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NEWSLETTER

April–June 2025



Welcome to the April – June 2025 edition of our newsletter

This quarter has been marked by vibrant events and community-focused initiatives that underscore the European Union's continued support to the Turkish Cypriot community. From celebrating Europe Day with powerful messages of unity and cultural exchange at the Ledra Palace buffer zone, to launching projects that promote sustainability and public space—like the Pedieos River rehabilitation — these months have seen meaningful engagement and impact.

We also highlight the success of the EU Aid Programme Info Days held in Güzelyurt/Morphou and Mormenekşe, which provided residents with valuable insights into ongoing and future EU-funded projects. In parallel, a diverse series of educational workshops—from artificial intelligence to Italian and German language learning—continued to empower individuals with new skills and perspectives. Join us as we look back at the key moments from April to June 2025.



Visit our website for
detailed information or
current events!
www.abbilgi.eu



Reality and Perception in the age of Information Panel



The EU Infopoint organised a panel discussion titled “In the Age of Information: Reality and Perception”. Funded by the European Union, the event explored recent developments in the media landscape, strategies to combat disinformation, the importance of accessing reliable sources of information, and the principles of ethical journalism.



The event brought together participants from various segments of the Turkish Cypriot community. During the panel, media and communication experts Metin Ersoy and Kenan Dursun, along with Canan Onurer, Secretary-General of the Turkish Cypriot Journalists Association, shared valuable insights and engaged in an in-depth discussion on practical solutions and next steps.



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Europe Day Celebration – 9 May

The EU Infopoint marked Europe Day with a special celebration held at its premises in Nicosia.



Funded by the European Union, the event aimed to raise awareness of the EU's core values—peace, unity, diversity, and cultural heritage—while reaffirming its commitment to solidarity and cooperation. Held by invitation only, the event brought together local stakeholders, decision-makers, media, EU-funded Technical Assistance projects, NGOs, and representatives from the Turkish Cypriot community and international partners.



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Europe Day 2025 Celebrated at Ledra Palace Buffer Zone in Nicosia

Europe Day 2025 was celebrated on 10th May at the Ledra Palace buffer zone in Nicosia, with an exciting lineup of activities, dance, and live music performances. This annual event, now a cherished tradition, aimed to promote core values such as peace, diversity, cultural heritage, and unity—values that lie at the heart of the European Union and resonate strongly with both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The festivities featured a rich cultural programme, including performances by renowned local artists and specially curated activities for children. The event began at 15:00 with a captivating performance by the Songbirds Intercommunal Children's Choir. This was followed by a video message from Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, and in charge of Cyprus Settlement Support. The opening remarks by Raffaele Fitto were followed by speeches from Charalambos Prountzos and Mehmet Harmanci.

Following the speeches, the LBO Kids Choir performed, followed by a dance presentation by Cypriot dancer Dinos Kkanti, who showcased his world-famous Glass Balancing Dance—a discipline in which he recently set a Guinness World Record. The remainder of the main stage programme featured performances by the LBO Jazz Trio, PAOK Klirou Folk Dance Group, the HASDER Folk Dance Group, and Grup Otantik. The evening concluded with a lively performance by the renowned Cypriot band, Angelos Avgousti and Friends.

In parallel with the main stage events, a vibrant children's programme ran throughout the day, featuring activities such as a puppet show, a workshop on renewable energy, a treasure hunt, a handicrafts workshop, face painting, and other fun-filled activities. Participants also had the opportunity to visit various stands to learn about the opportunities and projects financed by the European Union. Additionally, the EU member states' stands provided an opportunity to discover more about the countries of the European Union.



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The EU Supports the Rehabilitation of the Pedieos River / Kanlıdere

The EU Infopoint, in cooperation with UNDP, organised an event to launch the extension of the Pedieos Linear Park into the Turkish Cypriot community.

Funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the project aims to create a peaceful and sustainable space for walking, cycling, and enjoying nature—promoting connection and coexistence among Nicosians.

The event brought together a diverse audience, including representatives from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, ambassadors of EU member states,

and local and international stakeholders. Opening speeches were delivered by Giulia Bertezolo, Jakhongir Khaydarov, Colin Stewart, Charalambos Prountzos, and Mehmet Harmanci. To mark the 30th anniversary of Austria, Finland, and Sweden's accession to the EU, ambassadors from these countries presented symbolic olive trees to Prountzos and Harmanci.



