EU Infopoint Newsletter May 2019 Issue:47   View this email in your browser

Europe Day 2019 Celebrations held in Nicosia!

The importance of uniting in diversity was underlined during the Europe Day 2019 event at Selimiye Square, Nicosia on 25 May 2019 from 10:00 to 13:00. As every year, the event was open to the public. At the event, information about EU countries, and various EU supported projects were provided. The opening speeches of the event were made by Mr. Kjartan Björnsson and Mr. Mehmet Harmancı.

The event included live music performances and various activities. Participants obtained information about many EU countries. Additionally, several local NGOs, SMEs, and technical assistance projects showcased their own EU funded projects and shared information.

This year's event hosted a program of cultural and artistic events including performances by Papageorgiou String Quartet, FOLKDER's folk dance group, LBO Childrens' Choir, Latin Orchestra and Studio 21 Hip Hop dance group. Children enjoyed a puppet show, face painting, and rock climbing.

Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. The Schuman Declaration states that "Europe will not be made in one go, nor through a comprehensive construction, it will be built by concrete realisations that will first create real solidarity." What began on 9th May 1950, the pooling of steel and coal between France and Germany has evolved into what we today know as the European Union. The European Union is built on the fundamental values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Europe Day was celebrated with the participation of students from Çağlayan and Gelibolu Primary Schools in an event held at the EU Infopoint on 9 May. Children had an enjoyable time with the informative puppet show and had the opportunity to get to know the European Union more. After the puppet show, children joined the cake cutting ceremony.

"A Jazz Night in Famagusta" event gathered jazz lovers at The People's Republic!

May at the People's Republic. Sara Makipaa (vocal), Cahit Kutrafali (bass), Charis Ioannou (saxophone), Ermis Michail (guitar), Stelios Xydias (drums) performed at the concert. The EU promotes culture as a way to bring communities together, fostering a link between the present and the future, and making culture accessible to all.

Music constitutes an important pillar of European culture and is probably the cultural and creative sector with the largest audience reach. It is an essential component of Europe's cultural diversity and it has the power to bring positive changes to many levels of society. It also has a strong economic significance: the music sector, based on small and medium businesses, employs more people than film

Sara So Far (Sara Makipaa) has been performing and recording with several band formations and as a solo artist mainly in Belgium, the Netherlands and surrounding countries, while also being a passionate teacher (voice, piano and music in general). In 2018, Sara has started a collaboration with Cypriot bassist Cahit Kutrafalı. Cahit Kutrafali Quartet is a four-piece jazz band, which performs original music composed by Cahit Kutrafalı. The band has performed at various venues and festivals in the past and brings both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot musicians together in the same ensemble. The band recorded together Kutrafalı's debut album "As It Is" and his recent release "Transitions" which has been released both in Cyprus and Turkey.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community a series of activities and projects to raise awareness about arts, music and cultural heritage were supported. This includes the "Confrontation through Art Project" by EMAA and the "Cypriot Intangible Cultural Heritage" project by Folk-Der. Additionally, since 2012 the European Union, has provided €14.7 million for the preservation of Cyprus' cultural heritage in support of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage via UNDP.

The EU has been supporting cultural and music events through EU Infopoint (EUIP). Since 2015, EUIP organised four Europe Day event concerts, a Theremin Concert, European Music Nights Cyprus Chamber Orchestra Classical Music Concerts, European Music Nights Othello/Sonare Choirs Concert, Environment themed Art and Photography Competition exhibition,

Green Energy Trainings at Vocational Schools

The European Commission supported a series of Green Energy training at vocational schools in the Turkish Cypriot community. The training series started on 26 April at Sedat Simavi Endüstri Meslek Lisesi with the participation of 45 students. The trainings were completed with the participation of students from Dr. Fazıl Küçük Endüstri Meslek Lisesi, Haspolat Meslek Lisesi, Karpaz Meslek Lisesi, Güzelyurt Meslek Lisesi, and Cengiz Topel Endüstri Meslek Lisesi in May with the participation of 160 students in total. The expert trainers provided students with inspiration on how to increase their knowledge and skills in this field and how to, therefore, become more relevant for future job opportunities in this field both within Cyprus and the EU

As part of its long-term energy strategy, the EU has set targets for 2020 and 2030. These cover emissions reduction, improved energy efficiency, and an increased share of renewables in the EU's energy mix. It has also created an Energy Roadmap for 2050, in order to achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95%, when compared to 1990 levels, by 2050. Together, these goals provide the EU with a stable policy framework on greenhouse gas emissions, renewables, and energy efficiency, which gives investors more certainty and confirms the EU's lead in these fields on a global scale.

The EU Aid Programme has allocated €11.44 million for energy efficiency,

electronic meters and by setting up a laboratory for testing and calibration of metering instruments; demonstrating the latent potential of solar power as a key energy source in Cyprus by installing the first solar power plant on the island for a capacity of 1.2 MW; and facilitating the interconnection of the grids. The solar power plant is fully operational since 2011.

The "Protect the Environment" training, organised in cooperation with the EU-funded Capacity Building in the Solid Waste, Wastewater Sector Project, took place at Lapta Primary School on 6 May with the participation of approximately 130 students. The training session 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 link to check out the brochure.

Upcoming Events and Themes

JULY

European Music Nights
A Jazz Night in Deryneia
08 July 20:30 - 22:00 @ Famagusta Avenue Garage, Deryneia

Sustainable Energy Seminar
10 July 18:00 - 19:30 @ Union of the Chambers of Cyprus Turkish Engineers and Architects

International Youth Day Activities
Streetball Tournament
Roundtable Discussion/Workshop
Markutti (Kite Event)

AUGUST

International Youth Day Activities
Youth Bands Concert
Walled City Bike Tour
Maki Fest

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.

Any Questions? Ask Us!

Like Us!   **Follow Us!**   **Follow Us!**   **Visit Us!**   **Contact Us!**