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Bicommunal Cooperation for a Healthy Environment

European Commission highlighted the bicommunal efforts and EU's support aiming at the protection of the environment during a webinar on "Bicommunal Cooperation for a Healthy Environment'. The online event was held on 4 June at Zoom platform and it was also broadcasted on EU Infopoint Facebook page.

In her opening remarks, Virve Vimpari, Head of Section of the European Union Program Support Office, expressed the importance of the EU Green Deal and said: "EU has been supporting the Turkish Cypriot community in the environmental sector since 2006 with many examples of successful projects, particularly in solid waste, water waste, and water supply infrastructure. When it comes to such important matters regarding the environmental issues, bicommunal cooperation in the field is of utmost importance to achieve the highest possible results."

Co-chairs of the Technical Committee on Environment Dr. Michael Loizides and Prof. Dr. Salih Gücel shared the following statements in their remarks: "Now more than ever, we, the members of the Technical Committees, need to invest time and effort for the facilitation of a harmonic cooperation between the two communities. As the Technical Committee on Environment, we are now working on a new, centralised platform. We call upon all Cypriots who are interested, to join forces and contribute actively to our common future. The platform will enable people of Cyprus living island

will continue to bring the two communities together, build lasting bridges and bring about projects that will contribute to living our lives in unity. As representatives of the two communities, we are proud and happy to work for a common goal and objective."

Click here to watch the webinar recording.



Zero Pollution for a Sustainable Future

European Commission highlighted the importance of EU Action Plan: "Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil" during a webinar on "Zero Pollution for a Sustainable Future". The online event was held on 25 June at Zoom platform and it was also broadcasted on EU Infopoint Facebook page.

Dr. Catherine Ganzleben, head of group on air pollution, environment and health at the European Environment Agency (EEA), attended the webinar as the keynote speaker. Dr. Ganzleben stated the following in her presentation: "Citizens' health is adversely affected by climate change, through heatwaves and floods of increasing frequency and magnitude, as well as changes in the distribution of vector-borne diseases. An emerging body of evidence highlights the linkages between socioeconomic conditions and poor quality environments at both local and regional scales across the European region. Environmental risks disproportionately affect socially disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups, exacerbating existing inequalities". She also said that by producing Europe-wide accessible knowledge on how the environment affects health, EEA is in a position to bring the social and environmental agendas together while supporting the European Green Deal. Providing information that is both relevant for decision makers and that resonates with the general public can motivate citizens to engage with their local environments and push for improvements through an inclusive policy agenda.

said "The new agenda of the European Commission, the European Green Deal, sets the ambition of zero-pollution, to be delivered through a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution. Since 2006, the EU has been supporting the Turkish Cypriot community through the Aid Programme for the development of infrastructure and protection of the environment and thereby making a difference in the community and across the island. Its achievements include many projects in solid waste, water/wastewater as well as improvements in the areas of air quality, nature protection and energy. Environment will continue to be a key sector under the EU Aid Programme, in line with the overall priorities of the European Union."

Following the Q&A section in which questions of the participants were answered by the speakers, the webinar ended with a general assessment made by environmental engineer İbrahim Alkan, as the moderator.

Click here to watch the webinar recording.



Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020 – 2025

The European Commission highlighted the details of "Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025" during a webinar organised with the participation of Transgender Europe, ILGA-Europe and Queer Cyprus Association on 30 June. The webinar was organised at Zoom platform and also broadcasted on EU Infopoint Facebook page.

In his opening remarks, Michael Docherty, Head of Section at the European Union Programme Support Office, defined EU's LGBTIQ Strategy and stated "the first-ever lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) Equality Strategy addresses the inequalities and challenges affecting this community, setting

safety; building inclusive societies; and leading the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world."

