



"A Jazz Night in Nicosia" event gathered jazz lovers at Bandabuliya Stage!

As part of European Music Nights, "A Jazz Night in Nicosia" event, featuring Cahit Kutrafalı Quartet and Sara So Far took place on 12 March at Bandabuliya Stage, Nicosia. Sara Makipaa (vocal), Cahit Kutrafalı (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

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bassist Cahit Kutrafali. Cahit Kutrafali Quartet is a four-piece jazz band, which performs original music composed by Cahit Kutrafali. 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 Kutrafali'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, and an exhibition of the winning artworks of the Europe Day “United in Diversity” art competitions targeting primary schools.

Check out the [photo album!](#)



Diversity Festival brought different cultures together at Bedestan, Nicosia

The European Commission supported a "Diversity Festival" as part of European Action Week Against Racism on 21 March at Bedestan, Nicosia. The festival aimed to bring together various cultural groups in order to celebrate cultural diversity within the Turkish Cypriot community. The French Cultural Association, German Cultural Association, Akova Women's Association, Palestinian Students' Group, African Students' Group, East & South East Cultural Association, Cyprus Folkdance Group (TUFAD), OneWorship, Turkish Cypriot Journalists' Association, Queer Cyprus, and Universal Patient Rights Association hosted information tables where food of different cultures was also served. In addition to this, there were music and dance performances by different cultural groups. The opening speeches of the festival were made by Mr. Arttu Makipaa, Mr. Mehmet Harmancı, and Ms. Çiçek Göçkün Bayramoğlu.

Between 16-24 March, the European Action Week Against Racism is marked by activities all around Europe to combat racism and prejudice, bringing people with diverse backgrounds and stories face to face. Coordinated by UNITED for Intercultural Action, the pan-European network of anti-racist NGOs, this annual campaign sees civil society groups, educational institutions and city governments come together to protest against racism and stand up for inclusive European societies.

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As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community many projects addressing discrimination and human rights have been supported. This includes Youthopia: Empowering young Cypriots to promote and protect their rights by MAGEM, the Cypriot Intangible Cultural Heritage project by the Nicosia Folklore Association, Human Rights for All by Refugee Rights Association, and Unspoken: Creating Dialogue on LGBTI Rights in the Turkish Cypriot Community by Cyprus Community Media Centre Co. and Queer Cyprus. In December 2018 the European Commission signed contracts in the amount of €2.3 million with 8 civil society organisations as part of Civil Society in Action VI Grant Scheme with an aim to strengthen their capacities and impact in promoting and defending democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms, cultural diversity and reconciliation. The projects will address the prevention of domestic violence against women and children, LGBTI+ rights, and strengthening journalists' and media institutions' capacity to promote press freedom and fundamental human rights.

[Click here](#) to view the photo album!



Training for Teachers on Redefining Gender Roles

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, the European Commission highlighted the importance of gender roles in education materials through a training seminar for elementary school teachers on "Redefining Gender Roles" in partnership with Cyprus Turkish Teachers' Trade Union. The seminar, which hosted Professor Nilay Çabuk Kaya as the keynote speaker, took place on 28 March at Cyprus Turkish Teachers' Trade Union.

In her presentation, Professor Kaya, with her experience in implementing adult education, seminars and workshops such as Training of Gender Training Teachers and Training on Awareness of Gender and Vocational Choice, examined gender roles and understanding gender equality which is shaped through formal education, storybooks, and textbooks. Prof. Nilay Çabuk Kaya is a professor of sociology at the University of Ankara, Turkey. She is currently the vice-president of the Turkish Sociological Association (TSA) and in the executive committee of the European Sociological Association (ESA).

As part of the EU Aid Programme in the Turkish Cypriot community, the EC has provided support to local NGOs and local communities for gender equality-related issues such as women's empowerment, domestic violence, and a project for a women's shelter in Nicosia. These projects have an impact on raising awareness about the inequality between men and women and the steps needed to address this. A new project was signed recently with local NGO KAYAD called "Together Stronger" where the aim will be to work with the middle schools and train 300 teachers about sexual education and domestic violence.



Occupational Health and Safety Trainings at Vocational Schools

The European Commission supported a series of occupational health and safety trainings at 12 vocational schools in the Turkish Cypriot community for the third consecutive year. The trainings started on 19 December where 3 schools attended the trainings in the last month of the year. The trainings continued in January in 3 schools and 4 more schools were visited in February. The training series ended in March with the last 2 training sessions at Atatürk Meslek Lisesi and Cengiz Topel Meslek Lisesi.

A total of 662 final year students participated in these trainings which covered various topics such as why health and safety is important in workplaces, how health and safety at work could be achieved with specific examples on different workplaces, health and safety rules, implementation examples from various EU countries, and showcasing why the EU is one of the safest places to work. The trainings targeted considering the education and skills of the students and each participating student were given a certificate. At the end of the training series, all the participating students are invited to participate in a quiz competition. Three lucky students answering all the questions correctly will be awarded personal health and safety kits. The aim of the trainings is to prepare students with knowledge about health and safety and to equip them with skills to identify workplace risks and prevent accidents as they prepare to enter the workforce.

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In 2017, a total of 621 final year students took part in the training which was conducted at all 12 Vocational Schools and the Apprenticeship School at the Chamber of Turkish Cypriot Shopkeepers and Artisans and in 2016, a total of 870 students took part in the trainings.

Health and safety at work is one of the areas where the EU has had the biggest impact – with a solid legal framework covering the maximum number of risks with the minimum number of regulations. The Commission also works with the [European Agency for Health and Safety at Work](#) and the [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#) to disseminate information, offer guidance and promote healthy working environments.



The "Protect the Environment" training, organised in cooperation with the EU-funded Capacity Building in the Solid Waste, Wastewater Sector Project, took place at 23 Nisan Primary School on 12 and 18 March, at Şehit Ertuğrul Primary School on 14 March, at Değirmenlik Primary School on 21 March and at Alsancak Primary School on 26 March with the participation of approximately 600 students. 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 [link](#) to check out the brochure.

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EU AID PROGRAMME FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY EU Scholarship Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community for the Academic Year 2019/20

The European Commission launched of the “EU Scholarships for the Turkish Cypriot community Programme for the Academic Year 2019/20” funded under the Aid Programme.

In this round, the EU Scholarship Programme will award grants to approximately 130 Turkish Cypriot students, graduates, and professionals. This comes in addition to approximately 1,400, who have already benefited from EU Scholarship grants since 2007. This year's programme is for long-term programmes and short-term programmes in EU Member States. Up to 40% of the budget can be utilized for UK programmes. The call for 2019/20 includes a list of priority areas. Applicants in these areas will receive additional points during the evaluation.

Various information sessions were organised at EU Infopoint and in other institutions and schools by the programme authorities. Apart from these sessions which had high participation, information sessions were held for people who want to study in the Netherlands, Germany and France. These sessions hosted country representatives and people who previously benefited from the scholarship programme in these countries.

The EU Scholarships Programme is fully funded by the EU and is implemented by the British Council.

Upcoming Events and Themes

APRIL

Youth Chat Cafe Series

10 April 10:00 - 12:00 @ TMK, Nicosia

12 April 09:00 - 10:00 @ TMK, Famagusta

16 April 10:30 - 12:00 @ Near East College, Nicosia

17 April 10:00 - 12:00 @ Levent College, Nicosia

Vocational Skills to Enhance Employability

25 April

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25 May @ Selimiye Square, Nicosia

European Music Nights**Jazz Concert**

07 May

Green Energy Training Series for Electricity Students

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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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