EU Infopoint Newsletter March - April 2020 Issue: 57

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European Commission

EU AID PROGRAMME FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

EU Earmarks EUR 5 Million for Support in response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The European Commission funded the provision of medical equipment and supplies to the Turkish Cypriot community in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic with an indicative budget of EUR 5 million. EU's support is coordinated through a contract with the UNDP and in collaboration with an international health expert, the co-chair of the bi-communal committee on health and relevant local stakeholders. The needs are assessed in line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidance to ensure the provision of the most relevant and urgent elements are covered.

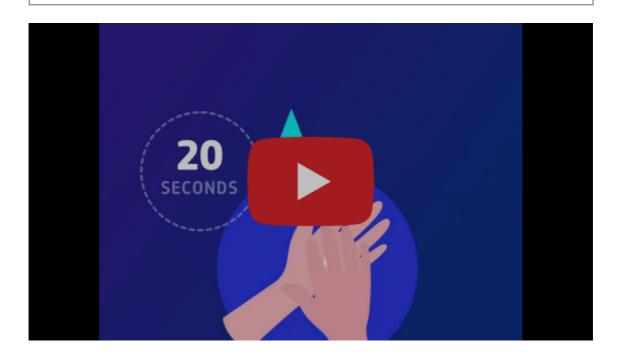
Please visit the EU Infopoint website for details.

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At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, EU Infopoint embarked upon an information campaign in partnership with the Turkish Cypriot Doctors' Association in order to raise awareness about the virus and to ensure that accurate and up to date information is accessible to the community.

The wide-reaching campaign includes many elements such as videos, infographics, and text messages, that are distributed via social media, EU Infopoint website, local TV stations, newspapers, and online news sites with an aim to raise awareness about COVID-19 and to share practical information on how to stay safe. The campaign will continue in May and June, with new information materials suitable to the context and will also expand to radio for greater outreach.

As part of the partnership with the Turkish Cypriot Doctors' Association, a short video was produced with doctors expressing positive messages, acknowledging that this is a challenging time, and providing tips on safety measures.



Moreover, the European Commission video on "5 easy ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19" along with several World Health Organisation (WHO) infographics on facts and questions about COVID-19 were also adapted in Turkish as part of the campaign.

You may access the information campaign materials in <u>English</u> and <u>Turkish</u> at the COVID-19 section of the EU Infopoint web site.

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Online Education Series for Kids

Online educational programmes on Science Experimenting and Coding were launched in April to provide children in the Turkish Cypriot community access to a free and fun online learning activity during the COVID-19 period. This initiative was a collaboration with the Happy Learners Centre/Öğrenen Mutlu Bireyler Merkezi (ÖMB) and in line with one of the commission priorities for 2019-24: A Europe Fit for the Digital Age.

The initiative has attracted a lot of interest with a high number of children registered for the programme. 10 videos from each category were shared and a digital certificate will be sent to all children who registered.

Please check the EUIP Facebook Page for the <u>Science Experimenting</u> and <u>Coding</u> videos.

"Stay Home, Stay With Music" Online Music Concerts

A series of online music concerts commenced in early April with various musicians from all genres to promote music as a way to bring communities together, making music accessible to all and also emphasise the importance of staying home to contain the spread of COVID-19 during this period. In total, 16 concerts were planned for April and May as Facebook Watch Parties on the EUIP Facebook Page attracting approximately 2,600 viewers in April.

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, many EU funded projects in the Turkish Cypriot community also responded with specific initiatives in respect to their target groups and priorities. To respond to the needs in the area of domestic violence during this period, KAYAD progressively continued their awareness-raising campaign through social media, and moved to online legal advice to replace face to face support; LTB also continued their communication campaign under their 'United against Violence' project, producing awareness-raising materials such as brochures, videos and encouraged the members of the community to report domestic violence incidents.





The Universal Patient Rights Association developed materials to raise awareness on COVID-19, and have continued to advocate for the rights of patients who are marginalised or discriminated against and in particular have been speaking up for the accurate documentation of COVID-19 patients whilst respecting their privacy, and the COMMIT project advocated for improved communication to minority groups about COVID-19 and took action themselves with a small grant from Civic Space to produce materials in a variety of languages. This included the provision of information materials for migrants, refugees, and human trafficking victims as well as an awareness-raising campaign, #StrongerTogether, to tackle the discrimination and marginalisation of these groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.





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Individuals become targets of racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance because of their races, religions, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, disabilities, social status or other characteristics. Within the scope of the European Action Week Against Racism, which was highlighted between 16 and 29 March this year, the European Union once again reiterated its determination to struggle with racism and xenophobia and all kinds of intolerance without any hesitation, while combating COVID-19 which is a threat for everyone without any discrimination, and underlying the most effective defense will be unity and solidarity that takes strength from diversity.



EU Support for Strengthening the Capacity of Veterinary Services & Farmers for the Eradication of Brucellosis Continues

Eradication: Lessons learnt and opportunities of brucellosis eradication" was organised highlighting the importance of animal disease eradication with a particular focus on brucellosis. The event took place in Nicosia at Hidden Garden on Friday, 28 February 2020. The opening speeches were made by Mr. Arttu Makipaa and Ms. Burcu Barın.

