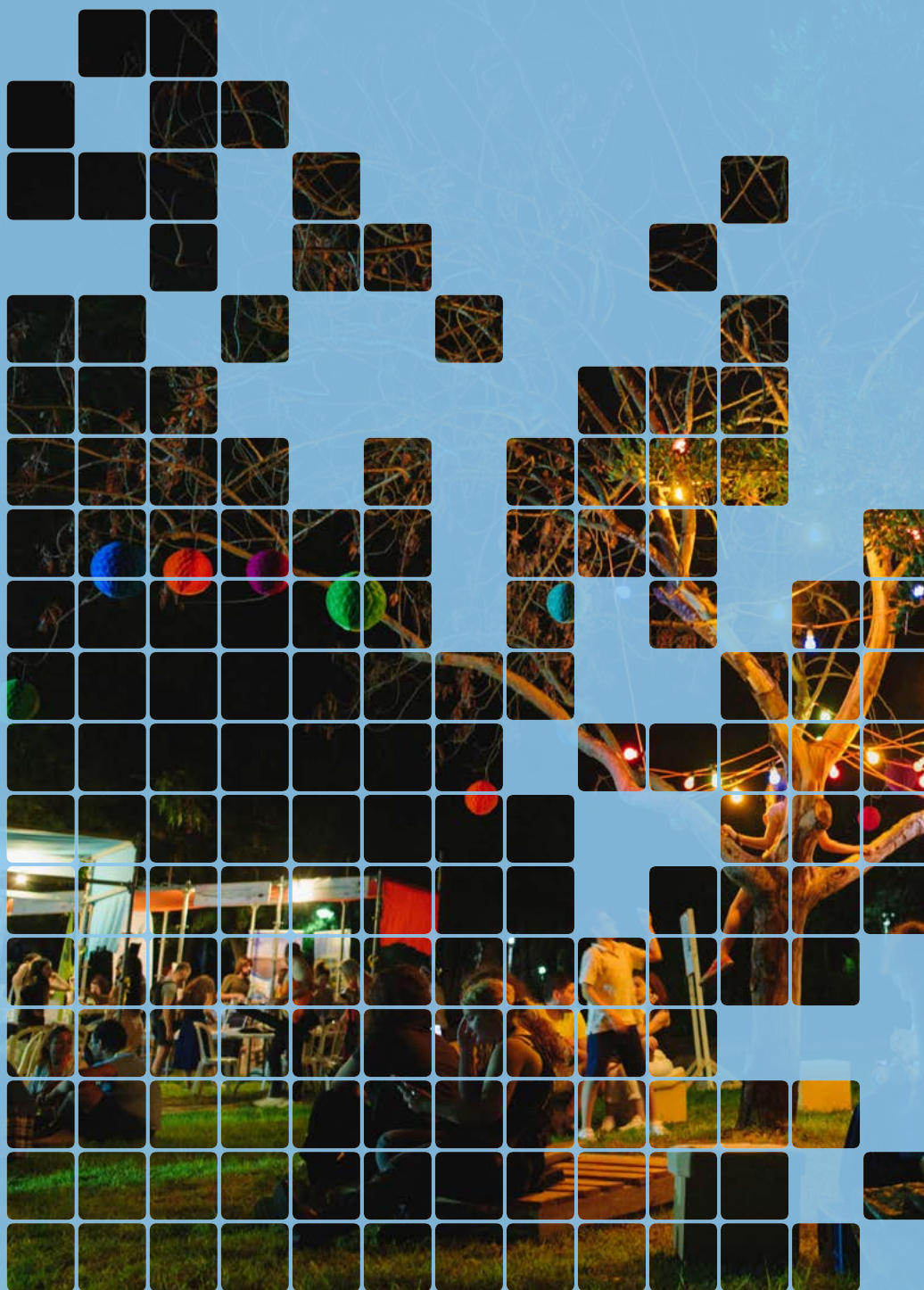


ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS**





YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS

who we are

The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC) is a public organisation, responsible for youth issues. It was founded in 1994 and since then it has actively contributed to Cyprus youth empowerment in multiple ways.

The Organisation is governed by a Board of Directors of seven members who are appointed by the Council of Ministers.

☐ Vision

To establish ourselves as the organisation that puts young people in the centre of its attention, inspiring and empowering them to pursue their dreams and ambitions.

☐ Mission

We believe in the power of Youth. We offer young people the opportunity to reach their full potential through modern policies, innovative programmes and high-quality services today, for a better tomorrow.

contribution to youth policy making





One of the main aims of the YBC is to contribute to the development of youth policies that focus on modern day challenges, with a positive impact on youth. Only if the state is aware of the real problems the youth is faced with, can it offer effective solutions to youth-related problems. The YBC is responsible to provide the state with suggestions and proposals on youth empowerment policies. To this end, it conducts specialised surveys and is in constant contact and consultation with young people, through multiple ways such as its Advisory Bodies, the National Team of Structured Dialogue, open discussions and public consultations.

Therefore, in 2019 the following have been completed:

□ SURVEYS

Surveys are one of the most significant tools that enhance the work of the Youth Board in the field of youth policy-making. In 2019 the YBC started preparing a survey called “Youth-Barometer” / “Youth-Stats”, in cooperation with a research organisation. The study will cover a wide range of questions about the needs and interests of young people and is expected to be completed in 2020.



ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ ERASMUS+
ΚΑΙ EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS
CYPRUS 21/6/2019



□ NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

In 2019, the Youth Board of Cyprus submitted the following documents and proposals to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, and subsequently to the Council of Ministers, which amended them on the 17th of April 2019.

- The First Action Plan of the National Youth Strategy (NYS) of Cyprus, which is the founding pillar for the practical implementation of the Strategy.

More than 20 public services, which constitute the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth, worked together in order to draft a complete document that outlines the actions and steps that are already implemented or planned, aiming to achieve the priority goals set by each NYS topic area (as these were set by young people themselves).

Moreover, the Action Plan presents new YBC measures that achieve certain priority goals, while it also facilitates the institutionalisation of further actions and tools implemented by the application of the NYS and Monitoring Mechanism.

- The Action Plan Analysis, which presents the key conclusions after the examination of measures. The report outlines the number of measures by each NYS priority/topic area, it detects the Strategic priorities that are not implemented, it identifies potential weaknesses and overlaps, it makes suggestions for improvement, it investigates whether the measures apply to the NYS target age group or the general population, to cross-sectoral cooperation requirements, budget adequacy and sources, as well as the performance indicators.



■ The Conclusions Report on the Youth Consultations which were held towards the end of 2018, which present 64 proposals by young people on new measures and 35 suggestions to improve current measures. This action materialises the main pillar of the Strategy, which is youth participation in decision-making on youth-related matters. The Report was the outcome of consultations, with 150 young people and representatives of Youth Clubs, Municipal and Community Youth Councils, the Cyprus Youth Council and Cyprus Children's Parliament and were held in the following locations: Nicosia (2), Lymbia, Limassol (2), Agros, Paralimni, Paphos and Athienou.

The Strategy has been developed in a non-traditional way, based on participatory development and co-creation, involving both public sector services and young people, and will continue to be developed with this method. The proposals of the young people will form the basis for the development of the Second Action Plan for 2020-2022, which will be discussed and developed by the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth and the Strategy Consultation Committee (which consists of youth representatives).

The second three-year Action Plan will complete the 2017-2022 Strategy.



- The ideas and suggestions of young people led to the preparation and submission of the following policy proposals:
- Creation of a Youth Policy Institute
 - Creation of a National Centre of Youth
 - S.T.E.A.M. development and enhancement



ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ ΣΥΜΦΩΝΟΥ
ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΚΗΡΥΞΗΣ
ΑΡΧΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ
HOMBAT 6/3/2019

The First National Youth Strategy Implementation Progress Report was completed in 2019, while in 2020 the YBC is going to draft the Interim Progress Report for 2017-2019, in cooperation with the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth. This process will ignite a new dialogue on the next 2030 Strategy, aiming at the joint implementation of strategic goals, derived from the needs and views of young people.

