



Friday, 4 December 2020
16:00 - 18:00 | Zoom Event

Sustainable Agriculture and the Role of Farm Advisory Services

The European Commission highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture and the role of Farm Advisory Services during a webinar organised as part of the European Green Deal Campaign. The webinar took place on 4 December on Zoom platform and was also shared live on the EU Infopoint Facebook page. The event was the third in a series of Farm to Fork webinars.

During the webinar, Associate Professor Dr. İsfendiyar Darbaz, an expert in veterinary medicine provided an overview of sustainable methods to tackle local challenges in livestock production in the Turkish Cypriot community. While, Associate Professor Dr. İbrahim Kahramanoğlu, an expert on horticulture talked about the past, present, and future situation of sustainable crop production. Finally, Donald Aquilina, the Team Leader of the EU-funded Farm Advisory Services (FAS) Project explained how farmers can benefit from their services in the Turkish Cypriot community. Farm Advisory Services (FAS) was established to support the economic development of the agriculture sector by both providing expert advice and facilitating access to funding. The FAS

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**WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL,
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**

Join us at this webinar to find out about inspiring projects and entrepreneurs, who work on increasing the employability skills of people with disabilities.

Tuesday, 15 December 2020
11:00 – 12:30 | Zoom Event

Increasing Employability of Persons with Disabilities for Social and Economic Inclusion

The European Commission highlighted the importance of promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and presented inspiring projects on increasing their employability skills during a webinar on 15 December.

The webinar focused on the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities through inspiring examples of EU funded projects. Professor Dr. Gamze Ekici and Physiotherapist Dr. Orkun Tahir Aran from Hacettepe University presented their EU-funded project on increasing the employability of persons with disabilities, with the objective to increase working capacity, motivation, productivity, job search skills and social skills and increasing employability and access to the labour market. Günay Kibrit from the Cyprus Turkish Orthopaedic Disability Association presented how the EU-funded “Skilled Workforce Successful Community” Project provided lifelong learning opportunities for persons with disabilities. The project, implemented by the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Industry in partnership with Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Commerce aimed to enhance lifelong learning opportunities in the vocational and labour market, through increasing key skills and competencies of unemployed individuals including a special focus for disabled persons.

[Click here to watch the webinar recording](#)

“We really need to push home the message that the integration of people with

our policy for our disabled fellow-citizens, who, if we define the term broadly cover a wide scope of the population"

Michael Docherty, Head of Section - EU Programme Support Office (EUPSO)



COVID-19 and the Shadow Pandemic of Violence Against Women

The European Commission organised a webinar on 17 December to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the increase in violence against women and EU actions to combat this issue.

During the webinar, Carla Pambianco, Legal Officer in the Gender Equality Unit of DG Justice from the European Commission, presented EU actions and policy recommendations to address the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women. Kaca Djurickovic, Gender Programme Manager from UNDP Montenegro, presented UNDP's joint efforts with EU to end violence and discrimination. Finally, Dr. Gökhan Yıldırımkaaya, the Coordinator of Reproductive Health and Population Development Programmes of UNFPA presented their latest report on the global effects of COVID-19 on reproductive health services and violence against women.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, the EU is currently funding two grant projects with a total budget of 1 million Euro to address issues relating to domestic violence and violence against women: "Together We Are Stronger" project implemented by KAYAD aims to contribute to the elimination of domestic violence against women and children while increasing the capacity of organisations and institutions that work on the issues of gender equality and domestic violence. The "United Against Violence" project, implemented by LTB, mainly aims to establish a new women's shelter

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“COVID-19 has a gendered impact, thus gender-sensitive response measures are necessary during the pandemic and the recovery phase. It is more important than ever to ensure that gender equality is at the centre of EU’s work”

Carla Pambianco, Legal Officer, Gender Equality Unit of DG Justice – European Commission



**Tarım ve Kırsal Kalkınma
Danışmanlık Sistemi**

The first group of 30 farmers successfully completed their training on Farm Management, offered as part of the Vocational Education Training Programme in Agriculture piloted by the Farm Advisory Services (FAS) project.

Two courses were organised simultaneously in Morphou/Güzelyurt and Nicosia between 5 November and 19 December, 2020. Each course had 15 trainees in line with COVID-19 protection measures. Weekly sessions included theoretical and practical exercises with the last session involving an on-farm practical demonstration. The training aimed to introduce important practices, techniques, and information on several key issues that are essential for successful farming businesses and operations. The content of the training covered farm accountancy issues, bookkeeping, farm investment planning, marketing, application of occupational health and safety standards, safe handling of plant protection products, and sustainable agricultural practices. All participants received kits to use on their farms, which included first aid kits, and protective gear for spraying.

In February 2021, the project plans to organise two new courses on Dairy Cattle and Sheep and Goat Herd Management. Registration is now open. If you are interested to learn more about how you can benefit from these trainings please visit the [project website](#) and follow the [FAS Project Facebook page](#) for regular updates and news.



Technical Assistance for Curriculum Development in Vocational Education and Training Schools

The new technical assistance project commenced in November with an overall objective to improve the quality and effectiveness of vocational education and training and lifelong learning practices in order to contribute to the provision of an adequately skilled labour force within the Turkish Cypriot economy. The project supports the preparation of a new modularised curriculum, based on the revised Occupation Standards for all occupations delivered at the VET schools, with the aim of increasing knowledge, skills and competences of young people and their employability, and thus better linking education programmes with labour market needs. The action contributes to developing the capacity of all VET teachers to utilise the newly developed modularised curriculum.

To increase the curriculum's quality, the project team decided to apply an innovative approach, namely development of an educational standard called 'FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR ACQUIRING A LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION'.

The project recently commenced with a focus on a review and analysis of the VET system, as well as organisation of a consultation workshop with all stakeholders. Additionally, to confirm the appropriateness of the proposed methodology, a 6-day training was conducted with the participation of 23 curriculum developers and as a result, five framework training programmes are in the process of development.

Inspire the Future Free Training Platform is Online

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Innovation and Change in Education VII Grant Scheme and implemented by the Cyprus Turkish Association of Managers and PeacePlayers Cyprus. The aim of the project is to provide young people in Cyprus with the opportunity to start their professional life with the right guidance and to gain experience in the relevant sector.

In line with these objectives, a free online training platform was launched within the scope of the project. The platform includes trainings under 10 different headings such as digital tools for professional life, effective use of social media tools, and language courses. You can access the platform on [Inspire the Future website!](#)

Follow our [Facebook](#) page for up to date information and upcoming events!

The EU Infopoint aims to increase public knowledge, awareness and understanding of the European Union, its values, policies and programmes as well as the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community. The EU Infopoint is a project funded by the European Union under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community with the aim to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU.

Any Questions? Ask Us!



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