

SEED Communities Project Holds Second International Meeting in Ayia Napa, Cyprus

From October 21st to October 28th, Ayia Napa, Cyprus, played host to the second international meeting of the SEED Communities project. This gathering brought together delegations from Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Portugal, and Lithuania to explore and discuss the theme "Sustainability and Hard-to-Reach Groups: Best Practices and Grassroots Discussions."



Figure 1. Installation in Ayia Napa to encourage sustainable habits as recycling.

A Platform for Knowledge Exchange on Sustainability and Inclusion

The central objective of this second meeting was to explore effective methods for engaging hard-to-reach groups in sustainability efforts, while also fostering a spirit of collaboration and sharing best practices across participating countries. The program included a series of seminars, workshops, and debates, allowing delegates to dive deep into various approaches that have succeeded in making sustainable development more accessible and inclusive at the grassroots level.

Participants shared insights into the challenges and successes of their local efforts, emphasizing how innovative projects can bring citizens, particularly those from marginalized or isolated backgrounds, into the heart of sustainability initiatives. This exchange proved

invaluable in highlighting adaptable strategies that address the unique needs and circumstances of each community involved.



Figure 2. Participants involved in the practical activity “beach cleaning: fun and sustainable activity”

Signature of the SEED Communities Joint Declaration

One of the event's most significant outcomes was the signing of the SEED Communities Joint Declaration. This declaration marks a pledge from all participating organizations to continue cooperating on sustainable and inclusive development initiatives. The partnership has committed to several key areas for future collaboration, including sustainable and inclusive development, cultural exchanges and tourism, education and youth initiatives, local governance.



Figure 3. Angelo Ciocchetti, president of Lighthouse Languages APS, signing the Joint Declaration.

Looking Ahead

The meeting in Ayia Napa has strengthened the ties between each participating delegation, solidifying a shared vision for a more inclusive, sustainable future. The knowledge and inspiration drawn from this meeting will now fuel further initiatives, enhancing collaboration across borders and empowering local communities to shape their sustainable futures.

This second international meeting has laid a strong foundation for future actions, providing a platform for community leaders, policymakers, and citizens alike to bring real change and promote sustainability across Europe.



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Link to the EDS: <https://www.lighthouselanguages.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Template-Event-Description-Sheet-2.pdf>