



PRESS RELEASE

Another fantastic year of *Let's Clean Up Europe* and final highlights recorded!

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Let's Clean Up Europe! (LCUE) 2018 campaign held from 1st March to 30th June, has just set a new record: more than 16,000 actions (16,447 to be precise) have been registered.

One of the highlights of this year's campaign was its cross-border participation, that is to say, actions were also registered outside of the European Union, namely in Andorra, Albania, and Switzerland..

In terms of volunteer participants in clean-ups actions under the flag of LCUE 2018, according to figures provided by each country's coordinator, nearly 800,000 people participated, devoting their time and efforts to thousands of initiatives led by public entities, NGOs, schools, private companies, associations, and individuals.

The amount of waste collected is estimated to have reached almost **2,000 tonnes** (1,931 tonnes as per available data, albeit a certain amount of waste was not reported).

The table below provides the updated figures by regions, coordinators and action developers of LCUE across countries, in alphabetical order:

Country/Region	Partner organisation	No. of actions	No. of volunteers directly involved	Tonnes of waste collected
Albania	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	1	40	n.d.
Andorra	Centre Andorra Sostenible	10	348	1.06
Belgium	Let's Do It Belgium	400	150,000	n.d.
Bulgaria	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	3	140	n.d.
Catalonia (Spain)	ARC (Agència de Residus de Catalunya)	275	16,004	70.5
Comunitat Valenciana (Spain)	Sagunt	29	2,307	n.d.
Croatia	Association Žmergo	3,443	26,062	50.7 tons
Cyprus	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	1	n.d.	n.d.
Denmark	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	2	80	n.d.
France	Surfrider Foundation	596	18,235	29.7
Germany	VKU (Verband kommunaler Unternehmen)	1,656	245,186	1,098
Greece	Helmepe	140	7,750	6.8
Guadeloupe (France)	Surfrider Foundation	3	120	0.06
Ireland	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	1	n.d.	n.d.
Island Balearic (Spain)	Punto de Información Ambiental (PIA)	29	1200	2
Italy	A.I.C.A. (International Association for	376	19,888	202.6

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LIPOR area (Region of Great Porto, Portugal)	Lipor	8	231	n.d.
Martinique (France)	Surfrider Foundation	1	40	0.2
Netherlands	RecycleValley (with Nederland Schoon)	2,500	133,000	n.d.
Northern Ireland (UK)	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	6,276	119,907	135
Poland	Departament of Education and Communication Ministry of Environment of Poland	71	9,938	n.d.
Portugal	Surfrider Foundation	22	820	1.9
Romania	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	1	20	0.04
Scotland (UK)	Keep Scotland Beautiful	536	33,241	330
Other regions Spain	Surfrider Foundation	61	2,215	1.5
Switzerland	A.I.C.A. (with Surfrider Foundation)	6	60	1.6

The European campaign against littering LCUE, also known as the European spring clean-up, is organized annually and takes place throughout **the whole spring season**, from **1st March to 30th June**. Its peak period took place during the second weekend of May, which is when the majority of the registered actions were held in celebration of Europe Day on May 9th.

The great efforts contributed by coordinators of the campaign have produced important results: actions **have been implemented in 23 countries all over Europe**, with the support of national Ministries of the Environment, waste management agencies, and many environmental associations and organizations.

National or regional Coordinators acted as a contact point for anyone interested in organizing a LCUE clean-up action and provided volunteers with support, communication material and the famous LCUE flags which wave during the actions.

All coordinators, action developers, and participants are strongly invited to share pictures and videos of LCUE 2018 actions online on [Facebook](#) (Let's Clean Up Europe – Official) and [Twitter](#) (@LetsCleanUpEU) and participate to the Facebook Photo Contest (for rules see the Facebook page).

Background information

What is Let's Clean Up Europe! (LCUE)?

It is a campaign on waste prevention in the framework of the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR). Initiated in 2014, it aims not only to clean territories, rivers or beaches from

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litter, but also to take up concrete actions which introduce habits of waste prevention and reduction in our daily lives.

The aim of LCUE is not to replace other clean-up initiatives, but to create synergies between existing and new actions. Efforts are made with the goal of uniting events from different organizations and settled traditions under the LCUE flag, in order to give even greater visibility to those clean-up actions already present in the area.

*LCUE is a call-to-action through which all kinds of action developers (public administrations, educational establishments, businesses, associations, citizens etc.) are invited to register and perform clean-up activities. These can take place in nature sites or towns that have been polluted by illegal dumping or washed-up waste on coasts or river banks. These action developers are also expected to mobilize participants to clean-up waste and litter in the targeted areas. Registered actions can aim to **either literally "clean-up Europe"** - removing litter which ends up in oceans, beaches, forests, rivers and elsewhere in nature - or **raise awareness** on the problem of littering and waste on a larger scale.*

For additional information:

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