In addition, in 2019 a new consultation was held with 30 youth representatives in 5 meetings that took place in 2 regions. This consultation aimed at drafting a road map for youth work development in Cyprus, with the guidance of a group of experts from the Council of Europe.

The roadmap aims at identifying the crucial role of youth workers in youth empowerment and support by: ensuring the development of youth work quality on all levels, including policy-making in this field, youth workers training, and the development of a legal framework, professional standards and adequate financial support.

This action was held in the context of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work, as well as the new European Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

In this context, the YBC has an active role in the recognition of skills that are acquired by young people and youth workers through non-formal and informal education activities organised by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, following the relevant EU Council Recommendation of the 20th of December 2012.

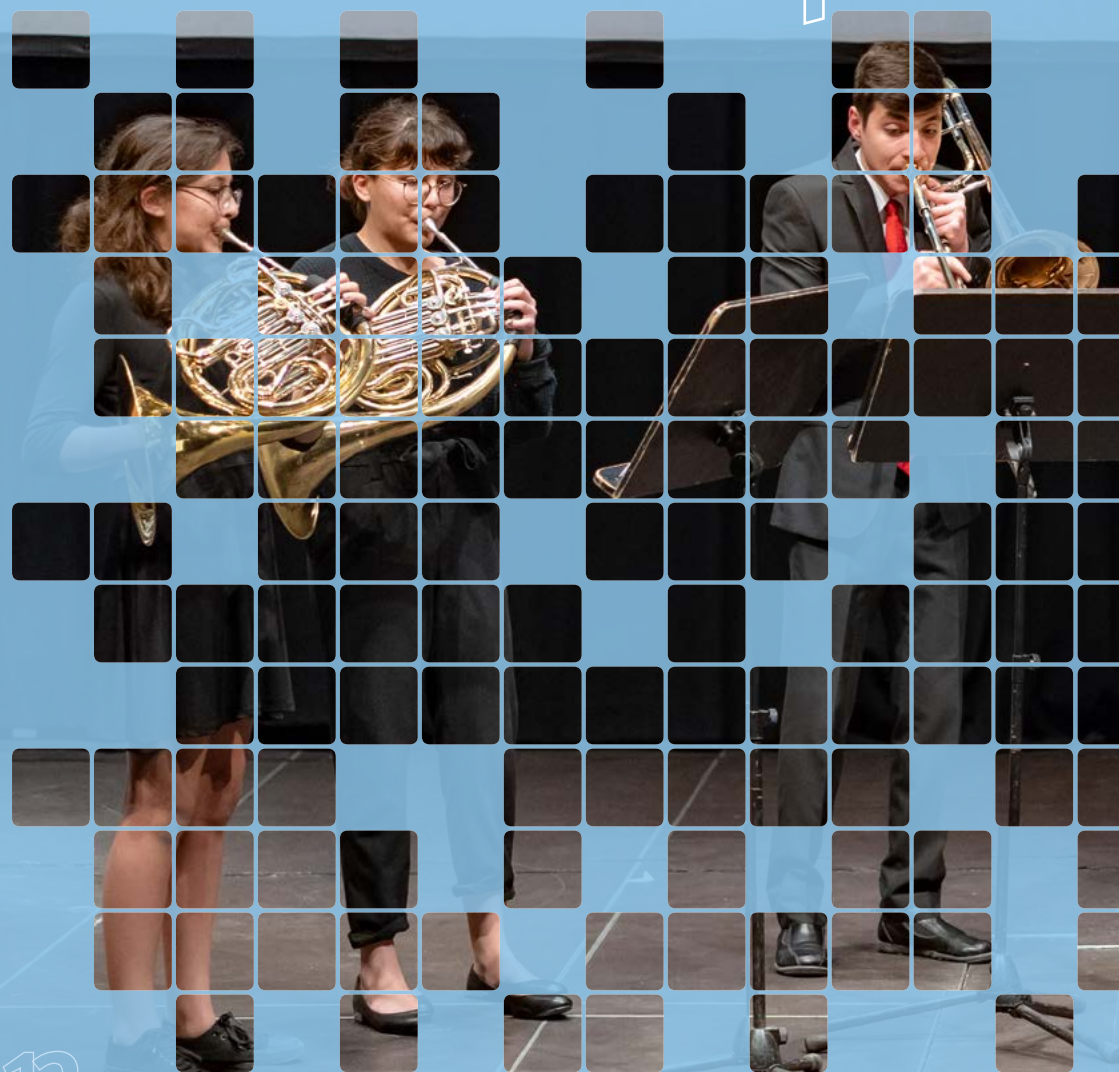


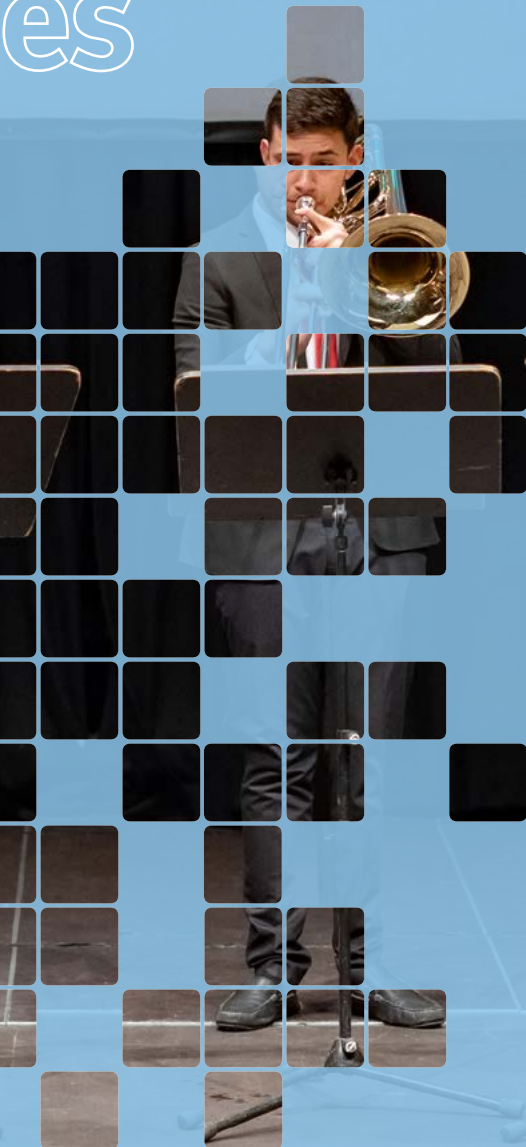


MAKERSPACE OPEN DAY 13/7/2019



European & international relations & polici





□ PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS ON YOUTH RELATED ISSUES

The YBC participates in the Working Groups on youth issues that are held in Brussels during each Presidency of the European Council. In 2019 the YBC participated in Working Groups organised by the Presidencies of Romania (January-June 2019) and Finland (July-December 2019). During the two Presidencies, significant matters were discussed, such as the Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. More specifically, the priorities of the Romanian Presidency were: a) A Europe with common values, b) Equal opportunities for all (discussion on the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ youth chapter), while the priorities of the Finnish Presidency were: a) Youth work quality, b) digitalisation of youth work, c) Youth workers education and training.





ART AT THE HEART OF
EDUCATION 15/2/2019

□ STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

In 2019 the Structured Dialogue process continued, based on the guidelines of the European Steering Committee for Structured Dialogue which consists of the European Youth Forum, the Presidency and the European Committee. In 2019, Structured Dialogue was renamed European Youth Dialogue as a tool for the new European Youth Strategy 2019. In Cyprus, the Cyprus Youth Council coordinates the National Group for Structured Dialogue and it consists of representatives of the Ministry of Education, and the Youth Board of Cyprus. In the context of this process, five consultations were held in urban and rural areas, with the total participation of 50 people. Moreover, there were events and activities to further promote Structured Dialogue, as well as meetings among representatives of the Group for Structured Dialogue, so as to plan actions and analyse the consultation results. In 2019, the Structured Dialogue was based on the priorities set by the presidency trio. It should be noted that the Youth Board of Cyprus financially supports the activities of the National Group annually or biannually (depending on EU Directives), and, in this case, the activities of the Group's coordinator, i.e. the National Youth Council.

