

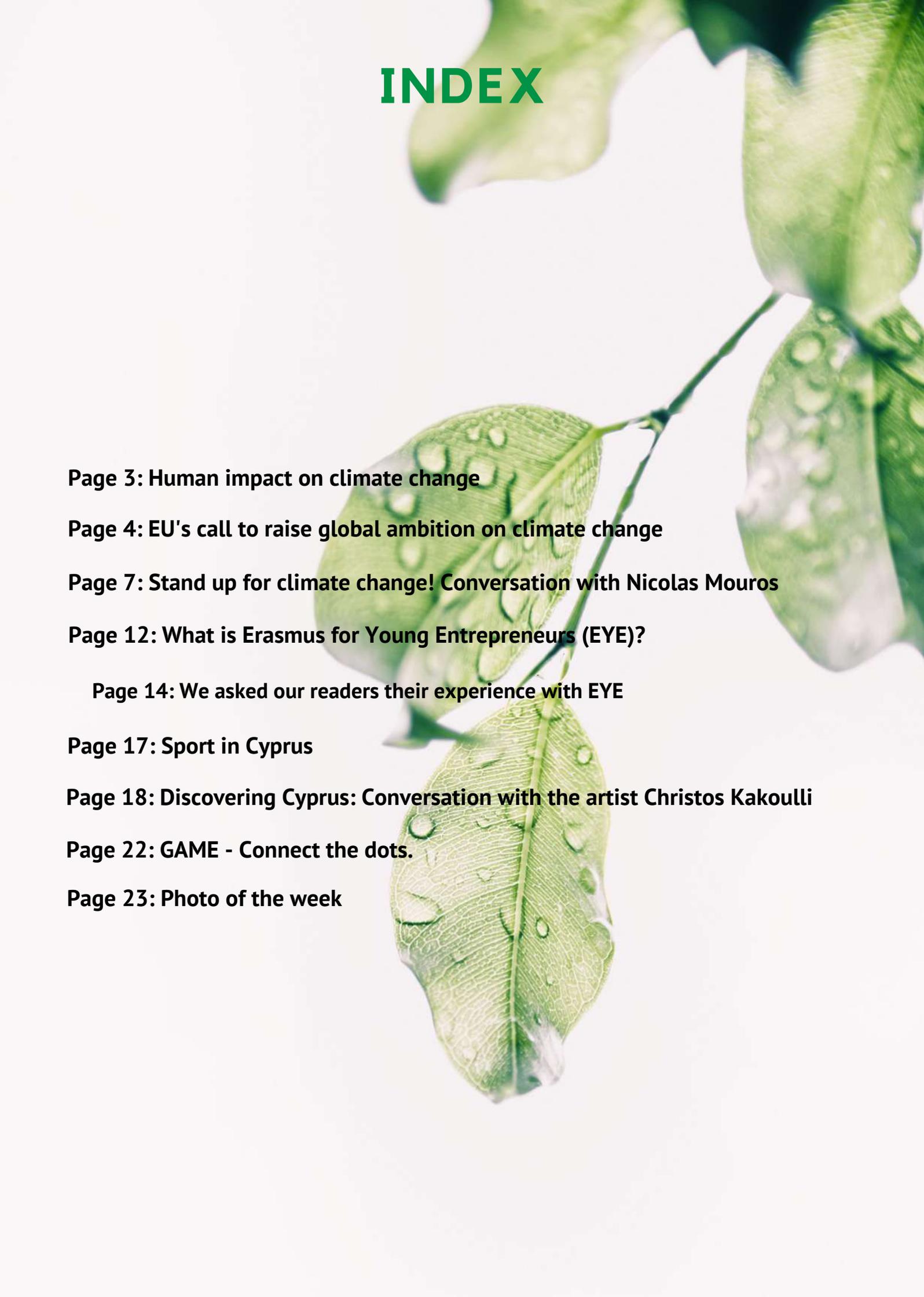
THE DREAMER

YOUTH MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO. 3



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Human impact on climate change

What is the Earth? Why is important to safe it ?

What how much impact is the human having over it?

Our Planet is the only place we can live on. We don't have any other places where to go.

Every action has some impact on the cycle of the life.

Actions and footprint

There are thousands of actions we take during our life. All of them can be defined with frequency and impact on the world.

It is simple to define the frequency of certain action but understanding the impact of those can be difficult.

The impact of an action can be also named as Footprint. Whether we are walking on the sand, snow, mud or some wet cement, every footprint has some time to fade, to disappear completely in the environment.

As steps do, our action have footprints as well.



The perpetual cycle of life

The climate change as the plastic or the chemical pollution are issues created by just one living specie. The human being.

Observing the cycle of the life of any other living being on this planet. There is none whom actions have a real Footprint: everything is absorbed by the nature within a few years. The cycle of life is perpetual, if otherwise we wouldn't have been here.

The actual problem is that the human has having different actions that cannot be sustained from the natural processes. Most of these actions are either impossible to disappear once created or require many years to disappear...in the meantime they have so much impact on the living beings that the damage is often irreversible.

No more time

This is the reason the environment problems are so dangerous. They cause irreversible damage, that may be fixed in thousands of years. Definitely too much for all the living beings on the planet.

Something has to change.

The common belief that in the next future the technological discovers will allow the human beings to not care at all about their actions and footprint, doesn't stand. We are on the verge of a critical point.

Time to change

The change always come from the little actions, the care for small details. If the behavior is the one that does not care about the future of our planet and therefore of the humanity, this is what it will produce.

It is possible to wait for some miracles that will let us use all the plastic, fossil fuels, animal exploitation and produces so many wastes... in the meanwhile though we cannot afford all this anymore. It is possible to have a very low impact on the planet and prevent it to be unlivable.

If the consistent bad habits led us to this critical point, consistent good habits can lead us to a better one. The human kind has to start think, analyse and act in favor of the next generations, in favor of this planet and of the life. It is all about this.



As human beings, we are vulnerable to confusing the unprecedented with the improbable. In our everyday experience, if something has never happened before, we are generally safe in assuming it is not going to happen in the future, but the exceptions can kill you and climate change is one of those exceptions.

-Al Gore

EU's call to raise global ambition on climate change

Scientists and politicians widely acknowledge that climate change is one of the most pressing issues, an existential threat that humanity is facing today. The Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 has set the way forward for all countries to act together in curbing climate change. These commitments must now be implemented.

According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C, we only have twelve years left to take drastic and necessary measures to be on the path to keeping the average global temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial times. The European Union and its Member States are committed to win this race against time. If we act swiftly, we can make this wide-ranging transition a success for our economy and society.

On 18 February 2019, EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs sent a message to world leaders on the urgency of raising the global ambition in the fight against climate change. For the EU, ambition is not only about reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but also about adapting to the effects of climate change and addressing its impacts on human and state security.

