with 22 Mediterranean countries and will span from Greek border to Syrian border within Turkey. In other words, we are planning a coastal and underwater clean-up from the shores of Edirne to those of Hatay.

Mediterranean, being the largest inland sea of the world, links Europe, Asia and Africa through its 46,000 km coastline. There is an estimated 100 million tons of waste globally. It's not just an esthetic issue, it's also a matter regarding health, natural life, collaboration and responsibility. We believe that by just sweeping our own doorstep we can cleanse the world.

Volunteers of all ages living in Edirne, Canakkale, Balikesir, Izmir, Aydin, Mugla, Antalya, Mersin, Adana and Hatay can join our movement for a cleaner Mediterranean by filling in the "Volunteer" form at letsdoitakdeniz.org web site. Mediterranean is sending out danger signals. Mediterranean is under a not-so-cute human siege for centuries. United Nations Environmental Plan - Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) prepared a Sea and Coast Status Report which states "Biological diversity of the species in Mediterranean, 30 percent of which are indigenous and is surrounded by 21 countries, is in grave danger". "Increasing temperatures due to climate change increases the number of invasive species in turn. While some of them are considered important fishing resources, some are endangering local ecosystem. Aggressive, random or side-fishing, methods such as bottom trolling and others which wreak havoc with natural sea life exert great pressure on Mediterranean by impacting ecological processes and ecosystem services. Also, 37 percent of coastal settlements discharge wastewater without treatment while 18 percent of treatment plants are simply insufficient. In addition, 15 percent of world's maritime traffic goes through Mediterranean, which increases petroleum pollution due to accidents." continues the report.

The report also states that, since the threats are cumulative, the solutions must be integrated. So, do we only collect trash? We, as volunteers for nature, aim for people of all ages to collaborate, target their skills and and energy in doing things that make them happy to a certain goal, and gather everyone around our Mediterranean in a voluntary fashion. Mediterranean is the most striking blue. There's a place for everyone in this volunteer movement on May 10th.

Let's Do It! movement was born in the Nordic Country of Estonia in 2008. 50,000 tons of waste found in roadsides, cities and in the nature was cleaned in only 5 hours by 50,000 volunteers. We, as Let's Do It, Mediterranean!, want to cleanse our Mediterranean, our shores on our cleansing day on May 10th. In realizing this, we believe that all parties need to take responsibility in cleaning.

Let's Do It, Mediterranean! Turkey

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