□ YOUTH WIKI

As part of the Renewed Framework of European Cooperation in the Field of Youth, the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency has created the Youth Wiki network in order to promote a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of youth policies. It aims at collecting data on youth policies in every member state. To this end, a special platform was created with a view to improve information access, publicity, implementation and the modernisation of these policies and their results.

Through its participation in the network in 2019, the YBC cooperated closely with the Cross-sector Working Group on Youth Issues and it updated information in the following chapters: National Youth Policy, Voluntary Activities, Participation and Social Integration, Employment and Entrepreneurship, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Training, Creativity and Culture and Youth and the World. Moreover, it drafted the content of an additional chapter derived from the new European Youth Strategy on Youth Work.

In 2019 the EU analysed the content of the chapter Participation and Social Integration and announced the first comparative report in this sector, which is available on the Youth Wiki webpage.





**ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑ ΜΕ ΠΡΟΟΠΤΙΚΗ
3 ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΕΣ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΕΙΣ
13/6/2019**

□ PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH (CDEJ)

In 2019 the YBC participated in two meetings of the Steering Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe, as well as meetings of the Presidency of the Committee, of which the YBC Executive Director is a member. These meetings focused on the active and successful efforts to save the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe, and the preparation of the new Youth Strategy 2030, while the Advisory Mission on Youth Work was hosted in Cyprus.



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΗ ΣΤΟ
ΠΟΛΥΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ 21/12/19

□ EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE CENTRE ON YOUTH POLICY - EKCYP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The YBC attended the meetings of the national correspondents of the Centre in order to monitor the drafting and implementation of national youth policies. In 2019 the Centre's work focused on methods of evaluation for youth policy and youth work.

□ UNITED NATIONS

The YBC participates in the international conventions and forums of the UN, since the UN's youth policies and initiatives are taken into serious consideration by the YBC in its National Youth Strategy, and because these events provide valuable knowledge and experience. In 2019 the Executive Director of the YBC participated at ECOSOC Youth Forum "Empowered, Included and Equal" at the UN Headquarters in New York on 8-9 of April 2019. Furthermore, the YBC funded the participation of additional young people in similar Forums through the Youth Initiatives Project.



ΜΝΗΜΟΝΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ
ΜΕΤΑΞΥ ΤΟΥ ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΥ
ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ PWC ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

□ COMMONWEALTH

The YBC paid its annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth Programme for Youth, like every year, and it always considers the relevant youth related programmes. The YBC encourages young people's participation at the Commonwealth Youth Forum providing financial and other kinds of support. In 2019, the annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth was €34.834,35.

□ MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION

In 2019, aiming to build mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with other institutions, organisations and universities in Cyprus, the YBC signed memoranda of cooperation with the following institutions: 1) Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordination Council, 2) Pancyprrian Confederation of Parents' Associations for Secondary Education, 3) Alexander College, 4) PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), 5) UNYSA Cyprus, 6) Interreg Mediterranean, 7) Cyprus Computer Society (CCS). This benefited not only the youth but also the society as a whole.



SI2 KOINΩNIKH
KAINOTOMIA KAI
KOINΩNIKH ENTAXH
14-15/9/2019





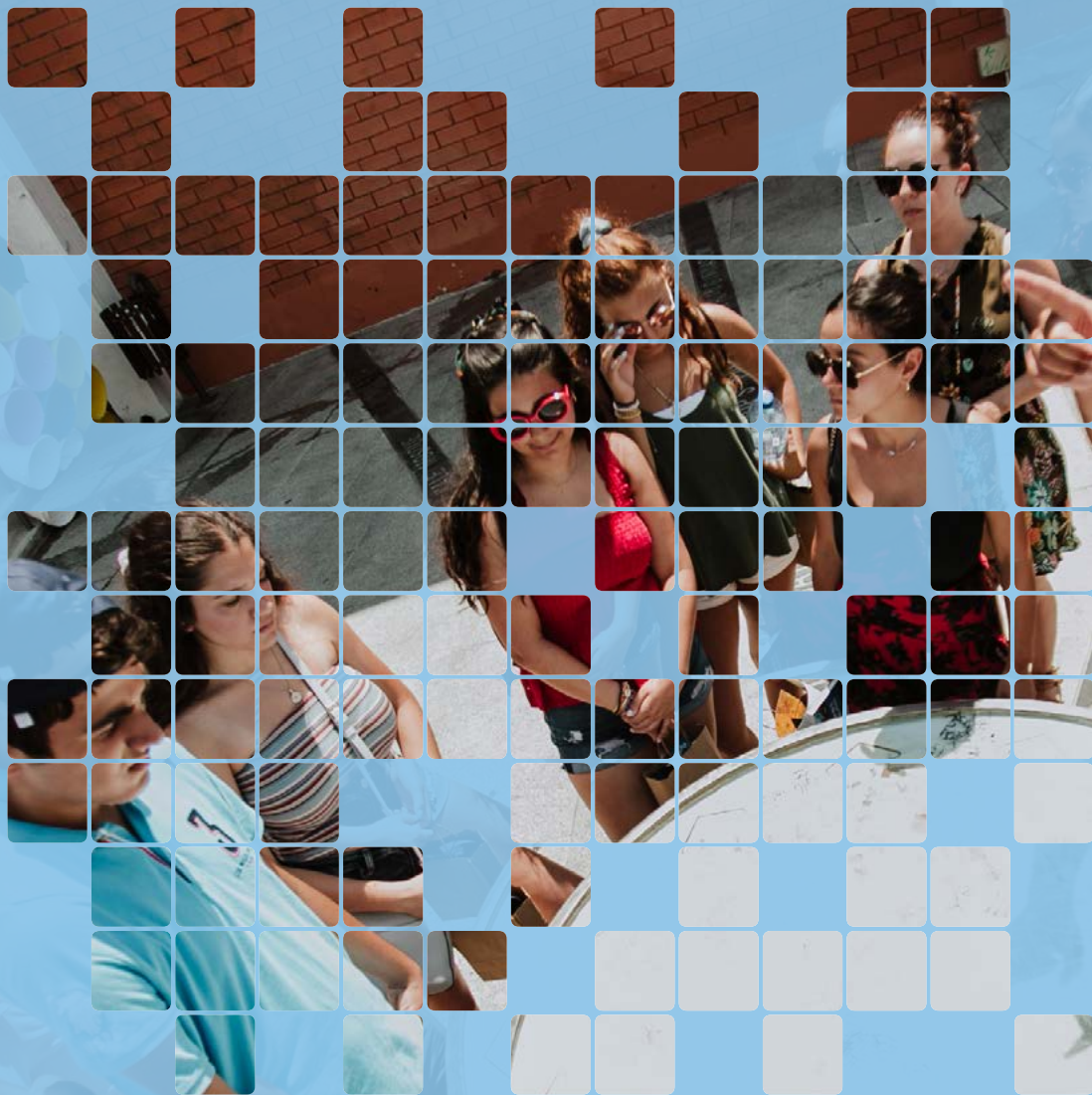
□ MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCILS

Municipal and Community Youth Councils are institutions that contribute to a constant and substantial connection and dialogue between local authorities and youth. Through this institution, young people and youth organisations are actively involved in issues of interest and in decision-making processes within their communities. The YBC provides financial, technical and advisory support to the Municipal and Community Youth Councils.

In 2019, three new Youth Councils were formed, for the Municipalities of Akanthou, Kythrea and for the Community of Achna.