The EU: a pioneer in the fight against climate change.

The transition towards a climate neutral future requires a paradigm shift. All sectors will be affected by the transition, and especially energy, transport, industry and agriculture.

The EU has already put in place an economy-wide framework of climate and energy policies to ensure that we deliver on our Paris commitment for 2030 to reduce our GHG emissions by at least 40 %.

This includes, for example, the EU-wide Emissions Trading System, which has put a price on the CO₂ emissions from industry, power plants and flights within the EU and ensures they are progressively reduced, as well as other legislation and policies to cut emissions in other sectors and foster the



clean energy transition. Broader changes towards a more sustainable and circular economy are also already taking place, such as the EU-wide ban of single-use plastic products for which alternative products are easily available.

But more needs to be done. This is why the EU Foreign Ministers welcomed the European Commission's strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, presented on 28 November 2018, as a key step in preparing the EU's mid-century climate strategy as required under the Paris Agreement.

The strategic long-term vision and the underlying analysis demonstrate that reaching a climate neutral economy is feasible from technological, economic and social perspective, but it requires deep transformation in all of these areas within a generation.

The vision does not set targets or propose new initiatives. Instead, it seeks to illustrate that this transition can be socially fair – not leaving Europeans or regions behind – and will enhance the competitiveness of EU economy and industry on global markets, securing high quality jobs and sustainable growth in Europe. The vision also opens a thorough debate on how the EU should prepare itself towards the 2050 horizon. The deep transition necessary for reaching our climate objectives requires fundamental changes in the investment and finance. The EU working hard to make financial flows greener and reaching out to public and private partners around the world to foster a worldwide transition, starting by setting up a classification system for all EU sustainable financial products. This will pave the way for EU labels on green financial products and make it easier to invest in the green economy.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries set out their climate action plans in their 'nationally determined contributions'. Beyond the implementation of these contributions, much remains to be done also under other multilateral processes. For this reason, EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs called in their conclusions for maximising the climate contribution from processes under other fora, such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Montreal Protocol, which tackles substances that deplete the ozone layer and climate-warming HFC gases.

2019: A decisive year for raising global ambition.

In the fight against climate change, all countries must accelerate their actions towards a climate neutral economy. In particular, the G20 economies, which account for some 80% of global emissions, need to show leadership through ambitious action and credible long-term strategies. In December 2018, political leaders and experts gathered at the UN climate conference (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland, and agreed on a 'Rulebook', 133 pages of technical rules setting in motion the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Through these procedures and guidelines, each country's progress will be tracked in a transparent and harmonised manner, providing clear and quality information on collective progress towards the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global temperature rise to well below 2 °C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C. With the 'rulebook' in place, the focus is now shifting to the implementation of countries' nationally determined contributions, which requires putting in place plausible domestic measures. Many countries are still lagging behind in the implementation of their climate action plans, including several major economies. For the Paris Agreement to succeed, Parties must provide evidence of national action to deliver on the targets. As EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs have stressed, the world is not yet moving fast enough to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption. Current global efforts to mitigate climate change

need to be tripled for our shared goal to be reached.

The year 2019 will provide many opportunities to raise global climate ambition. In July, the annual United Nations High Level Political Forum will provide impetus for countries to show progress on the implementation of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal 13 on climate action. The EU welcomes that the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is convening a special Climate Summit entitled 'A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win' in September 2019, with the explicit goal to mobilise the political will to raise global climate ambition and move towards a climate neutral economy.



Climate change: a threat for world peace.

In light of the stark findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C, echoed by many independent reports such as the annual World Economic Forum Global Risk Assessments, EU Foreign Ministers underscored that climate change acts as a global threat multiplier and increasingly as a threat in its own right. Climate change has a devastating impact on biodiversity, water resources and ecosystems, and land degradation and agriculture. It acts as a threat multiplier by increasing extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, fuelling instability through food insecurity, economic weaknesses, or disaster-related displacements. This has serious implications for peace and security across the globe – sparing no country, from the Arctic region to the small island developing states, and with the poorest and the most vulnerable populations being the most affected.

In the wake of HRVP Mogherini's high level event on Climate Peace and Security on 22 June 2018, which concluded with a strong call for action, including at the UN level, the EU and its Member States have stepped up their action. This has ranged from the UN Security Council, where dedicated discussions on climate change have been held three times in the past year alone, to updating our own crisis management and early warning Systems, and stepping up advocacy and training.

As the world's largest provider of climate finance, the EU and its Member States are cooperating at bilateral and multilateral levels on adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts, especially with small island developing states (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries.

On the ground, some of the EU's current annual total of €20bn in public climate finance is also addressing climate security aspects. For instance, in Tanzania the EU contributes to training local farmers in adapting agricultural practices to climate change and increasing the country's supply of climate shock resistant seeds. Scientific innovation is also brought to bear, from prevention to disaster relief. The EU's Copernicus satellite images and data were deployed for post-disaster recovery in the wake of hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017 and will be central to the new G7 initiative spearheaded by the EU, where data from the same tools are now being deployed to assess, forecast and prepare for coastal erosion worldwide.



CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



A RACE WE CAN WIN

The EU and its Member States have been pushing for addressing the peace and security implications of climate change at the highest political fora, including at the United Nations Security Council. Climate change risk management must be integrated into the wider security agenda and world leaders should work together on resilience building, food and nutrition security, disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and sustainable development.



STAND UP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE!

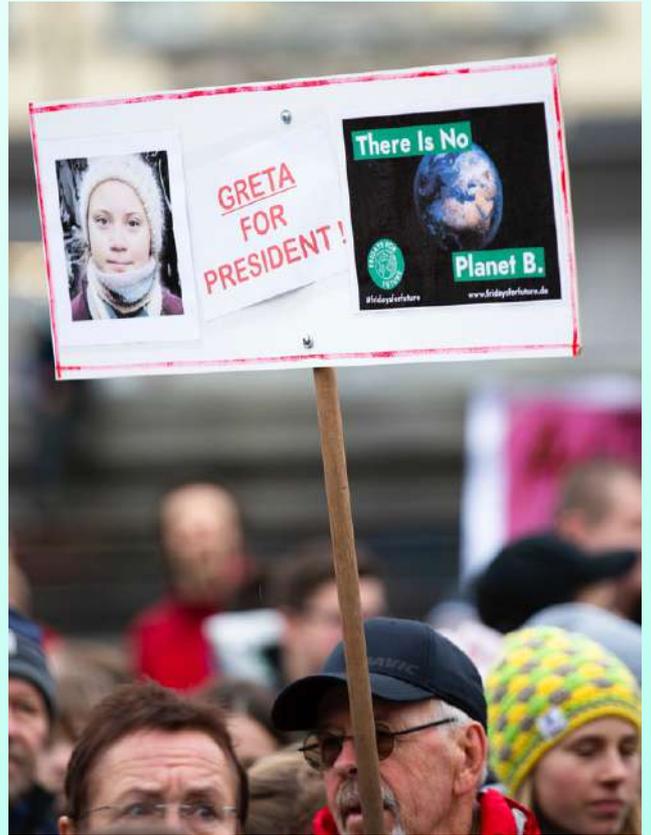
Conversation with Nicolas Mouros
YOUTH FOR CLIMATE CYPRUS



In recent months it was quite easy to bump into articles, TV programmes and documentaries about climate change. Climate change is now affecting every country; the phenomenon does not take into consideration geographical borders: everyone is affected and everyone should start realizing how impactful it is over our lives. The recent importance given to the climate change should not convey the message that changes in the weather are a new thing: climate has always changed, but recent studies and researches have demonstrated that the pace at which it is changing now is getting out of control and predictions for future years are anything but encouraging.