The event hosted Dr. Mehmet Demirpençe, Dr. Ankica Labrovic, Dr. Yolanda Vaz, and Dr. Mehmet İsfendiyaroğlu as expert speakers. During the event, they provided information on the progress made on the elimination of brucellosis from 2016 until the end of 2019 highlighting the lessons learnt, local constraints and opportunities for faster elimination of brucellosis.

This panel on "Animal Disease Eradication: Lessons learnt and opportunities of brucellosis eradication" was the third of a series of activities organised on the eradication of animal diseases. The previous events addressing the importance of animal health for food safety and strengthening the capacity of veterinary services were undertaken in June and November 2019.





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TAIEX event focused on importance of reduction of the emissions of volatile organic compounds for better air quality

TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) instrument of the European Commission organised an event highlighting the importance of reducing emissions from volatile organic compounds for better air quality, in line with the EU Industrial Emissions Directive. The event took place on 5 March 2020 in Nicosia with the participation of representatives from Turkish Cypriot Shopkeepers and Artisans, environmental protection department and dry cleaning operators.

The event helped to share knowledge on the relevant EU Directive and the use of volatile organic compounds, which contributes to health problems affecting the shop employees, customers, the community and the wider island, and targeted relevant Chambers and actors in the dry cleaning processing which has the largest number of installations in the Turkish Cypriot community.

TAIEX assistance on volatile organic compounds and petrol aims to help the Turkish Cypriot community improve petrol storage and distribution and its use of volatile organic compounds and bring it closer to the EU standards, in preparation for the reunification of the island. TAIEX support also contributes to raising awareness on the importance of elimination and reducing toxic benzene in ambient air, photochemical formation of ozone and ground level ozone, which is an air pollutant causing respiratory illnesses such as asthma and a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. This support therefore has a clear island-wide dimension.

The support has also helped the Turkish Cypriot community to improve



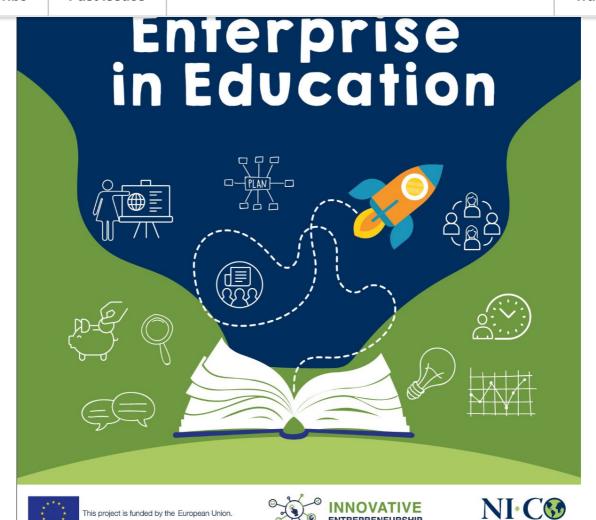


The "Protect the Environment" training, organised in cooperation with the EU-funded Capacity Building in the Solid Waste, Wastewater Sector Project, took place on 10 March at Eşref Bitlis Primary School with the participation of 73 students from 4th and 5th grades. The training sessions aimed to raise awareness of 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 <u>link</u> to check out the brochure.

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Enterprise in Education is the first long-run enterprise programme in schools implemented by the European Union funded Innovative Entrepreneurship **project** in the Turkish Cypriot community.

The objective of the programme is to provide young people the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills including teamwork, communication, problemsolving, creativity, and financial capability. Programme helps students to build confidence, resilience, and a self-awareness of their own capabilities both for life and work in the future as it supports the development of employability skills that are important to modern employers.

A total number of 218 students between 12-18 years-old set up 42 minibusinesses by the end of eight (8) entrepreneurship workshops delivered by Carol Fitzsimmons and Alice Quinn between 26 February - 6 March 2020.

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, the programme is now continuing digitally, allowing students to share their mini-business ideas and how they have been dealing with the crisis, through EU funded Innovative Entrepreneurship project Facebook and Instagram accounts.

This project is funded by the European Union.

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RISE Up Cyprus is pleased to announce its Internship Programme opportunities!

The Internship Programmes aim to inspire talented young researchers by exposing them to cutting-edge methods and Research in Interactive media, Smart systems and Emerging technologies!

For more information and applications please visit here!



Pusula / Ππούσουλας

Ideas that can bring substantial, positive impact at scale in everyday life in Cyprus

In recent weeks, Pusula was looking for impactful ideas that will benefit people across the whole island. 50,000 Euros will be allocated for the implementation

> During the past 12 weeks, a total of 1690 people have registered on Pusula, and 68 ideas have been submitted on various topics.

For more information, please visit:

https://www.cypruspusula.org/campaigns

Online Activities in May and June

Europe Day 2020 Activities

7-12 May

Please visit the EU Infopoint Facebook Page for all online Europe Day 2020 activities.

"Stay Home, Stay With Music" Online Concerts

18 April - 17 May

Please visit the EU Infopoint Facebook Page to access all online concerts.

Online Education Series for Children

Music Education Series

You can access all education videos from here.

"Let's Explore Europe" Series

You can access all education videos from here.

"Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the LGBTI+ community and EU Action" Webinar

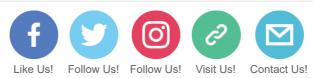
1 June

European Sustainable Energy Week

Follow our Facebook page for up to date information!

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.

Ally Questions: Ask Os:



This Project is funded by the European Union.

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