The YBC continued supporting the Municipal and Community Youth Councils, by providing consultation and advice on what their responsibilities, by actively attending their General Assemblies and meetings, as well as by providing financial support through the Youth Initiatives Project. In 2019, the YBC received applications from 7 Municipal and Community Youth Councils, all of which were funded a total amount of €17.637.

Moreover, the YBC participated at conferences and meetings that concerned the Municipal and Community Youth Councils, such as the meeting in Lazio, Italy, in December 2019 (13-15/12/2019 Santa Severa Castle), which aimed to enhance democracy among youth and participation of youth councils in the Mediterranean region.



programmes
and services
funding opportunities



□ YOUTH INITIATIVES PROJECT

The “Youth Initiatives Project” funds activities organised by young people and youth organisations. Its goal is to promote active citizenship through volunteerism by motivating young people to have an active role in cultural, sport, political and social activities in Cyprus.

In 2019, there were 3 application submission rounds addressing the following beneficiary categories:

1. Informal Youth Groups
2. Young individuals up to 35 years old
3. Youth organisations with proven action on a national level
4. Youth organisations with local action
5. Youth Clubs
6. Youth Coordinating Bodies

In 2019, the Project received 790 applications, amounting to more than €1.700.000, of which **566 were approved and €1.190.244 allocated**. The funded activities included cultural events (theatre or musical performances, concerts, solo art exhibitions, youth festivals, etc.), educational excursions, conferences, seminars and workshops, sport events, purchase of technical and other equipment by youth organisations, as well as support to Youth Coordinating Bodies. In addition, the programme supports Greek language courses and programmes that promote Cyprus’ history and culture to the Young Overseas Cypriots (NEPOMAK).



ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑ ΑΠΟΔΗΜΩΝ
ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ ΝΕΩΝ 2-12/7/2019





□ STUDENTS IN ACTION

“Students in Action” is a funding programme and it is being implemented by the Youth Board of Cyprus for a third consecutive year. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the student community through:

- (a) Providing research grants on youth related issues, in particular on topics related to the priorities of the National Youth Strategy
- (b) Encouraging student entrepreneurship and innovation by providing grants to individual students and student groups, enabling them to implement their business ideas, innovation projects and initiatives that foster creative ideas and entrepreneurial culture among students.

In 2019, the total amount allocated to 53 applicants stood at **€78.805**, whereas the amount of **€22.320** was allocated to 5 entrepreneurial projects.



❑ EUROPEAN PROGRAMME ERASMUS+ YOUTH

The European Programme Erasmus+ funds activities in the fields of education, training youth and sports for the period 2014-2020. The YBC is the National Agency responsible for funds allocation for youth and non-formal learning. All the information about the European Programme Erasmus+ can be found at www.erasmusplus.cy.

It is worth mentioning that in 2019, all funds granted by the European Commission to the YBC for the Erasmus+ Youth Programme were fully absorbed.

More specifically, 213 applications were submitted in 2019, of which 60 were approved, based on the available budget. Of the approved submissions, 47 involved youth mobility projects, 7 were strategic partnerships and 6 were projects in the framework of Structured Dialogue.

Regarding the 2019 Mobility Projects, they recorded a total 1,360 participants and 520 youth workers.



ΤΕΛΕΤΗ ΕΝΑΡΞΗΣ
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΥ
ΣΧΗΜΑΤΟΣ
ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΥΗΣ
4/2/2019

The 2019 beneficiaries were non-governmental / non-profit organisations from across Cyprus, youth organisations, informal youth groups, universities, research centres, private organisations, etc.

Some Volunteering Projects are still implemented, despite being transferred from the third round of applications in 2018 to the new EU Programme “European Solidarity Corps”. Hence, in the context of

Volunteering Projects Training and Evaluation Cycle (VP-TEC), the National Agency organised 7 training sessions in 2019 (On-arrival trainings and Mid-term evaluations). These training sessions were addressed to foreign volunteers who had volunteered in Cyprus for more than two months, with a view to establish an informal volunteers' network, an environment that would encourage learning and at evaluating the volunteers' experience.

In 2019, the National Agency organised or participated in numerous events concerning a wide range of topics. The YBC actively participated in the "European MobilityWeek", which was the basis for a conference organised on Fake News. The conference was attended by the online platform "Greek Hoaxes", journalists and academics. Moreover, the National Agency, along with the European Commission and the European Parliament Representations, organised the Europe Day celebrations, which featured the European Elections. Another notable event in 2019 was the "Erasmus Festival", which was co-organised with the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. The festival took





FAKE NEWS Η ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ
ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΤΥΟΥ 16/4/2019



ERASMUS FESTIVAL
ΣΤΗΝ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ
ΦΑΝΕΡΩΜΕΝΗΣ
12/10/2019





place at Faneromeni Square in Nicosia, and showcased ways in which citizens may benefit from the programme and take on a more active role in European democratic processes. The festival featured a wide range of activities, such as information points, educational games and competitions, as well as an open discussion with Ms. Themis Christophidou, Director-General of the European Commission DG of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. In addition, the National Agency participated in the YBC Festival “Up To You(th)” with an information booth, which attracted a large number of visitors. The National Agency had an active presence on social and conventional media throughout the year, providing direct and instant information to young people. Finally, just like every year, the National Agency cooperated with other services and institutions, such as the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes, the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, Public and Private Universities, the Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordinative Council and other NGOs so as to organise various events, information talks, education exhibitions, career expos, and events that promote good practices, as well as a major information event on Erasmus+ 2020.

□ TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Transnational Partnerships are educational events or seminars that promote Erasmus+ priorities and objectives. Through these partnerships, Agencies and participants develop partnerships and exchange good practices, strengthening the social impact of the programme. These activities concern people who are involved with youth, such as members of a youth organisation or an informal group of young people, and people who organise activities (e.g. seminars, forums, trainings) addressing specific target-groups.

In 2019, more than 200 people participated at Erasmus+ training activities and seminars in Cyprus and abroad. Moreover, the Youth Board of Cyprus, being the Erasmus+ Youth National Agency, organised 3 activities in Cyprus, which were attended by 121 people in total:

- Game Changing Project, in cooperation with UEFA and the Football Federations of Cyprus, Romania and the United Kingdom, aiming to enhance participation, social integration and youth work quality through football.
- The National Forum: “Social Innovation for Social Inclusion”, which aimed to educate local authorities on basic principles of social innovation and its contribution to social integration, as well as on how to better map the needs, challenges and expectations of authorities and professionals on issues related to social innovation and social integration.
- SMART Participation in Erasmus+, where participants investigated ways in which smart tools can enhance participation in both the Programme and wider society.





GAME
CHANGING
PROJECT
7-11/5/2019



□ EURODESK CYPRUS

Eurodesk's goal is to provide information to young people and youth workers regarding European policies and opportunities, giving immediate access to specialised and accurate information on topics such as work, studies, mobility, volunteerism, funding, exchanges, non-formal learning, etc. Eurodesk may be contacted at eurodeskcy@eurodesk.eu, via the European Youth Portal through "Ask A Question" service, or via telephone numbers 22402613/641. Eurodesk is co-funded by the European Commission, it operates in 36 European countries, and in Cyprus it is operated by the YBC.



SMART
PARTICIPATION IN
ERASMUS+
25-29/11/19

□ INFORMATION ON MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

In 2019, Eurodesk Cyprus participated in festivals, information events of Erasmus+ National Services, educational exhibitions, various events organised by youth organisations, universities and other institutions, offering information to young people and youth workers. Eurodesk was also active on social media, posting information on opportunities for young people, schools, teachers, trainers and organisations.

Eurodesk also provided information on the new EU initiative "Discover EU" which is targeted at 18-year-old individuals, as well as on the new EU programme "European Solidarity Corps", which allows the participation of individuals aged 18-30.