The theme has obtained a clamorous attention from the media thanks to the deeds of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish 15 years old girl who, fed up with the laxity of adult people and deeply worried about the risks linked with keeping ignoring the climate change issue, decided to skip school, sit down outside the Swedish parliament and start a protest that, inadvertently, kicked off a global movement.

"Some people can let things go, I can't." are the words of the girl that are inspiring millions of young people all over the world to raise their voices and go on strike against a problem that could seriously undermine their future and the survival of our planet.



Today I met Nicolas Berry, an 18 years old Cypriot activist who, a few months ago, decided that the time was ripe to start following Greta's example and founded Youth for Climate Cyprus; he does not define it as an organization or a NGO "we are young people with the only intention to raise our voices against the climate change and increase the awareness about environmental issues; we have no time to think about the bureaucracy and technicalities of starting an organization, we only want to take action, because we care!". Youth for Climate Cyprus is an initiative of youth devoted to the cause and today we will discuss with Nicolas about climate change interest in Cyprus and actions we can take to raise our awareness and become more environmentally responsible.



I met Nicolas in a sunny afternoon in the city center of Nicosia; we enter a cafeteria and he orders for the both of us a refreshing juice rigorously with no straw ;)

Since the beginning of our conversation it is clear that Nicolas really cares about the nature and environment and after getting to know how viral and inspiring Greta's strike had become, he decided to stand up for climate change by creating an Instagram account with the name Youth for Climate Cyprus. Because he really believes in the power of people together to achieve great successes, he started inviting people to join the brand new page and surprisingly in a very short time the page got 300 followers. Officially the team is of 20 people from all over the country but there is no procedure to get approved: if you care about their cause you can join at any time!

Luca: Can you explain to me in a few words what climate change is and the reasons why we should be worried?

Nicolas: The climate was always changing, but the rhythm at which it is changing now is alerting. People are responsible for this and now the time has come to take action. Human beings are less and less connected with nature and they don't appreciate; we are raised in brick cities, we take nature for granted and finally we don't care about it. It is very sad, but this is my point of view. In Cyprus there is no education, especially in public school. I am worried because personally I really care about environment and nature; at the end of the day it is about the air we breathe and the water we drink, nothing more than that. In Cyprus last year the air was very polluted, things are happening here, not in the middle of nowhere...there for all to see.



Photo by Nicole S Glass (Via Shutterstock)

L: What can we do in our everyday life to prevent the climate change from getting worse? There are graphs showing that in Cyprus the temperature is supposed to increase, let's say, uncontrollably...what can we do?

N: We always say that we demand to the government for dealing with the issue related to climate change, but we need to change our lifestyle as well in order to be sustainable and reduce our environmental footprint. We can reduce our waste in general, we don't need to buy new clothes every month, we can use the buses, bicycles...but we need the support of the government for this...using bicycles is not safe in Cyprus and bus service is not that efficient and people are pushed to take cars.

It could be helpful if we decided to reduce the meat consumption and to use less the delivery service for food.

L: Do you think that shock therapy is a good way to raise people awareness about climate change?

N: Yes, I think so. We have seen in history that people react to something when something big happens. Media should address climate change, because in Cyprus people do know but do not care. People need the shock, for sure! And Cyprus needs to promote critical thinking in schools; our education system creates people with knowledge but without a real ability to understand what happens around them.

L: What made you be an activist?

N: I was for sure inspired by Greta Thunberg but in my education at high school I chose a geography course that gave me a lot of information about environment. When you have an education that makes you able to understand what happens around you from different points of view, things become more clear and you develop the right critical thinking. Moreover, in my life I have had very significant role models around me, (for example my teachers); I am also a scout. I was lucky to go to a private school in which I had the chance to choose courses that taught me a lot about environmental issues; my education played a crucial role in defining the person I am now; If I had gone to a public school, in which usually you cannot choose subject like geography, I would not be here today. Greta, finally, was not the one who taught me about climate change, but was the one who let me understand how important is to protest and raise your voice for what you care about.

L: Do you think that people are not showing such an interest in the climate change because the real risks are perceived far away in time?

N: There is evidence in Cyprus that consequences of the climate change are real now. Last month we had three record temperatures (41°C, 41.5°C, 42.7°C); 100 days of out 365 last year had polluted air. People here are ignorant and because there is not education, even by media, people seem to be not worried. Some people are convinced that there is a conspiracy and the data that show the predictions of temperature in Cyprus are meant just to get people afraid. Some other people believe in chemtrails. Media should do something like in UK, where CNN, BBC are already into climate change and provide people with information about it.

People don't understand that everyone should be environmentalist; we are talking about our planet...how can you think that climate change is just an issue that has to be addressed from the green party?

We all want fresh air and clean water....and I always say this thing to politicians: try to count your money by holding your breath so that you can see how long you can survive!

We live in the information era and it is impossible to believe that we don't have access to the information needed to form our opinion about climate change; if used properly internet can be an important tool. **IGNORANCE IS A CHOICE** at the end of the day!

**L: The more we talk, the more is clear that the lack of education (school & media) is playing a huge role in keeping people away from understanding the risks of climate change...do you know any action undertaken in Cyprus by education system to address this issue?**

N: There are initiatives about environment in Cyprus; there are for example NGO like Cymepa, Akti, Friends of earth that go around schools in Cyprus and talk about environment and try to convey the message about the importance to go green and to respect the planet. The government has also stated that in every school there should be a teacher responsible for environmental issues. Unfortunately it is not sufficient because it is up to the educators the decision about what to teach, there are not requirements...so if the educators are bad, the education of children is bad accordingly. Even the NGOs that I mentioned are involved once a year in campaigns aimed at promoting environmental education...but it is not enough!

L: At the light of the recent surprising participation of young people in protests and strikes all over the world against climate change, it seems like there is hope for the future. We are witnessing a rapidly growing attention towards these theme, but why do you think still most of the people are convinced they can't make a change?

