

## PRESS RELEASE

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Nicosia, 15 November 2016

**New EU-Funded Research Project for UCY Oceanography Center**

**Aim: Conservation EU Sea Turtle Populations & Pilot-Implementation of Measures to Reduce both Damage on Professional Fishing Gears and Impact of Fishing Activities on Marine Ecosystems**



Various important activities are to be carried out by the Oceanography Center of the University of Cyprus in the context of the new EU Project “*Collective Actions for Improving the Conservation Status of the EU Sea Turtle Populations – LIFE EUROTURTLES*”. Main aim of the Project is to unite and coordinate sea turtles conservation activities in most important countries and areas for conservation of loggerhead and green turtles (*Caretta caretta* και *Chelonia mydas*) in European Union. Moreover, new measures, as well as their pilot-implementation in the Natura 2000 Area, will be determined so as to reduce the damage caused on professional fishing gears and vessels, but also the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems and non-target species.



UCY Oceanography Center is one of the eight partners for the €5.1-million Project, which will have a duration of five years. Its Research Team consists of Dr. Yanna Samuel-Rhoads, research scientist of the Center, and Dr. George Fyttis and Dr. Monica Demetriou, both research scientists of the Center and doctoral candidates of the Department of Biological Sciences.



The nine participants of the Project from six countries are: Croatian Natural History Museum, Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation, Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece - Archelon, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Cyprus, Nature Trust Malta, University of Cyprus, Department of Biology and Biotechnologies "Charles Darwin" - Universita degli studi di Roma La Sapienza, University of Primorska – Koper and WWF Italia.

**End of Announcement**