□ EXPANSION OF THE MULTIPLIERS NETWORK

Eurodesk Cyprus announced an annual call for interest by the Network's multipliers/partners, aiming at supporting and promoting the services offered by Eurodesk. In 2019 Eurodesk Cyprus welcomed five NGOs to its network, which, together with the YBC, operate as info points on European youth mobility matters.



□ CREATION OF NATIONAL WEBSITE

The Network created its national website, eurodesk.onek.org.cy, in which one can find all kinds of information on mobility opportunities and the Network's events, as well as stories and personal accounts by people who had the chance to participate in European projects.

Η ΠΑΝΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ
ΕΚΣΤΡΑΤΕΙΑ
ΤΟΥ EURODESK
“TIME TO MOVE” 10/19





□ EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN “TIME TO MOVE”

“Time to Move” is the largest European campaign organised by Eurodesk network, which is held every October. It brings together a wide range of events and activities addressing young people, with the aim of informing them on mobility opportunities. As is the case every year, the campaign was organised by Eurodesk Cyprus and YBC Youth Information Centres and youth organisations which operate as Eurodesk multipliers. Various interactive events were organised, such as a treasure hunt, presentations at schools and universities, etc. Moreover, Eurodesk participated in the Erasmus Festival, which was organised by the two Erasmus+ Services, the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. During these events, people learned about the numerous opportunities to travel abroad, to participate in international programmes and to explore Europe.

All these events are presented on the website <https://onek.org.cy/timetomove2019/>

□ PHOTO COMPETITION “MOVE – MOTIVATING OTHERS THROUGH VOICES OF EXPERIENCE”

In the context of the “Time to Move Campaign”, the YICs organised a national amateur photo competition entitled: “Motivating Others through Voices of Experience”. The aim of the competition was to encourage young people aged 15-30 who live in Cyprus but also in Europe to capture various aspects of their daily life, trips, explorations, challenges, issues of concern, or any matter that they wish to share. The Competition was held in memory of Thrasivoulos Thrasivoulou, Executive Secretary of the Youth Board of Cyprus.



ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ
ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΣ
Μ.Ο.Υ.Ε 2019



□ EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL

The European Youth Portal contains information and opportunities that may interest people who live, study and work in Europe. On the Portal, one can find articles, news, events on youth related matters on a national or European level. The Youth Portal is available in 29 languages. Eurodesk Cyprus is responsible for managing Cyprus-related content. A portal update is scheduled to take place next year, which will enrich it with new topics and attractive content.

ERASMUS+
INFO DAY
ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ
- ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ -
ΚΙΝΗΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ
11/12/19





□ EUROPEAN PROGRAMME “EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS”

The European Solidarity Corps offers young European citizens aged 18-30 years old opportunities for volunteerism, work or internship in their country or abroad for a period of 2-12 months.

The Corps supports a wide range of activities and programmes that relate to the prevention of natural disasters, assistance at asylum seeker camps, social problems, environmental matters, etc.

The YBC is the National Agency for managing the European Solidarity Corps in Cyprus. All relevant information can be found on the website: <http://eusolidaritycorps.onek.org.cy/>.

In 2019, 19 applications were submitted, 16 of which were Volunteering Project applications, one was for a Solidarity project and two were related to Volunteering Partnerships. Eighteen applications were approved, while one Volunteering Project did not qualify.

It is worth mentioning that according to the data on the approved projects for 2019, the number of foreign participants who will be hosted in Cyprus is expected to reach 165, while 20 Cypriots are involved in volunteering projects abroad.

The 2019 applicants included an informal group of young people, non-governmental and non-profit organisations, and youth organisations from various areas of Cyprus.

In 2019, the number of accredited Cypriot organisations reached 24, with four more organisations receiving the Quality Label (which corresponds to the Erasmus+ accreditation) and three organisations applying for it. The Quality Label is a requirement for every organisation that wishes to participate in the programme and it provides access to the Corps platform, where all interested young people are registered. Nevertheless, it does not receive direct funding. The organisations that are accredited



by Erasmus+ are eligible to participate in European Solidarity Corps projects.

In the context of the Corps Training and Evaluation Cycle (VP-TEC), the National Agency organised 7 training programmes in 2019 (On-arrival training and Mid-term evaluations and Training for organisations that have recently been awarded the Quality Label). The first two training programmes addressed foreign volunteers who volunteered in Cyprus for a period longer than two months, and aimed at forming an informal volunteers' network, an environment that would encourage learning and an evaluation of the volunteers' experience. The training for organisations that have recently been awarded the Quality Label aimed at supporting new organisations, through basic training on the Corps' basic values and features, the roles and responsibilities of every organisation and the participants in the projects, as well as technical and practical knowledge on the development, implementation and management of their projects, in order to ensure success and high quality.

The European Solidarity Corps was present at all Erasmus+ events, providing valuable information on the opportunities it offers. The peak event was its launch, which was held in February 2019 and was addressed by Mr Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.





ERASMUS+
INFO DAY
ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ
- ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ -
ΚΙΝΗΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ
11/12/19





ROBOTEX 2019

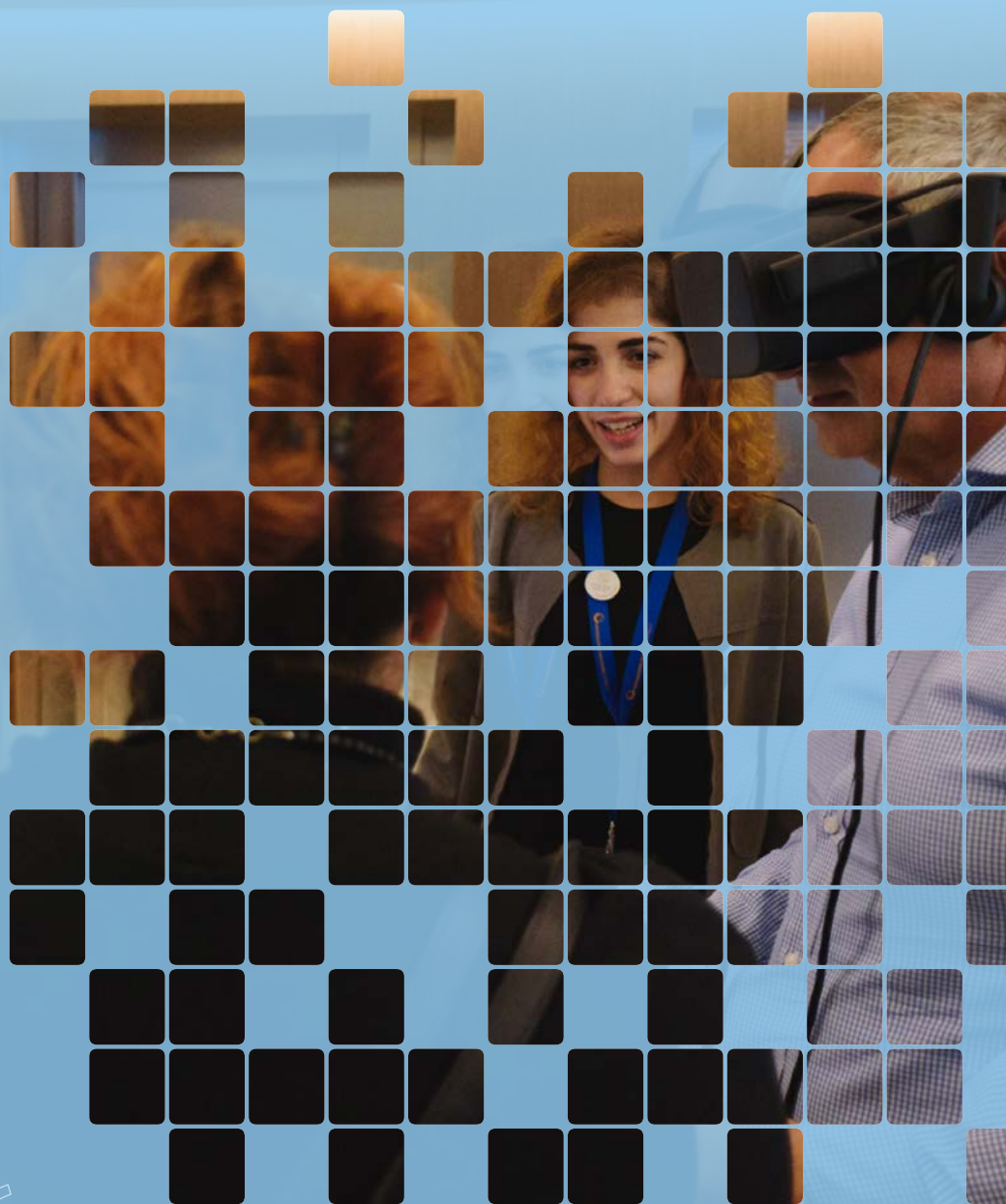


□ NETWORKING EVENTS

For the National Agencies that manage the European Solidarity Corps, Networking Events are a tool that promotes the goals and priorities of the project in order to achieve a more effective implementation and a higher social impact.