N: They are convinced because they do not believe in themselves. In Cyprus especially there is a belief that as things come, after a while they will pass; it is a way to discourage people from raising their voice, everything will pass...

In Cyprus people don't know about making a change and they don't realize how powerful they can become over different issues. The change needs to start from the lifestyle; for example I watched many videos on a screen related to beaches clean up, but it was when I took part in one of these that I realized how exhausting is having to clean all the pollution we create; let's say that if you are involved in cleaning up a beach, then you think twice before littering it again. So, an interactive education is more than needed not only to address climate issues, but also to make people change their minds about their power. People don't know that they control the market: in a world governed by the law of supply and demand if they ideally stopped using plastic, then the plastic would not be produced anymore and the environmental issue related to plastic abuse would disappear...it is easy but people are not aware of it yet.

Our protests for climate change are showing that no matter the sex, the gender, the religion...we are parts of a unity, we have things in common: there are greek cypriots, turkish cypriots, foreigners all together for the survival of our planet..it is impressive! We can lower the power of politicians that want us to be divided, by being together!

L: Can you please make me a list of habits you would like to share with our readers? For example I've been to Cyprus for four months and (i) I started not to brush my teeth with the running water, (ii) I became vegetarian, (iii) I bring with me my rucksack when I go shopping.

N: I persistently react when I see people throwing away their sigarettes on the streets. It is a very bad habit in Cyprus. I won't be quiet as long as I see people doing wrong things. I try to inspire people to do the same I do and it is very gratifying to meet people who recognize you as a source of inspiration. I have a code: "if you can re-use, refuse" and it perfectly applies to plastic bags in the supermarket; I've tried to persuade my family to stop buying them and after several attempts we are on the right way. I also try to educate more people about environmental issues.

L: New words like reusing, recycling, upcycling are entering our vocabulary...can you tell me more?

N: Yes...**reusing** is easily the repeated use of something for example the plastic bags we utilize to store our shopping; instead of buying new bags, let's use again the ones we already have...we can really influence the amount of plastic in the world.

Recycling is the practice of reusing items that would otherwise be discarded as waste and **upcycling** is the practice of creating a useable product from waste or unwanted items or adapting an existing product in some way to add value. The purpose of upcycling is reducing waste and improving the efficiency of resource use. Among these new terms, for sure the recycling has to be the least favourite.



L: And what about future events of Youth for Climate Cyprus?

N: We are organizing a beach clean up on the 24th June 2019 in Limassol at 9,30 am. Transportation from Nicosia at 8 am. You can check the FB page of the event by clicking the following icon for details.



L: Have you ever thought about creating something like a tool kit or something like that aimed at showing the risks connected to keeping ignoring the climate change issue?

N: Yes...we were thinking about creating a gather up of educational materials to make people better literate about environmental issues; at the same time I am still convinced that people need to feel tangibly the bad consequences of their actions; for example if you take part in a beach clean up and you see how polluted it is, then your mind start changing. Practical and interactive things are to be preferred, like interactive workshops. Then I suggest to go and search for documentaries from scientific community.

L: Ok. Now imagine that you have in front of you the most skeptical audience and you have to convince them that if still they are not willing to change their minds bad things can happen. What would you mention? What are the main risks people should be aware of?

N: For Cyprus consequences of keeping ignoring the climate change are:

- an increase of 5°C within 2050
- sea level increase of 1,5 m in 80 years
- air even more polluted

Homelesses and low class in general will find it impossible to survive with the outside temperatures and medium and high class will live 24/7 with air conditioning on; the air will be polluted...a vicious circle.

We can lose tourism: Cyprus lives from tourists, imagine if we lose our beaches because of the plastic pollution and the rise of sea level; or imagine how hard can be for foreigners not used to hot temperatures to deal with them: they change destination for their journeys. Moreover, extreme climate events will become more frequent, the oceans will be hotter, the fish will die and the corals will die leaving our coasts without protection: a catastrophe!

But the mindset has to change...

Imagine that a minister recently found himself skeptical about banning the single-use plastic bag, he was baffled at how inconvenient could have been for tourists not having the chance to use them!!!!

The conversation with Nicolas was very fruitful and inspiring; we got to know better what climate change is, what we can do in order to address this problem in our everyday life and the potential consequences of keeping ignoring it.

It is very admirable to see the increasing youth commitment, the protests arising all over the world and the passion and care demonstrated by young people about our planet. We don't have a B planet and we need to do our best to preserve the one we were provided with... by following the example of Nicolas and his amazing team we can really create a lasting impact!

FOLLOW YOUTH FOR CLIMATE CYPRUS ON FB AND INSTAGRAM BY CLICKING THE FOLLOWIING ICONS AND FINALLY RAISE YOUR VOICE!



WHAT IS ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS (EYE)?

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) is a project initiated by the EU. It aims at helping new entrepreneurs to acquire relevant skills for managing a small or medium-sized enterprise by spending time in an enterprise in another EU country. It contributes to improving their know-how and fosters cross-border transfers of knowledge and experience between entrepreneurs. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs comes under the Small Business Act for Europe which considers this project a key contribution “to create an environment within which entrepreneurs and family businesses can thrive and entrepreneurship is rewarded”.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM?

The general objective of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is to facilitate exchanges of experience, learning and networking for new EU entrepreneurs by means of working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country. The specific objectives of the programme are:

- On-the-job-training for new entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) elsewhere in the EU in order to facilitate a successful start and development of their business ideas.
- Exchanges of experience and information between entrepreneurs on obstacles and challenges to starting up and developing their businesses.
- To enhance market access and identification of potential partners for new and established businesses in other EU countries.
- Networking by building on knowledge and experience from other European countries.



WHO CAN PARTECIPATE?

New Entrepreneurs (NE) NEs are defined as entrepreneurs in the early stages. This includes both nascent (i.e. “would-be”) entrepreneurs, who are firmly planning to start their own business based on a viable business plan, and entrepreneurs who have recently started their own business (i.e. been in operation for not more than three years). Whether planned or already existing, the business can be in any sector. NEs should be interested in contributing to the development of the HE’s business and making available their own business skills, as well as gaining useful know-how for their own business. NEs must demonstrate a sound educational and vocational background and a viable business idea. NEs should also demonstrate vision, commitment, initiative and creativity. An NE candidate for the programme should also be able and willing to raise additional funds to cover the costs of the stay that exceed the EU’s grant.

Host Entrepreneurs (HE) Host entrepreneurs are successful and experienced entrepreneurs (ideally owners of a micro or small enterprise) or individuals directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME board level with more than 3 years of entrepreneurial experience (not as employee), applying the EU definition of micro, small or medium-sized enterprise .