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EU Aid Programme Info Day in Güzelyurt/Morphou

The EU Infopoint successfully organised an Info Day on 21 June in Morphou/Güzelyurt to raise awareness about the support provided to the Turkish Cypriot community under the EU Aid Programme. Funded by the European Union, the event offered local residents the opportunity to learn about current and upcoming EU-funded projects, while highlighting the EU's long-term commitment to the Turkish Cypriot community.

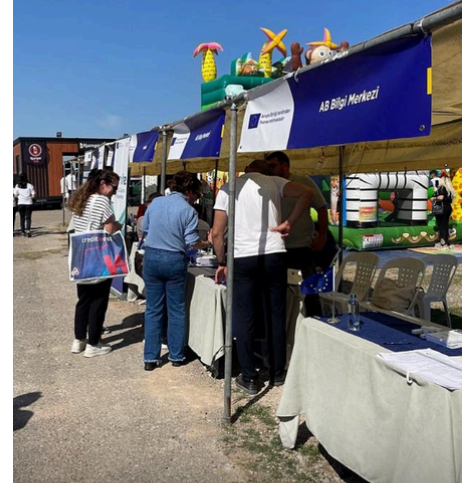
The day began with an indoor session held in the centre of Morphou/ Güzelyurt, bringing together civil society organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, farmers, and residents. Participants received information on a wide range of EU-supported initiatives, including education, agriculture, scholarship programmes, and support for SMEs and CSOs. From 19:00 onwards, EU-funded projects joined the annual and much-anticipated Orange Festival, where a dedicated EU corner featured stands representing various EU-funded Technical Assistance projects.

Visitors had the opportunity to learn about completed and ongoing projects, as well as future initiatives aimed at benefiting the community.



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EU Aid Programme Info Day at Mormenekşe Artichoke Festival

On Sunday, 13 April 2024, several projects funded under the EU Aid Programme took part in the 13th annual Mormenekşe Artichoke Festival—an event that draws strong interest from the local community. The participation aimed to engage with the public and highlight the long-term support provided by the European Union to the Turkish Cypriot community.

An EU corner was set up at the festival, featuring stands from various EU-funded Technical Assistance projects.

These showcased the wide-ranging benefits of EU support in areas such as education, business, environment, and cultural heritage. Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about ongoing and completed projects, as well as future initiatives planned to bring direct benefits to the community.



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Let's Explore an EU Language: Italian Workshop Series

April 2025

In celebration of the European Day of Languages—an initiative held annually on September 26th since 2001 to promote linguistic diversity and multiculturalism across Europe—a series of Italian language workshops took place in April 2025. The program aimed to introduce the basics of the Italian language to members of the Turkish Cypriot community and to encourage interest in learning foreign languages from an early stage.

The main aim of the series was to foster intercultural understanding and appreciation for European languages and cultures. The specific objective was to provide participants with fundamental Italian language skills, including basic vocabulary, common phrases, and simple conversational structures, while also offering insights into Italian culture. The program was structured into two separate groups, each participating in three workshops, resulting in a total of six sessions throughout the series.



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June 2025

As part of ongoing efforts to promote multilingualism and cultural awareness in line with the European Day of Languages— celebrated annually on 26th September— a German language workshop series was organised in June 2025.

The initiative aimed to introduce basic German language skills to members of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Let's Explore an EU Language: German Workshop Series

The program was structured into three separate groups, with each group attending three workshops. In total, nine sessions were conducted. These fun and interactive workshops introduced children to the basics of the German language, including everyday words, simple conversations, and aspects of German culture. The sessions also helped encourage cultural exchange and understanding among young participants.

The series supported both early language learning and cultural awareness, in line with the goals of the European Day of Languages.



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Shape Your Future with Artificial Intelligence – Digital Workshop Series

April 2025

The “Shape Your Future with Artificial Intelligence” digital workshop series offered adult participants training sessions focused on future-oriented skills. The series included two main topics: “Preparing for the Future with Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools” and “Digital Literacy and Creative Content Production.” Each participant attended two workshops, with a total of two sessions held during the event period.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This news letter is published by the EU-funded project “Technical Assistance for Providing Information Services, aimed at bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union through the EU Infopoint.” The project’s goal is to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the EU, its values, policies, and its role in Cyprus settlement support. This is achieved by operating the EU Infopoint and implementing strategic communication tools and activities, including promotional and cultural events, seminars, workshops, campaigns, competitions and similar activities.



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