In 2019, 30 participants took part in such events, held both in Cyprus and abroad. The Youth Board of Cyprus, as the National Agency that manages the European Solidarity Corps, organised the event “Solidarity Within: Looking Back - Dreaming Forward”, which was attended by Cypriot NGOs and aimed at informing them on ESC opportunities and encouraging their participation.

entrepreneurs



□ YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme, which was launched in 2017, continued in 2019. The aim of the programme is to provide support to 15-29 year-old unemployed people who would like to take an entrepreneurial initiative, thus promoting a culture of entrepreneurship in Cyprus.

In 2019 a series of seminars was conducted in Larnaca for young graduates. Each series of seminars was 28 hours long, and lasted for four days; participants learned about the stages of business development, self-employment schemes, company registration procedures, business plan drafting, project management, sales and communication techniques, selling a business and business investigation. After the four-day seminar, participants received further individualised support on their first business steps from experienced business mentors for six months.

This support mechanism allows young people with limited knowledge and networking to discover and enhance their entrepreneurial skills, create sustainable businesses and decent working conditions for themselves, as well as for their peers.

The Programme is funded by the European Social Fund by 85% and may be co-funded by the Youth Employment Initiative.





2ο ΕΤΗΣΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΝΕΟΦΥΩΝ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ
16/2/2019



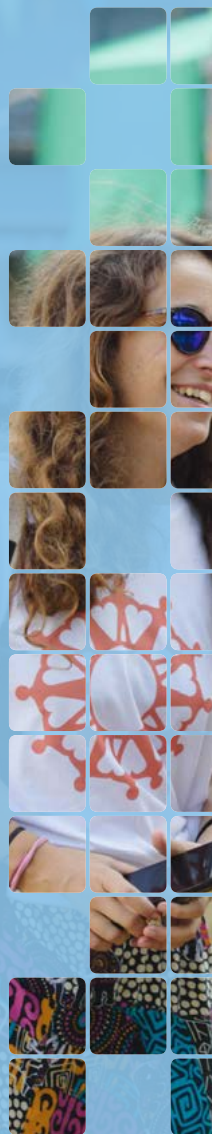
❑ SCHEME FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The YBC actively supports the Scheme for the Enhancement of Youth Entrepreneurship offered by the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism through providing information on the Scheme and support for application submission to young people aged 20-40 years old. The Scheme's objectives are to develop, support and promote entrepreneurship, and facilitate the creation of new and sustainable businesses through funding and training seminars.

The evaluation of the applications submitted during the 2nd Call was completed in December 2019 by the Evaluation Committee.

2nd Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Conference: "From a Business Idea to a Successful Start-up Business"

The Youth Board of Cyprus, in cooperation with Europe Direct Larnaka, organised the 2nd Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Conference on the 16th of February 2019 in Larnaka. The keynote speaker was Enon Landenberg, founder of the internationally known company Bosco, who travelled to Cyprus for the event. Mr Landenberg shared his successful entrepreneurial journey with the participants; a journey filled with challenges until reaching the destination of success. The conference was attended by more than 90 young people who had the opportunity to learn good practices, get inspired and draw ideas on how a young entrepreneur may achieve their dreams. During the second part of the conference, Mr Michael Maimaris, founder of Knowledge Training & Consulting, held a workshop on marketing for young entrepreneurs.



information



□ YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRES (YIC)

The main purpose of the Centres is to provide young people with general information on topics of their interest, facilitating their social inclusion as independent individuals.

They also provide one stop-shop services to young people:

1. Counselling services such as career advice and guidance, psychological support, youth support on entrepreneurship, etc.
2. Skill development programmes
3. Information on employment, education, training and European programmes
4. Information on youth policies and opportunities throughout Europe, given that YICs operate as Eurodesk Cyprus contact points

The Youth Information Centres constitute the YBC's physical presence around the island. They operate in all regions of Cyprus: Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaka, Paphos, Free Famagusta (at Sotira Municipality) and Agros.

All YICs operate along the standards of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA). YICs can be contacted via email, which can be found on the YBC's website, on social media and on the Pancyprrian number 77 77 27 57.

In 2019, the YICs organised and participated in 155 events/activities at their premises or in other venues, such as skill development workshops, talks and discussions on education and studies, workshops on social and psychological development. Furthermore, the YIC participated in festivals, education fairs, school events and presentations organised by third parties. The main topics of YIC events and activities were Employment, Mobility, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship, Education, Social Media, and European Programmes. The events held at YIC premises or attended by YIC attracted more than 2,500 participants.

□ STUDENT EMPOWERMENT SUMMER SCHOOLS

The Youth Information Centres in Nicosia, Larnaka, Limassol and Paphos organised Student Empowerment Summer Schools for high-school students, which have become a successful and anticipated annual event. The summer schools were held at the Youth Information Centres' premises and lasted for two weeks, apart from the one in Paphos, which lasted one week. The summer schools were attended by 80 students, who acquired valuable experience and skills, enhanced their interpersonal relations and had the opportunity to come across new fields. During the Student Empowerment Summer Schools, participants took part in workshops, lectures, field-trips and other interesting activities that contributed to personal and emotional development, skills enhancement, and helped students be more effective with school work and more active citizens in society.

counselling services





□ CAREER COUNSELLING SERVICES

On the 22nd of October 2019, the Youth Board of Cyprus held a press conference where it presented its Career Counselling Services, which address school and university students, young employment seekers and young professionals.

Career Counselling Services are offered free of charge at the Youth Information Centres of the Youth Board in all regions and evolve around four action pillars, which cover the entire range of young people's needs, from education to professional development.

1) Personalised meetings with Career Counsellors

Career Counselling Services provide personalised career counselling by experienced YBC counsellors at Youth Information Centres.

2) Career Test

Career Counselling Services offer career tests that help young people identify their interests and skills, enabling them to take more informed decisions regarding their academic and professional path.

3) Professional Skills Development Workshops

Career Counselling Services organise soft skills development workshops for young people who are in search of work, as well as for those who already have a job. The workshops aim at preparing young people for the job market (e.g. CV drafting, preparation for a job interview, good practices for job hunting, etc.). They also provide professional development skills that help young people become successful professionals (e.g. leadership and decision-making, emotional intelligence, presentation and communication, etc.).





ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑΣΗ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ
ΚΑΘΟΔΗΓΗΣΗΣ
ΚΑΡΙΕΡΑΣ
22/10/2019



4) Career Academies

Another innovation offered by Career Counselling Services is the organisation of Career Academies, which give participants the opportunity to attend intensive seminars and workshops on job hunting and professional development by leading trainers and professionals.

More information may be found on YBC website www.onek.org.cy and at the Pancyprian number 77 77 27 57 (free of charge).

