



Jazz Workshop and Jam Session 2019 held in Nicosia!

As part of European Music Nights, a Jazz Workshop and Jam Session in collaboration with Jazz Education Abroad took place for the third year in a row with the participation of 50 students between 19 - 21 June at Lefkoşa Anadolu Fine Arts High School, Nicosia. The 3-day workshop was open to music teachers, students, and musicians of all ages, for all instruments and for all levels. The workshop was followed by a jam session on Friday, 21 June from 20:00 – 21.30 at Selimiye Square, Nicosia where the jazz masters and participants from the workshop gave a jazz concert to the public. More than 150 people took part in this event.

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The Jazz workshop was held from 10:00 to 17:15 each day where jazz masters Dr. Gene Aitken (Music Education & Director), Marios Toumbas (Piano), Loizos Pafitis (Guitar), Cahit Kutrafalı (Bass), Gonzalo Maestre (Drums), Nihan Görgü (Vocals), and Mariano Abello (Saxophone & Flute) ran parallel workshops.

Music is one of the most popular forms of art, widely consumed, and a vibrant expression of Europe's cultural diversity. Strengthening this sector contributes to the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, culture as a catalyst for creativity. In its efforts to promote further creativity, diversity, and innovation in Europe's music sector, the Commission works with all concerned stakeholders. 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.

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Animal Disease Eradication: Healthier Animals, Safer Food Conference

The “Animal Disease Eradication: Healthier Animals, Safer Food” conference addressed the importance of animal health for food safety and reduction of losses for farmers with a focus on *brucellosis*. The conference, which took place at Hidden Garden, Nicosia on Thursday, 13 June 2019 also highlighted the EU contribution in improving animal and public health in the Turkish Cypriot community by implementing EU standards. The opening speeches were made by Mr. Michael Docherty, Mr. Dursun Oğuz, and Mr. Mustafa Naimoğulları.

Eradication of *brucellosis* from the island is the ultimate objective. It is very complex and hard work, as pointed out by the EU expert Dr Yolanda Vaz (Portugal), who shared with participants, the years of challenges to eliminate brucellosis in Portugal. The EU expert Dr Nick Taylor explained the general importance of animal disease prevention and explained how to prevent animal diseases entering farms. Experts highlighted that success in eradicating brucellosis depends on many factors such as understanding what contributes

and use of tools (such as robust legal texts, animal identification and registration systems, animal health data management system, controls, etc.). Without such tools and interactions, success to eliminate any animal disease can only be partial.



The conference highlighted the importance of continued detection and elimination of brucellosis infected animals and, in particular, of protection of negative farms. Farmers have been reminded that in order to maintain the good brucellosis status of their herds, all eligible animals need to be tested annually. Many participants stressed the importance of continued efforts to eliminate priority animal diseases (such as brucellosis), emphasising that veterinarians and animal producers should work together to achieve this objective. The participants also recognised the importance of continued EU support to achieve the objective of the elimination of brucellosis and other important diseases in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Finally, the conference participants recognised that society is better informed, demanding quality and safe products and this indicates the level of public interest in the elimination of important animal diseases in the Turkish Cypriot community.

In the context of the EU Aid Programme, more than €20 million has been allocated to improve the performance of the livestock sector, in particular animal production and health. Assistance to improve animal production and health is provided to livestock owners (especially dairy producers), and veterinary services. Technical trainings in farming practices and hygiene, animal diseases prevention, control and elimination, dairy products hygiene, and food safety have been provided to more than a thousand farmers.

The conference was organised by the EU Infopoint and the EU-funded technical assistance project to strengthen the capacity of Turkish Cypriot veterinary services to eradicate, control and prevent animal diseases. More than 100 farmers, veterinarians, representatives of local bodies, and other interested operators participated.



The 30th Anniversary of the Bi-communal Meetings of the Leaders and Representatives of Cypriot Political Parties was commemorated with two events in the buffer zone in Nicosia at Ledra Palace Hotel and Restaurant Chateau Status on 10 and 11 June under the auspices of the Slovak Embassy in Cyprus. The events aimed to demonstrate good practices in confidence building and reconciliation in Cyprus.

On 10 June the political parties meeting with the participation of Slovak Republic Minister of Foreign Affairs was held at Ledra Palace Hotel, followed by a photo exhibition and reception in the evening at Chateau Status. On 11 June, an international conference on "30 years of the dialogue between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties in service of peace in Cyprus" which consisted of two panels was held at Chateau Status. The series of events was supported by the European Union.

Upcoming Events and Themes

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Streetball Tournament

Roundtable Discussion/Workshop

Markutti (Kite Event)

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Maki Fest

SEPTEMBER**European Mobility Week****European Researchers' Night****European Week of Sport****European Day of Languages****Animal Health**

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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.

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