

Nicosia, 14 December 2017

## Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Marketplace.

**The European Commission will support an Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Marketplace event on Friday, 15 December at Merit Hotel in Nicosia from 14:45 to 17:00. The event, organised by the EU Infopoint, will host speakers and a marketplace for entrepreneurs to access information and opportunities (both EU and local) for improving their businesses. This information and networking event is open to all entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs.**

The Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Industry, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the EU Technical Assistance to the Private Sector Project (TAPS), and KOBIGEM will be represented at the event. In addition to this, there will be other business experts represented at the event.

The EU Infopoint has organised events in the past to promote local and EU opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs in line with European practices. Policy makers in Europe are seeking ways to create jobs and spur economic growth. Entrepreneurship, particularly the creation of innovative young firms, is needed yet many challenges to the creation and growth of firms remain. The local ecosystems are key to step up networks and enhance proximity between stakeholders. The consolidated networks and ecosystems provide the right ground for structured and effective growth of European startups and entrepreneurs.

### **Background:**

Under the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community many local business have benefitted from the Private Sector Development Programme which supports Turkish Cypriot entrepreneurs in improving their competitiveness through modernising their products and services, with particular emphasis on the preservation of natural resources and the creation of jobs. The programme offers technical assistance and financial support to Turkish Cypriot limited companies and sole proprietorships.

Since 2009 more than 300 local companies have utilised the services of EU experts and over a hundred have received financial support in the form of co-shared grants for a total of nearly **€30 million (Euros)**. Out of this, around **€13 million (Euros)** was allocated through four co-financing grant schemes under the Private Sector Development Programme .

Interested individuals can get more information on these events on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Sokak, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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