It should be noted that the above services had been offered by the YBC in previous years, but are now under Career Counselling Services.

In 2019, 1,780 personal career consultations were conducted between young people and YBC counsellors, on topics related to education, studies, job interview, CV preparation, etc.

ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑΣΗ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ
ΚΑΘΟΔΗΓΗΣΗΣ
ΚΑΡΙΕΡΑΣ
22/10/2019



□ PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Help Line 1410 & E-Counselling

The 1410 help line offers young people responsible answers on daily life matters, but also on more complex issues such as addictive substances, sexuality issues, eating disorders, etc. The line's Counsellors handle all the cases with professionalism, without discrimination, on a confidential basis and they never ask for personal details. The line operates all-year-round, Monday to Sunday, and the calls are free of charge.

The website of 1410 can be found at www.onek.org.cy. It deals with the same issues and follows the same principles and deontology as the 1410 Help Line. The conversation with the consultant is conducted through a software that supports confidentiality, hence, no one has access to it, apart from the caller and the counsellor.

More than 1,500 calls were made to the two facilities. The majority of the callers were women and when it comes to age, the majority of callers were teenagers and young people (15-29 years old). Help Line 1410 seems to be quite well established among school students as a way to acquire information and express concerns. The main topics raised by student callers were related to relationship problems, stress, mental health issues, self-confidence and self-awareness.

As in previous years, some issues that required further consideration involved Parent Counselling (questions and concerns regarding teenage addictions, issues of bad behaviour).

□ “PROTASI” COUNSELLING SERVICES

The aim of “Protasi” Counselling Services is to provide support and counselling to young people, couples and families that face difficulties and wish to speak to a professional counsellor confidentially on issues such as (a) relationship problems (friendships, sexual relationships or marriages), (b) substance addiction problems, (c) domestic violence, (d) antisocial/ delinquent behaviour, (e) any other issue of concern.

Protasi CS received calls from 306 people, of whom 78.1% were women. 1,812 meetings were held in 2019, compared to 1,171 in 2018. More specifically, the meetings in 2019 were as follows: 86.9% personal, 6.2% couple and 3.6% family meetings (in the presence of both parents and children). As far as the progression of each case is concerned, 86 cases were interrupted (28.1%), 120 cases were completed (39.2%) while 125 cases were in process and are expected to be completed in 2020 (27.8%). The main issue was how to manage stress and negative feelings, relating to 126 cases. The second most popular issue was how to manage other negative feelings, such as depression and disappointment, relating to 109 cases. Parent Counselling (children and teenagers’ problematic behaviour) and relationship problems (sexual and romantic) were raised in 79 cases. The third most common issue brought forward by 104 cases was relationship problems. When it comes to demographic details, 56.2% of the people contacted the Limassol-Paphos Complex and 43.8% the Nicosia-Larnaka Complex. 22.3% were teenagers (15-18 years old) and 50.6% were young adults (19-35 years old). 48.4% of people stated that they were not in a long-term relationship during counselling. As far as their educational background is concerned, a significant proportion (35.2%) were degree holders from a tertiary institution (3 years+) and 41.5% had a full-time job, while 16% stated that they were unemployed.



creative
activities



ΜΕΡΑ ΤΗΣ
ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑΣ 2019





□ “THE STEAMERS”

The Youth Board of Cyprus acknowledges the additional value of combining STEM and Arts. Hence, it continued its investment in the innovative programme “The STEAMers”. The aim of the programme is to develop young people’s skills through STEAM activities and interventions.

In 2019, a large number of afternoon workshops were offered to children and young people aged 6-36 years old in Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos. The workshops focused on the fields of music, art, graphic design, creative writing and photography. Moreover, there were workshops on educational programming and robotics as a tool to develop critical and algorithmic thinking, which are integrated parts of STEM.

The programme is on an upward trend among young people, as their participation is gradually increasing. Through this programme, the Youth Board of Cyprus aspires to cultivate critical thinking among young people, contributing to their personal development and wellbeing. Furthermore, the workshops enhance young people’s intelligence, creativity, as well as other useful skills that will be valuable in their daily lives and career development.

During the period 2018-2019 (academic year) the following workshops were held:

Multicentre	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants
Nicosia	51	309
Limassol	8	40
Paphos	56	349

Moreover, in the context of “The Steamers” programme, the 4th Leadership and Creativity Summer School was held in Platres on 4-7 July 2019 for young people 18-30 years old. The aim of the Summer School was to inspire and train 25 young people 17-30 years old on sustainable development, offering creative and shareable skills and tools that can be used during their studies and future career.

□ YOUTH MAKERSPACE LARNAKA

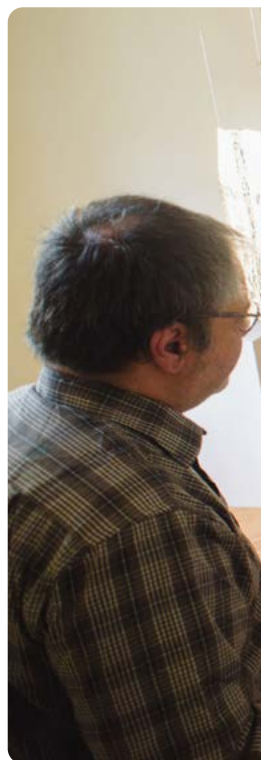
Youth Makerspace Larnaka is an innovative project and there is only one of its kind in Cyprus. It was launched by the Youth Board of Cyprus on the 10th of March 2018 and was formed based on the idea of Makerspaces, which have been developed by universities and communities around the world. It provides young people with access to high-quality and state-of-the-art equipment for developing prototypes and implementing their business ideas.

Youth Makerspace Larnaka is located in a renovated emblematic building, which used to be the residence of the British Commander in the colonial era. The building was offered by Larnaka Municipality to the YBC as a kind contribution. In this transformed space, young people discover new types of technology through specialised workshops organised by YBC, engage in the creative-making process, share knowledge and skills and put them in practice. The equipment includes 3D printers, laser cutters, drones, virtual reality, robots, Arduino, and raspberry pi.

Youth Makerspace Larnaka is open to children and young people aged 6 to 35, as well as organised groups of young people, educational institutions, schools and more.









Moreover, the venue is used as a Youth Entrepreneurship Development Centre, a project run by YBC.

In its 18 months of operation, the Youth Makerspace counts 483 members and has hosted numerous educational activities and workshops. The premises have been visited by 31 public and private schools (primary, secondary and vocational schools), which had the opportunity to participate



in workshops and use the innovative equipment. In addition, 17 groups, such as youth NGOs, scouts and youth groups, visited the venue and used its equipment for their projects. The venue was also visited by tertiary education students who used the equipment for different projects.

Youth Makerspace organised 36 workshops in 2019, which were open and free to the public. The workshops related to the available equipment and new technology developments. Furthermore, the venue was used 33 times by youth NGOs, academic institutions and organisations that deal with young people and youth issues for their own events and activities.



□ MOBILE MAKERSPACE

Following the success and popularity of Youth Makerspace Larnaka since 2018, the Youth Board of Cyprus decided to create a Mobile Makerspace. It is a specially-designed mobile unit which carries similar equipment with Youth Makerspace Larnaka.

