

## European Commission Organised Human Rights Film Screenings at High Schools

The European Commission supported a series of film screening events as part of International Human Rights Day on 10 December targeting grade 9 students from seven (7) schools in the Turkish Cypriot community. A total of 685 students from Cumhuriyet Lisesi, 20 Temmuz Fen Lisesi, 19 Mayıs Türk Maarif Koleji, Lefkoşa Anadolu Güzel Sanatlar Lisesi, Lefkoşa Türk Lisesi, Güzelyurt Türk Maarif Koleji and Lapta Yavuzlar Lisesi attended the screenings, organised in partnership with the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation, which started in December and were completed in January 2019.

The aim of the film screenings was to raise awareness on the importance of social, economic and cultural rights of individuals, and on the approach in the EU regarding basic human rights. Deniz Düzgün, Özge Uğraşın and Yetin Arslan from the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation presented the topic of human rights and facilitated a discussion with the students regarding their own views and how the films tackled the topic of human rights.

The EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community funded a number of projects in support of diversity and the protection of human rights. Some of these projects include “Education for a Culture of Peace” implemented by POST RI in partnership with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research; “Human Rights for All” implemented by Refugee Rights Association with KISA; and “Youthopia – Empowering Youth to Protect and Promote Human Rights” implemented by MAGEM and Youth Power.

### **Background:**

**The European Union actively promotes and defends the universality and indivisibility of all human rights within its borders, but also when engaging in relations with non-EU countries. Over the years, the EU has adopted important reference documents on the promotion and protection of human rights such as the EU Human Rights Guidelines, enhanced effective actions at bilateral and multilateral level by developing a range of diplomatic and cooperation tools, and improved human rights' mainstreaming across all its external activities.**

**The 2012 EU Strategic Framework addressed the objectives to accomplish and the priorities to be tackled by internal and external EU policies on human rights. Among those, was the necessity of conceiving a tool-box for working towards a Rights-Based Approach (RBA) to development cooperation, to integrate all human rights principles in EU cooperation activities aiming at strengthening their impact.**

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EU Infopoint is funded by the European Union

