

Cycling Safely Workshop for Elementary School Students European Mobility Week 2018

The European Commission, as part of European Mobility Week 2018, will mark the importance of getting around safely with a “Cycling Safely Workshop” for Grade 5 primary school students at the Traffic Education Park in Nicosia on Thursday, 27 September in collaboration with the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents Association (TKOD).

The aim of the workshop is to promote safe and alternative modes of transport in a safety controlled environment, where the students will have the opportunity to ride the obstacle course and be provided with tips on safe cycling including sudden breaking, assessing traffic situations, blind spots, safety gear and bike maintenance.

The workshop will include both theory and practice:

- Presentation of traffic conditions and how cyclists need to act in different traffic situations
- An experience of cycling in real road conditions guided by experienced traffic safety trainers
- A facilitated follow-up discussion and feedback to review the experience.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, €2.7 million was allocated to improve road safety since in 2009. Since the number of accidents and deaths per million km driven in the Turkish Cypriot community is one of the highest in Europe, the programme focused on long-term sustainable impact. It created a coherent structure encompassing all organisations involved in traffic safety, to boost efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, it also provided planning to help local communities address current and future mobility needs, including the elimination of three black spots by remodelling and re-signalling hazardous road sections.

Background:

Since 2002 European Mobility Week has sought to influence mobility and urban transport issues, as well as improve public health and quality of life. This year’s European Mobility Week encourages Europeans to explore the many different options available for getting from A to B, and to think about the mode that best suits our particular journey. Many of us instinctively opt for the same method of transport when moving around without necessarily examining the needs of the specific journey. The car may be the best way to take your family to the seaside, for example, but it may not be the best way to get them to the city centre where space and access is often limited. As well as providing health benefits, significant savings can be achieved through a multimodal approach, particularly when short journeys are completed through walking and cycling. Embracing the concept of multimodality means rethinking the way we move about our cities, and having the willingness to try out new forms of mobility.

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