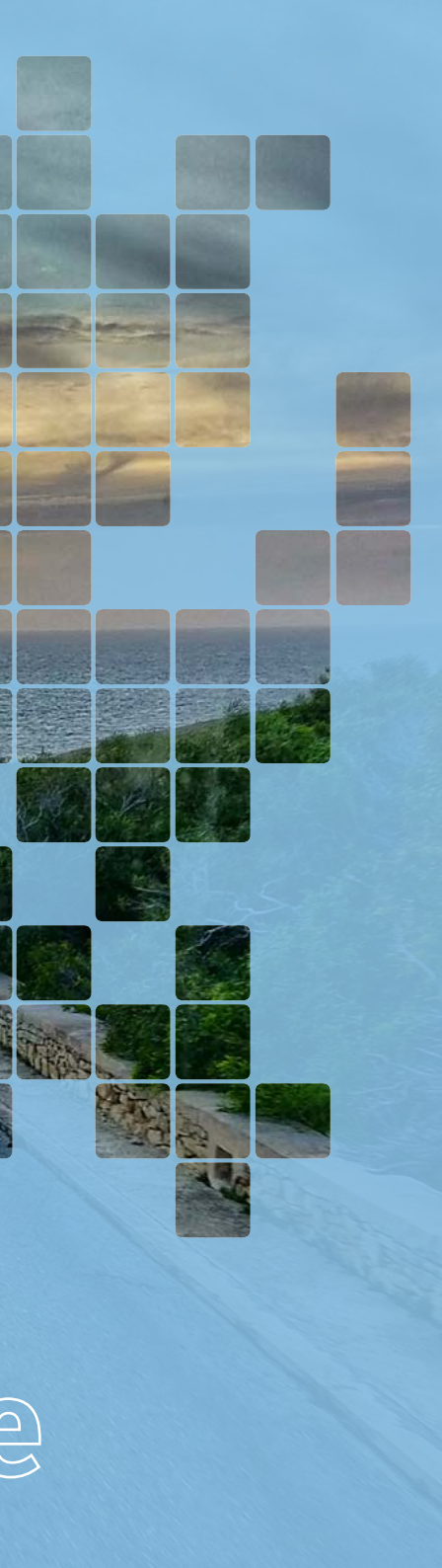
Mobile Makerspace is built on the same principles as Youth Makerspace Larnaka and has similar objectives, though it focuses more on young people with fewer opportunities, who live in isolated or remote areas and do not have the ability to visit Youth Makerspace Larnaka. Mobile Makerspace visits schools and organisations in rural or distant areas and offers workshops using its technological equipment. The workshops are held by specially-trained professionals who follow the course outlines that were specially prepared and designed by YBC. Through Mobile Makerspace, the YBC aims at sharing these technologies, making them more accessible to a larger audience, so as to inspire young people and encourage their further engagement with new technologies.

In 2019, the Mobile Makerspace unit operated on a pilot basis. Among others, it participated in YBC information events at the University of Cyprus and the Technological University of Cyprus, the International Youth Day event in Larnaka, and the Up to Youth YBC Youth Festival in Nicosia.



SLOW

other benefits
to young people



□ EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD

The European Youth Card for young people aged 13-30 years old offers benefits and discounts on plenty of products and services, opportunities to participate in events and seminars in Cyprus (130 benefits) and 40 European countries (100,000 benefits).

In addition, the YBC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, issues a free Student Card, which is connected with the European Youth Card and is distributed to all the students of recognised and accredited tertiary education institutions in Cyprus, as well as Cypriot students who study abroad.

In recent years, the card also started being issued for all soldiers, on their induction day, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence.

In December 2019, a decision was made to issue and promote co-branded cards, in cooperation with City Unity College and the University of Cyprus. It is expected that the network will expand to additional academic and other institutions, in line with good European practices.

In 2019, 10,525 European Youth Cards were issued, as described below:

Type of Card	Number of Cards
European Youth Card (valid for one year) online/at events/individual applications, Cyprus Youth Clubs Organisation, etc.	2.300
European Student Youth Card (collective) for the academic year 2019-2020, University of Cyprus and Technological University of Cyprus info days	4.400
Student Youth Card for Cypriots who study abroad in the academic year 2019-2020	700
European Youth Card for young conscripts	2.825
Co-branded Student Cards (new agreements between City Unity & University of Cyprus)	300
TOTAL	10.525

In an effort to provide cardholders with more benefits, the YBC distributed much-appreciated presents (tablets, smartphones, laptops, etc.), tickets to cultural events (concerts, theatre performances, etc.) and free participation in educational seminars through online contests.

In 2019, the European Youth Card website www.europeanyouthcard.onek.org.cy was launched and the dissemination of newsletters to cardholders and affiliates started.

A promotional video on the card has been prepared and is currently available. Moreover, the card was presented at various events and info-days at universities and festivals where youth cards were issued on the spot.

Finally, in 2019 the team participated in various seminars and conferences in Europe, while the Youth Board of Cyprus attended the 35th General Assembly of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) which was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This year the YBC won the EYCA PR and Communications Excellence Award.





ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΡΤΑΣ ΝΕΩΝ



□ OPEN AIR YOUTH EVENT VENUE & YBC EQUIPMENT

Festival Venue – Famagusta Gate Moat

The YBC has signed an agreement with Nicosia Municipality that makes Famagusta Gate Moat available to organisations and youth groups to host events. The venue is equipped with electricity and a water supply system and can host festivals and other cultural events. Nicosia Municipality is responsible for allowing the use of the venue by organisations and youth groups.

□ YBC EQUIPMENT

YBC may provide organisations and youth groups with various types of equipment, such as chairs, tables, fencing, mobile toilets, etc. free of charge. Youth Organisations, Municipal and Community Youth Councils, Youth Clubs, young people aged 18-35 years old and institutions that work with young people with fewer opportunities are eligible to borrow this equipment, after submitting an application to YBC.

Priority to borrow the equipment is given based on when the request form was submitted, except in the peak period June-October. If request forms are submitted at the same time, priority will be given to youth organisations that participate in the General Advisory Body, Municipal and Community Youth Councils and Youth Clubs.

Equipment requests for the peak period June-October must be submitted by the 5th of May of the same year. In case the 5th of May is a non-working day, the submission deadline extends to the next working day. In 2019, the equipment was borrowed by 15 youth groups.

□ UP TO YOU(TH) FESTIVAL

For the fifth consecutive year, the Youth Board of Cyprus organised the Youth Festival, which does not only address young people, but is also entirely organised by young people who present their talents and work, enhance their knowledge and skills, and of course have fun.

The Festival was held on the 28th of September at Acropolis Park. Young people and youth organisations came together, interacted and attended exhibitions, workshops, installations, creations, games, concerts and many other activities.

The Festival's objective was to promote young people as the liveliest and most promising part of the population, while inspiring young people to become more actively engaged in creative, social and artistic activities.

The Festival's slogan Up to You(th) sent the resounding message that power and hope are in the hands of the young generation and that today and tomorrow depend on each and every young person.

More than 75 organisations and 25 educational and other institutions were hosted and presented their work at the festival, and more than 4,000 people attended.



UP TO YOU(TH)
ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ ΝΕΩΝ 2019
28/9/2019





□ 4th YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Young people of diverse academic backgrounds, aged 18-30 years old, from all over Cyprus who share a concern on climate change came together at the 4th Youth Leadership Academy on 4-7 July 2019 in Platres. The Academy was supported by trainers from the Technological University of Cyprus, the University of Cyprus, the Environmental Education Unit of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Akti NGO, Tellalis Platform and Cyprus Energy Agency.

With the trainers' help, participants set the following three goals: 1) To raise youth awareness on 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the UN 2030 Agenda; 2) To develop young leaders, who will have a positive impact in their communities' efforts to achieve these Goals; 3) To teach



them specific tools and methodologies that will help them turn their idea into action. The programme was based on design sprint methodology so as to encourage young participants to enhance their creative thinking. Participants had the chance to identify and evaluate their competences, enhance their leadership skills and become factors of change.

The peak of the event was when the participants met 40 other young people from different countries, who were in Cyprus for the Climate KIC innovation summer school, called Journey. People from all over the world informed young participants about their environment-related ideas, while they also exchanged ideas on practical ways to ensure the sustainable development of rural Cyprus, especially Platres.



**YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS**

Athalassas Avenue 104
2024, Strovolos
Sofocles Tower
(3rd, 4th and 5th floor)
Tel. 00357-2240600/2
Fax: 00357-22402700
Email: info@onek.org.cy

www.onek.org.cy