HEs want to share their entrepreneurial experience and to benefit from the concrete contribution which an NE from another country will make to their business. HEs must be committed to work with the NE towards developing his/her entrepreneurial skills and know-how. After their projects are approved, these organisations will be able to access the pool of participants to select young people that could be best suited to join the project. The organisations will then contact the potential recruits and make a final choice. All organisations will undergo checks before they are authorised to run projects for the European Solidarity Corps, and before they are allowed to search for and recruit participants for their projects. Depending on the type of project, and your existing knowledge and experience, you may receive training from the European Solidarity Corps before starting the project.

HOW TO PARTECIPATE?

New and experienced entrepreneurs who are willing to take part in the entrepreneurs exchange programme should apply via the tool and choose their preferred local contact point. The local contact point should be active in the country of residence of the entrepreneur since it will act as a guide and contact point throughout the process. Entrepreneurs living in one of the few countries where no local contact point is available may register with a contact point located in another European country of their choice.

Please view the list of the local contact points participating in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme.

Once you have been accepted, you will be able to find all other valid applications in the online catalogue, which enables you and your local contact point to search for suitable matches.

It is recommended that potential candidates read carefully the registration guide to have all required information at hand before starting the registration process.



Step-by-step guide

- Prepare your application documents: curriculum vitae, motivation and, in addition for the new entrepreneurs, a business plan;
- Register via the online form (link) and submit your CV and business plan (for new entrepreneurs only);
- Build a relationship with a new or host entrepreneur abroad (two options):
 1. You suggest to your local contact point a new or host entrepreneur with whom you are already in contact, or
 2. You look for a new or host entrepreneur in the online catalogue with the help of your local contact point.
- Reach an agreement with your new or host entrepreneur about the work and learning project (i.e. about the dates, objectives and activity plan of the exchange) and submit the details to your local contact point;
- Signature of Commitment to Quality: A Commitment to Quality (link) should be (digitally) signed by all partners involved in the relationship. As a new entrepreneur, you should equally conclude a funding agreement with your local contact point;
- Start of the stay abroad: The duration of the exchange may be from 1 to 6 months with the possibility of dividing the stay into weekly slots (providing the time span does not exceed a total of 12 months);
- The financial assistance to the new entrepreneur will be provided in several payments, according to the agreement signed with his/her local contact point.

NE registration
guide

HE registration
guide

WE ASKED OUR READERS THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH EYE



**Pearl, Nigerian,
23 years old
Master's International Business**

HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ABOUT EYE?

I had developed an idea for a software platform for refugees in Europe called “**PocketBook**”. Basically, I was looking for a startup initiative, individual, or organisation that saw the potential of my platform and was willing to collaborate with me in taking the idea platform to the next level creatively and financially.

WHAT PUSHED YOU TOWARDS THIS PROGRAM?

Well, first of all, I was delighted that I could personally pick organisations that matched the needs that I wanted to fulfill with my venture. I realized that I only had an idea which is just the surface. Even though I was not in the tech field, I could work with an organization with such an experience, or if I wanted to specifically delve into the business development aspect of the platform, I could fulfill that need as well based on the collaboration I chose. So based on my idea, profile, and venture needs, I could pick organisations and Host Entrepreneurs who did something similar and in turn, they could find/match me based on the areas/sectors of my profile highlighted. I also like that the fact that the program is financed, even though partially, and it offers a great learning experience through the help of a professional/expert which is your host, and they also get to learn from you too. It is a win win situation for both parties most of the time.

HOW WAS THE PROCESS TO GET APPROVED?

For European nationals I would say it is definitely a straightforward and easy process. For third country nationals resident in Europe, it is the complete opposite. My EYE program was a total of 7 months, but I was only able to do 3 and half months because of restrictions due to having a temporary stay permit. The EYE program requires doing it in a European city different from your country of residence, and with a temporary permit, it is impossible to stay more than 3 months in another European country if you are not a citizen. Also, the bureaucratic system in Italy further delays the issuing of new permits to foreign nationals in time. But my IO (intermediary organisation) in Italy was incredible helpful telling me the steps and processes.

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE ABOUT AND HOW LONG DID IT LAST?

My goal participating in this program was to take my platform past the idea stage to a tangible product which I succeeded in doing with a prototype now available. I also wanted to develop a rich network in Europe through EU projects that would recommend my platform to a specific demographic in their organizations, and I also accomplished that to some extent during my brief time in Malta. In all, my overall experience was fantastic and it opened the doors for me to other amazing European opportunities and initiatives I could take part in. In total, my EYE program was supposed to last 7 months, but getting all the proper documentation that would allow me travel to Malta from Italy took up almost 4 months of my specified time duration and I ended up doing only 3 and half months of the program.



WHAT DID YOU BRING INTO YOUR LIFE ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE?

Lifelong friends, travel endeavours, the ability to manage projects effectively and efficiently, learning about different cultures.

WAS IT HELPFUL FOR YOUR CAREER?

It helped me think deeply about what that “career” would entail in specifics. I always thought that I was a great business initiator, with this program, I discovered I loved research and working/being involved in European projects from start to finish no matter how technical or complicated. I loved every layer and aspect to it, and wanted to learn as much as I could.



DID SOMETHING GO WRONG? WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE EXPERIENCE?

I did not have a bad experience per se during the program just the struggles I encountered before departure. I would suggest from my end that the Commission make the program a lot less stressful and more accessible to entrepreneurial third country nationals resident in Europe with temporary and renewable permits. The constant refusal of visas even when a good motive/purpose is presented does not allow for much participation of this group of people. For this opportunity, I had to travel back to my country of origin for a visa with all the requested documents and was still refused a visa with no reason for denial, only the right to appeal. Another suggestion is to make it really clear on the part of the IO's that the EYE program is only partially funded. I realized this only much later and the money given was barely enough. My HE was incredibly supportive in this regard. Yes, I would certainly recommend the program to anyone interested.



**Andreas, Cypriot
39 years old
BA in graphic & advertising**

HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW ABOUT EYE?

I was already involved in different european projects, so it was easy for me to get to know about this opportunity.

WHAT PUSHED YOU TOWARDS THIS PROGRAM?

I really wanted to change my life and be more involved in the field I'm interested in. For me it was a chance to go abroad, discover more about my skills and learn more about graphics. I knew that I wanted to go to London, so this was the perfect opportunity and I could learn and practice English language.



HOW WAS THE PROCESS TO GET APPROVED?

The process to get approved was very easy.

WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE ABOUT AND HOW LONG DID IT LAST?

The company I went there for my EYE experience taught me many things because it was specialised in the field I was interested. The experience lasted 3 months.

WHAT DID YOU BRING INTO YOUR LIFE ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE?

This EYE experience helped me a lot and gave me the possibility to come up with new ideas and, actually, I'm still working on one idea: I am involved in redesigning and researching about cypriot culture.



