

International House NY

Elina Georgiou

Bi-Communal Musical Dialogues for Peace in the only divided capital of the world Cyprus

Background Information

Short description on history and current situation in Cyprus. Situation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Cyprus is a unique case in peace operations, with its capital city being the only remaining divided capital in Europe and in the world (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, 2021). Since the 1974 Turkish invasion, which resulted in the occupation of half the island, Northern Cyprus is still occupied by Turkish Cypriots¹. The utmost issue in Cyprus today, is that there is no common ground or effort from either group to meet in the middle and make peace. This has resulted in long-standing disappointment for the UN and the people of Cyprus who have lived in constant conflict for almost 40 years.

Project Description

Creative approaches and dialogue processes are important to help build positive social change, transform complex issues, and foster a culture of peace (Kaufman, 2005; Ramirez, 2007; Shirch, 2015). Pruitt (2011) puts music on the spotlight in terms of its successful capacity to promote peacebuilding. In fact, the young people in his study reported that they would not have shown interest in peacebuilding dialogues if the intervention was not music-oriented. Not only, music empowered them to continue peacebuilding processes even after the end of the program. Our project aims to, for the first-time ever, initiate peacebuilding efforts through the use of music between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

Brief project team description:

- **Elina Georgiou** as Coordinator of the Project and Music Expert (*Resume-Annex 1*).
- **RESET Ltd**
- **Dr. Eliza Patouris** is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of [RESET](#)-An international humanitarian center with expertise on the use of dialogue for positive social transformations. RESET is currently implementing EU funded projects on areas related to conflict resolution, empowerment of marginalized communities and the use of creative approaches for social transformation. Dr Patouris is an Advanced Dialogue Facilitator under the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange (Soliya, New York) programme which provides young adults around the world with a unique opportunity to engage in virtual dialogue for the development of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. (*Resume-Annex 2*).
- **Stephanie Kalavazidou** as Anthropologist, Researcher and Trainer of the Project (*Resume-Annex 3*).
- **Constantina Charalambous** as the expert on the overall project's Visual ID and dissemination (*Resume-Annex 4*).

Explanation of the proposed activities of the Peace Project. Activity 1: Bi-Communal Musical Dialogues

A.1.1 : Dialogue Workshops: Implementation of 2 dialogue workshops engaging at least 20 musicians and peacebuilders from both communities. The workshops will be centered on the values, challenges, and best practices that music can have on peacebuilding. The workshops are intended to take place at [The Base](#) (located in the UN Buffer zone in Cyprus).

¹ The Turkish Cypriot state is only recognized by Turkey, whereas The Republic of Cyprus led by Greek Cypriots is internationally recognized.

A.1.2 : Qualitative Data Analysis: Development of a brief report identifying the main themes extracted from the dialogues, which will help guide the structure and contents of the e-Toolkit (Activity 2).

A.1.3. Playing for peace: 1 music session involving musicians from both communities to showcase the interconnectedness of the two communities, despite historical and political differences.

Activity 2: The Bi-ComMusic e-Toolkit

A.2.1: Toolkit Development: An e-Toolkit (in Turkish and Greek) containing resources for peacebuilders and musicians on the use of music as a peacebuilding tool in conflict-ridden, bi-communal contexts. The Toolkit will be disseminated widely as part of the Awareness-Raising Campaign (A3.3) and Press Releases (A3.4). The interactive Bi-ComMusic e-Toolkit will be available for free online on RESET's official website with an option of free download.

Activity 3: Dissemination and Exploitation of the action

A.3.1 : Visual ID of the project: 1 project Logo, 2 social media pages (FB & IG) for the project.

A.3.2 : Bi-ComMusic Short film: The video (5' to 10') will feature the dialogue workshops and music sessions capturing the process and experiences of those involved.

A.3.3 : Awareness-raising media campaign: This will be launched in two phases:

- **prior to Activity 1.1 to recruit musicians and peacebuilders from both communities, and**
- **post Activity 1 and 2-** to promote the project Film and e-Toolkit. The campaign will be shared widely via [RESET's website](#) and [communications platforms](#) for maximal impact and awareness. The campaign is intended to reach more than 60,000 people.

A.3.4 : Exploitation: 2 Press Releases disseminating the project's results and e-toolkit will be distributed to 50 music institutions and peacebuilding organizations both in Cyprus and in the US.

The results/goals and sustainability of the Bi-ComMusic project

- **Short term:** With the establishment of musical dialogues both as a framework through the E-Toolkit and as a lived experience the project will promote the uptake of music-driven initiatives for social cohesion and civil peace, especially in bizonal areas that have been conflict-ridden.
- **Long term:** To establish a lived reference for conflict-ridden communities that will help them imagine new ways of coexisting, of reconciling and eventually peacebuilding.
- **Sustainability:** Both the dissemination activities (Bi-ComMusic Short film), as well as the project results (e-Toolkit), will be available even after the project life cycle on the RESET online platform and social media of the project for anyone interested to utilize the project's outputs.

Indicators of success measuring progress toward achieving the project's objectives.

The evaluation of the project activities will be based on the quality of engagement (what is used by others, how they perceive its value), target group reflective evaluation of workshops and e-Toolkit.

- **Indicator 1:** The impact of the awareness campaign (Activity 3) to be determined by no. of people it will reach. During the dissemination activities the project aims to reach 60000 individuals, 50 music institutions, NGOs and peacebuilding organizations both in Cyprus and in the US.
- **Indicator 2:** The no. of musicians and peacebuilders from both communities attending the 2 Dialogue Workshops and Playing for peace music session. The Bi-ComMusic workshops and music session aim to reach **40** musicians and peacebuilders from both communities.
- **Indicator 3:** The level of intention among musicians and peacebuilders to use the e-Toolkit in their context of work. This indicator will be measured by the number of visits and downloads of the interactive e-Toolkit available in RESET's website.

Bi-ComMusic Action Plan					
Description of Activity	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
Activity 1: Bi-Communal Musical Dialogues					
A.1.1: Dialogue Workshops					
A.1.2: Qualitative Data Analysis					
A.1.3: Playing for peace					
Activity 2: The Bi-ComMusic e-Toolkit					
A.2.1: Toolkit Development					
Activity 3: Dissemination and Exploitation of the action					
A.3.1: Visual ID of the project					
A.3.2: Bi-ComMusic Short film					
A.3.3: Awareness-raising media campaign					
A3.3.a: Prior to Activity 1.1 to recruit musicians and peacebuilders					
A3.3.b: Post Activity 1 and 2- to promote the project Film and e-Toolkit					
A.3.4: Exploitation					