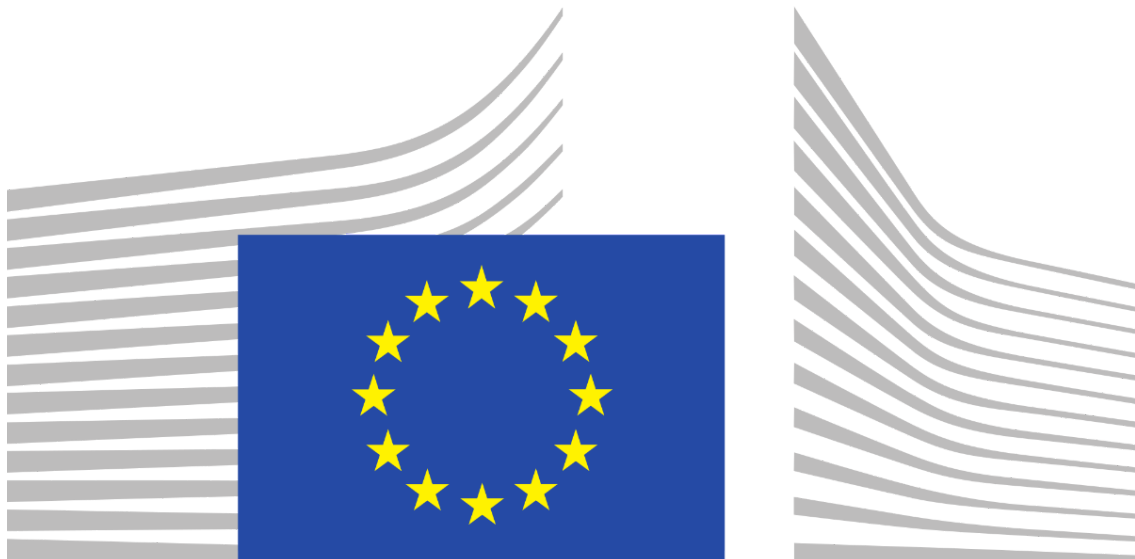




EU AID PROGRAMME for the Turkish Cypriot community

The European Union's Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community continues to provide support to economic development, infrastructure, and environment and to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU. As part of its support to the Turkish Cypriot community, the European Commission supports civil society organisations, entrepreneurs, SMEs, farmers in rural areas, schools, life-long learning organizations, and local communities.



European Commission

European Commission signed eight civil society grant contracts for EUR 2.3 million.

In December 2018, as part of the sixth Civil Society in Action call for proposals, the European Commission has signed 8 contracts with different civil society organisations (CSOs) for a total amount of EUR 2.3 million with an aim to

strengthen the organisational capacities, outreach and impact of civil society in promoting and defending democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms, cultural diversity and reconciliation and to reinforce partnerships, cooperation and networking across Cyprus and/or with CSOs from other EU Member States to jointly address societal needs. **Read the full story [here >>](#)**

EU Support to Economic Development Continues via "Innovative Entrepreneurship and Dialogue" with EUR 3 million

The European Commission signed a delegation agreement with Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NI-CO) in the amount of EUR 3 million to implement the project "Innovative Entrepreneurship and Dialogue." The three-year project aims to open up shared spaces for innovation, inclusive and entrepreneurial engagement, community dialogue and knowledge sharing. **Read the full story [here >>](#)**

European Commission signed contracts for EUR 14.2 million to support infrastructure

The European Commission signed a new EUR 10.9 million Works Contract and a EUR 0.7 million Services Contract for the construction of the new northern Nicosia Trunk Sewer. The works include the construction of the Nicosia branch of the northern Nicosia Trunk Sewer (NNTS), consisting of approximately 13 km of sewers and four Pumping Stations. The existing trunk sewer, which covers central, northern and southern Nicosia, is now running at full capacity. The limiting capacity of the sewer restrains further development in the northern part of the town and the NNTS will facilitate the connection of more urban areas to the Mia Milia/Haspolat Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. **Read the full story [here >>](#)**

European Commission signed 10 grant contracts for EUR 1.3 million under the Innovation and Change in Education Grant Scheme

The European Commission signed 10 contracts with schools and lifelong learning organisations in the amount of EUR 1.3 million under the Innovation and Change in Education Grant Scheme. The grant contracts vary between EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 and are focused on improving teaching and learning practices up to EU standards and best practices in schools and on initiating lifelong learning programmes for improving the employability of youth and women in particular. The grant projects started implementation this autumn and are expected to be finalised by the beginning of 2021. **Read the full story [here >>](#)**

Signature of new delegation agreement - Local Infrastructure Facility

The European Commission announces the signature of the new 'Local Infrastructure Facility' delegation agreement with the UNDP. It is designed as a transparent mechanism for EU-funded infrastructure investments under the Aid Programme to the Turkish Cypriot community. The delegation agreement is for a value of 17.7 million Euro, over a four year period.