WAS IT HELPFUL FOR YOUR CAREER?

Yes, it allowed me to make my ideas concrete and develop new ones for my future.

DID SOMETHING GO WRONG? WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE EXPERIENCE?

Nothing went wrong, at the beginning I felt a bit uncomfortable about the new environment and I took some time to get used to it, but finally everything was good. For sure I would recommend the experience to whoever is interested in developing new skills and enhancing the knowledge about how the real business works.

🙏 THANK YOU 🙏

SPORT IN CYPRUS...


 A green starburst badge with the word "New!" written in white.

NICOSIA ULTIMATE!



Sports has a millennial history with countless of categories and types.

Today I want to present you Ultimate Frisbee. As you can guess from the name, Ultimate Frisbee is played with a Frisbee and it is a game where 2 teams try to mix skill, strategy and creativity to score on the opponent's base. Very similar to the popular american football. The fundamental concept is to reach the meta by passing the Frisbee with the teammates but it is not allowed to move while holding it!

Ultimate Frisbee is a modern sport that breaks every stereotype about gender rules, age or nationality. The only rule is to have fun From this idea, this is how Nicosia Ultimate has become reality..



Ultimate Nicosia is a project born on November 26, 2011.

The idea was led by Leslie F. , Meghan D-G and Sarah B that with persistence and motivation were able to secure the English School pitch as venue.

After almost 8 years Nicosia Ultimate has got a solid shape. Every Sunday a match is held in the Dinos Ioannou Hockey Pitch in Acropoleos Park. From Americans to Cypriots, every game is a melting pot of nationalities!



The skill level goes from complete beginners to very competitive one. The teams are also formed upon these factors...the fun is guaranteed Nicosia Ultimate is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with new people, to play some wholesome, funny and stimulating sport or just to free your mind !

You can find more information here
<https://www.facebook.com/NicosiaUltimate/>
 Or you can join the FB group!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nicosiaultimate/>

DISCOVERING... CYPRUS

CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTIST CHRISTOS KAKOULLI

For the section DISCOVERING CYPRUS, today I met Christos Kakoulli, the owner and artist of Gallery 37, a revolutionary art gallery located in Λαϊκή Γειτονιά, a traditional neighbourhood inside the city walls of Nicosia. I got to know this guy a couple of months ago and because I was really excited about his art I decided to have an interview with him.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF STENCIL ART!

Q: Why did you decide to open a gallery in Nicosia and what were your main objectives?

A: *I really wanted to show a new kind of art, something completely new for Cyprus. Street art in other countries is more popular and there are more buyers and collectors; in Cyprus this new concept of art is still at an initial stage and the geography of the land makes it harder to have influence from the world. There is a delay for the trends to reach the country... I love the old city of Nicosia, it is both turistic and traditional, a good mix and a perfect place to get people to know my art; for me working in the last divided capital city of the world is a great source of inspiration!*

Q: How can street art and a gallery can be combined? Is it what we find in your place?

A: *I opened my gallery in 2014 and in my gallery you don't find street art, you find art....I also do street art; graffiti have their original place in the streets. What you can find in my gallery is stencil art.*



Q: When and why did you approach stencil art?

A: *Since I was a child I've been very fascinated by this kind of art; actually stencil is now the only thing I am passionate about, the only thing that allows me to sleep at night. If I didn't do it probably I could not find peace. Stencil is for me the only way to silence the voices in my mind. My art is the only way I have to express who I am. I've been doing stencil for 3 years and the more I do the more I want to do...passion is the main ingredient in my artistic life. I really believe I was born for this.*

Q: How is this kind of art approached by local community?

A: *It is very hard for local people to understand what I do. Most of the people think I take photographs because my art is realism; cypriot people like more traditional art (landscapes, oil, water colors...) and they are less used to modern art. It is difficult to do "new art" in this very traditional land; there are people who can't get the message behind my art, people who perceive it as vandalism and people who don't like the subjects of my paintings...but at the same for me it is a challenge; I want Cyprus to progress and to take steps forward... I was asked to go abroad and open my art gallery, but I declined. Cypriots are narrow-minded, they don't have the willingness to welcome things that may force them to think and elaborate...but I'm starting receiving tokens of appreciation by some young people and it means a lot to me.*





Q: What are the main subjects of your art?

A: My art has the aim to get people to think about current issues that can't be ignored anymore. My subjects are related to refugees, sociopathologies and religion.

Q: Why do you choose these themes?

A: I grew up in a family of refugees from Cyprus and I know exactly what the feelings are. My mother was a refugee from a small village in Famagusta; when I was young she told me what happened in 1974 in Cyprus with the turkish occupation; my family was forced to live in a tent for one year with little food. A greek family adopted my family and they provided my family with money and food to survive. I am a part of the second generation of refugees. I try to shed some light on refugee condition, because the refugee problem is a current issue in every country...there are syrian refugees, palestinian refugees and we all need to listen to their stories, we can't ignore them. When you are raised in a place like Cyprus, in which words like occupation and separation are very common, it is more likely that you feel the urgency to express what you have been through and this totally applies to me. Refugees are just people, with feelings, families...a different religion can't make them less human than they are. Only money differentiate people and separate them. Refugees are mainly poor and they relocate in order to escape and survive, why should they be always seen as a threat?



In Cyprus we don't find a solution to Cyprus problem, we have been divided for 50 years and we want to be together but unfortunately I don't think that the paintings in a gallery can have impact on this issue. I don't have any painting in my gallery related to Cyprus problem; in order to raise awareness about the power of being together I do street art, everyone can see my works in the streets and they can be inspired: unity is the only solution, one community, one country.



Q: Should art provide people with questions or answers?

A: Art is a powerful thought-provoking tool we have to change the world. I wish everyone could be an artist...in this case we could really make miracles happen shortly. Art gives questions, for sure...you can change something only if you start asking yourself questions, art's intention is exactly this; it wants you to start wondering and be doubtful about something; art plants seeds in our minds and it is up to us to make them grow in our lives. Art can't be only a decorative element, it has to add something to our development as people and human beings. Artists are often compared to rats (RAT is anagram of ART): even if they are very little, their capillary presence all over the world makes them the perfect carriers of a deep change from the scratch.

Q: What about the name of your gallery?

