

Nicosia, 26 March 2019

Training for Teachers on Redefining Gender Roles

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, the European Commission will highlight 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 will host Professor Nilay Çabuk Kaya as the keynote speaker, will take place on Thursday, 28 March 2019 from 15:00 to 17:00 at Cyprus Turkish Teachers' Trade Union.

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, in her presentation will examine 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.

Background:

The strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019 is the framework for the European Commission's future work towards full gender equality (https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/justice-and-fundamental-rights/discrimination/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en).

Mainstreaming gender equality in education and training policy remains crucial in countries where equal access to education is taken as a given, which is the case in the majority of EU Member States. Figures on social inclusion and employment rates, and job quality indicators show that women remain at greater risk of social exclusion, unemployment and low-quality jobs in the EU. Women also remain, on average, slightly more likely to be unemployed than men with the same level of education. This situation contrasts sharply with the overall higher success rates of girls and women in the EU in terms of completing school education, accessing higher education or participating in lifelong learning. This should translate into more women being in better jobs.

Challenging gender prejudices and stereotypes throughout the education cycle, from primary school to lifelong learning, can reduce gender imbalances in other spheres of life.

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