

Nicosia, 18 December 2018

EU-Supported Occupational Health and Safety Trainings at Vocational Schools in the Turkish Cypriot community

The European Commission will support a series of occupational health and safety trainings at 12 vocational schools in the Turkish Cypriot community for the third consecutive year. The trainings, organised by the EU Infopoint, will start on Wednesday 19 December 2018 at the Apprenticeship School of the Chamber of Turkish Cypriot Shopkeepers and Artisans, and will continue until early March 2019.

Approximately 800 final year students will be participating in these trainings which will cover 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 will be targeted considering the education and skills of the students and each participating student will be given a certificate. At the end of the training series, all the participating students will be 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.

Last year 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.

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.

Background:

The European Union has been assisting the Turkish Cypriot community in reforming the education sector in order to enhance human resource development and to assist in the creation of more and better jobs by improving adaptability of workers and enterprises and increasing investment in human capital. Overall, 13.8 million euro has been allocation until 2017 to support this objective through grants, technical assistance and equipment. To develop and improve the labour market, an EU funded technical assistance project, the Vocational Education, Training and Labour Market (VETLAM I) Project ran from 2008 to 2012 with a value of 1.8 million euro. The purpose of this assistance was to establish a system for upgrading the skills of the labour force and to improve the quality of vocational education and training (VET) system. VETLAM II with a total value of 1.6 million euro has been operational since November 2015 for three years to improve the VET and Life Long Learning (LLL) systems as well as improving employability. In total 0.7 million euro worth of supplies were provided to improve the capacity of vocational education and training institutions.

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EU Infopoint is funded by the European Union.