A: *There are two reasons behind the name Gallery 37; the first one is because my first small gallery was located in Aristokyprou 37 and the second one is because in greek alphabet the third letter is Γ and the seventh is H and together the two letters form the word ΓΗ that means earth; for me the earth is one, without borders. I don't believe in separations and divisions between people.*

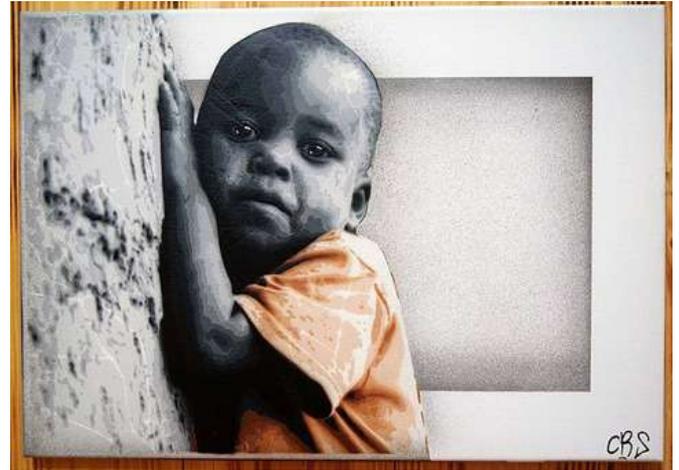
Q: Pick three adjectives to describe your art.

A: *(i) Meaningful, (ii) addressed to all people, (iii) greyscale.*

Q: Greyscale? Explain me more please.

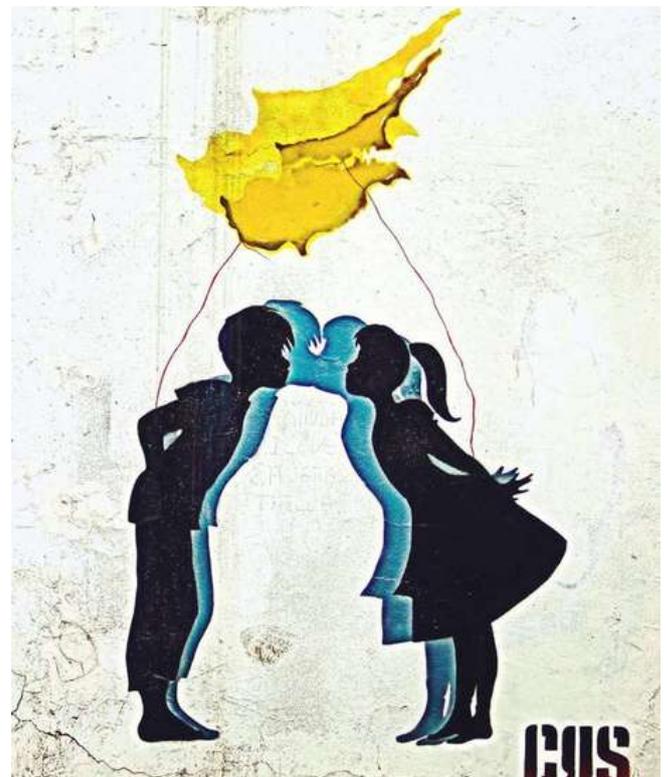
A: *We live in a grey world. Grey in the sense that it is made of white and black. White is the part of the world in which people are happy, they have money, food...but on the other hand there is a black world, in which people are sad, with no money and food. When you are hungry you don't see colors...you feel black, completely black...and next to you there are people in white color who don't want black people to become more white (I'm not relating to the color of the skin). Let's say that a white coloured world is the achievement we want to get through art, every kind of art. Everyone has a different kind of art to put to the service of a better world. Art is a weapon!
Another important color in my art is red...I strongly believe in the power of this color; it represents the revolution and the communist*

ideal of sharing, equality....metaphorically red is the blood shed in the name of the humanity over the centuries. Red is the color of hope!



Q: How do you address youth problem (unemployment, active citizenship, unhappiness, poorness...) through your art?

A: *Mainly I try to address these issues through street art, not with paintings in my gallery. I don't want to get money out of it, I want to give it for free to the city. The street is the only place in which every person can take a look at your art. Sometimes I go to Lidra street and I donate my paintings to people. Moreover through my graffiti I want to persuade cypriots to perceive themselves as cypriots, just cypriots.*



Q: Let's imagine I am a 15 years old guy and I want to become an artist in Cyprus, any suggestion?

A: *It can be hard for a young cypriot to become an artist and to be able to live on art. There is a lot of bureaucracy in Cyprus and I have already mentioned the scepticism that not traditional art encounters in this land...BUT...I believe in the power of hardworking, passion and patience...if you are "lucky" enough to open your gallery and you need to rent a place, every month you may face struggles to pay it...forget the money richness...who lives on art, lives on heart finally...don't think about the money...money can be collected somehow...imagine waking up with no inspiration...wouldn't it be worse? People ask me if I have ever thought about quitting...once a month I reply...but then I go to sleep and I wake up with a new lease of life, a renewed spark of passion. Parents, relatives could try to discourage you from becoming an artist and maybe suggest you to get a stable job, like in banks...be persistent, don't give up! I attended high school here in Nicosia and a tatoo college in Greece; I don't have any education in art...passion and dedition are my school!*

"ART IS THE ONLY FORM OF REVOLUTION THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD WITHOUT VICTIMS."

Q: And...the last question...do you feel like a local or international artist?

A: *I feel like an artist...I sell my works all over the world...there are people who contact me through my FB page or Instagram from different countries. Let's say that I consider myself a local artist for the street art and an international one for my paintings and my gallery.*

Thank you very much Christos for your time and the precious insights you gave me! I really think that Cyprus needs an artist like you, congratulations on your hard work!

Good luck!



GAME

Connect the Dots

Directions

Begin at the star ★

Follow this number pattern to connect the dots:

Add 7, add 8, then add 9, repeat.

Example: 1, 8, 16, 25, 32...