The facility aims to provide support for the identification, screening, development, procurement, and physical implementation of relevant local infrastructure investments. Projects will be selected through regular calls for expression of interests to local beneficiaries. The following indicative shortlist includes projects ready for implementation starting early 2019:

- Pedieos River / Kanlıdere Rehabilitation Project
- Extension of the Morphou/Güzelyurt and Famagusta wastewater treatment plants
- Establishment of green waste composting facility in Nicosia

The European Commission recently completed a detailed Feasibility Study for the Rehabilitation of the Pedieos River / Kanlıdere. The scope of the study includes the construction of a linear park along an approximate 5 km length of the river consisting of flood protection measures, cycling and walking paths, recreational areas and environmental educational facilities. By extending north and south of the green line, this bi-communal project aims to bring the Cypriot communities together through recreational activities.

The feasibility study was presented on the 5th December at a high level stakeholders' meeting including Mr Maarten Verwey, Director General of the Structural Reform Support Service, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Special Representative of UN Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, representatives of the two communities in Nicosia, Mr. Constantinos Yiorkadjis and Mr. Mehmet Harmancı, the bi-communal technical committee on environment and the UNDP.



Human Rights Film Screenings at High Schools

The European Commission supported a series of film screening events as part of International Human Rights Day (10 December) targeting grade 9 students from 7 schools in the Turkish Cypriot community. The film screenings, organised in partnership with the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation, started in December with participation of 370 students from 3 schools. Three short films including, *Alike*, *Girl with 672K* and, *Betka and the Clever Ones* were screened in the second round of the screenings held in January in 4 schools including 19 Mayıs TMK on 3 January, Güzelyurt TMK on 4 January, 20 Temmuz Fen Lisesi on 7 January and Geçitkale Cumhuriyet Lisesi on 8 January. A total of 685 students participated in the screenings



The aim of the film screenings was to raise awareness of the importance of social, economic and cultural rights of individuals, and on the approach in the EU regarding basic human rights. Deniz Düzgün, Özge Ugraşın and Yetin Arslan from the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation presented the topic

of human rights and facilitated a discussion with the students regarding their own views and how the films tackled the topic of human rights.

The EU Aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot community funded a number of projects in support of diversity and the protection of human rights. Some of these projects include “Education for a Culture of Peace” implemented by POST RI in partnership with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research; “Human Rights for All” implemented by the Refugee Rights Association with KISA; and “Youthopia – Empowering Youth to Protect and Promote Human Rights” implemented by [MAGEM](#) and [Youth Power](#).



Occupational Health and Safety Trainings at Vocational Schools

The European Commission is supporting a series of occupational health and safety trainings at 12 vocational schools in the Turkish Cypriot community for the third consecutive year. The trainings started on 19 December and 235 students from 3 schools attended the trainings in the last month of the year. The trainings continued in January in 3 more schools including Mağusa Ticaret Lisesi on 7 January, Mağusa Dr. Fazıl Küçük Endüstri Meslek Lisesi on 8 January and Haspolat Meslek Lisesi on 9 January with the participation of 135 students. The training series will continue in February and March in 6 other schools.

Approximately 800 final year students will be participating in these trainings which will cover various topics such as why health and safety is important in

workplaces, how health and safety at work could be achieved with specific examples on different workplaces, health and safety rules, implementation examples from various EU countries, and showcasing why the EU is one of the safest places to work. The trainings will be targeted considering the education and skills of the students and each participating student will be given a certificate. At the end of the training series, all the participating students are invited to participate in a quiz competition. Three lucky students answering all the questions correctly will be awarded personal health and safety kits. The aim of the trainings is to prepare students with knowledge about health and safety and to equip them with skills to identify workplace risks and prevent accidents as they prepare to enter the workforce.



In 2017, a total of 621 final year students took part in the training which was conducted at all 12 Vocational Schools and the Apprenticeship School at the Chamber of Turkish Cypriot Shopkeepers and Artisans and in 2016, a total of 870 students took part in the trainings.

Health and safety at work is one of the areas where the EU has had the biggest impact – with a solid legal framework covering the maximum number of risks with the minimum number of regulations. The Commission also works with the [European Agency for Health and Safety at Work](#) and the [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#) to disseminate information, offer guidance and promote healthy working environments.



The "Protect the Environment" training, organised in cooperation with the EU-funded Capacity Building in the Solid Waste, Wastewater Sector Project, took place at Çağlayan Cumhuriyet Primary School in Nicosia on 21 January with the participation of 60 students. The training aimed to raise awareness on environmental protection. The interactive trainings included a short video on marine waste and a lively Q&A session with the participants. All students received a brochure about waste management and recycling.

Please follow the [link](#) to check out the brochure.

Upcoming Events and Themes

FEBRUARY

Occupational Health & Safety Trainings

European Music Nights

Cyprus Chamber Orchestra Concert

MARCH

SME's & The Circular Economy

International Women's Day

European Week Against Racism

Occupational Health & Safety Trainings

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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.

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