One of the keynote speakers of the event Jonas Hamm, Policy Officer at Transgender Europe shed light on the details of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy in his presentation and introduced Transgender Europe (TGEU) and its work as a network composed of different organisations established to advocate for the rights of transgender, transsexual, and other like-minded individuals. Jonas Hamm stated that "with the first ever LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, the EU takes its commitment to LGBTIQ rights to a whole new level, and that is good - But it will not solve everything. In fact, it cannot solve everything. However, it is an important milestone and a valuable tool that we as civil society can use in our work for LGBTI Equality in Europe."

The second keynote speaker of the webinar, Belinda Dear, Advocacy Specialist at ILGA-Europe, focused on the impact that EU's LGBTIQ Equality Strategy brought along in Europe. She said that "while it is important that governments call out human rights violations happening against LGBTIQ people abroad, they must also work on ensuring equal rights for LGBTIQ people in their own country, through legislation and leadership."

The webinar continued with a presentation delivered by lawyer Öncel Polili from Queer Cyprus Association. Mr. Polili provided information on his ongoing work with regard to the legal gaps in this domain in the Turkish Cypriot community. The moderator of the webinar, Erman Dolmacı, also the Project Coordinator of the EU funded Diversity of Colours Project implemented by Queer Cyprus Association, concluded the webinar by stating that "the First Pride was a rebellion and our rebellion shall continue until the day everyone is equal with LGBTIQ".

Click <u>here</u> to watch the webinar recording.



"Spot and Fight Disinformation" Workshop

The EU Infopoint organised an online workshop on "Spot and Fight Disinformation" in June for high school students over the age of 15. Journalist Sami Özuslu and Research Assistant Huri Yontucu were the trainers of the event which was held in two sessions on 2 - 3 June with various presentations and interactive workshops highlighting the ways to tackle false news and disinformation. At the end of the event, participating students received their certificates.

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Bicommunal Online Art Event for Children

The EU Infopoint organised a bi-communal event titled "Let's Explore European Dances and Dance Together" with the participation of children aged 5 and above in cooperation with the European Mediterranean Art Association (EMAA) and T.E.A.M Hip Hop Collective Centre. During the event, which was held at Zoom platform on 16 June, various European dances were introduced by the trainers and later on, participants had the opportunity to practise the figures they learned.





Applications are open for "Safeguarding and Creating Employment Support Package" programme with a maximum value of €60,000 for businesses that have 6-49 employees and provide manufacturing, production, and business-to-business services, and comply with the criteria laid down in the guidelines published

You may get more information and apply from this link.

The deadline for applications is 23 August 2021, 15:00 (Cyprus local time).

Don't forget! It's possible to restart despite the pandemic!

The scheme is managed within the scope of the "Innovative Entrepreneurship and Dialogue" project implemented by NI-CO and financed by the European Union, in coordination with the "European Union Coordination Centre" (EUCC) and in cooperation with the "Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Industry" (KTSO), "Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Shopkeepers & Artisans" (KTEZO), and "Turkish Cypriot Investment Development Agency" (YAGA).



The Linguistic Support Project organised its 3rd workshop in June

The Linguistic Support Project which is financed by the European Union with the aim to increase the translation services capacity in the Turkish Cypriot community organises activities in the field of professional development, professional standards, and consistent terminology use. The third interpretation-oriented activity of the project, "Workshop on (on)sight translation and professional organisations" took place online on 26 June, Saturday. Translators who attended the workshop, had the opportunity to work on practical exercises of interpreting from written texts, and the subject of professional organisation was discussed.

Please visit the project's <u>Facebook page</u> for more information and any upcoming activities within the scope of the project.



Go Social Cyprus organised a virtual roadtrip!

through the documentaries created within the scope of the Go Social Project and had the opportunity to witness inspiring examples of social entrepreneurship.

"Go Social: Supporting Employability through Social Entrepreneurship" is a project financed by the European Union, which aims to provide capacity building activities on social entrepreneurship for all but mainly focusing on disadvantaged groups. The project is implemented by the Famagusta Walled City Association (MASDER), AKTI Project and Research Centre (AKTI), and, the Famagusta Women Centre Association (MAKAMER).

Visit here for more information.

Follow our <u>Facebook</u> 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.



This Project is funded by the European Union.

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