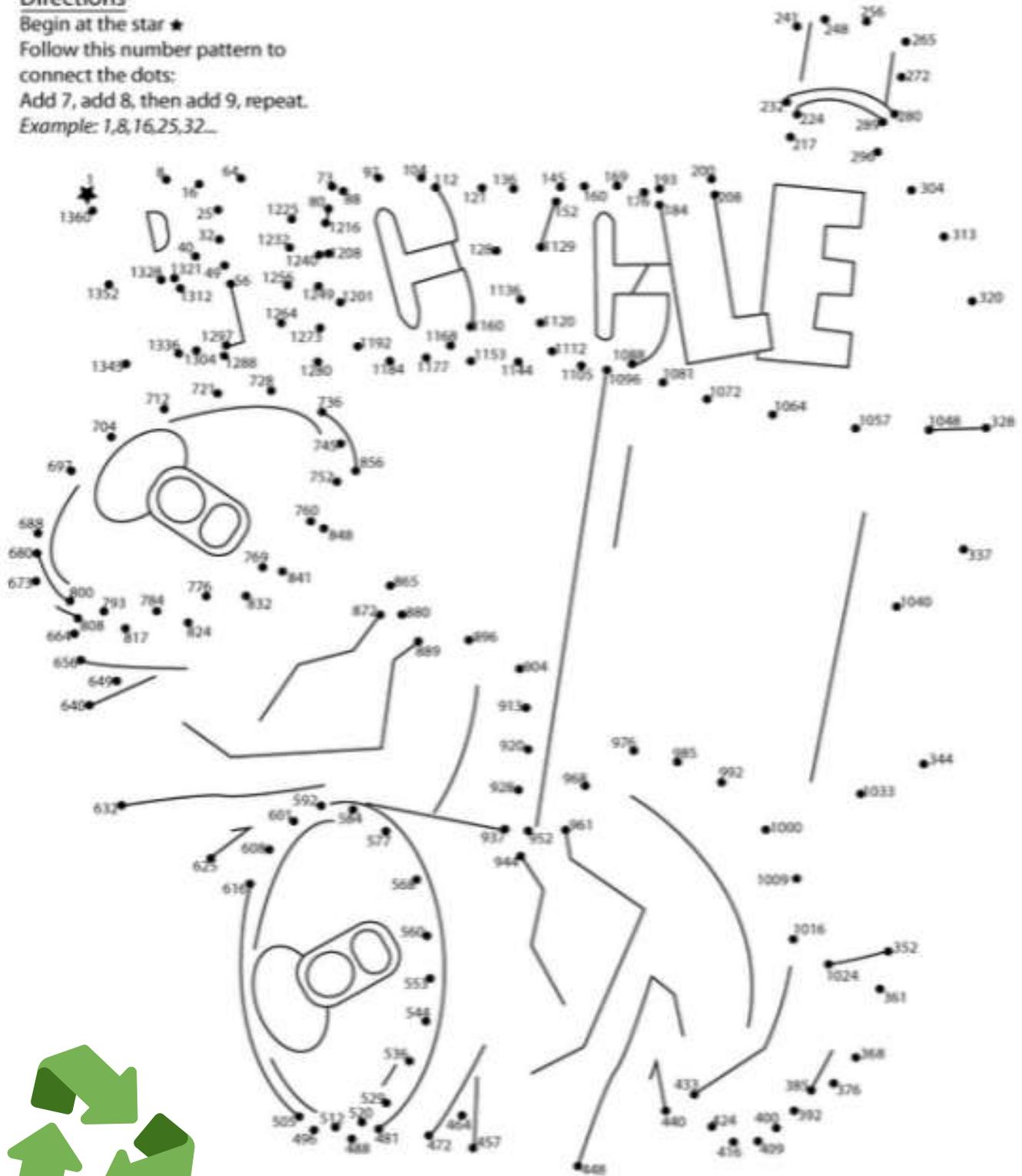


Photo of the week



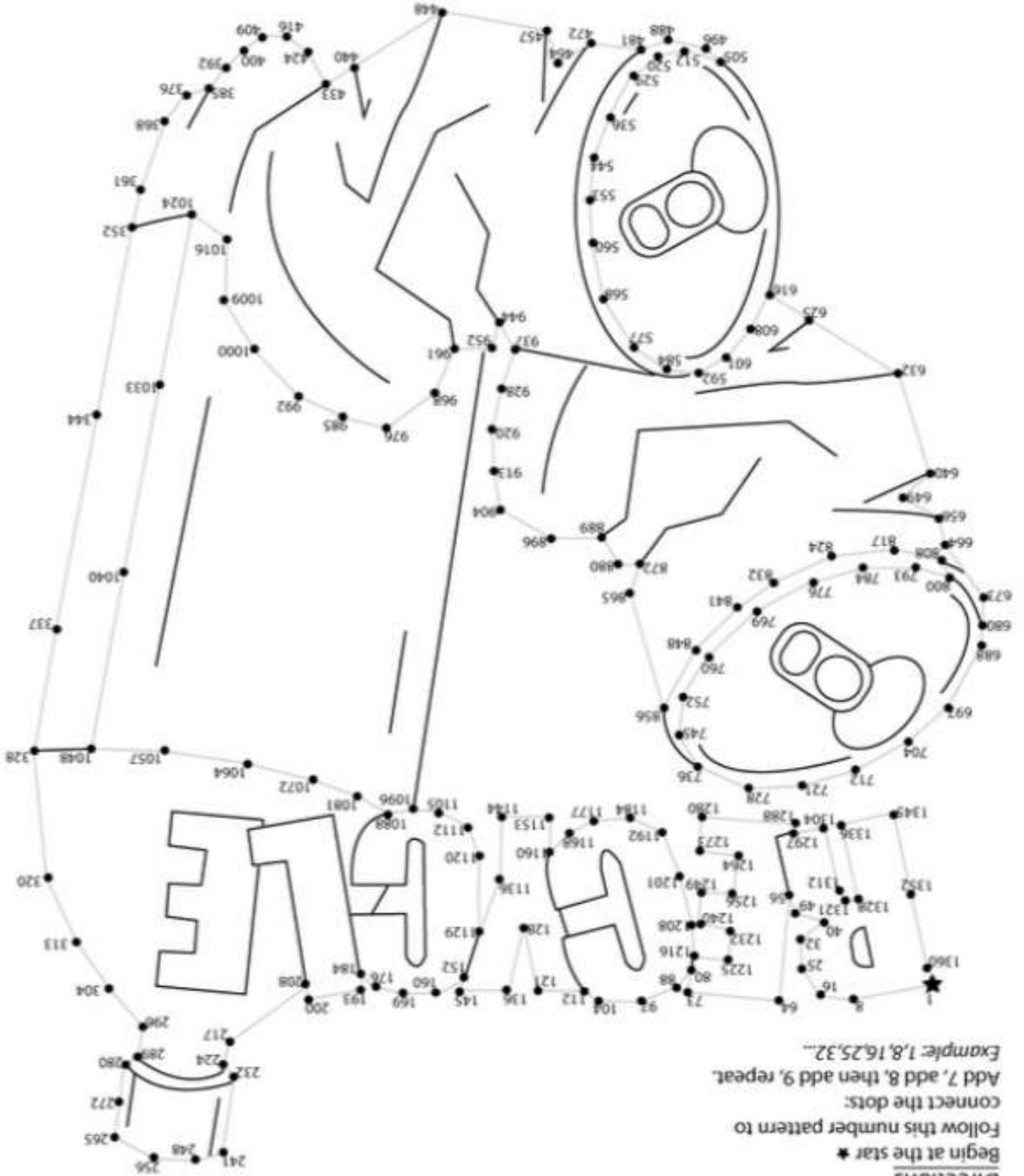
"OLD MAN TALES" - CHRISOVALANTIS PAVLOU

GAME - Connect The Dots

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**I DON'T WANT TO PROTECT
THE ENVIRONMENT,
I WANT TO
CREATE A
WORLD WHERE
THE
ENVIRONMENT
DOESN'T NEED
PROTECTION.**