# Raising Environmental AwarenessThrough Art

A partnership of 6 countries, funded by Erasmus+
Raise awareness, sensibilize, and prevent harmful attitudes against the environment through artwork. Engage people with fewer opportunities. Innovative social entrepreneurship, sharing good practices.

## Co-Ordinator of the project
United Societies of Balkans (Greece)

## Partners
- Together For Life Shoqata (Albania)
- Udruzenje Agencija Lokalne Demokratije Iz Mostara (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- Zelena Akcija (Croatia)
- Jovesolides Egypt (Egypt)
- Lesvos Solidarity (Greece)
- Asocijacija Za Demokratski Prosperitet- Zid Udruzenje (Montenegro)

## What's the aim of the Rest_Art Project?

The aim of the innovative project Rest_Art is to promote environmental awareness through the power of art. Our goal is to bring about meaningful and lasting change by engaging the public and key stakeholders in the preservation of our environment. By combining esthetic practices with ecological activism, REST_ART aims to raise awareness, sensitize communities, and prevent harmful attitudes toward the environment. Through planned mobilities and a comparative approach, we shed light on plastic waste management and promote positive action at the community level.

**The first kick – off meeting in Thessaloniki, February 2023**

**The 1st Transnational Partner Meeting (TPM) was held in Thessaloniki in February 2023.**

Each partner participated with two representatives from each organization. USB hosted the meeting and as the coordinator of the project presented, discussed and shaped the next upcoming activities of the project. The partnership decided on a step-by-step approach to develop the project at the international and national level.



The highlight of the meeting: The visual identity of the project was co-decided by the partnership. The design of the logo was created by the press officer of the USB.

**The Youth Exchange in Stratoni, Halkidiki, June 2023**

**"No-formal environmental education in youth work" (2-8/06/2023)**

As a type of artistic activity, the visual arts belong to the phenomena of social consciousness. In all phases of the historical development of mankind, they have occupied an important place in the spiritual appropriation of reality, in ideological life and in social struggle.

USB organized and hosted the youth exchange for staff, youth workers, trainers and educators.

Highlights of the activity:
The mobility was attended by 32 participants 5 organizations + 1 participant as group leader for each national group. The theme of the training was "No-formal environmental education in youth work" and took place in Stratoni in a green open area near the sea, where participants had the opportunity to be in contact with nature while working on the planned activities. The mobility lasted 7 days (including the travel days). In particular, the participants created artworks from disposable materials that cannot be recycled. Previously, they had collected such materials at the seaside and used them for their artworks. They strongly believe that the artworks will raise awareness and change people 's attitude towards the environment.

**Local activities in each country**
**June-July 2023**

After gaining new skills and competencies, each participating organization launched a local activity where they disseminate the artworks from Youth Exchange and continue with new works made from microplastics and non-recyclable materials. The workshops in total had 90 participants (15 out of six organizations).

**Online Handbook, July 2023**

The online brochure consists of two methodological researches; Photography- Research-The Partners as well as USB proceed in recording local environmental problems, including the waste generated by the single use of plastic and other materials. Each member of the consortium was able to take 5 photos that specifically reflect local environmental problems. 2 of them were selected after an evaluation by all members of the consortium and included in the manual.