



Clean up the Med

From 27-28-29th May 2016

23rd Edition



Dear friends,

this year the campaign **Clean up the Med** will be held on the **27-28-29th May 2016 in its 23rd Edition!** Are you ready?

As you already know, we consider the themes of this campaign very important, because they concern the protection of the marine and coastal ecosystem. The initiatives that we organize, allow us to speak about our proposals and disputes on the territory: from the landscape to the litter, from state property management to awareness-raising campaigns. But our project is, above all, an important occasion to involve the community and to welcome everybody into our activities.

In short: **we should not miss this opportunity!**

This year we also propose you to participate to a survey about quantity and typology of collected litter. We ask it because the Eu- directive about **Marine strategy** requires an increased effort from all member States to find out the different problems that afflict our seas and coasts. One of the directive descriptors pays the attention to litter. Regional authorities are responsible for marine litter monitoring. But, so far, this action was not carried out constantly and didn't involve associations or public institutions. For this reason, we proposed to the Ministry of the Environment to contribute following the protocol and drawing up a list of litter collected on our beaches. The main purpose is to stress the attention on this problem and to stimulate the authorities to find out its causes. We would give particular consideration to plastic materials reduction. We have been following together the same path for many years and we want to continue our battle through Clean up the Med and Goletta Verde.

In attachment you find a real "guide" to carry out this task, we ask you to read it carefully and to follow the instructions. It is really easy, but we need precision as the protocol is the same recognized by the Ministry of the Environment and the procedure must be followed in detail, in order to publish on the web the results and to use them in the next proposals.

This year we would like to focus on **nurdles**, that constitute the main part of the microplastics that one can find at sea. **Microplastics** are the greatest issue because they're quite impossible to remove from sea and they could be ingested by fishes, seabirds and other marine creatures with several consequences.

Legambiente asks **your contribution** to understand the level of diffusion of nurdles to denounce this problem. Attached to this email you will find a little handbook that explains what nurdles are, where they come from and what damage they can do.

We ask you to fill in these questionnaires and return them **within the 22nd of May** (before the campaign) , in order to communicate the collected information to international press.

Let our staff know you'll take part to this survey.

Thank you all!

Michela Presta

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