

Nicosia, 7 January 2016

# The European Commission Marks the Importance of Women in Rural Development

The European Commission will bring women living in rural areas together with opportunities and resources during information sessions between 11-14 January 2016 in Gaziveran/Gaziveren at Çiftlik Evi Restaurant, Akdeniz/Ayia Irini at Caretta Restaurant, Mağusa/Famagusta at Bandabulya, Mehmetcik/Galatya at Çelebi Garden. The information sessions will be from 10:30 to 13:00.

During these events, participants will receive information on EU's Rural Development Policy, smart specialization and structural funds, EU funded professional development opportunities (EU Scholarships), support mechanisms for women, Small Business Support Programme (EBRD), Technical Assistance Project on Support to the Development and Promotion of VET systems, Lifelong Learning and Active Labour Market Measures (VETLAM), Technical Assistance Project on Private Sector Development & Competitiveness, Opportunities for Lifelong Learning, EU support in rural communities, and success stories by EU-funded SME grantees.

"To maximise human resources in maintaining the social fabric of rural communities and revitalising local economies, the full involvement of women is vital. This means that equal opportunities must be systematically integrated in the design and implementation of rural development programmes and projects, to ensure that women and men can participate and benefit on equal terms." Franz Fischler, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

## **Background:**

**Ensuring that women and men have equality of opportunity is an important priority of the European Union. It is also, quite simply, a practical necessity for the viability and sustainability of rural development.**

**Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity.**

**Through the RDSP, the EU has provided approximately €46 million of support to the Turkish Cypriot community through the AID programme in the period until 2013.**

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 Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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